

SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE DISTRICT

*Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College*

## Combined Report of the College Presidents

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**CAÑADA COLLEGE, SEQUOIA UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, SAN FRANCISCO  
STATE UNIVERSITY AND CALIFORNIA  
STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY DEVELOP  
PARTNERSHIP FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION  
OPPORTUNITIES**



In a significant step towards providing more opportunities to access higher education, Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD), Cañada College, San Francisco State University (SFSU) and California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase college preparation, access and success for SUHSD students and graduates. A goal of the collaboration is to increase the number of SUHSD graduates matriculating into postsecondary higher education, specifically to Cañada College and then to SFSU and CSUEB. The partnership will also support more SUHSD students participating in early college access, with an intentional focus on increasing the participation of students from minoritized communities. It will also develop aspirational leaders with perspectives and practices rooted in equity, advocacy, social justice, and anti-racism.

The agreement will establish ongoing clear and personalized communication with SUHSD students and families about progress being made and resources to support high school graduation, college, career readiness and transition to college. This includes individualized high school, college and career

readiness guides that will be sent to all incoming eighth grade students and their families and sent out twice annually to all SUHSD students and their families. "Sequoia Union High School District is committed to educational equity," says Dr. Darnise R. Williams, Superintendent, Sequoia Union High School District. "This partnership will ensure our students are aware of the requirements of higher education and are prepared to continue their academic journey after high school." In preparation for college, every SUHSD Senior will have access to complete the CCCApply (the application for California Community Colleges, including Cañada College) as well as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or DREAM Act applications.

In addition, the partnership aims to grow the number of students taking dual enrollment courses by increasing the number of sections offered to SUHSD high schools annually. This includes expanding the number of high school students participating in the Middle College Program where SUHSD students finish earning their high school requirements and attend Cañada College to start earning college credits. "Cañada College is proud to collaborate with Sequoia Union High School District, San Francisco State University and California State University, East Bay on establishing joint efforts to increase college preparation, access and success for SUHSD students and graduates," said Cañada College Interim President, Kim Lopez. "The partnership aligns with Cañada College's commitment to increase participation of high school students, particularly from minoritized communities." The agreement also extends to Sequoia Adult School, establishing articulation and dual-enrollment options where students can earn college credit and promote career pathways at Cañada College. These opportunities provide a critical access point to higher education.

For students who plan to continue their academic journey, the agreement establishes clear and efficient transfer pathways from Cañada College to San Francisco State University and California State University, East Bay. "A college education can transform lives, families and communities," stated Lynn Mahoney, Ph.D., President, San Francisco State University. "This partnership will raise awareness among students of the opportunities available to them in the Bay Area and help them map a path to seizing those opportunities." The agreement includes a program that provides tutoring and counseling for cohorts of underrepresented SUHSD Juniors and Seniors through UC A-G completion and on to guaranteed admission



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at SFSU and CSUEB. The partnership provides high school pathways that result in a certificate and/or meet Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) requirements needed to gain admission into SFSU and CSUEB.



"Students and their families make an important and life-changing commitment when they continue their journey into college. Our alliance as organizations strengthens the support and guidance we can give students, smoothing the way to make higher education more accessible," stated Cathy Sandeen, Ph.D., MBA, President, California State University, East Bay. "These bright and talented students are our Bay Area future leaders and this partnership is an investment in our vibrant region."

The agreement was signed by representatives from Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD), Cañada College, San Francisco State University (SFSU) and California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) at a commemorative Signing and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that took place at Sequoia High School on May 5, 2022.

### CAÑADA COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN K-14 EQUITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Cañada College and the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) recently hosted a pilot K-14 Equity Leadership Academy that is aimed to join the two educational institutions together to advance educational equity, breakdown siloes and advance work between SUHSD and Cañada College. The pilot program stemmed from a recent [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#)

established with Cañada College and SUHSD to increase college preparation and provide access and success for SUHSD students and graduates. This agreement also allows for the development of aspirational leaders with perspectives and practices rooted in equity, advocacy, social justice, and anti-racism.



The Equity Leadership Academy was organized by the Skyline Equity Institute, led by Executive Director, O'KenZoe Selassie-Okpe, Ph.D. The Executive Leadership teams from Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) and Cañada College joined together for this pilot academy.

The goals of the academy were:

- Understanding the fundamentals of Equity and Leadership
- Operationalizing principles of Equity and Leadership
- Equitizing Policy and Procedures
- Leveraging Equity and Equal employment opportunity

The first session was held in-person at Cañada College on Friday, May 6 where the group discussed topics on Norms and Ground Rules, the difference between Equality and Equity, Centering In Equity as well as Centering Your Values, Beliefs, and Attitudes in Equity. The group had an opportunity to connect over lunch, which was followed by a session on Reimagining Your Leadership Philosophy and a recap of the day's session.

The second session, held virtually on Friday, May 13, kicked off with a presentation and discussion of Power Dynamics and Leading through an Equity Mindset. The day's agenda featured

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a guest speaker, Dr. Gloria Boutte, whose three decades of experience has focused on equity pedagogies and teaching for social justice. The group was also introduced to Transformative Leadership Implementation and a session on Sustainability and Community before closing the day's events.



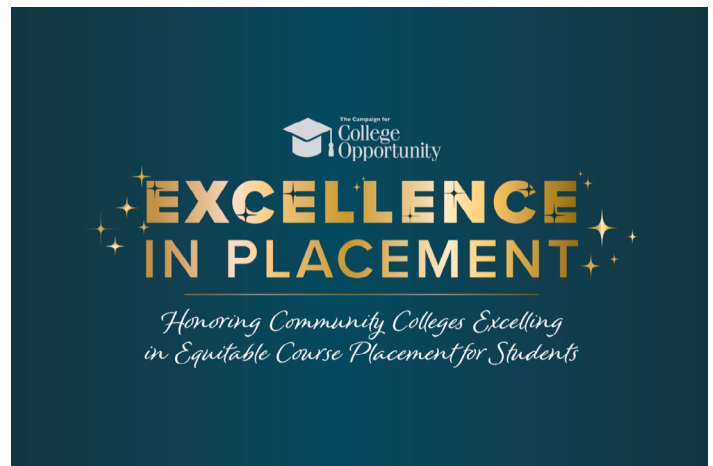
A debriefing will be held at the end of May to idealize formats for future Equity Leadership Academies for Cañada College and SUHSD employees to convene and hold conversations together. In addition, two follow-up sessions with the pilot cohort will be held in June and September to reconnect and discuss future planning.

## College of San Mateo

### CSM RECEIVES STATEWIDE HONORS FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN ACCESSING AND COMPLETING TRANSFER-LEVEL ENGLISH COURSEWORK

College of San Mateo was one of a select number of California community colleges to be honored in the inaugural 2022 Excellence in Placement Awards, hosted by [The Campaign for College Opportunity](#).

The awards celebrate and recognize colleges that implemented policy from Assembly Bill 705, which took effect in 2018 and requires community colleges to maximize the number of students that complete transfer-level coursework in English and Math within one year. The goal of the legislation was to encourage colleges to place students in transfer-level courses immediately instead of starting students in remedial courses, thus accelerating completion rates.



The inaugural award ceremony took place on Thursday, May 12, and was attended by College of San Mateo's Acting Dean of Language Arts, Aubrey Kuan Roderick. The initial honoree announcement occurred on Friday, April 22 via The Campaign of College Opportunity's [Instagram Live](#).

College of San Mateo was recognized in the following four categories in AB705 placement and success excellence:

- **Recognition for Campus-wide Transfer-Level English Enrollment**, for excelling in successfully supporting 100% of their students to enroll directly into transfer-level English courses.
- **Equity Designation: Latinx Transfer-Level English Enrollment**, for successfully supporting 100% of their Latinx students to enroll directly into transfer-level English courses.
- **Equity Designation: Black Transfer-Level English Enrollment**, for successfully supporting 100% of their Black students to enroll directly into transfer-level English courses.



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- **Equity Designation: Black Transfer-Level English Throughput**, for which CSM was one of only five California community colleges to be awarded, for supporting at least 70% of black students who enrolled in a transfer-level English course to successfully complete the course within one year of their initial enrollment. CSM was recognized for supporting black students to succeed at rates equivalent to or exceeding, the student body as a whole, signifying that there was no gap for black students who were enrolled in transfer-level English courses.



CSM's Acting Dean of Language Arts, Aubrey Kuan Roderick, with representatives from The Campaign of College Opportunity and Jacquilrwin, Assembly member (CA District 44)

A full list of all awards, and their respective college campus recipients, can be viewed on The Campaign of College Opportunity's [2022 Excellence in Placement Awards website](#).

### A PLETHORA OF ON-CAMPUS EVENTS CLOSES OUT SPRING 2022

As the community continues celebrating CSM's Centennial with special events, May also brings a wide variety of academic, cultural, and graduation celebrations. What follows are brief recaps of four prominent events that have recently taken place.

#### Rise in Revolution Conference

The student-organized Rise in Revolution Conference took place in late April and drew over a thousand virtual and in-person attendees throughout the week-long event. The conference featured daily sessions of theory/study, praxis, and critical

reflection/dialogue around the topics of climate justice, health & disability justice, and the prison industrial complex. Presenters included activist, scholar and professor Dr. Angela Davis; award-winning poet, artist, educator, and community leader Terisa Siagatonu; and many others.



CSM Multicultural & Dream Center scholar interns and Rise in Revolution organizers Brittany Arriharan and Leila Tamale.

The conference closed with an in-person celebration of joyful resistance through art, food, and performances on Friday, April 29. Photos, session recordings, and presenter bios can be viewed on the [Rise in Revolution Centennial page](#).

#### Connect to College



On Thursday, May 5, over 200 prospective students and family members visited CSM for an open house to learn about the college's academic programs and student services. It was the in-person return of CSM's 14th annual Connect to College event featuring over 50 informational tables, breakout sessions, scholarship drawings, and food. Application assistance was also provided through the evening.

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### An Evening of Art, Science, Music & Dance



Top: Physics professor and artist Mohsen Janatpour displays his paintings to explain "When is a Painting Finished?" Bottom left: Luu Dance Co. dancers perform "The Descent."

Bottom right: Professors Kryz Bobrowski, Brenda Hutchinson, Adria Otte perform "Music of Resonance" as physics professor Alex Wong displays and describes the science behind the sounds.

On the evening of Friday, May 6, 2022, the campus and local community came together to learn about the stars through a planetarium show, experience live music through physics, watch an enthralling dance performance, and hear CSM Professor Mohsen Janatpour discuss his painting process. Multiple large format paintings were on display that helped Janatpour illustrate his creative process and highlight the moment when a painting is finished. This was the 33rd presentation in Janatpour's Art & Science lecture series.

The event drew over 150 attendees and was the first major college event to take place in CSM's newly renovated Theatre. Janatpour's presentation recording and photos from throughout the evening can be viewed on the [An Evening of Art, Science, Music & Dance Centennial page](#).

### Scholarship Awards Ceremony

CSM held its annual scholarship awards ceremony on Friday, May 13, 2022. Not only was it the first in-person awards ceremony since 2019, it was also held in a new location—outdoors in front of the Library. Student scholarship recipients, donors, staff, faculty, San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation and District staff gathered to recognize and celebrate students for their hard work and commitment to their studies.



A total of 593 scholarships totaling just over \$380,000 were awarded. These scholarships enable CSM students to further their academic and career goals and fulfill their personal dreams. A big thanks goes out to all of the donors for their generous contributions and ongoing support of CSM's students and their futures.

View the photos in the [CSM Scholarship Awards album](#) and watch the full ceremony recording on CSM's [YouTube channel](#).

In addition to these events, CSM's learning communities and some academic programs have been hosting their own intimate graduation ceremonies. Transferring students will



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be recognized and celebrated on Thursday, May 26 during A Transfer Tribute. And all of these events lead up to the grand finale of the academic year, CSM's Centennial Commencement Ceremony to be held on Friday, May 27 in the College Heights Stadium.



### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY 2022



For the first time since 2019, Skyline College held its annual scholarship awards ceremony in Building 12 on Thursday, May 5, 2022. Scholarships recipients, donors, staff, faculty, San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation and District staff came together to celebrate this momentous occasion. The event was also [lived-streamed](#) for family, friends, and the college community who were unable to attend in-person.

This year, approximately 300 scholarships totaling \$187,577 were awarded. A special recognition to this year's UC Santa Cruz Karl S. Pister Opportunity Award scholarship recipient, Ms. Hannah Mayfield and the San Bruno Crestmoor Memorial Neighborhood Scholarship recipients, Isabel Martin and Patricia Mae Sumang. During these times of rising educational costs and extraordinary financial difficulties, the support of our donors, through the scholarship program directly impact our students' ability to continue their education.

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee and the Financial Aid Office, we extend our gratitude to the Skyline community for helping and encouraging students to apply for scholarships.

To view the prerecorded Scholarship ceremony, click [here](#).

*Article by Patricia Flores | Photos by Zaw Min Khant*

### STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: BEN MINGOA



Ben Mingoa is currently studying Microbiology & Marine Sciences at Skyline College.

During the pandemic, Ben struggled to find support and connect with a community of people in the STEM field. He

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joined Skyline's Biology & Chemistry Scholars when he started taking classes at Skyline and as a result he managed to find a community of like-minded individuals that were interested in similar passions. Through Biology & Chemistry Scholars Ben has been able to build a support group and find friends who were also interested in STEM. Ben also completed two Biology research projects and won 1st and 2nd place in the 2021 Skyline College Research Symposium!

Since then, Ben has also joined Skyline's Honors Transfer Program and Phi Theta Kappa, thanks to the connection and inspiration he built in the Biology and Chemistry Scholars program. Ben credits all of these programs with helping him to connect with many of the professors who helped build his confidence in the STEM field and helped him to figure out what he wants to do in the future.

Ben is planning on transferring to UC San Diego in Fall 2022 where he hopes to continue researching and finding the intersections between microbiology and marine/environmental science.