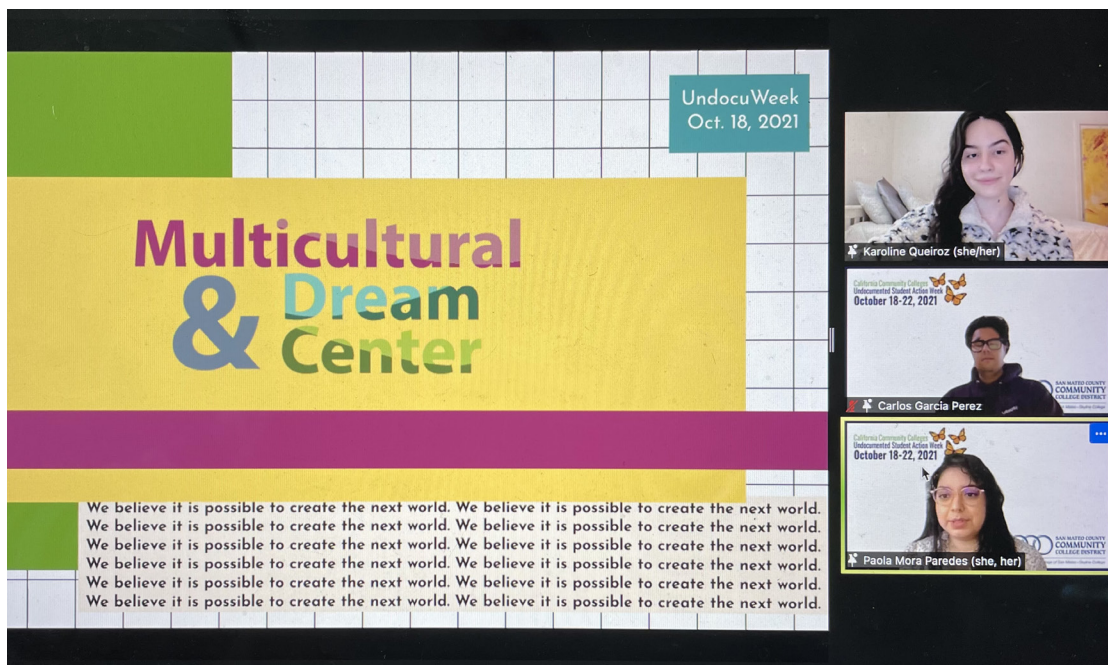




Combined Report of the College Presidents



SMCCCD Celebrates Undocu-week



CAÑADA CONNECTS WITH COMMUNITY



In preparation for a full campus return for the Spring semester, several members of the Cañada College team joined a series of special events throughout San Mateo County to cultivate new community-based relationships on behalf of the College.

College Recruiter Olivia Cortez-Figueroa, attended a community event called “La Mesa” in Half Moon Bay with partner, Ayudando Latinos a Soñar ([ALAS](#)). The event provided an opportunity to meet and break bread (or tamales and champurrado, in this case) with farmworkers from the Half Moon Bay community as well as with the ALAS Executive Director/Founder, Dr. Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga, Half-Moon Bay Council member, Joaquin Jimenez and ALAS staff and volunteers. The Outreach team has been working with ALAS to help connect students in the Half Moon Bay community who have expressed interest in continuing their educational journeys with Cañada College.

Cañadians from the Student Services Division joined the Friends of Redwood’s Food Forest Fundraiser which supported the development of Redwood High School’s (RHS) environmental center, focusing on education, sustainability and equitable

access to food resources for our community. The team had the opportunity to meet members of the Foundation, teachers and students that support RHS and toured the phases of growth that help support RHS’ green initiative.

Several members from the Cañada’s Outreach, STEM and Strong Workforce teams personally connected with community members and job seekers in Menlo Park at JobTrain’s Holiday Job Fair. There, the Cañada College shuttle was on display to preview that the College will begin resuming free services to the community in January 2022. In addition, members from the Cañada Promise Scholars Program, Counseling and Outreach teams attended Woodside High School’s College Day where Cañadians hosted a series of 50-minute rotating presentations about Cañada to high school seniors. Cañada also collaborated with College Advising Prep and Redwood City Police Athletic League to host College Night. The Cañada Outreach team connected with families while presenting information on the benefits of community college and the programs available at Cañada College. Both parents and students shared their gratitude with the Cañada team upon learning of Cañada’s Transfer Agreement program and the community college pathway option in general.



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The Cañada team is slated to attend a series of upcoming presentations and application workshops, including:

- Application Workshop at Redwood High School on Wednesday, 10/20
- Spanish Financial Aid Night at Menlo-Atherton High School on Wednesday, 10/20
- Cash for College Day at East Palo Alto High School on Saturday, 10/23
- Half Moon Bay High School Visits on Monday, 10/25
- SMUHSD Virtual College Fair on Wednesday, 10/27

The Cañada team continues to utilize existing, and cultivate new, community relationships to connect residents with academic and student support programs at Cañada College so they can actualize their goals and dreams.



CAÑADA COLLEGE CELEBRATES LATINX HERITAGE MONTH

Cañada College celebrated Latinx Heritage month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) with a series of events and conversations relevant to the Latinx community. All programs, workshops, and events were strategically planned to amplify Latinx voices and various identities, which included events that were built to share space with one another as a campus community of students, faculty, staff, administrators and the broader San Mateo County.

The College kicked off Latinx Heritage Month with a Bienvenida! During the virtual session, students and community members were introduced to new Cañada College employees and they shared how the new staff “nos pueden ayudar” both in person and virtually this fall semester. Another session from Latinx Heritage Month included Martes Gigante! Martes Gigante was inspired by Sábado Gigante, the longest-running Spanish variety game-show in television history. Martes Gigante was filled with virtual competitions and scavenger hunts. Attendees played Kahoot, for example, where those who answered the most correct questions about Latinx culture trivia, won. In addition, with October being Transfer Month, a highlight of Latinx Heritage Month included a panel of Latinx alumni who shared testimonios of resources and connections at Cañada College that supported their success.

Recordings from past events and additional details on Latinx Heritage Month can be found on the [Latinx Heritage Month website](#). Thank you to the students, faculty, staff, administrators and broader campus community who joined in the months' events to amplify Latinx voices and identities.



College of San Mateo

OCTOBER 13 FLEX DAY HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT VOICES DURING RECOVERY

CSM's mid-semester Flex Day brought back a session that is always a campus community favorite: the student panel.

Titled “Implementing a Student-Focused Recovery,” the session began with a [welcome](#) by President Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza. She provided an overview of the recovery process, a reminder

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that we will be living with COVID-19, and the priorities that will guide CSM's recovery process. These include:

- Reestablishing our sense of community
- Making time to connect with one another
- Allowing time for community building in class
- Redoubling outreach efforts in our local communities
- And listening to our students to meet their needs

President Taylor-Mendoza summed these priorities up by highlighting the need for a "student-focused recovery in a loving culture" before turning the virtual stage over to Director of Equity Jeremiah Sims. Dr. Sims shared [analogies and stories](#) that framed the need for a radical reimagining of what CSM can be post-recovery and how it's only possible by committing to "Love as Praxis."

Dean of PRIE Hilary Goodkind was up next as the student panel moderator and asked the students to [introduce themselves](#). Dawit Bairu, Nicole Hong, Seini (Jane) Petelo, Guillermo Garcia, Stelios Kyriacou, Cristian Alvarez-Flores, and Vou Aumavae shared their majors and what programs they are connected to at CSM. Next came the questions and responses.



Dr. Goodkind asked "[What are the top two challenges you've face with your education at this point?](#)" Student responses echoed common themes: balancing school and work, staying motivated in a virtual academic format, maintaining community and connections to other students, feeling Zoomed out, managing virtual content in various places, communicating

with peers and faculty, and staying informed. One student highlighted the overall challenge of being a first-generation student of color trying to navigate the higher education system.

The second question was "[Can you think of ways that CSM can help you address your challenges?](#)" Answers included suggestions to better organize and simplify class Canvas pages, faculty being more understanding with class assignment deadlines, requirements for students to turn their cameras on in class, more robust feedback from faculty in asynchronous classes, and more faculty face-to-face virtual office hours and study groups that help foster interaction.

The next question was "[Where do you feel the greatest sense of support at CSM and what contributes to that feeling?](#)" The Promise Scholars Program was cited multiple times as a supportive "family" that helped provide belonging during lonely times. Other students shared how motivating the Promise Scholars Program support team is and how that helped them contribute to the campus community by getting involved in campus clubs. Many students thanked CSM faculty and shared how supportive they've have been: being present, checking in on students, asking how they are doing, and giving their all. Transfer Services, Associated Students, EOPS, Financial Aid, Multicultural & Dream Center, and the Disability Resource Center were also mentioned as supportive services.

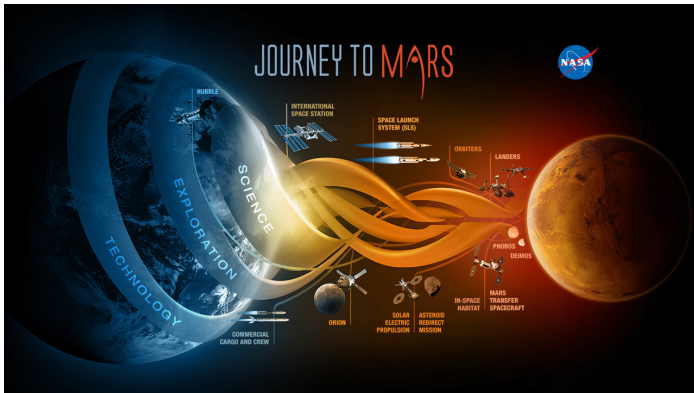
With some extra time remaining, a bonus question was posed: "[How do you feel about a return to campus this spring?](#)" The student panel was excited about getting back to campus. They mentioned looking forward to having a place to hang out, participating in on-campus activities, interacting with live staff and faculty, and reconnecting with peers. While this group of students has been active in college programs and services, CSM recognizes that some students may prefer virtual learning, so the Spring 2022 schedule was built to accommodate students of all needs. The session concluded with the students asking questions regarding safety precautions during their return to campus.

Following this informative session, CSM's Flex Day continued in Zoom breakout sessions facilitated by faculty and staff, covering various topics on pedagogy, antiracism, technology, equity, and student support. While participants were primarily online

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through the day, breakfast and lunch brought employees together on a beautiful day on the Bayview Terrace.

FAMILY SCIENCE DAY RETURNS WITH KEYNOTE FROM MEMBER OF NASA'S PERSEVERANCE MARS ROVER SCIENCE TEAM



CSM's annual Family Science Day returned in late September for its second year in a virtual format, drawing hundreds of science fans of all ages. Spearheaded by Physics Professor Mohsen Janatpour, the event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of many CSM faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community members. Additional support also came from a long-time partnership with the San Mateo County Astronomical Society (SMCAS).

The day featured various [live sessions](#), and attendees were also encouraged to browse the [video library](#), a selection of pre-recorded videos created by the event organizers and presenters.

The day's highlight was the [keynote](#) given by Dr. Pablo Sobron, founder & CEO of Impossible Sensing and research scientist at the SETI Institute. Dr. Sobron shared his experience as a member of NASA's [Mars 2020/Perseverance Rover](#) Science Team and their mission to seek signs of ancient life on Mars and collect samples for return to Earth.

Dr. Sobron began the keynote by providing basic background facts about Mars' size, mass, temperature, and year length (687 days!). Then he explained the process of launching and landing spacecraft on the Red Planet before sharing footage of the Perseverance Mars Rover landing and the excited reactions of many on Earth at that moment.



He proceeded to explain elements of the Rover and the tools it uses to scan, drill, measure, and gather samples in desired "hot spots." Next, he played brief audio recordings from Mars, including the sound of the blades from [Ingenuity](#), a helicopter nestled in the belly of the Perseverance Rover. Finally, Dr. Sobron concluded the presentation by discussing upcoming missions before taking questions from attendees.

It was a fascinating day full of inquiry, exploration, and engaging discussions. A huge thank you goes out to the entire team that made this year's virtual event a success. And we look forward to next year's event returning to an in-person format in September 2022.



NASA's Perseverance Mars rover takes selfie over a rock nicknamed "Rochette" on September 10, 2021.
(Source: mars.nasa.gov)



PANEL OF STUDENT RESEARCHERS HOSTED BY HONORS TRANSFER PROGRAM AND LIBRARY



On Thursday, October 7, 2021, six student-researchers shared their experiences doing research in a first-time, hyflex program with five student-researchers—Amanda Sayaseng, Brendan Murtagh, Faith Valencia, Juries Kaileh, Madeleine McSwain available in person, on campus—and student-researcher Shannon Hoang available online through Zoom.

Honors Transfer Program Faculty Coordinator Janice Sapigao welcomed everyone to the event, with close to 20 people attending in person and 20 people attending online. The event started with all students, professional staff, and faculty at the event engaging in a getting-to-know-you icebreaker led by fellow event co-organizers, Chemistry Professor Susanne Schubert and Professor Librarian Pia Walawalkar. After familiarizing ourselves with the space, as most of us were on-campus together either for the first time ever or after a long time away, we transitioned to the student panel.

The panelists primarily consisted of students in various stages of the research process, with some in their first or second years of the Honors Transfer Program. Five out of the six students are in the Next Enriched Xenon Observatory (nEXO) Program, of which Skyline College is the only community college participant.

The student-researchers answered questions about how they first got started in research, how they found faculty-mentors, how they overcame initial self-doubt, how feasible it was to

start research projects while taking on regular coursework, and how to find resources for support. Student Juries Kaileh said he didn't know he could ask for help with his research, but once he did, his research got easier. Madeleine McSwain said that finding the right resources has helped her figure out how to keep going. Shannon Hoang shared, "Most of the challenges I have faced was a lack of monetary resources. I strongly believe that the technology needed to fix climate issues already exists but the money made from bigger corporations is of higher value in this country. In order to make strides in the STEM industry, we must place the health of the people to a much higher level than it is now." All of the students mentioned and expressed gratitude to their faculty-mentors who supported them throughout the duration of various research projects.



Student Faith Valencia said that she got started in research after her Professor, Erinn Struss, reached out to her about the Honors Transfer Program. From there, she joined the program and enrolled in Interdisciplinary Studies 105 (IDST 105), the Honors Research Seminar, and she realized that she wanted to learn more about something she's really interested in: fashion. She ended up doing a creative research project on how Japanese fashion evolved from the 1800s to the twenty-first century.

Article by Janice Sapiago | Photos by Marisa Thigpen

THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE INITIATIVE AT SKYLINE COLLEGE

This year, Skyline College plans to receive important grant funding through the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) at the State Chancellor's office to launch the People's College Initiative (PCI) which will further the college's

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participatory governance, climate review work, and anti-racist initiatives. Through the PCI, we plan to lay the foundation for a strong, sustainable and healthy college climate – work that intersects with our active antiracism efforts – to transform us as a community of the people, and to move us toward setting the best example of strong civic engagement and democracy for our students in the classroom.



We believe the key ingredients to transforming our climate into a healthy college and workplace experience is three-fold:

(1) Having a robust participatory governance process that people trust and believe in, rendering open and transparent decision-making a way of life at Skyline College. We will work to provide the structure and practices needed to ensure all voices are heard, and that the people and students of Skyline College actively work together to shape its future; (2) Creating an antiracist culture that embraces campus wide training, practice, and action toward becoming an antiracist college; and (3) Engaging in regular climate review in order to measure our transformation in becoming a true institution of the people with an emphasis on the student experience.



We will measure success by the existence of a broad-based understanding of how our college functions as a democratic institution, how our shared governance model works, how we can come together and learn to be antiracist practitioners in an educational environment. And, the piece de resistance is a healthy climate. We intend to norm participatory governance, antiracism training and action, and regular climate review.



A positive climate and culture, alongside active antiracism work undergirds a healthy 21st century community college campus – and when our campus community is healthy, students feel a greater sense of belonging and thrive in a true democratic environment.