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February 9, 2024

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Accreditation Report a Historical Best

On January 16, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) reported that our Accreditation is reaffirmed for the remainder of our accreditation cycle. Specifically, the Commission determined that as a result of our Follow-Up report submitted last November, Palomar College meets all accreditation standards. This represents a significant milestone and completes the best accreditation review cycle in the history of Palomar College. Our next comprehensive review will begin with an ISER Review in the fall term of 2028 and conclude with a focused site visit in the spring term of 2029.

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

On January 15, Palomar employees and students joined me at the 42nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade honoring his legacy. I appreciate our Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle for her leadership in organizing and providing this opportunity for Palomar to support the incredible work of Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. Rivera-Lacey honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with the community



Palomar College Employees and Students Celebrate the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Palomar College also participated in the All Peoples Breakfast, an annual event that is designed to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and to gather as a community to truly recognize the importance of our continued work in providing equitable educational opportunities to all students.

News Coverage on Student Success

Two success stories featuring our students were included in the CBS 8 newscast on [January 19](#) and [February 2](#). These stories put our daily work in perspective. The success of our students is our success.

Spring Plenary – All College Update

Our Spring Flex Week and Plenary theme Breaking Barriers – Forward Together was an ideal illustration of the important work we do each and every day to guide our students through their academic journey. Our commitment to helping students realize their potential and providing them with the necessary resources is vital to their success. I sincerely appreciate the dedicated work of the Professional Development Committee for developing an outstanding agenda. The opportunity to gather with Palomar College employees and students is one that allows us to recognize all that we offer to the north county region. I am looking forward to working with each of you to continue achieving our institutional goals.

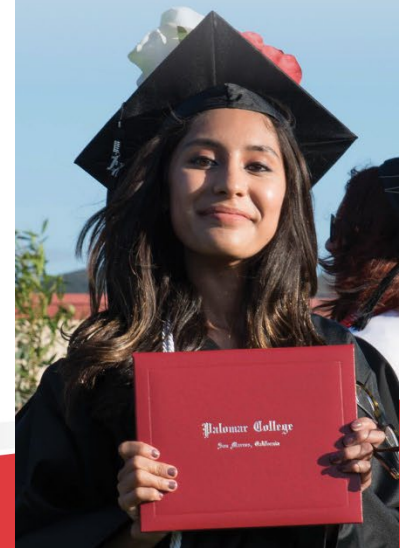


All College Update on January 25, 2024

Campus Engagement

During the latter part of December, I was able to attend the graduation celebrations of the Palomar College Police and Fire Academies, the Paramedic Program and Nursing Pinning ceremony. It never ceases to amaze me how our institution contributes to the health and safety needs of the region.

There is always fantastic programming happening at Palomar College. I attended the “Creating Change for Children: Guitars in the Classroom” event that was sponsored by our Child Development and Education department. These types of events bring me joy as we work to shape the lives of our future Comets.



On January 19, I attended the meeting of the Palomar College Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC). The agenda included our financial auditors, who presented the "No Opinion" results of the Proposition M funds audit. Palomar College is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of ICOC volunteers to monitor the progress of our Prop M projects.

I attended the spring semester retreat of the Associated Student Government. I always appreciate the opportunity to see our student leaders in action. They always inspire me!

Community Engagement

Along with Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Dr. Tina Recalde, Public Information Officer (PIO) Julie Lanthier Bandy, Palomar College Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and several Foundation Board Members, I attended the State of the Community event hosted by the Vista Chamber of Commerce. The program included updates from City of Vista Mayor John Franklin, the Vista Chamber of Commerce chairperson Zeke Corley, Vista Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Matt Doyle, and President of Dr. Bronner's All-One Soaps, Michael Bronner.



Dr. Rivera-Lacey and Associated Student Government leadership

As the Chair of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA), I had the pleasure of participating in a panel discussion at the San Diego Tourism Authority board retreat. The collaborations between the colleges in our region and the tourism industry is integral to the success of the San Diego economy.

Just prior to the start of the spring semester, Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez, and Governing Board Vice President Dr. Judy Patacsil, joined me at the Community College League of California (CCLC) Effective Trusteeship and Board Chair Workshop in Sacramento. This workshop was followed by the CCLC Annual Legislative Conference, which was also attended by PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy. We spent time with each of our state legislators informing them of the importance of supporting the needs of our students and the impact of their commitment to higher education.



SDICCCA leaders and community college students with Assemblymember Chris Ward



During the early part of February, our advocacy for our students and institutions continued in Washington D.C. Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez, Governing Board Vice President Dr. Judy Patacsil, Trustee Michelle Rains, Trustee Jacqueline Kaiser, PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy and I, attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) National Legislative Summit. We were able to meet with each of our U.S. Congressional representatives and attend a higher education forum hosted by Senator Alex Padilla's office. It was a full circle moment, when we discovered two former Palomar College students working in Congressman Mike Levin's office.



Palomar College leaders, former students, and Congressman Mike Levin

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

Over the last couple of months, we have celebrated the accomplishments of our graduating students from both the Police Academy and Fire Academy, and the Paramedics and Nursing programs. We wish them success as they complete their licensing exams, enter the workforce, and care for members of our community. The spring semester is now underway, and we are



Paramedic Program Graduates



excited to support our new and continuing students as they seek to complete their educational journey.

Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) Division

In 2023, our nursing program achieved an outstanding NCLEX RN Board first time pass rate of 97%. Out of the 64 graduate nurses who took the NCLEX exam, only 3 failed on their first attempt. This accomplishment is particularly noteworthy given the introduction of new NCLEX testing items, which typically contribute to a decrease in pass rates. The exceptional 97% pass rate this past year reflects the dedication and success of our graduate nurses and faculty.

Languages and Literature Division

The Library held multiple outreach events over 2023 including: Banned Books & Censorship, Amnesty International - Write 4 Rights, Interview Practice Event for Library and Information Technology students. In addition, in collaboration with English as a Second Language (ESL) faculty, the library/LRC hosted a scavenger hunt activity for noncredit ESL students. The Library added content about the strengths and dangers of generative artificial intelligence to the popular online Academic Integrity and Plagiarism workshop. They also began a re-design of the Information Literacy Dashboard asynchronous online workshops with the support of the Instructional Designer.

The libraries at each of the Education Centers utilized funding from the George Moses Foundation Grant to provide snack and coffee stations for students. At the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, the library hosted displays of student projects from the Architecture, Interior Design, and Poway to Palomar Middle College programs. The Escondido Education Center library added enhanced study areas for student use.

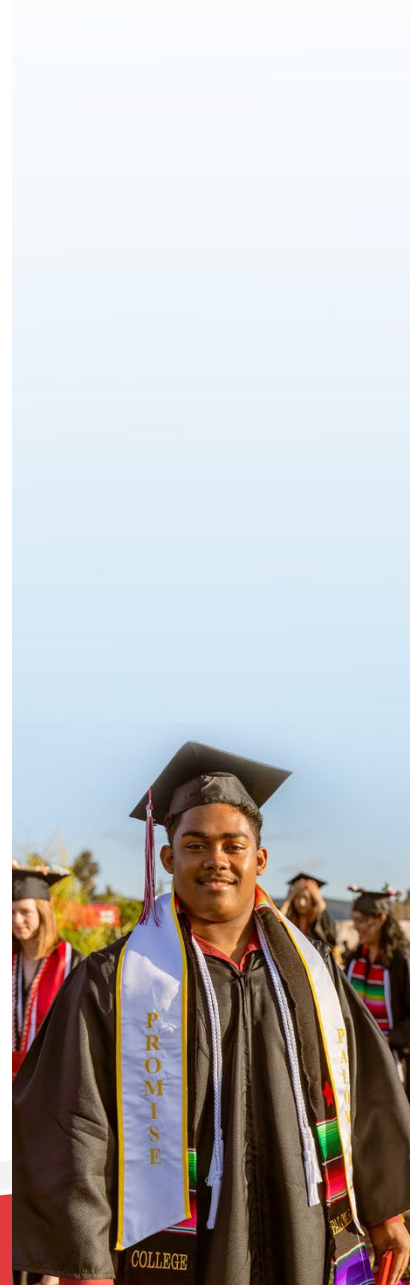
Members of the Speech and Debate team will be attending the prestigious International Forensics Tournament in Ireland for the first time, thanks to the generous support of the Palomar College Foundation.

In the Fall of 2023, the ESL department had embedded tutors in 21 ESL classes. They served 590 students during the fall semester in both online and in-person academic and noncredit courses. ESL continues to see growth in their programs and have added classes in response to student demand. They continue to receive inquiries about offering ESL classes in local libraries, high schools, and elementary schools. In response, a new class will be offered at the San Marcos Library in spring 2024. This academic year, the ESL department is participating in a new partnership with the Child Development department for their apprenticeship program with MAAC, a regional nonprofit organization. Other possible partnerships include the Fallbrook Public Library, High Tech High, Vallecitos Elementary School, and the Camp Pendleton Academic Skills Program.

New bilingual signage was installed recently at the ESL office at the Escondido Education Center.

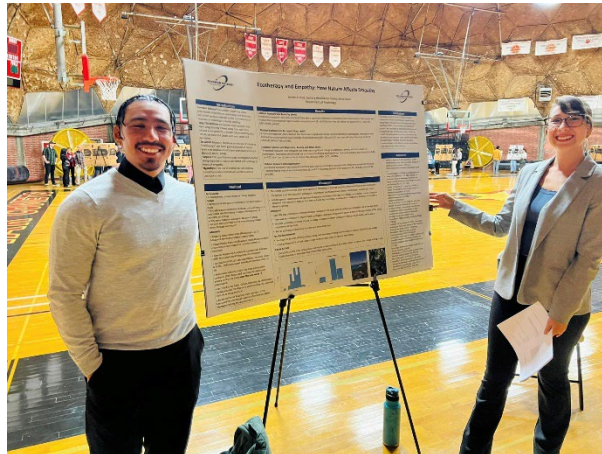


ESL Office at the Escondido Education Center



Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

On Thursday, December 7, 2023, the Psychology Research Methods (PSYC 230) classes presented their group research projects, conference-style, in the Dome. The students chose the topic, designed the study, gathered data, and created an analysis of the results. We are extremely proud of the work they do and enjoy the opportunity to share with the community.



Psychology Research Methods Fair

STUDENT SERVICES

Counseling Services

In the spring semester, the Dreamer Success program will support eligible undocumented students with book vouchers, school supplies and transportation support. We are also launching our Dreamer Success website where students can submit an interest form to join the program and request a meeting with the Dreamer Success Program Coordinator.

TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) is back in full swing providing services to 6-12 graders in the Vista and Escondido school districts. Staff kicked off this month by helping students navigate the new FAFSA application and partnered with target schools during financial aid nights. They have also been busy participating in FAFSA training to better serve all students. ETS Vista is currently hosting outreach nights which involves inviting over 40 Vista High School and Rancho Buena Vista High School families to apply to the ETS program for college access and information services.

TRIO North County Education Opportunity Center (NCEOC) has been working to ensure all new and returning Palomar College student reserve appointments for admissions, enrollment, and financial aid application support. At the end of January, they participated in Palomar College spring semester welcome days.

Annually, the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant is obligated to submit an Annual Performance Report to the Department of Education. This report provides data on the progress of our students, encompassing retention rates, completion rates, academic performance, and the spectrum of services utilized by students to advance their academic, career, and personal objectives. For the recently concluded 2022-2023 academic year, we have successfully submitted the report, and the outcomes are as follows:

- Persistence: 94% of our students continued their academic journey from fall 2022 to fall 2023.
- Academic Standing: 97% of our students currently maintain good academic standing.
- Attainment: 73% of students achieved the milestone of earning an associate degree or certificate.
- Transition: 62% of students not only earned a degree but also successfully transferred to a 4-year university.



These results underscore the efficacy of our program in fostering student success and progression towards their educational and career goals. The TRIO SSS program has been collaborating closely with the Palomar College Public Information Office to showcase the achievements of our first-generation students through CBS News 8 stories. The primary objective is to bring attention to our students' experiences and the challenges they overcome. The student stories were featured in news broadcasts on January 19, and February 2.

Enrollment Services

Financial Aid representatives visited five high schools during the month of January and hosted/presented at two workshops. The Scholarship Application is open from January 16 to March 5, 2024.

Student Services

During the first week of classes, student services, with the assistance of countless employees, hosted five "Ask Me" tents in high traffic locations at the San Marcos campus. Students were provided a QR code that gave them access to helpful spring semester information.

Student Health and Behavioral Wellness Centers

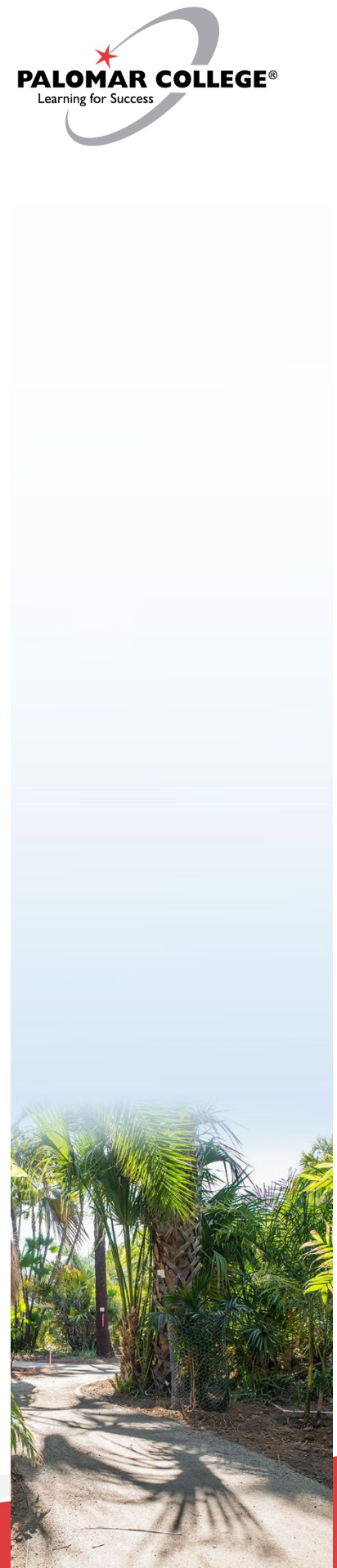
The Student Health Center (SHC) has been providing a variety of services to students, including physicals, hearing tests, vision screenings, TB tests and other services specific to academic program entrance requirements. The SHC has also been providing immunization reviews for our students enrolling in the Child Development program. Over 100 flu vaccines have been administered to our students. In addition, the team continues to triage student COVID-19 submissions and provide guidance and notifications to professors. The team hosted a Narcan training and distribution workshop during Flex Week. Additional training will be offered throughout the spring semester on the last Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. COVID-19 test kits, fentanyl test strips and masks are available in the SHC for students at no cost.

Behavioral Health Counseling Services continues to provide culturally informed health and wellness resources for students. Our team is in the process of developing liaison roles to meet the needs of vulnerable student populations and promote their success and retention. We were honored to support and participate in the Social Justice Festival during the Flex Week, and we are excited to support the Palomar Black Faculty and Staff Association's workshop series this February for Black History Month.

We are also working with our partner TrueCare, a local community clinic, to bring expanded peer to peer support for suicide prevention to our campus. The Health Promotion team, including our Student Wellness Advocacy Group, is teaming up with Active Minds to promote belonging for all students and to continue breaking down barriers and stigma related to seeking support. We participated in Comet Welcome Days and are excited to see our students in greater numbers on campus again. The February Health and Wellness calendar of events includes a wellness tips skills shop for students and a Blood Drive at the end of the month.

Student Services Communications, Systems, and Technology

To best assist students quickly regarding the most frequently asked questions at the start of a semester, we launched a new website, ["Your Guide to Spring 2024"](#). Over 16,000 spring semester students received text messages promoting Comet Welcome Days. In order to accommodate students and employees during the rare occasion of a PeopleSoft outage, a WordPress Routing page was generated for both MyPalomar and Class Search links. To



better serve new students, the content for our online orientations was updated with expanded information.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Business Services

RFP # 301-24 for Construction Manager at Risk services is currently under way for the Fallbrook 40 Project. The pre-bid meeting was held on January 23 and was well attended with 12 Construction Management Firms in attendance. Final questions are due to the District on February 6, with proposals due to the District at noon on February 15. After reviewing the proposals, interviews will take place and a firm will be selected for approval at the Governing Board meeting in March.

New equipment has been received in the Food Court, and expanded menu options are now available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Grab and go items remain available as well. Beginning in mid-February, soup, and pizza, will be available.

Campus Police

As of mid-December, a third party is monitoring the District's fire alarm system. In addition, in the month of January, an agreement with Knight Security to answer and facilitate the appropriate response to after hour calls received from all District emergency phones was finalized.

On January 12, Palomar College hosted an active shooter response training for the San Diego Sheriff, CSU San Marcos, Escondido and Campus Police which included scenarios with North County fire agencies to respond to an event and work to rescue victims in a mass casualty incident. On January 16 -17, Campus Police worked with an international SWAT trainer on our own response to an active shooter incident. The training included tactical response and methods to breach and enter doors. The officers also participated in gunfire training at a local shooting range.

Due to an increase in frequency of car vs pedestrian accidents, Campus Police has provided more Officer visibility to facilitate improved pedestrian safety, particularly during the first week of the spring semester.

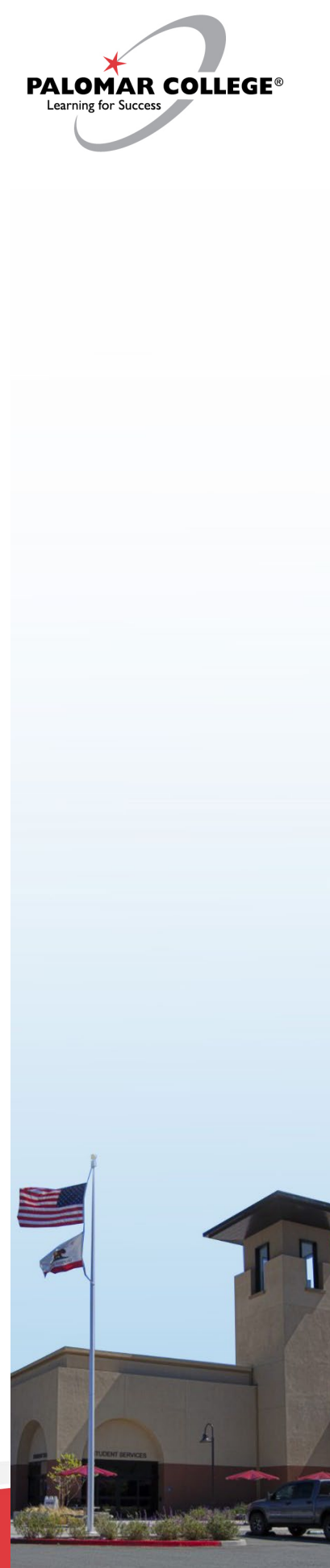
Officer Gerard Perez, one of the founding members of Campus Police, participated in the Human Library during the Social Justice Festival. Campus Police participated in the Week of Welcome event during the first week of spring semester.

Construction & Facilities Planning

Prop M Projects

Athletics Stadiums Project: The softball stadium is progressing well with the playing surfaces installed including the clay infield, warning track and natural sod outfield and synthetic turf. The natural turf requires growing time before the field can be in use. The installation of a sidewalk and landscaping around the softball field are in progress. The visitor bleachers for football are complete except for the screens on the backside. Installation of the home side bleachers has also begun. The total change order rate for the project to date to 5.01%, including Change Order #06 which is on the Governing Board agenda on February 13.

Fallbrook 40 building: The initial comments on plan documents have been received from the Department of the State Architect (DSA) and responses were submitted on January 2. It is expected that bidding on this project will start in April.



Additional Projects

Escondido Fencing Project: The construction is continuing with work now focused on the entry gates including the wiring necessary for operation of the automatic gates and the main pedestrian entrance structure. Landscaping has been installed along the new perimeter fence. The project is approximately 75% complete. Included on the Governing Board agenda on February 13, is a no cost to the District Change Order for a project schedule extension to February 16.

Information Services (IS)

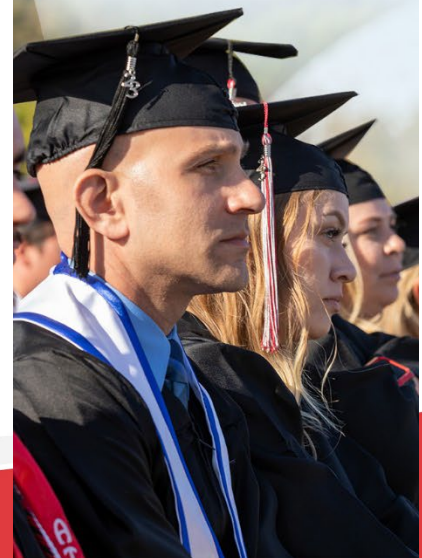
As typical for this time of year, the IS Help Desk and Technical Services teams have been extremely busy over the past month supporting technical needs of students, faculty, and staff in their return to campus after the holiday break and preparing for the start of the spring semester. Activity has included an average of over 200 user requests and work orders per day, the replacement of over 240 computers in classroom and student labs, as well as updates, refreshes, and reimaging of all classrooms and labs where needed across the district as normally needed at the start of each semester.

In collaboration with Human Resource Services and Fiscal Services, the Systems and Programming team conducted several application updates and technical support for tasks associated with calendar year-end activity. The employee self-service (ESS) functionality includes the ability to view and print w-2s and paystubs on the web.

This team has also provided programming support, technical enhancements, and improvements in on-going efforts to improve the processing speed and proactive fraud-detection of student (CCCApply) applications. And finally, the systems and programming team has been working closely with our Cashier's Office on the conversion to a new and improved cashiering and credit card platform and system.

The IS Network And Data Center (NADC) team is in the final stages of our \$2m+ districtwide wireless upgrade project, which included the installation of new infrastructure, cabling and 500+ new access points. There are only a dozen of the toughest locations remaining, which are complex due to height and specific locations. These last locations are scheduled to be complete within two months. Additionally, this team is completing the implementation of a new immutable (encrypted) backup and storage system, which will help ensure the District is impervious to any alterations or modifications of stored data, all of which are vital in the context of ransomware attacks. The NADC team also continues to work closely with facilities, district architects, and contractors on the configuration and installation of the technical infrastructure, systems, devices, and equipment for both the new athletics facility and the fencing, safety and security project at the Escondido Education Center.

In terms of new projects and initiatives, information services has begun initial review and planning meetings with the Chancellor's Office for Palomar to become a teaching college in the CVC-OEI course exchange. The official kickoff for technical design and development is scheduled for February 14, with go-live or completion expected in late spring or early summer. And finally, in support of enhancing campus safety and security, information services has just started the installation of several new, external security cameras around the Student Union building, as well as external emergency notification speakers around the Early Childhood Education And Lab School and Student Union.



HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Benefits

Spring 2024 Part-Time Faculty Open Enrollment will run from February 14, 2024, through March 8, 2024. All existing participants will need to re-enroll in their medical, dental, and vision plans each semester. The Benefit Office collaborated with PFF to create an FAQ for the Part-Time Faculty Open Enrollment. All forms and information can be found on the Benefits website under the Part-Time Faculty drop down menu.

TEAM LIFE will be offering employee jazzercise classes. The benefits office, Patrick Savaiano, and TEAM LIFE are working on a semester long employee mental wellness series as well. Emails will be sent to all employees once the details are finalized.

Recruitment

Recruitment figures as of 1/29/24:

31 permanent recruitments in progress

11 – Admin/CAST

19 – Classified

1 – Faculty

66 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

22 additional part-time faculty postings have closed, and departments are still hiring from those application pools.

Human Resources attended the CCC Registry job fair in Los Angeles on January 20. This job fair is one of two the CCC Registry hosts annually. We had over 160 potential applicants come by our table and interact with our staff. Our goal in attending job fair events such as this one is to recruit highly qualified candidates to Palomar College.



Palomar College Human Resources Services team at job fair

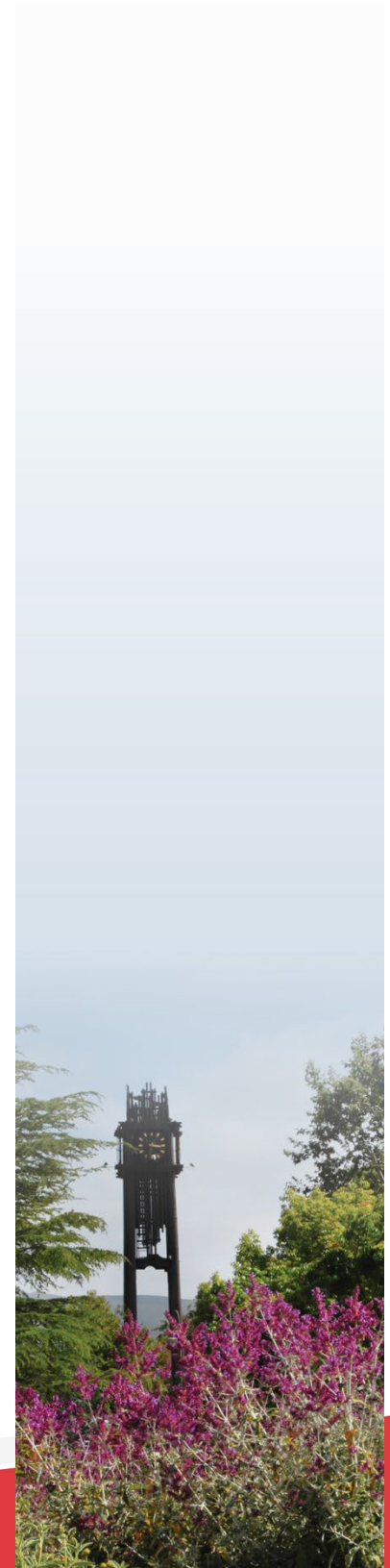
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING (IR&P)

Accreditation

Dr. Rivera-Lacey and Senior Director Barton attended the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) meeting in January to highlight the work Palomar completed to address its accreditation compliance requirement. Shortly after, the Commission acted to reaffirm the accreditation of Palomar College through the remainder of the cycle. Palomar will continue to submit its annual reports and midpoint (due March 2026). Our next comprehensive review will begin with submission and review of an Institutional Self Evaluation Report in 2028 and conclude with a Focused Site Visit in 2029.

Integrated Planning

The College has launched its annual Program Review and Planning (PRP) process. This year, instructional programs will complete annual reviews as the Instructional Program Review Committee completes a continuous improvement assessment of the current PRP process. All non-instructional programs will complete either a comprehensive or annual review in accordance with their current three-year planning cycle.



The College is moving forward to implement Vision Plan 2035. In February, the College Council and Executive Team will review and prioritize the Educational Vision Plan's goals and objectives. The College Council will monitor an action plan that identifies responsible areas, activity items, timeline, and needed resources for each prioritized objective.

Institutional Research

The research team is looking forward to a busy spring semester. Among its projects, the team is rolling out program matrices to support the College's enrollment management work, preparing data for the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment, and gearing up to administer the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). The CCSSE is a national student survey, designed to measure activities that lead to student engagement, which is strongly associated with student learning and retention. The College will use the survey results to better serve our students and inform planning, accreditation, learning outcomes assessments, and more.

Grants

To build the Palomar College federal grant capacity, a team is participating in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Mentor-Connect Program. The Mentor-Connect Program provides professional development support for two-year community colleges to improve and expand technical education programs by increasing their capacity to prepare and submit competitive proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF) The Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy inclusive of programmatic advertising as well as brand related enrollment-focused ads continued. This integrated digital advertising strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and the palomar.edu website. In the month of December, the campaign generated over 743,000 impressions, while remaining cost efficient.

The Palomar.edu website continues to perform well. Compared to the previous December we experienced a 3% increase in users and a 3% increase in new users on the palomar.edu website. These statistics are indicative of the effectiveness of paid and earned media campaigns.

The integrated marketing and communications campaign designed to support spring enrollment launched on November 6 and continued to run through January. Some portions of the campaign will continue into the first few weeks of February. The campaign includes a web streaming campaign with endorsement ads featuring alum and radio personality Jesse Lozano and Over-the-Top (OTT) video advertising, which will run through February 8. The OTT ads are targeted to platforms and programming that are aligned with our student demographics. A pilot display and video advertising campaign specific to each education center performed above industry standards. The Escondido Education Center portion of the campaign received more than 400,000 impressions, while the Fallbrook Education Center focused ads provided over 333,000 impressions. The geo-fenced area used for the Rancho Bernardo Education Center portion of the campaign was one-third of the size and provided over 140,000 impressions. As previously noted, the video portion of the campaign featured specific content for each of the [Escondido](#), [Fallbrook](#), and [Rancho Bernardo](#) education centers. The refreshed bulletin board (billboard) was installed on highway 78 in early January.





Palomar College billboard



Social media remains the 5th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram generated the majority of the social media traffic to Palomar.edu. The other overall top channels of traffic to the website are direct traffic, organic search, and referral traffic.

A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms shows steady growth for all channels. Our growth in Facebook “Likes” increased 3% in both the month of December and January. Followers on Twitter grew 6% compared to December 2022 and 5% compared to January 2023. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 18% in December and 17% in January. LinkedIn followers increased 5% in December and 4% in January. Followers on our TikTok channel grew over 4% in December and January compared to the previous month and 71% compared to December 2022. Compared to January 2023, our TikTok channel grew 61%.

Throughout the month of December, our social media posts included support for spring enrollment and winter intercession classes, events, financial aid, performing arts, and student services programs. In January, we used our social media platforms to promote spring enrollment and specific courses with low enrollment, as well as all of the welcome events and spring semester news.



December Social Media Post



January Social Media Post

Community and Media Relations

The Public Information Office, in collaboration with the TRIO SSS program, identified two students who wanted to share their success story with a reporter from CBS 8 News. The first story featured a student and the supervisor of the TRIO SSS program and aired on



[January 19](#). The second story featured a student and Dr. Rivera-Lacey and aired on [February 2](#). We plan to work on other projects with this reporter and the Latino Task Force at CBS 8 news.

In mid-January, a [press release](#) on the hire of the new Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Human Resources was issued to our media partners. In the last week of January, a press release was developed and issued on the [innovative use of technology](#) to better serve students. These stories garnered the attention of our local news agencies and can be found on the [Palomar News website](#).

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

Throughout the month of December and January, Public Information Officer, Julie Lanthier Bandy, led colleagues in the region to plan for advocacy trips to Sacramento and Washington D.C. The effort also included the development of an [animated video](#) that highlights the economic impact of the community colleges in the region. During both advocacy efforts, all state and federal legislators met with the region's community college leaders and students.

In mid-December, a [story](#) was developed and posted to Palomar News regarding the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) verification of several Palomar College academic programs.

The Creative Services team continued to work with departments throughout the District to design and produce promotional collateral, signage, and window coverings. The team is currently working on the development of designs for the Commencement program.

FOUNDATION

Community Showcase – A Report to the Community

The Palomar College Community Showcase – Report to the Community on March 6 at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido will feature our veteran and military affiliated programs. More information can be found at [this webpage](#).

Fundraising Activities

Major & Planned Gifts

In 2023, the Foundation worked with amazing donors to establish 12 new scholarship programs for students at Palomar College! In December, the Foundation secured

\$25,000 from an anonymous donor to support the John Masson Memorial Scholarship for students from Escondido. Also, after months of building a strong partnership with AES Corporation, the Foundation secured a donation of **\$25,000**.

Funds will support the immediate needs of the Rising Scholars program (\$5,400) as well as create an endowed scholarship for electricians in the



Community Showcase Promotional Collateral



AES Corporation Representatives with Rising Scholars



apprenticeship program (\$19,600). Representatives from AES visited campus for a golf cart tour with the Foundation team in January and were thrilled to interact with some of the Rising Scholars as well.

The Foundation team worked with the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) to tour a couple from Escondido who were interested in establishing a scholarship at Palomar College. Through a donor advised fund with JCF, the Frederick's Family Scholarship for \$10,000 was established in December. The Foundation also secured a \$14,000 donation from the 2023 Comet Award recipient, Klaus Kirchhoff to support additional scholarships and emergency grants for students in need. We also were pleased to secure \$3,000 for the Ted Kilman Scholarship and \$2,100 for the Nancy Johnson Scholarship.

Grant Program

The Foundation has received \$16,500 from two notable entities. The Angel Society of Fallbrook donated \$1,500 to support the CALM program (Comets Affordable Learning Materials). The Christensen Foundation awarded \$15,000 with \$10,000 of the grant designated for the Rising Scholars Program, and \$5,000 allocated for textbook assistance.

The Foundation submitted a grant application to Kaiser Permanente to request \$10,000 for their continued support of the Foundation's programs. The Foundation submitted two final grant reports that showcase the impact of the funds received in 2023. One report was submitted to the San Marcos Community Foundation for the CALM Program funding, while the other was submitted to the District Attorney Community Grant for the Rising Scholars Program funding.

President's Associates

The Foundation's annual meeting and President's Associates gathering took place on December 11. Over 60 friends of the Foundation joined in the event to hear an update from Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and the impact of the Foundation on a student of the fire academy. Thank you to our President's Associates members, including Kaiser Permanente, for their continued support and for sponsoring this amazing event.

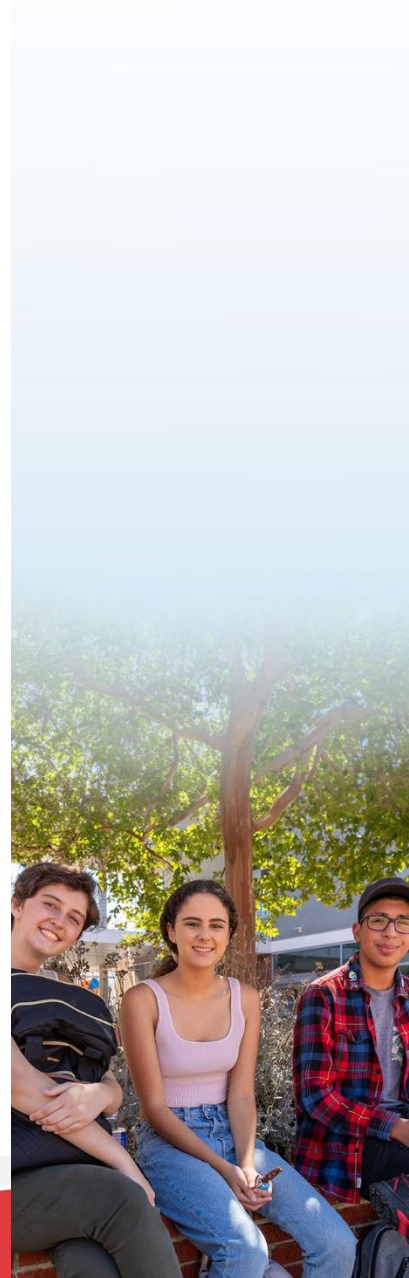
Foundation Board Of Directors

The Foundation Board of Directors held their annual meeting on December 11. At this meeting, the board approved the nomination of two members of the board members: Rachel Ford Hutman, CEO of Ford Hutman Media and Tiffany Rosik, Founder of TGR Management Consulting, LLC.

The Foundation Board of Directors also held their 2024 kick-off retreat on January 30 to prepare for the year ahead.



Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors (Missing: Sheila Brown & Dave Watt)



Community Engagement

The Foundation sponsored the luncheon at the annual Palomar College Veterans Day celebration on November 9. Several veteran donors were invited and attended this thoughtful ceremony. In addition, the team from the Rancho Bernardo Education Center represented Palomar at the annual Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation luncheon on November 16.

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis participated in the North San Diego Business Chamber regional connect in Escondido on November 8 and a Board of Directors meeting on November 30. On November 27 Stacy and a number of Palomar colleagues attended a meeting with Apple to brainstorm potential partnership opportunities. In addition, Stacy attended the Christenson Foundation board of directors meeting to discuss giving opportunities.

