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April 5, 2024

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Celebrating Women's History Month

The Empowered Women of Palomar College collaborated with faculty and staff and external partners to host an incredible month of workshops in celebration of Women's History Month. Sessions included Self-Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Through Art, Women in STEM and Law Enforcement, as well as a screening of the film MAESTRA. MAESTRA follows five international women as they prepare for and perform in 'La Maestra', the only competition in the world for female orchestra conductors. The month concluded with a celebration of the Palomar College Empowered Woman of the Year, Anel Gonzalez, and a powerful discussion on human trafficking. Anel was specifically recognized for her outstanding work on behalf of our classified colleagues, for her unwavering commitment to DEIAA efforts at Palomar, and for empowering other women at our College and region. Congratulations, Anel! I am grateful for all of the time, effort, and creativity by our faculty and staff who developed the programming for Women's History Month at Palomar College.



Palomar College Women of the Year Dr. Nora Kenney (2023), Anel Gonzalez (2024), and Jenny Fererro (2022)

Women's History Month was also a chance to collaborate and reflect with Superintendent/President of MiraCosta College, Dr. Sunny Cooke, and President of CSU San Marcos, Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, on the unique opportunity we have as women leaders in higher education for a [Times of San Diego](#) opinion piece. While we each have unique stories, it is the joy we receive each day as presidents of our respective institutions that keeps us inspired to create opportunities for others.



Dr. Sunny Cooke, Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, and Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey

Community Engagement

Earlier in the month, at the invitation of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, I represented the California Community Colleges and Palomar College at the 33rd Annual Latina History Day conference in Los Angeles. The forums and workshops on career advancement, community issues, and financial empowerment engaged over 1,000 participants.

In early March, representatives from Palomar College attended the African American Male Education Network & Development (A2MEND) summit in Los Angeles. This year's theme, "Affirming Our Own Actions: *Advocacy, Urgency, and Liberation*," cultivated the importance of re-establishing the Black male success in the community college and their presence in the community as a whole. Dr. Hossna Sadat Ahadi led a presentation with Rising Scholars students entitled "From Incarceration to Liberation & Healing - The Journey of African American Rising Scholars in Community College." The presentation and Palomar's Rising Scholars program received high praise for their work to support students and the community at large.

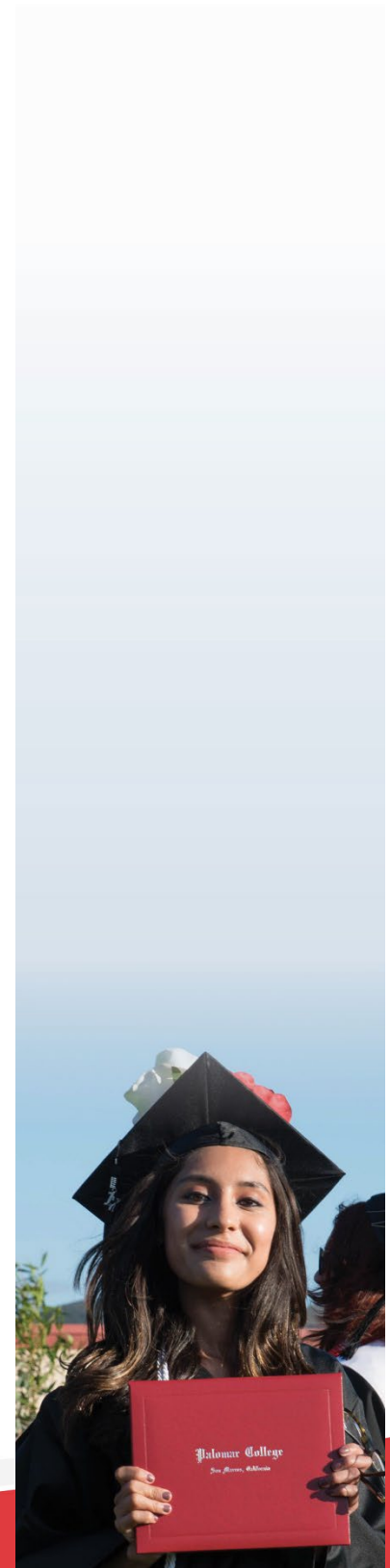


Palomar College Rising Scholars students and Dr. Hossna Sadat Ahadi presented at the A2MEND conference.

On March 13, it was my pleasure to welcome the SDSU CCLEAD Alumni Group and California Community College Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian to the Rancho Bernardo Education Center. Dr. Christian spoke to the attendees as part of the Fred McFarlane lecture series. The SDSU CCLEAD Alumni Group works to build and foster a community of equity-minded leaders that engage in inquiry-based decision making in order to increase equitable student outcomes for community college students. Dr. George Boggs, Superintendent/President Emeritus of Palomar College also attended the event.



Dr. George Boggs, Superintendent/President Emeritus of Palomar College and Dr. Sonya Christian, Chancellor of the California Community College system.



We hosted a Community Gathering at our Fallbrook Education Center to provide an update on our exciting plans to serve the northernmost part of our District. Over 50 residents, education partners and leaders in the Fallbrook and Bonsall area attended. It was a great opportunity to share the news that we will break ground on the 40,000 square foot instructional and student services building as well as inform the community of the programs offered. Some attendees stayed for a tour of our state-of-the art science labs and classrooms.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

The Office of Instruction is excited to welcome Dr. Glyn Bongolan to the role of Interim Associate Dean. In this new role, Dr. Bongolan will be focused on developing a strategic plan for dual enrollment to meet the expanding needs of the high schools in our District. We are excited to welcome her to our team! As many of our current feeder high schools are currently submitting Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP) and Round 2 Dual Enrollment (CCAP and Middle/Early College) grant applications, it is an opportune time for Palomar College to explore planning and the infrastructure needed to support our dual enrollment program.

The Office of Instruction is currently working on finalizing the class schedule for Fall 2024 and the 2024-2025 Catalog. We appreciate all who participated in reviewing and confirming the accuracy of information in order to meet the catalog production timeline.

The Enrollment Management Taskforce applied for a Palomar team to participate in the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) program. The proposed project for the SEM program is District-wide Strategic Scheduling for Student Success. The team liaisons participated in an interview for the program, and we hope to hear if our proposal was accepted within the next week.

Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) Division

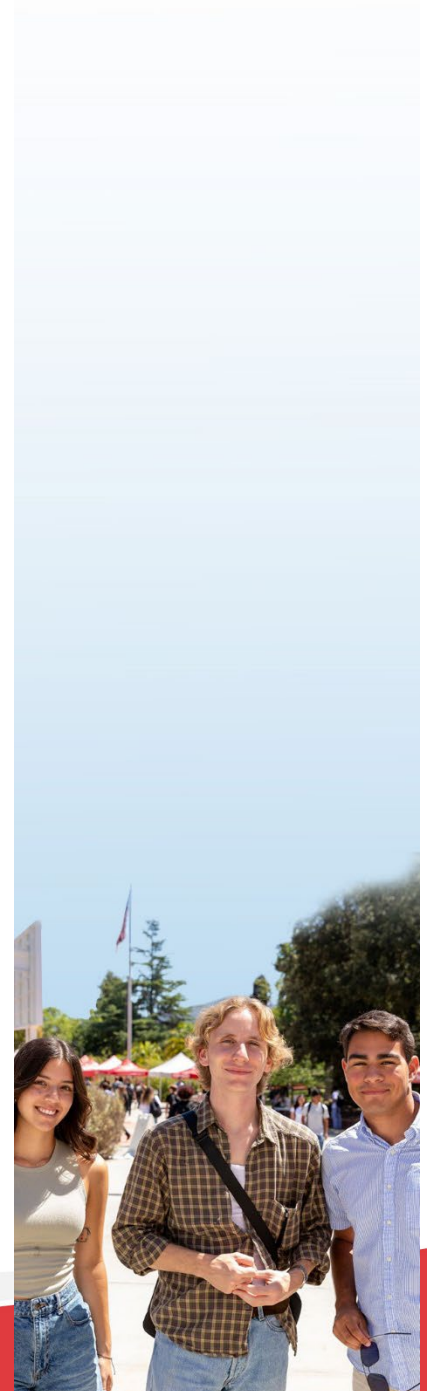
The Biology department and Geology department co-taught a field course in Catalina over spring break. The students learned about the flora, fauna, and geography of this unique island system. Our former students who attended this field trip while at Palomar report that it was one of the most valuable and memorable academic experiences for them.

The Bridges Program at Palomar is part of a collaborative effort and grant program at CSU San Marcos which won the national prize for diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism excellence. All Bridges students are currently working in labs with professors at CSU San Marcos. One of our students presented at a research symposium last month and won a presentation award, earning them a spot in the state undergraduate research competition.

The Wildlife Club had two recent activities, one to clean up trash on the hill behind the College, and one to clean up trash from a tidepool area. This past week they hosted a speaker who formerly worked at the Safari Park and SeaWorld and is an expert in animal behavior.



Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey speaking at Community Gathering in Fallbrook.



Training for all Palomar College tutors, including those in specific disciplines, occurred in March. Participants engaged in a variety of conversations and addressed the need for cultural sensitivity and awareness.

Languages and Literature Division

ASL-English Translation & Interpreting Studies has increased the number of community partners. These partnerships include Deaf Community Services, The Timken Museum, Free Flight Bird Sanctuary, and Living Coast Discovery Center. Faculty and staff also regularly participate in Disability Resource Center events, and the CSU Northridge Assistive Technology Conference. We have student-interpreters from the Interpreter Training Program volunteering to support the Deaf performers at our San Diego Legion home games at Snapdragon Stadium.

The Palomar Speech and Debate Team won 1st Place Sweepstakes in the Small School Division at the California Community College Forensic Association Tournament in Concord held March 13-17. Palomar students Dia Hill won bronze in impromptu, Jesse Stirling won silver in persuasive, and Kat Caldwell won bronze in prose and gold in impromptu. Finally, Jesse Stirling was the top speaker in the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) debate, winning all six of his preliminary rounds, only to lose on a 2-1 decision in the final round. Jesse Stirling took silver in IPDA debate as a result. The team went on to compete at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament in Reno, Nevada on March 31.

Adding to the team's success, Cipriana Rodriguez went to the Final Rounds of prose and persuasion at the International Forensics Association Tournament in Dublin, Ireland. She placed 6th in prose, and 4th in persuasion. Debate coach Brandon Whearty had the honor of being asked to judge the Final Round of IPDA debate tournament.

All of our tutoring areas, the World Languages Resource Center, the ESL Tutoring Center, and the Writing and Reading Center, participated in the Tutoring Expo that was held on March 13 and 14.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring team hosted a free book event. Students were able to take home donated textbooks, novels, and children's books. On March 14, the LRC hosted two sections of the Non-Credit ESL course for a scavenger hunt. This activity provided students with an opportunity to learn about the services and spaces the LRC offers. At the end of the scavenger hunt, students were asked to write a note to Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey to let her know how they feel about being Palomar students.

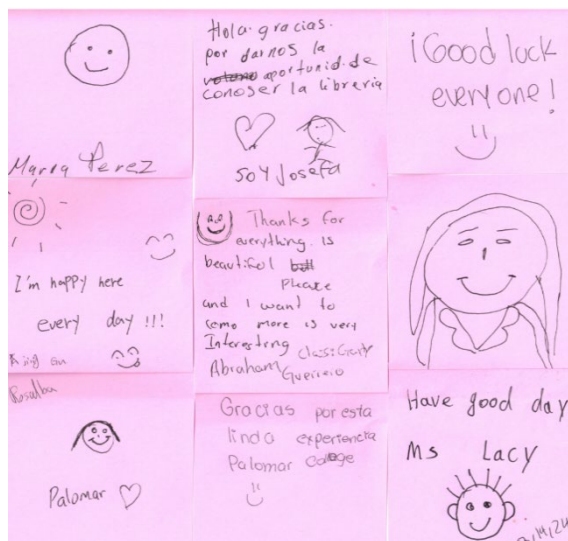


Image of notes sent by ESL students to Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey.

ESL Professor Tracy Fung led an AB-1705 workshop on active learning. ESL faculty presented and shared ideas to promote more active learning in the classroom. ESL had a strong presence at the latest Quality Quest workshop and many of their faculty are working on getting courses badged.



In recognition of Women's History Month, Professors Tina Parker and Tracy Fung held a workshop on Hyperemesis Gravidarum to spread awareness on the severity of this form of morning sickness, and to encourage colleagues to provide more to support faculty, staff, and students who suffer from this condition. Professor Nicole Siminski presented on Women in the Labor Union Movement. The focus of the presentation was to show how unions benefit women in particular as unions help close the gender wage gap, pay closer attention to health benefits/family leave/childcare/remote work, and provide more opportunities for autonomy and independence.

Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Division

Multiple departments within SBS participated in the High School Counselor Fair on March 1. Faculty and staff shared information about their programs and engaged counselors on the great opportunities available for students.

The Child Development and Education department has planned three Future Educator events this semester. The second event, back by popular demand after being such a success in the fall semester, was

Game Night on March 5. Students and faculty played games together that expanded student knowledge of child development and can be applied in the classroom with young children.

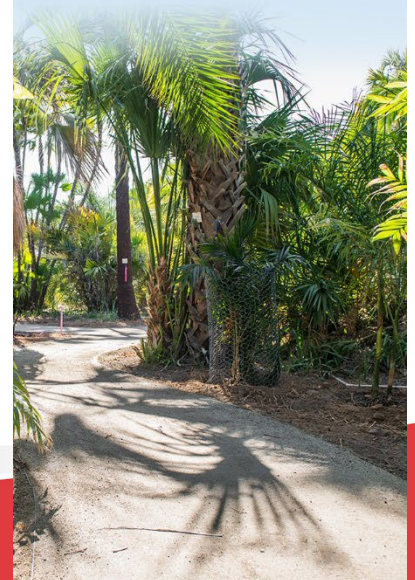
Our Tutoring Services Expo which showcased the services offered at our tutoring locations at the San Marcos campus and all three Education Centers was a success. Held over two days, the Expo aimed at removing the stigma of asking for help. The Expo was also an opportunity to recruit some of our star students as potential tutors. Feedback was gathered during the event. Students stated their appreciation that tutoring is available at all of our locations, synchronously online, and available in the library. They acknowledged the benefits of tutoring and like that we employ peer tutors who are able to contribute to their success in the classroom. We are pleased with the number of students that visited our



Betsy Little, Nicole Rose, Lee Kerckhove, Betsy Pain, and Sandy Somo participating in the high school counselor conference.



Mario Martinez, Andrea Salvatierra, Ruth Barnaba, Jen Backman, Tanya Sangret, and Leti Murillo



Expo and we look forward to hosting this expo every semester.

Arts, Media, Business Administration Division

Art Department student, Jerrie Fabrigas, has been awarded the 2024 Artaxis Fellowship. This national, extremely competitive award is granted to two individual artists annually, with the focus on increasing "diversity, equity and access across the field of the ceramic arts." As part of her fellowship, Jerrie will spend two weeks at the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine working with a group of artists to "disentangle personal and historical histories to find empowerment through hand-built porcelain vessels, adornment, documentation, and performance-based works."

The Journalism department won General Excellence recognition for its magazine, Impact, at the Journalism Association of Community College awards ceremony March 8. Journalism Student Victoria Gudmundson won 1st place in opinion writing at the same ceremony.

Photography faculty, Scott Klinger, is curating an exhibition at The California Center for the Arts, Escondido. College students from the Southern California and Baja California region are invited to participate. Interested participants can find information at [this webpage](#).

On March 20, the Media Studies department hosted a screening of the film *Maestra* by Maggie Contreras at the Brubeck Theatre. The filmmaker gave a talk afterwards.

On March 16, members of the Palomar Chamber Singers performed with 200 choristers as part of the 2024 San Diego Master Chorale Honor Choir. The Palomar students played an important leadership role in the event by rehearsing with over 60 local high school singers. They helped guide the high school students' musicianship and vocalism during day-long workshops led by Palomar College Associate Professor of Music John Russell, who also serves as the Music Director of the San Diego Master Chorale. The day culminated in a choral concert featuring the Honor Choir, Palomar Chamber Singers, San Diego Master Chorale, and the First United Methodist Church Chamber Choir. It was a highly successful event full of community building and exciting music-making.

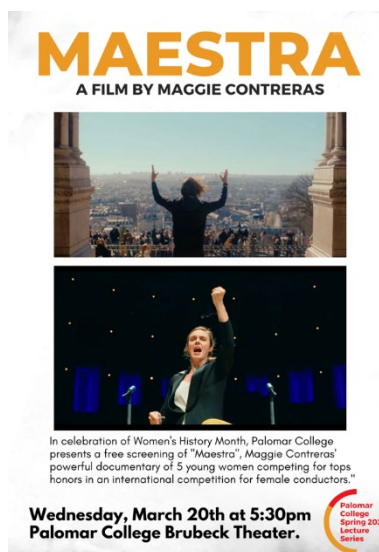


Image of flyer for MAESTRA documentary film.

Performing Arts part-time faculty Ruth Weber and her husband, John Weber, received several accolades for their documentary about the San Diego Jewish men's choir, titled *Ale Brider (All My Brothers)*. Congratulations to Business Administration faculty and Articulation Officer Ben Mudgett, who earned his PhD this semester.

STUDENT SERVICES

Counseling Services

The application process for a new Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Partnership grant is underway. All applications are due on May 7. This discretionary grant program encourages eligible entities to provide support, and maintain a commitment to, eligible students from low-income backgrounds, including



students with disabilities, to assist the students in obtaining a secondary school diploma (or its recognized equivalent) and to prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education.

The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) program participated in the African American Male Education Network and Development (A2MEND) conference, held on March 7-8. This conference was centered around fostering dialogue and providing essential training to address the challenges impeding the educational success of African American male students. Attendees not only broadened their connections but also discovered a strong sense of unity with fellow students and gained a deeper understanding of their own cultural heritage.

On March 15, TRIO SSS collaborated with the Palomar Promise and Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) programs to organize a field trip to CSU Long Beach and the Aquarium of the Pacific. The purpose of the trip was to provide students interested in transferring to CSU Long Beach with firsthand experience and guidance. Students attended a presentation by from the university's transfer center that provided hands-on guidance to our students.

Enrollment Services

Outreach services hosted 431 students on group tours and did an additional 16 events at area middle and high schools.

Student Health and Behavioral Health Counseling Services

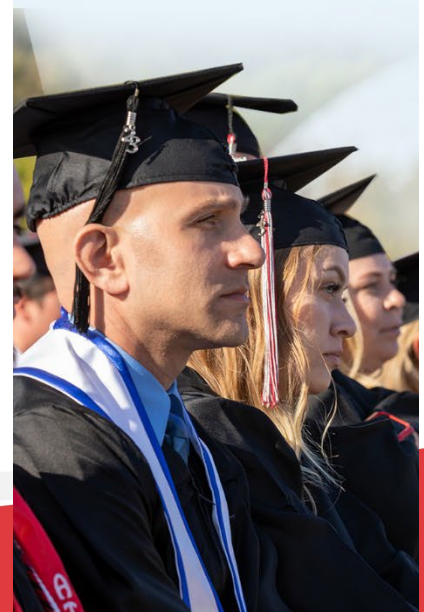
The Student Health Center (SHC) providers continued to host several classroom presentations to promote and educate our students about available SHC services. The SHC administered over 130 flu vaccines to our students and employees. The SHC provider team continues to triage and provide guidance to students 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 will continue to host Narcan training and distribution workshops on the third Wednesday of each month throughout the semester. Covid test kits, fentanyl test strips, and masks are available in the SHC for students at no cost. In collaboration with Champions for Health, Student Health Services is hosting flu and COVID-19 vaccination events for Palomar College students, employees, and family members with our community partner. The events will be at alternating Palomar College locations throughout the semester.

Behavioral Health Counseling Services continues to provide health and wellness resources for our students by hosting workshops, group sessions, mental health hours, and other resources.

Student Services Communications Systems and Technology

The work on becoming a teaching college in alignment with the California Virtual College Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI) was initiated in the past month. This project will launch this summer and enable the hosting of our online courses for students across the state. Many presentations were provided to shared governance groups, to best inform the campus community of this initiative.

The Manager of Student Services Communications, Systems and Technology attended the California Community College Chancellor's Office Vision Aligned Reporting Regional Convening and received training on assessing and reporting on student contact information. In addition, he presented Highpoints Course Auditor and Degree Planner functionality to the AB-1111/928 Steering Committee Taskforce.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



Fiscal Services

The budget office is conducting a campus-wide initiative to collect right-sized budget information from all departments and divisions. This is a new process in Palomar College budget development.

Cashier's Office

The implementation of the Nelnet platform is complete. The platform is designed to reduce costs, set up easy payment plans for students, allow students to get financial aid through ACH and will lower our credit card processing costs.

Business Services

Purchasing is in the process of bidding services for districtwide fire alarm and sprinkler inspections. Job walks on each campus will take place the week of April 1 and bidding closes on May 5. The agreement for these services is anticipated to be awarded at the Governing Board meeting in June. The Director of Business Services and Purchasing Supervisor are finalizing timelines for year-end purchases, which will be communicated to all employees in the coming weeks.

Campus Police

In honor of Women's History Month, Campus Police hosted a panel of six women from various law enforcement agencies in San Diego County. Members from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, City of San Diego and Chula Vista Police Departments participated, in addition to Campus Police Department dispatch coordinator Nieves Suarez and Palomar College Associate Professor Michelle Soria.

Campus Police pledged as a participating agency in the 30x30 initiative. It is a national movement to increase women in policing to 30% by 2030. The national average is 12%. The initiative provides guidance and gathers quantitative information on recruiting, retention and hiring practices to promote female applicants throughout the nation.

This month Coffee with a Cop was held at the Escondido Education Center. Informal conversations were held with EME program students and employees. Campus Police also interacted with HVAC and ESL classes on the role of police on campus and society. Captain Banks from the Escondido Police Department, a former member of Campus Police visited as well.

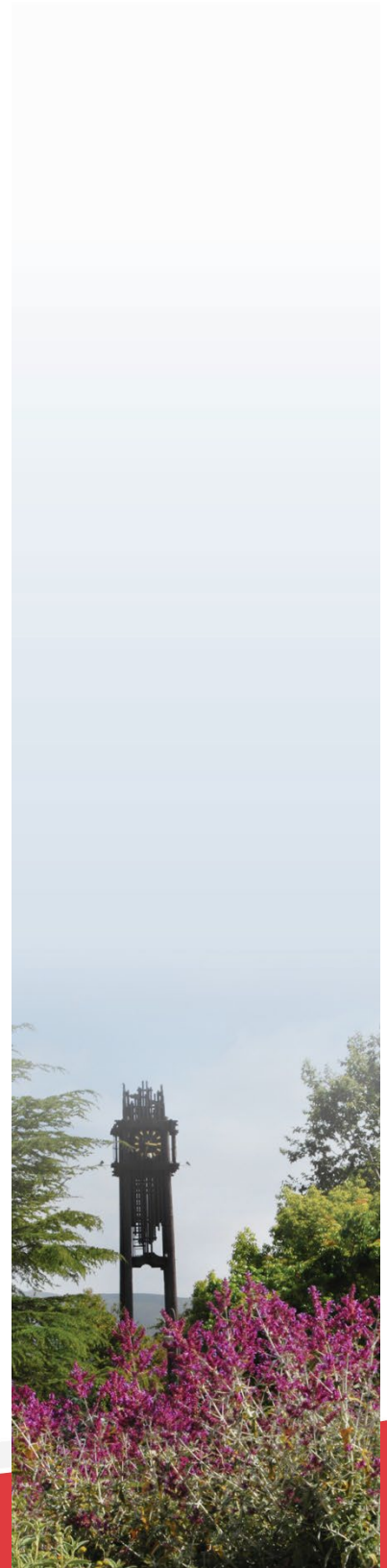
Chief Moore was asked to serve on the Administration of Justice Advisory Board. The board is being created to connect public safety and criminal justice employers in the region in order to develop curriculum, certificates, and degrees in demand for public safety.

Sergeant Montes attended a 2-week Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) supervisor school at the Riverside County Sheriff's academy. This training is required by the campus police accrediting body and includes information on liability, generations, and community outreach.

Construction & Facilities Planning

Prop M Projects

Athletics Stadiums Project: During the week of April 1, the design team will be inspecting the softball facility, inclusive of the softball fieldhouse, to prepare a final list of items for the construction team to schedule and execute. Progress on the football stadium is also continuing with the planned installation of the scoreboard to be complete during the week



of April 1. The total change order rate for the project to date is unchanged compared to the previous month at 5.89%.

Information Services (IS)

The IS help desk and technical services teams remain busy supporting technical needs of students, faculty, and staff, including the installation of new or upgraded classroom audio-visual systems, the replacement of dozens of lab and staff computers, and regular refreshes and updates of staff and classroom computers as needed. A new, permanent network/systems technician will be starting with the team in the near future. The additional staff member will increase capacity within the team and allow time to be spent on evaluating and implementing a new help desk system, inclusive of self-service functionality.

The IS systems and programming team is working closely with the student services team, providing technical improvements, to support on-going efforts of combatting fraud and expediting the time of verifying the validity and processing student (CCCApply) applications and working closely with the Cashier's Office. The systems and programming team implemented a successful conversion to a new and improved cashing and credit card platform and system. This team has been providing technical support for the College's efforts to become a teaching college. This project is expected to be completed by the early part of the summer.

The IS network and data center team continues to work closely with facilities, district architects, and contractors on the planning, configuration, and installation of the technical infrastructure, systems, devices, and equipment for both the new athletics facility and the safety and security project at the Escondido Education Center. The installation of emergency notification speakers around the Early Childhood Education Lab School at the San Marcos campus is complete and the team is evaluating the technical needs and costs of improving safety and security in potentially vulnerable areas around the campus.

The entire information services team is continuing to work on efforts to enhance our cybersecurity posture. We recently completed and submitted our third, mandatory, technology assessment to the CCCCO, demonstrating our progress in this area. Drafts of our existing AP 3720 Computer and Network Use, as well as a new BP/AP 3721 Information Security, have also been completed and are currently in the shared governance review, feedback, and approval process. We are evaluating cybersecurity vendors, options, and costs of implementing a security operations center. This involves the engagement of security professionals and services dedicated to monitoring an organization's entire Information Technology infrastructure 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The services include detecting, analyzing, and responding to security incidents in real-time, helping maintain vigilance over the organization's networks, systems and applications and ensuring a continuous, proactive defense posture against cyber threats. This is something the CCCCO would like to see implemented at all California community colleges. Significant funding has recently been allocated to Palomar for this service, including a one-time allocation of \$650,000 to assist in any/all of our cybersecurity efforts.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Benefits

The part-time faculty open enrollment concluded on March 8. There are 93 part-time faculty who qualified and enrolled in the medical insurance benefits through Palomar Community College District. This is an increase of 10 participants compared to the fall 2023 semester.



Recruitment

Human Resources is analyzing current hiring practices to identify areas for improved efficiency.

Recruitment figures as of 4/1/24:

38 permanent recruitments in progress

12 – Admin/CAST

21 – Classified

5 – Faculty

58 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

Negotiations

The District has provided the Council of Classified Employees (CCE) with a clean copy of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and notification of voting results is pending.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

Work on the mid-term accreditation report has started. The Accreditation Steering Committee reviewed the report template, and the Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) has created a timeline for completing the report. The annual reports required by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) are due April 12. Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants has prepared the Annual Report and Fiscal Services is working on the Annual Fiscal Report.

Integrated Planning

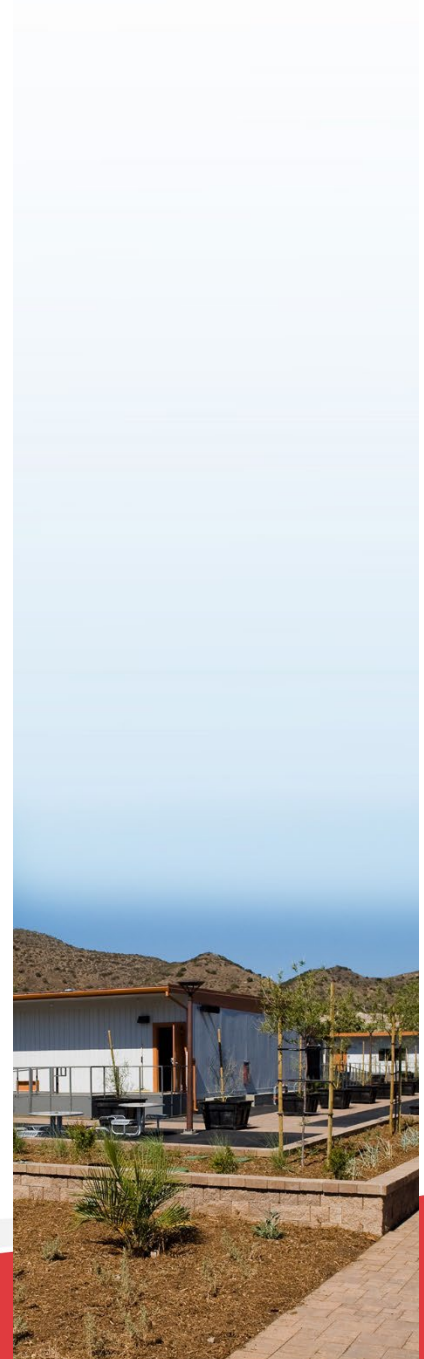
The Assistant Superintendents/Vice Presidents have completed a draft action plan template identifying the work to be completed for the Vision Plan 2035. Instructional and non-instructional program review and planning (PRPs) documents are due to first level supervisors on March 31. Throughout the PRP process, the team has been responding to requests for support from disciplines and departments to assist as needed.

Institutional Research

The research team continues to work on a spring research calendar while responding to additional requests for research and information. During the month of March the team prepared, programmed, and administered a survey to gather employee perception on the Pilot Hybrid Work Program. The team also completed its work to prepare data for the College's Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and is currently administering the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CSSE). The Senior Director attended a regional workshop along with a Palomar College team to learn about the new Vision Aligned Reporting requirements for the California Community College Chancellor's Office. In addition to a full research workload, the team is also working with the campus community to complete the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) spring surveys. Due on April 3, these surveys include the following: fall enrollment, finance, human resources, and academic libraries.

Grants

The Grants Manager continues to meet regularly with our mentor under the NSF Mentor-Connect program to develop a proposal concept for submission to the NSF's Advanced Technology Education program. In addition to this proposal development, IRP&G are also



exploring funding sources to support project ideas from Student Services, MSE, and CTEE. Contract/agreement negotiations are taking place for two awards which will go before the Governing Board later this spring for approval and acceptance of funds. In terms of post award support, the Office is wrapping up the last of the FY23-24 mandated reporting to our funders.

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 564,000 impressions, while remaining cost efficient.

The Palomar.edu website continues to perform well. Compared to the previous February we experienced a 7% increase in users and a 6% increase in new users on the palomar.edu website. 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, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter 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 started on March 11 and will run until the end of April. This campaign is designed to specifically support our Career Technical Education programs and includes OTT ads that are targeted to platforms and programming that are aligned with our student demographics. In addition, a new transit advertising campaign launched on March 11 and will run through the end of June. This campaign is designed to increase general brand awareness and support our enrollment goals for summer and fall.

Beginning May 13, an integrated advertising campaign will be launched to support the summer and fall enrollment targets. The campaign includes direct mail to over 150,000 households in our District, community websites, and a new billboard.

A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms show steady growth for all channels. Our growth in Facebook “Likes” increased 2% compared to last March. Followers on Twitter and LinkedIn grew 4% compared to March 2023. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 18%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 55% compared to the previous March and 3.3% compared to last month.

Throughout the month of March our social media posts increased awareness for various programs, support for 4-week and 8-week courses as well as campus events, and Women’s History Month activities.



**Palomar College**

Posted by Dianna Trujillo
Mar 21 · 🌐

[Palomar College Fire Academy](#) #65 hands on training.

Want more information on becoming a Firefighter Paramedic?

🔥 Head over to <https://www.palomar.edu/fire/> for more information. 🔥

For more information:

Contact Carole Musgrove: Fire Academy Assistant
cmusgrove@palomar.edu



March Social Media Post

**Palomar College**

Posted by Dianna Trujillo
Mar 18 · 🌐

Have you ever considered pursuing a career in Digital Broadcast Arts at Palomar College? Hear what these students have to say about getting that real world experience and how it has helped them earn jobs before they even graduate from the program!

Directed, shot, and edited by [Palomar College Television](#) talented hourly worker Michael Schnee.
[#palomarcollge](#) [#broadcastmedia](#)



March Social Media Post

Community and Media Relations

Public Information Officer (PIO) Julie Lanthier Bandy collaborated with Dr. Patrick Savaiano, Director, Behavioral Health and Wellness and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey to develop an opinion piece on the mental health needs of college students for the [San Diego Union Tribune](#). In addition, PIO Lanthier Bandy worked with the San Diego Business Journal on an [article](#) that centered on the construction projects occurring at college campuses in the region.

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended several community meetings including an update on San Marcos Unified School District presented by Superintendent Dr. Andy Johnson; the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors retreat, and 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. PIO Lanthier Bandy provided Welcome Remarks to the Boys and Girls Club annual Youth of the Year event held in the Palomar College Performing Arts Center.

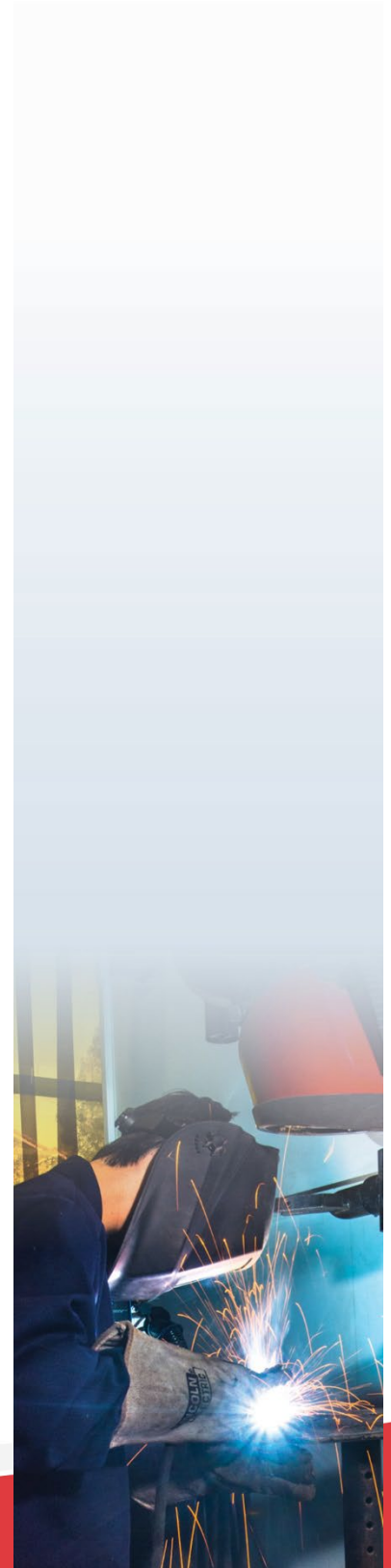
The Public Information Office collaborated with student reporters from the Telescope and Palomar News TV to schedule the appropriate interviews with administrators and managers, in order to contribute to the content of their stories.

A [press release](#) was issued on the Palomar College Community Showcase. This release and other stories published in March can be found on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received a total of 392 media mentions in the month of March. This equates to a publicity market value of \$4 million.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the CCCCCO's Government Relations Liaison meeting, "Trending Topics in the State Legislature," the Community College League of California (CCLC) PIO Legislative Series, and the CCLC monthly government affairs meeting. She also collaborated with Associate Dean Nichol Roe to prepare a presentation for the San Diego North Economic Development Council board meeting.

A story designed to update our community on the [30x30 pledge](#) by the Palomar College Campus Police Department was published in mid-March. In late March, a [story](#) was



developed and posted to Palomar News recognizing women's basketball coach Leigh Marshall for her 275+ career wins.

The Creative Services team finalized the Commencement Program cover design and the 2024-25 Catalog cover design. Our work with departments throughout the District to design and produce promotional collateral and supporting materials for community engagement events, performing arts and website content, continued.

FOUNDATION

Community Showcase Re-Cap

The Foundation proudly hosted the 2024 Palomar College Community Showcase at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido on March 6. Over 350 community members, educational partners, and elected officials attended, marking the highest attendance in the history of this annual event. Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey provided a report to the community, the Assistance League of Inland North County received the 2024 Comet Award for their philanthropic commitment to the College and community, and the veteran and military-affiliated programs were featured. Over \$35,000 was raised through sponsorships to support this event.



Previous Palomar College Comet Award Winner Briah Cahill, Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors Chair Will Rivera, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, 2023 Palomar College Comet Award Winner Klaus Kirchhoff, President of the Assistance League of Inland North County Diana Towne, and Foundation Executive Director, Stacy Rungaitis.

Fundraising Activities

Major Gifts & Scholarship Program

It was an active month for securing new and sustaining scholarship support. The foundation was able to secure a \$25,000 donation by a former student and first-time donor, to the Ted Kilman Endowed Scholarship. New contributions and commitment to making an impact from Palomar alumni was an ongoing theme in March with the founding of the Beth Forbes and D'etta Aki Scholarship of \$2,000 for nursing students. The Economics, History and Political Science Scholarship, Needham Scholarship, Fire Chief James Drabinski Scholarship, Poway Veterans Organization Scholarship, Kathy Clyne Scholarship, and the Palomar Veterans Scholarship also saw generous renewed support totaling \$21,000.

Grant Program

The Foundation has submitted a grant proposal to Cox Charities to secure funds for the Laptops & Emergency Grant Program for Students. It is through this grant program that the Foundation is able to actively fulfil its mission of eliminating financial obstacles to education.



To date this Spring semester, the foundation has granted over \$11,000 to 51 students in Emergency Grants and equipped 26 students with laptops, ensuring they can successfully complete their classes despite lacking essential technology.

President's Associates

The President's Associates is a group of community members that donate at least \$1,000 annually to support the Foundation. We welcomed our newest member, Tiffany Rosik, Foundation Board Member, and thank Kitchell, Keenan & Associates, and Luene Corwin for renewing their membership.

Community Engagement

Palomar College hosted the San Diego Regional Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year event at the Performing Arts Center on the San Marcos campus on March 12. This event brought each of the nine Club's Youth of the Year, their families, supporters, and staff of the Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the region. In addition, Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Rising Stars breakfast on March 19. This program recognizes three high school seniors from San Marcos who have overcome obstacles and are "rising stars" at their school and in the community.

A community gathering with Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey was held on March 21 at the Fallbrook Education Center. Over 50 local community members gathered to hear an update about Palomar College and our commitment to the Fallbrook Education Center and community.



Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey engaging community members at the Fallbrook Education Center.

