

March 8, 2024

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Celebrating Black History Month

The Palomar Black Faculty and Staff Association organized the fourth annual celebration of Black History Month inclusive of workshops under the theme "African Americans and the Arts." These workshops included stellar performances, displays of creativity and skill shared by some of our very own faculty and students and a wide variety of leaders in the community. The month-long festivities also included the first ever Soul Swap Meet and the annual Black History Month Fair.



Staged Reading of "Whatever Happened to Baby Esther"

I was able to attend a fantastic staged reading of "Whatever Happened to Baby Esther," written by Kellie O. Davis. It featured Ann Givens, Keasha Lee, and Ashlee Olivia. Dr. Julie Vitale, Superintendent of Oceanside Unified School District also attended the session. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of faculty and staff to design and implement an incredible celebration.

Campus Engagement

On February 9, I enjoyed a visit to the Palomar Planetarium with our community advisory board members. My visit reminded me of all of the fabulous opportunities we have at Palomar College for our community to enjoy. Our Astronomy faculty members always educates our visitors with their engaging presentations. In March there are three features, "The Sky Tonight," "Voyager: The Never Ending Journey," and "Faster Than Light."

Our shared governance meetings and standing appointments with faculty, staff, and student leaders were held as scheduled. These sessions always provide valuable opportunities for insightful discussions and problem-solving.

It was my pleasure to attend the Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors meeting held in the T-Building on February 26. After conducting the business of the Board, they all enjoyed a demonstration by our welding students.

Community Engagement

On February 8, Palomar College in collaboration with the Palomar College Foundation hosted the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA) annual dinner. Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, President of CSU San Marcos, was our keynote speaker. Nearly ninety community college CEOs, administrators, executive assistants, and trustees attended, including Palomar College Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez, Governing Board Vice President Dr. Judy Patacsil, Governing Board Secretary Michelle Rains, and Trustee Cassandra Schaeg.

Our Palomar College Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and I had the pleasure of meeting Michelle Bender, City Manager of San Marcos and Tess Sangster, Director of Economic Development for San Marcos. We discussed the importance of collaborating on initiatives such as safety on our surrounding streets and intersections. Our facilities team is already reviewing plans with the City, and we plan to address our crosswalks on campus in the coming months.

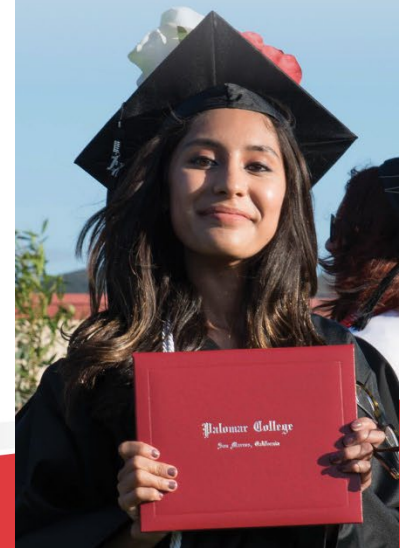
At the recent Association of Community College Administrators (ACCA) - Management Essentials training, I co-presented with Long Beach City College Superintendent/President Dr. Mike Muñoz. The Management Essentials training is intended for administrators who desire to learn the skills, and practices to best manage their organizations and forge strong ties to build momentum within their teams. Dr. Munoz and I presented on the importance of social media and how to best utilize it to manage institutional and professional impressions.



Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez, Governing Board Secretary Michelle Rains, Governing Board Vice President Dr. Judy Patacsil, Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Trustee Cassandra Schaeg, and Dr. Ellen Neufeldt.



Dr. Mike Munoz and Dr. Rivera-Lacey presenting at the Association of Community College Administrators training.



On February 21, along with community leaders, Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy and I celebrated the opening of the new field office of Congressman Scott Peters in San Marcos. Later that evening, I attended San Diego North Economic Development Council (SDNEDC) Chairman's Dinner at TERI Campus of Life. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with dynamic higher education, business, and government leaders. Both City of San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones and Congressman Scott Peters shared remarks and inspired us to continue to share opportunities with our younger generation and continue our work in supporting our dynamic region.



Dan DeSaegher, Chief Development Officer for TERI Campus of Life; Dr. Sunny Cooke, Superintendent/President of MiraCosta College; and Dr. Rivera-Lacey.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

With the Spring 2024 semester in full swing, Instructional Services is currently finalizing the Fall 2024 schedule and preparing the catalog for the 2024-2025 academic year. As part of the Enrollment Management efforts, Institutional Research, Planning and Grants created Program Matrices for each of our disciplines and will be meeting with department chairs and lead faculty in each division to review the data related to student success and completion. This will provide a great opportunity for faculty to assess curriculum and scheduling practices at a program level. Vice President Dr. Recalde provided an Enrollment Management update at the Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Fiscal Stewardship Council (IEPFSC) Town Hall meeting on February 29. In addition, Vice President Dr. Recalde and two instructional deans had the opportunity to attend the 48th Annual Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) conference. They attended sessions related to leadership, supporting employees, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Antiracism, self-care, and supporting disproportionately impacted students. Within the Self-Care Track, Vice President Dr. Recalde presented a session on "Strategically Using Self-Care to Thrive as an Administrator."

Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) Division

Our Math coordinators for AB 1705, Mark Clark and Shelbi Hathaway collaborated with (IRP&G) and the Office of Instruction to enhance math placement for the Fall 2024 semester. A HWY 78 Mathematics celebration took place on March 2 at Mira Costa College. This is an annual event that showcases mathematics prowess, providing students a platform to exhibit their skills, attend captivating presentations, and win prizes.

The second "Meet & Greet" organized by the Computer Science Department provided an informal opportunity for faculty and students to connect and kickstart the semester. The event had good attendance, with numerous students actively participating and posing questions.

Languages and Literature Division

Our English as a Second Language (ESL) student support specialists continue to assist students with CCCApply applications on our campus locations and within our communities. The ESL Academic Advisors have been visiting local high schools to present an ESL college



orientation and help English Language Development (ELD) students with CCCApply, the Palomar College application, ESL Self-Placement, and Palomar Promise. ESL Tutoring has held open house events and classroom visits, in addition to providing embedded tutors in more than 20 ESL classes. Professor Tina Parker led an ESL faculty and staff workshop on best practices in asynchronous, synchronous, and in-person classes.

Within the English, Humanities, and Reading department, the Bravura literary magazine received a "Superior" award from the Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) Contest.



Image of REALM Contest Award Recognition

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

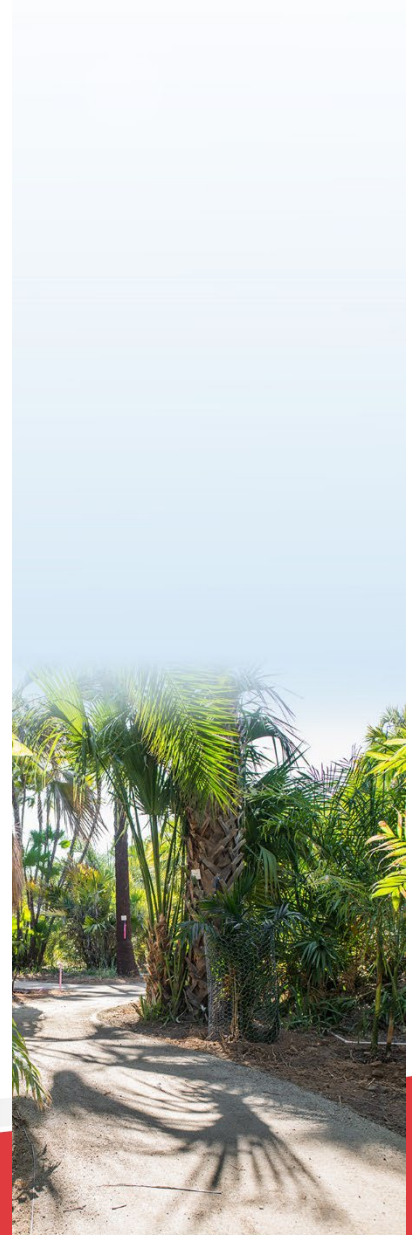
Part-time Philosophy faculty member Bruce Thompson attended and presented a paper at the Model-Based Reasoning in Science & Technology conference in Rome this past summer. His paper, "The Principle of Ecthesis in Hypothetical Reasoning" is now on its way to being published. The reviewer said, "As a first statement it is necessary to say that this is an overwhelmingly positive review for an excellent article. The overall conception is very clear, the reasoning and argumentation easy to follow, and the conclusions are fascinating. Regarding the latter, the idea of being able to provide a logical model for the justification of abduction is very exciting. In sum, this is a surprising, fascinating, well-crafted, and thoroughly enjoyable text, and I can therefore, without reservation, recommend the chapter for publication." Palomar College was listed as his home institution both at the conference and on the paper.

Three more students were welcomed into the first cohort of the Early Care and Education Apprenticeship Program with MAAC Project Head Start. Most students are now about six months into their employment at Head Start and Early Head Start Centers across North County and taking their second Child Development class at Palomar. These students enter the classroom at Palomar each week enthusiastic and ready to learn.

Students in Cohort 1 of the P3 Palomar-Escondido Unified School District (EUSD) Partnership are completing their first year of general education courses. Students in Cohort 2 will earn their School Age Assistant Certificate in May. There are over thirty students enrolled in the second cohort. EUSD begins Fall 2024 employment recruiting for their third Cohort in March.

The California Early Childhood Mentor Program (CECMP) continues to thrive. The Mentor Coordinator is connecting with other preschool teachers in the field and is in the process of accepting the third mentor teacher from the community along with two traveling mentors. All the mentors work with the department's practicum students. The Child Development and Education department is collaborating with Mira Costa College and their mentor program in monthly Communities of Practice meetings. Palomar College Assistant Professor, Tanessa Sanchez was featured in the statewide CECMP February newsletter in their "Mentors in Action!" expose.

The Child Development and Education department connected with two nonprofit agencies, Guitars in the Classroom and C3 Creating Change for Children and hosted the first of a free two-part ukulele workshop. Fifty early childhood professionals, mentors, community partners, and child development students attended the first workshop in January. Participants learned beat, rhythm, pitch, and how to strum a ukulele while playing familiar



children's songs. Each participant received a free ukulele, a song book, kazoo, egg shakers, and a tuner. The second workshop is scheduled for March 9.

During the spring semester, the Child Development and Education Department has planned three Future Educator Events. There was a great turn out at the first event, a Virtual Meet & Greet. Back by popular demand after being such a success in the fall semester is Game Night on March 5. Students and faculty will play games together that can be used with children in classroom settings. New this year, the Future Educators Group will host a Sand Therapy workshop on April 9. Students attending this workshop will experience and learn about the benefits of sand play therapy from the only certified Sand Tray therapist in San Diego County. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend the free Future Educator Events!

Arts, Media, Business Administration Division

Expanding upon the achievements of the Winter Art Sale, where more than 30 student artists showcased and sold their creations, the Art Department is now gearing up for a Spring Art Sale. In addition to this event, preparations are underway for a department open house, scholarship opportunities, and the eagerly anticipated Student Art Exhibition, all scheduled to take place from late April through May.

Highlighting the remarkable accomplishments of our dance students, several individuals from Palomar participated in the LVIII Super Bowl halftime show on February 11 in Las Vegas. Moreover, numerous other dance students are actively engaged in the vibrant Los Angeles dance scene. It is inspiring to see our students making significant contributions and achieving success on a large scale.

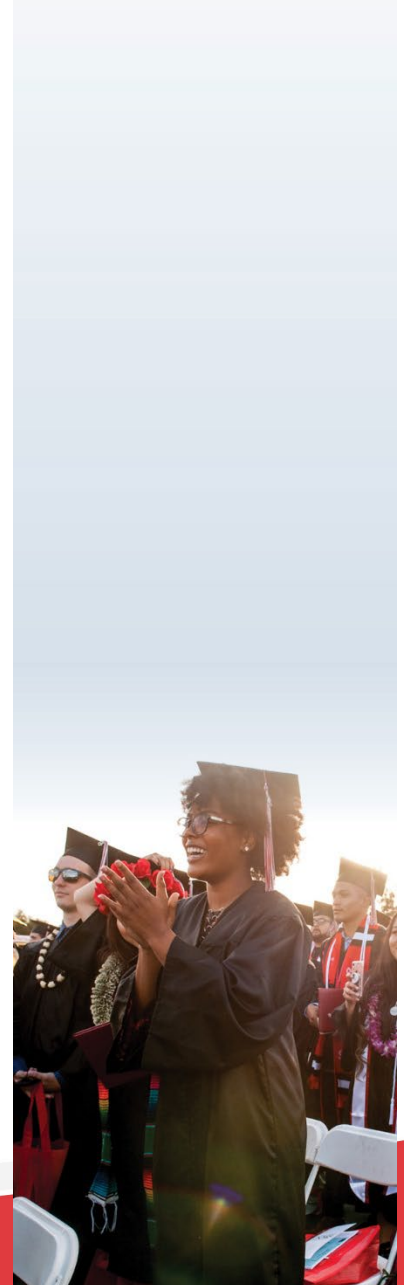
Career Technical and Extended Education Division

Workforce Development and Extended Studies Associate Dean Nichol Roe has been selected and invited to participate in the 2024 MENTOR-CONNECT Cohort for Technical Assistance and Mentoring Support as we prepare the upcoming National Science Foundation-Advanced Technological Education (NSF-ATE) grant proposal due in October 2024. The program started on January 31 with an in-person workshop that brought together new cohort teams from across the United States. The Palomar College team consists of Nichol Roe, Associate Dean of Workforce Development and Extended Studies; Pauline Moroz, Grants Manager; Jacob Shiba, Associate Professor for Water/Wastewater Technology; and Jason Jarvinen, Department Chair for Workforce Development. The team has since met virtually with their mentor and are excited to get to work on our application!

A Service Learning Fair was held in the Student Union on February 8, with eleven community partners participating in sharing Service Learning volunteer opportunities with approximately seventy-five students.

Education Centers

The [Fall 2023 Early College summary report](#) indicates how Bonsall High School students continue to thrive in the Early College Program at the Fallbrook Education Center.



STUDENT SERVICES



Enrollment Services

Andrew Mertig started as the new Manager for Outreach & Onboarding on February 20. Representatives from The Huron Group will be on campus March 4 - March 8 for continued consulting with the Outreach team.

Student Life and Leadership

Club Rush was held on February 6 and 7. This event gives clubs an opportunity to connect with students and increase membership. The SEAL (Success, Equity, Advocacy and Leadership) Center is now open for clubs to reserve for meetings and events.

Valentine's Day Self-love Comet Hour in collaboration with Health Services and the Umoja Club was very successful with 27 students in attendance.

We continue to pick up and deliver food every Tuesday morning to all of the Education Centers for use in the Grab n' Go refrigerators. Farmer's Markets are occurring every Tuesday at San Marcos, Escondido, and Rancho Bernardo sites. The new HUB Connection Distribution Lockers are up and running at all sites.

Student Health and Behavioral Health Counseling Services

The Student Health Center (SHC) providers hosted several classroom presentations in February to promote and educate our students about available services in the SHC. The SHC administered over 125 flu vaccines to our students and employees. The SHC provider team continues to triage and provide guidance to students reporting positive COVID-19 test results. The team works with the Environmental Health and Safety department to provide the required notifications to students and employees at risk of exposure. The SHC provider team hosted a Narcan training and distribution workshop on February 21 for nineteen students in attendance. Additional training will be offered throughout the spring semester on the third Wednesday of each month. Covid test kits, fentanyl test strips, and masks are available in the SHC for students at no cost. The Student Health Center is in the planning stages to offer nurse visits to employees for \$10. The tentative launch is in April.

The Rancho Bernardo Education Center SHC clinic is excited to announce the availability of appointments with a Registered Nurse on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Behavioral Health Counseling Services continues to provide culturally informed health and wellness resources for our 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 recently finalized a partnership with TrueCare, a local community clinic, to bring expanded peer to peer support for suicide prevention on our campus.

The Health Promotions team attended Club Rush on February 6 and 7. Approximately 45 students spoke with our team during the two-day event. We launched our Health & Wellness Skill Shops on February 29 with the topic of "Health Services & Wellness Tips for Student Success." Our skill shops are offered via Zoom and in person in room NB-1.

We engaged many students during classroom presentations with our Student Wellness Advocacy Group (SWAG) peer mentors, healthcare staff and behavioral health therapists to increase student awareness of our services. Faculty and staff can invite us to their classroom by submitting an online request available on our Health Promotion website. SWAG peer mentors have reinstated the Active Minds Club this semester and held their first meeting on February 20. Active Minds is the nation's leading nonprofit organization promoting mental



health awareness and education for young adults. Using a peer-to-peer approach, Active Minds changes the conversation about mental health among adolescents and young adults, reduces stigma associated with mental health conditions, and establishes a culture of caring on college and university campuses.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Campus Police

On February 8, our campus police officers and dispatchers participated in a small-scale training on active shooter response hosted by the Mira Costa College Campus Police department. Coffee with a Cop was held at the Fallbrook Education Center on February 15. Multiple students and staff attended as well as Foundation Board Chair Will Rivera.

On February 27, Chief Moore hosted a table for Palomar College Police Department employees to attend the Women in Blue event sponsored by the San Diego Police Foundation. The event focuses on elevating females in the police profession. Recently, the Campus Police department formalized its pledge to the 30x30 initiative. This nationwide effort is designed to increase the percentage of woman police officers to a rate of 30% of department headcount. Campus Police will host a workshop featuring female leaders in law enforcement during Women's History month.

Construction & Facilities Planning

Prop M Projects

Athletics Stadiums Project: The softball stadium is shaping up nicely with a variety of recent installations including electrical and plumbing fixtures, benches and bat boxes in the dugouts, backstop padding, and surrounding sidewalks and landscaping. Both the softball and football scoreboards have been delivered to the site and installation of the softball scoreboard has started. The progress on the football stadium includes work on the press box, and installation of the home side bleachers. The total change order rate for the project to date is 5.89% including Change Order #07 that will be considered at the March 12 Governing Board meeting.

LL Remodel: A meeting was held on February 9 to discuss the anticipated scope of the project and a survey to gain additional insight was distributed to Student Service employees.

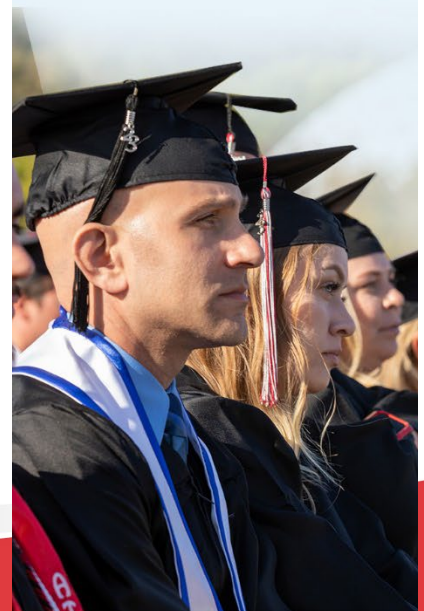
The RFQ/RFPs for the CM at Risk selection for the Fallbrook 40 and Athletics Phase 2 (Football Fieldhouse) projects was issued and a shortlist of four firms will be interviewed on March 4, with the final recommendations for award scheduled for the March 12 Governing Board meeting.

Additional Projects

The Escondido Campus Safety/Security Fencing project is approximately 85% complete. HMC is working on a new proposal to include a storage building along with power for the requested charging station for anticipated new EV vehicles.

The San Marcos campus HVAC and Roof Replacement State Scheduled Maintenance (SSM) project is in the design phase and will impact the following buildings: AA/ST, SSC, and Cafeteria/Bookstore.

The existing HVAC control software installed at the LRC, Humanities building and Teaching Learning Center at the San Marcos campus needs to be replaced. This project may require a competitive bid to furnish and install a new control system program.



Information Services (IS)

The IS Help Desk and Technical Services teams have continued to stay busy supporting technical needs of students, faculty, and staff in the early stages of the spring semester. This has included the new installation or upgrades of several Audio-Visual Systems, the replacement of another seventy-six computers in classrooms, adding new accessibility software to most computers in the student labs, as well as regular refreshes and updates of staff computers across the district where needed.

The IS Systems and Programming team is working closely with Human Resource Services and Payroll on system and programming enhancements that should help automate or otherwise improve several business or processing improvements in these areas. Additionally, this team is providing technical and programming support in on-going efforts to improve the processing speed and proactive fraud-detection of student (CCCApply) applications. The Systems and Programming team continues to work closely with our Cashiers Office on the conversion to a new and improved cashiering and credit card platform and system. The new system is scheduled for launch by the end of March. Lastly, the team has initiated support for the establishment of Palomar College as a Teaching College in the Chancellors Office CVC-OEI Course Exchange.

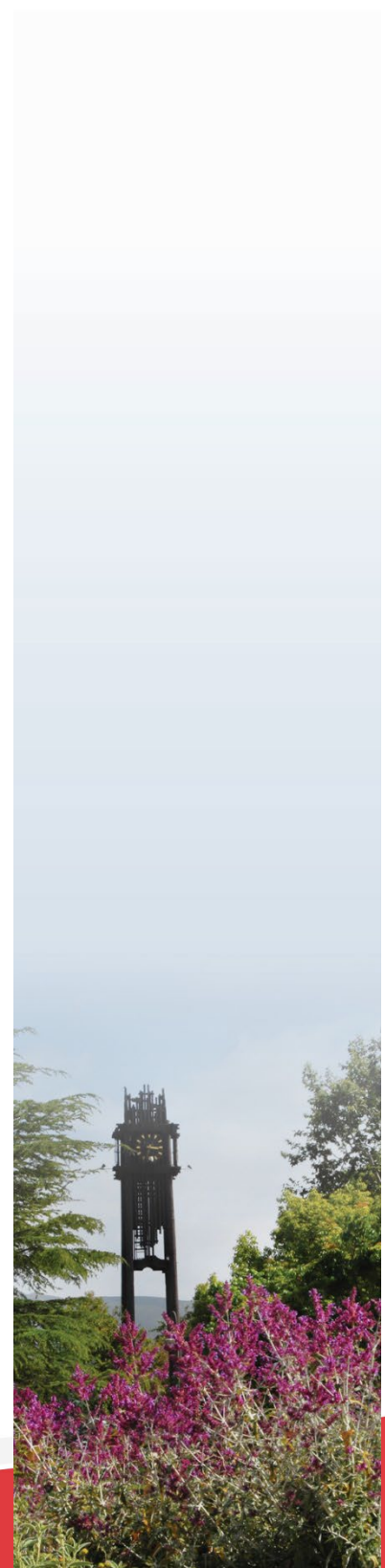
The IS Network and Data Center (NADC) team completed the implementation of a new immutable (encrypted) backup and storage system, which will help ensure the district is impervious to any alterations or modifications of stored data, vital in the context of ransomware attacks. The NADC team also continues to work closely with Facilities, district architects, and contractors on the configuration and installation of all the technical infrastructure, systems, devices, and equipment for both the athletic stadiums project and the security fencing project at the Escondido Education Center. Lastly, the installation of security cameras and emergency notification speakers around the exterior of our Student Union is complete and the next phase will be the installation of several more emergency notification speakers around the Early Childhood Education Lab School.

Progress is being made on efforts to enhance our Cybersecurity posture. The department is actively working on the third mandatory state technology assessment report to demonstrate progress in this area. Paramount in this effort is updating our existing Computer and Network Use policy (AP 3720), and the development of the new Information Security board policy and administrative procedure (BP/AP 3721). These changes will be entering the shared governance process this semester. Finally, Palomar College was awarded \$650,000 in a one-time allocation to assist in any/all of our Cybersecurity efforts. This allocation will be helpful in funding some of our desired initiatives.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Benefits

Part-time faculty open enrollment for spring 2024 is in full swing. There is information provided on the Benefits website, email, and in face-to-face meetings in the LRC. We have recorded webinars that employees can use to get their questions answered. The part-time faculty open enrollment ends March 8, 2024. The Benefits Office scheduled onsite biometric screenings that employees can schedule. The TEAM Life Wellness Committee is hosting exercise classes on the San Marcos campus.



Recruitment

Recruitment figures as of 2/26/24:

30 permanent recruitments in progress

11 – Admin/CAST

15 – Classified

4 – Faculty

66 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

Community Outreach

Human Resources attended the Palomar College first Soul Swap Meet on February 17 and the Black History Month Fair on February 29. Our goal in attending community events is to inform community members of job opportunities at Palomar College and to recruit highly qualified members of our community.

Negotiations

Human Resources continues to negotiate with our labor partners. We are grateful for our collegial relationship and professionalism shown by all members of the negotiation teams.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The Accreditation Writing Leadership team is reviewing and preparing a timeline for the Palomar College mid-term report. In addition, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) released the Annual Report and Annual Fiscal Report templates. The reports are due April 12, 2024.

Integrated Planning

The College Council reviewed the proposed objectives for the implementation of the 2035 Vision Plan. The next steps include completing an action plan template identifying individuals who will lead the work, proposed activities, timelines, and resources needed. The Program Review and Resource Allocation Committee met to prioritize 2023-24 Program Review and Planning (PRP) funding. The Committee's Budget Committee will review the recommendations in March.

Institutional Research

The research team is finalizing its AB705 annual data report and working on the data and several planning assumptions to inform the Palomar College Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). While the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) has not yet released the planning template, the work needs to move forward as this plan which supports allocation of federal Perkins dollars will be due later in the spring.

Grants

We are waiting on funder announcements of three submitted proposals, two of which are collaborations with CSU San Marcos, and a third is a proposal for the CCCCCO's California Apprenticeship Initiative: New & Innovative Grant on behalf of Career Training and Extended Education. The Grants Manager continues to support district personnel with post-award implementation and compliance, including bi-annual reporting requirements for the Community Colleges Pathway to Law School (Cal LAW) initiative, Regional Equity and Recovery Partnerships award, and two California Apprenticeship Initiative: New & Innovative Grants.



The Grant Manager submitted the Palomar College annual application to the U.S Department of Education to be designated as eligible for funding under Title III, Part F or Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions program. The outcome of this application establishes that Palomar College meets the specific requirements to be to apply for federal funding for this program.

Lastly, the Institutional Research, Planning and Grants website was updated to include a form for faculty and staff to complete if they are interested in pursuing a grant opportunity. This 'Intent to Apply' form is the first step in initiating the grant application process to receive support for developing a compelling grant proposal to secure funding to meet District needs.

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 January, the campaign generated over 665,000 impressions, while remaining cost efficient.

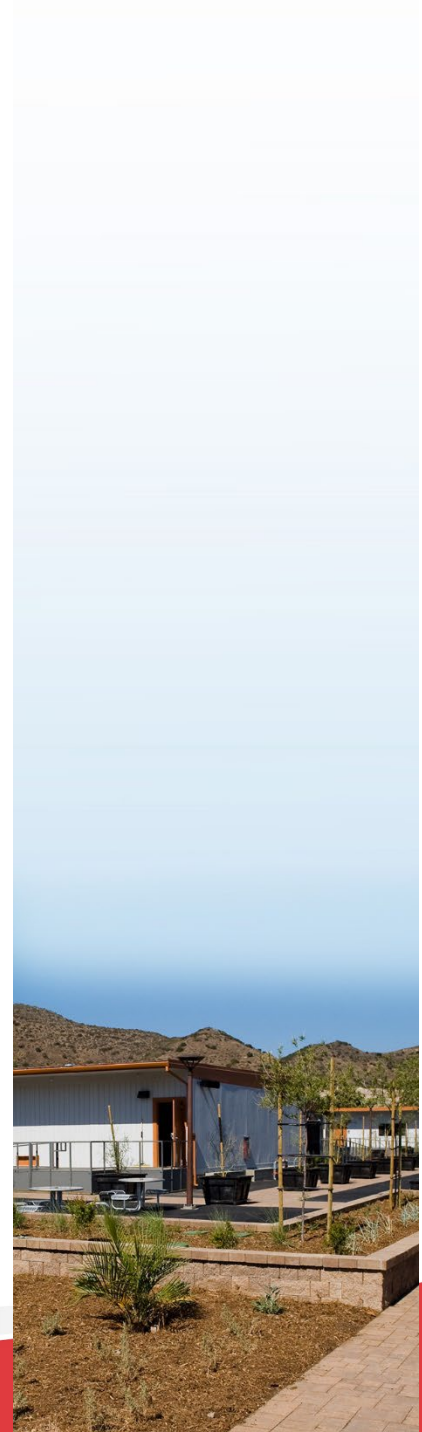
The Palomar.edu website continues to perform well. Compared to the previous February we experienced a 13% increase in users and a 12% increase in new users on the palomar.edu website. In addition, the average engagement time of our users increased by 49%. These statistics are indicative of the effectiveness of paid and earned media campaigns.

Social media remains the 5th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn 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.

The integrated marketing and communications campaign was updated to promote the 4-week and 8-week courses. An updated web streaming campaign with endorsement ads featuring alum and radio personality Jesse Lozano and Over-the-Top (OTT) video advertising, will start on March 11 and support our Career Technical Education programs. The OTT ads are targeted to platforms and programming that are aligned with our student demographics. A new transit advertising campaign will be launched on March 11 as well. This campaign is designed to increase general brand awareness and enrollment.



Palomar College Transit Campaign Artwork



Throughout the month of February our social media posts increased awareness of the February 28 application deadline for graduation, support for 4-week and 8-week courses as well as campus events, Black History month activities, athletics, and the upcoming Women's History Month activities.



February Social Media Post



February Social Media Post

A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms show steady growth for all channels. Our growth in Facebook “Likes” increased 3% compared to last February. Followers on Twitter and LinkedIn grew 5% and 4% respectively compared to February 2023. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 18%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 55% compared to the previous February and 2.5% compared to last month.

Community and Media Relations

Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy facilitated a meeting with San Marcos City Manager Michelle Bender and Director of Economic Development Tess Sangster to connect with Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and Stacy Rungaitis on important issues facing both the City and the District. In addition, throughout the month of February, we worked with TrueCare to develop and design a video production featuring Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey. The video will be shown at the TrueCare annual gala. Julie Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber Rising Stars event at CSU San Marcos. This event honors three high school seniors who have overcome significant obstacles during their educational path.

The Marketing and Communications team collaborated with the Palomar College Foundation and Fallbrook Education Center colleagues to design a Community Meeting that will be held on March 21 to update residents in the area on the future of Palomar College in this part of our District.

The Public Information Office collaborated with student reporters from the Telescope to schedule the appropriate interviews with administrators and managers, in order to contribute to the content of their stories.

In mid-February, a [press release](#) was issued on the advocacy work conducted by the District in Sacramento and Washington D.C. This release and other stories published in February can be found on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College had a total of 337 media mentions in the month of February. This equates to a publicity market value of \$297,000.



Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy and VP of Finance and Administration Todd McDonald met with the leadership of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association to gain insight into best practices, while the District continues to determine the feasibility of placing a general obligation bond on the November 2024 ballot. In addition, [a webpage with FAQs](#) and a [Fact Sheet](#) was launched for use by interested constituencies.

In mid-February, a [story](#) was developed and posted to Palomar News celebrating the scholastic achievements of our women's softball team. The 2023 team earned Scholar Team recognition by the California Community College Athletic Association. With a teamwide 3.54 GPA average. In addition, a story designed to update our community on the progress made to date on the [football and softball stadiums](#) was published on February 29.

On February 21, Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey joined community members to celebrate the new offices of Congressman Scott Peters in San Marcos.

The Creative Services team worked on the Commencement Program cover design and 2024-25 Catalog cover design. Our work with departments throughout the District to design and produce promotional collateral and supporting materials for events including the annual high school counselors event, performing arts and website content, continued.

FOUNDATION

Sold Out! Community Showcase – A Report to the Community

It was a sold out crowd at the Palomar College Community Showcase – Report to the Community on March 6 at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. The program Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey presented a “Report to the Community” and our veteran and military affiliated programs were featured. The Comet Award was presented to the Assistance League of Inland North County. The Foundation raised over \$33,000 in sponsorships for the event, including the champion sponsor Balfour Beatty.

Fundraising Activities

Grant Program

The Palomar College Foundation and Kaiser Permanente will continue a valuable partnership in 2024. Kaiser approved the Foundation's grant request for \$10,000. This support will fund sponsorships of the Community Showcase, President's Invitational Golf Classic, the title sponsorship of the Annual President's Associates/Foundation meeting event, and membership in the President's Associates.

In February, the Foundation submitted a grant proposal to the Nordson Corporation with a funding request of \$25,000 to support the Rising Scholars program. The proposed grant will cover multiple years of program expenses.

President's Associates

We are excited to welcome one new President's Associates member this month – Rachel Ford Hutman. In addition, four President's Associates renewed their memberships including Erickson-Hall, Judy Cater, Kaiser Permanente, and David Watt.



Foundation Board of Directors

The Foundation Board of Directors met on Monday, February 26. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board toasted the newly established and now fully endowed (\$10,000) scholarship in honor of Pete Rogers. The Pete Rogers Welding Scholarship was started with funds from the Carlsbad Rotary Club and became endowed by the Foundation Board in January. The group later toured the welding facility and observed a class in action.

Community Engagement

The Foundation hosted Ric Davey, long time scholarship donor for a campus tour. Ric was one of the architects who worked on the Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS) at the San Marcos campus. Director of Facilities, Chris Miller joined the tour as we visited the youngest Comets at ECELS.

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the North San Diego Business Chamber Regional Connect (NSDBC) event on February 7. Stacy serves on the board of directors for the NSDBC. The Foundation was pleased to support the SDICCCA dinner held at Maderas Golf Club on February 8.



Colleague of Ric Davey, Director of Facilities Chris Miller, Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Ric Davey, and ECELS Coordinator Tamara Holthaus.

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis along with Ryan Williams attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection featuring County of Supervisor, Jim Desmond. Also in attendance was Mike Sannella, San Marcos City Council member and a proud Palomar College alumni.



Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Chamber member Joe Coyle, County Supervisor Jim Desmond, San Marcos City Councilmember Mike Sannella, and Chamber CEO Rick Rungaitis

