

SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the College Presidents





CAÑADA HOSTS FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERS FORUM



After being held virtually the past two years, Cañada College's fourth annual High School & Community Partners Forum was held both in-person at Cañada College as well as via Zoom on December 7. The event provides a great opportunity for community partners to connect with Cañada College staff/faculty/administration and share feedback on how the College can best connect with our community.



The event kicked off with breakfast for more than 70 in-person attendees. The in-person and virtual program began with a warm welcome from College President Kim Lopez and Vice Presidents Manuel Alejandro Pérez, Ludmila Prisecar and Chialin Hsieh. During the welcome, attendees received updates on SMCCCD's Free College initiative, Cañada's Educational Master Plan, and fully online programs offered as well as in-person and hybrid schedules for the upcoming semester. Middle College Executive Director Stephen Redmond shared an overview of the Living the Promise partnership with Sequoia Union High School District as well as outreach plans for Spring 2023. David Vera, Financial Aid Director, provided updates on the financial aid application and counselor tool kit for the community partners to use.

The Cañada Outreach team shared that Priority Engagement Program (PEP) sessions will resume in the Spring and encouraged counselors to have their students participate. Lezlee Ware and Elizabeth Terzakis, Cañada College Professors and Program Coordinators for Cañada's Umoja program, shared exciting information about the recently launched program. Their presentation transitioned into a student panel of former students based on the College's Interest Areas.



After program updates, attendees chose from one of two 20-minute sessions to attend. Sessions included: steps to get into college, tips for students who are interested in transferring to a university, exploration into career certificate programs offered through Cañada's Strong Workforce program and updates on support programs for undocumented students through Cañada's DREAM Center. In addition, campus tours were offered.

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The program closed with lunch, networking and closing remarks given by Mayra Arellano, Cañada's Director of High School Transitions & Dual Enrollment and College Recruiter Olivia Cortez-Figueroa. Feedback from the attendees was very positive and some great ideas were discovered throughout the day.

COLTS ATHLETICS UPDATE

Men's Basketball

The [men's basketball team](#), under second-year Head Coach Eddy Harris, is playing its first season before fans in Cañada's Kinesiology and Wellness Center. They played the 2021-22 season with no fans due to COVID restrictions. The Colts open up Coast Conference play in January with a month more of games in December.

Soccer Teams Reached Playoffs

Both Colts soccer teams reached the second round of the CCCAA Playoffs.



The women's soccer team finished the year 15-5-0 and in second place in the Coast Conference. They hosted and won a first-round matchup with Modesto, winning 4-0, as the No. 11 seed, before falling to Lake Tahoe. It was the sixth straight playoff appearance for the Colts led by Head Coach Katie Perkins. Yara Gomez-Zavala was named the Division's Player of the Year, while Rachel Mull was the Offensive Player of the Year. Giselle Gutierrez was the Division's top freshman.

The men's soccer team finished the year 10-10-1 and as the No. 21 seed. The Colts pulled off an upset of the College of the Sequoias in a thrilling double overtime 2-1 victory in the first round of the CCCAA Playoffs and then lost at Merced in the second round. It was the fourth playoff appearance in five seasons for the Colts and Head Coach Erik Gaspar. Japanese international student Kosuke Kaneko was named the Division's Goalkeeper of the Year and Kiichi Murakami, also from Japan, was the Division's Forward of the Year.



In addition, Colts soccer players Finn Kelly Lewis and Tomislav Jozinovic recently signed their intent to continue their college sports careers at four-year universities. Finn is headed to North Georgia University and Tomislav is headed to Biola University. Congratulations and Go Colts!



College of San Mateo

CSM DANCE DEPARTMENT PRODUCTION: ART IN MOTION



CSM Dance students performing as part of Art in Motion

CSM's Dance Department has a vibrant ritual of producing a full-length concert at the end of each semester. Led by Dance professor Denaya Dailey, this concert highlights faculty and student choreography, CSM dance technique classes, and guest artists from our sister schools, local high schools, and local dance studios. The Dance Performance & Production class at CSM leads the effort by choreographing the dances to perform. Additionally, students get the valuable experience of creating a production top-to-bottom by designing the event posters, working with a costume budget, organizing photographers and videographers, connecting with our guest artists, prepping the box office, and running social media campaigns to promote the event.

On Saturday, December 3, CSM's Dance Department produced its first show since the pandemic began. Art in Motion was a huge success, with an audience of over 200 patrons. The day of the concert began with lighting and spacing guest artists from Cañada College, local dance companies, and private dance studios. Before the show, cast members gathered to watch each other's dances at the dress rehearsal. Excited by what each group

was bringing to the show, dancers got to know each other better in the dressing rooms while helping each other with hair and makeup and warming up together. One highlight was when college hip-hop dancers taught some middle school dancers about a dance style called waacking. As the waacking lesson progressed, so did the dancer's sense of community and unity.



CSM student Serena Chin performing as part of Art in Motion.

The CSM Dance concert is a presentation of what the CSM dance classes have been up to all semester, but it is also much more. This concert allows students to step into leadership roles, build confidence, practice collaboration, and forge communal support structures.

"I never had the opportunity to have such a strong hand in a show's production until I ran my own shows," says Denaya Dailey, "Having students not only choreograph but also set their lighting with a professional lighting artist, to lay the dance floor by themselves, to be in touch with their guest artists in a

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meaningful way, to have autonomy and responsibility in the marketing of the performance – all of these things and more are such huge confidence-building opportunities.” When we come together from a place of wanting each other to succeed and be the best we can be, we find that every one of us shines brighter.



The full cast of Art in Motion.

BRIGHT FUTURES SERIES IN HALF MOON BAY



CSM's Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development Department with the Half Moon Bay families who participated in the Bright Futures Series.

College of San Mateo's Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development (SIED) team kicked off a Bright Futures Series in November. Held in Half Moon Bay in partnership with ALAS, Boys and Girls Club, and Cabrillo Education Foundation, the three-part series welcomed nearly 20 Latinx families to gain

valuable college information and help CSM learn about the families' needs and interests.

The series began with a powerful storytelling session led by Sophia Guevara, a CSM student and student assistant in the SIED department. Sharing in Spanish, Sophia outlined her educational journey from middle school to high school, and then as a first-generation student of CSM. Families left the first session inspired and connected in conversation, dreaming big about how CSM and event partners can work together to serve families' needs in Half Moon Bay.

The second part focused on sharing tips and important things to consider as youth transition from middle school into high school and how that experience impacts college and future career choices.

Finally, the last session provided space for CSM staff to share academic program offerings, support services, common myths and perceptions about community college, and details about free college. SIED Executive Director Andrea Vizenor then facilitated a question-and-answer panel before closing the event by sharing CSM's commitment to serving participants' needs and gathering feedback from the attendees.

The valuable insight gained during the series is being used to inform future programming that will be offered at the Community Hub of Cunha Middle School in Half Moon Bay and assist in CSM's design of future Coast to College offerings. The feedback included the following:

- The need for more support from high school counselors to assist students to prepare for and choose a college
- A desire for additional community engagement and access to support navigating educational choices and experiences
- Interest in additional support around the financial aid process
- Interest in transfer-track college classes and workshops in Half Moon Bay that focus on the first year of college

In closing, participants shared their appreciation of the valuable information and commitment shared by event partners that will help their children find success in their transition from high school to college, whether that be College of San Mateo or four-year universities.

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Thanks go out to the event design and implementation team comprised of Patricia Perez, program services coordinator of Dual Enrollment, Sophia Guevara CSM student and student assistant, and Andrea Vizenor, executive director of Strategic Initiatives and Economic Development. And our critical community partners, Sandra Sarabia, site manager at Cunha Intermediate School Boys and Girls Club, Corrine Bucher, executive director at Cabrillo Education Foundation, and Erendida Gonzalez, community engagement liaison with ALAS, for their incredible efforts in leading this series.



PUENTISTAS ATTEND PUENTE MOTIVATIONAL CONFERENCE AT UC MERCED



On November 19, 2022, over 20 Skyline College student Puente students attended the Puente Motivational Conference at the University of California Merced! Students and faculty woke up bright and early to be at the bus by 5 a.m. and drive to UCM to attend a conference with hundreds of Puentistas from all over Northern California, all excited to discover UC Merced.

The conference was from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and was filled with a variety of different workshops from UC's and CSU's including UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, and San Francisco State. The keynote speaker was Julissa Arce, who spoke about the challenges of staying true to her culture in an environment that rewards assimilation. This was a great opportunity for students to learn and explore a beautiful college campus as well as hear about the wide variety of opportunities students have after graduating and transferring from Skyline College.

Following the workshops, students were able to tour the UC Merced campus. Students had the opportunity to explore the campus and learn about the vast variety of programs available to them.

After a long day at UC Merced, students returned to campus at 7p.m., tired but with bigger dreams to transfer to a 4-year university.

It was really inspiring to see all the Puentistas from Northern California come united and share our unique and overlapping stories. Chicano/Latinx folk are often left out of prestigious academic institutions which is why programs like Puente are so important. They help you with resources and honestly feels like a family. ~Stephanie Borja

Our trip to UC Merced was real eye opening and fun. I enjoyed meeting new people and having a personal view of a UC campus. It was my first time ever experiencing the atmosphere of a large helping community. It made me realize that there's so much out there and it made me want to be more involved in Puente. I'm real thankful for the opportunity and I'm definitely recommending Puente to family and friends. ~Christofer Benitez

I really liked how they explained the college and how the resources there can help me achieve my major goals. ~Ian Pulumbait

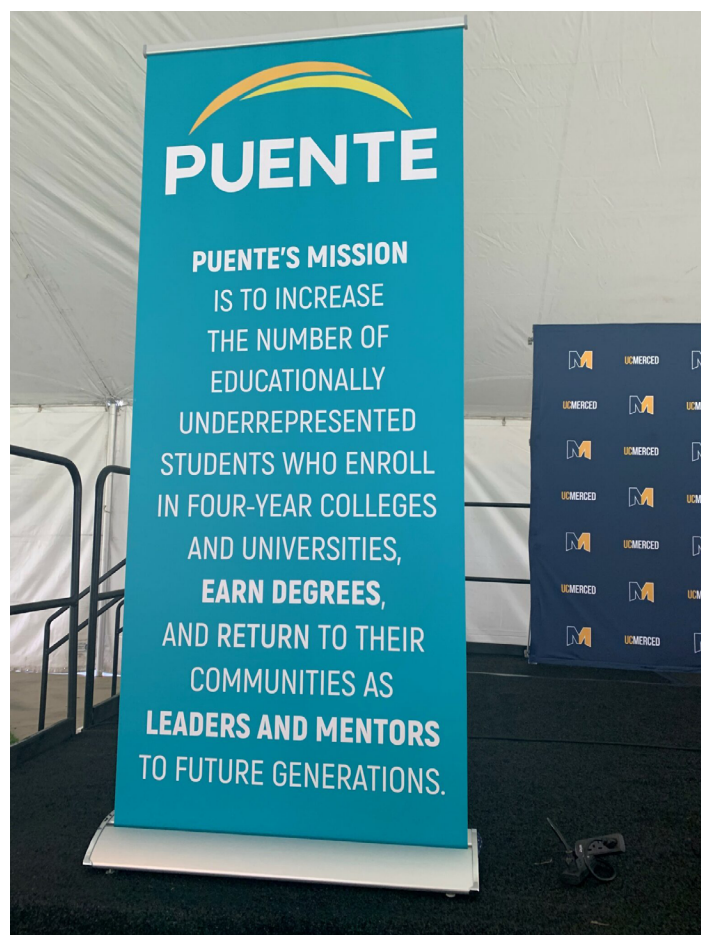
Our Puente students planned a trip to this incredible university, UC Merced. It was not on my dream school list but now it is part of it because of the amazing people I met. We had a tour of how their system works and enjoyed some workshops where we found new connections and extended our network. My favorite workshop was the mental health workshop where we shared our thoughts on mental health and released a lot of stress. I

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appreciate professor Lachmayr for giving us the opportunity to find our element by trying different things. ~Liz Posso

It was fun. ~Geovanna Souza

I had a wonderful experience at the Puente conference at UC Merced. Being able to meet other Puente students and hearing about their experiences was a nice thing to take a part of. It's always fun to meet new people and learn from them. ~Adan Arambula



Article by Lucia Lachmayr

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2022 – INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

To honor and celebrate International Education Week (IEW), the International Student Program hosted their annual International

Food Festival at the Fireside Dining Room on November 16, 2022. Due to the pandemic, the food festival was held virtually for the last two years, but as the Covid-19 restrictions have lowered, we decided to do this event in-person again. This event was a huge success as students, staff, and faculty were able to experience seeing traditional clothes and were able to taste food from different countries like Brazil, China, Indonesia, Greece, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, and the United States.



The festival started off by students representing themselves for each country in their traditional and modern clothes and serve people bite-size traditional food from their country. At the Indonesia table, not only they served savory finger food like kerupuk and martabak, they also served drinks like teh botol. They also tried to decorate their table with Angklung, a traditional Sundanese musical instrument made out of bamboo; Batik, a cloth where its pattern is made with a waxing technique originated from the Indonesian island of Java; and Wayang, a traditional Indonesian puppet made out of leather. At the Myanmar table, the student's welcome people by wearing their traditional clothing called Longgyi and served delicious food like See Htamin & Kyauk Kyaw. At the Philippines table, they served Pancit Malabon. While the Brazil table served plenty of savory food like coxinhas, risoles, kibes, and rabo de tatu canudinho. At the American, Greece, China, and Japan tables, they served cornbread, gyros, pork and veggie dimsum, and sushi respectively. Each table at the food festival also had a food allergy notice to inform people about the potential allergens in the food and beverages they will be consuming.

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The International Student Program is part of the Global Learning Programs and Services Division at Skyline College. If you wish to learn more about ISP, don't hesitate to contact the ISP Office at skyinternational@smccd.edu.

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