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September 3, 2024

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

All College Day – A Success

Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez and Governing Board Vice President Dr. Judy Patacsil joined over 400 faculty, professional staff, administrators at All College Day on August 23. All of the presentations were informative and provided important updates regarding our prioritized initiatives of enrollment growth, improving the student journey, and the pursuance of center status for our Rancho Bernardo Education Center. These initiatives are designed to better prepare us for the full implementation of the Student Center Funding Formula in the 2025-26 academic year.



All College Day Attendees

Our Focus on Student Success

Beginning in the middle of August, our colleagues in Student Services held numerous student welcome and engagement events. We hosted a Welcome Day for our Promise, EOPS, TRIO SSS, and Black Student Success students. This event was followed by the Comet Kickoff, which was designed to connect with all first time students. And during the first week of the semester, Comet Welcome Days were held. All of these events were well attended, and the information shared was invaluable to our students. I am grateful to all of the various departments that attended the resource fairs



Dr. Rivera-Lacey greeting Palomar College students

associated with these events. Our unrelenting focus on student success was evident and had a positive impact on every one of our students. Last but not least, our information stations, formerly known as “Ask Me Booths,” were a great success at all of our sites. I really appreciate our professional staff, faculty, and administrators who hosted information booths at each of our education centers. I hope you will enjoy this [quick video](#) produced by Palomar College Television, which captures the energy of the first week of fall perfectly.

Palomar College Ranks Among the Best Researchers at WalletHub, a financial services company, utilizing metrics including cost and financing, educational outcomes, and career outcomes, ranked Palomar College 24th in the State of California. We were among only two in the region that were ranked as well. This recognition restates our steadfast commitment to student success. Go Comets!

Community Engagement

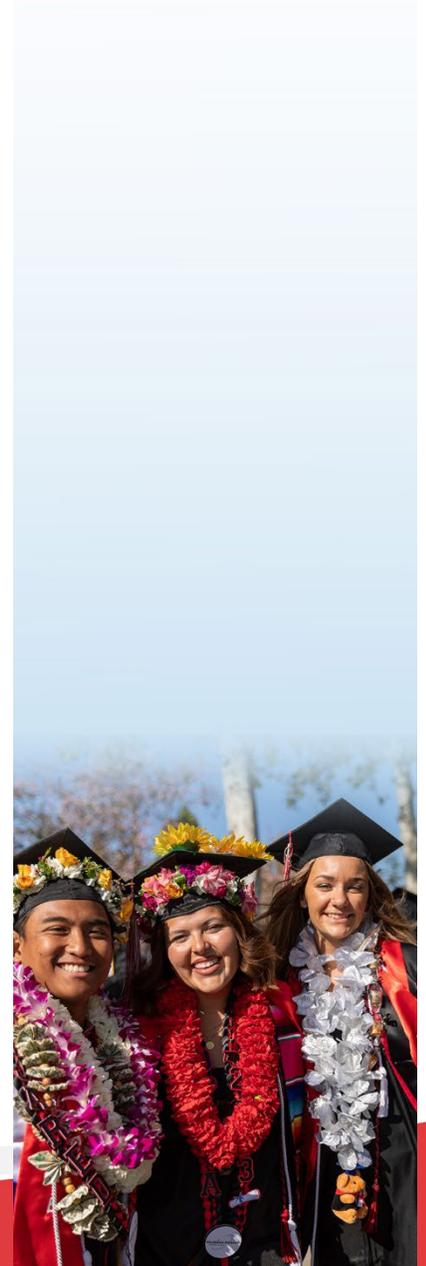
In early August, Mana DE North County San Diego hosted their annual conference at Palomar College. The conference centered on the importance of expanding educational opportunities, investing, and improving our communities, and increasing career opportunities. I am grateful to our outreach team who prepared information for distribution to nearly 400 attendees.



Dr. Rivera-Lacey greeting students in the golf cart during the first week of the fall semester.



Dr. Rivera-Lacey addressing Mana conference attendees.



OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

In preparation for the Fall 2024 semester, Instructional Services has been focused on adjusting the class schedule to meet the needs of our students and engaging in professional development to support the student journey. On August 6, the deans participated in an all-day retreat focused on Student-Centered Scheduling, Dual Enrollment Strategic Planning, and Addressing Barriers to Support



New Palomar College students touring the campus

Student Success that emphasized supporting disproportionately impacted students. These conversations will continue during the 2024-2025 academic year and will provide opportunities for additional participants to join the discussion and be involved moving the work forward.

During Flex Week, a number of faculty and staff presented professional development sessions. Some of the topics included AI Chatbot Basics, Canvas Accessibility Overview, Credit for Prior Learning, Equitizing the Course Outline of Record, Using Embedded Tutors Effectively, Creating a Math Classroom Culture for Success, and Dual Enrollment Instructor Nuts and Bolts. These are just a few highlights. These sessions, and others, highlight the great work that Palomar College employees are doing, and it is great to see employees supporting other employees in improving our practices. The final day of Flex Week included an All College Day which focused on Strategic Planning and the Student Journey. We are extremely grateful to Safiya Swearingen, Yaretzi Hernandez, and Julie Pelaez for participating in our student panel.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

The Behavioral Sciences department participated in the Palomar Promise Resource Fair on August 14. A special thank you to Marlo Willows and Jim Eighmey (Anthropology), Jim Fent (Alcohol and Other Drug Studies), and organizer Betsi Little (Psychology) for their time and dedication to this event.

STUDENT SERVICES

We started the first week of the fall semester with five Information Stations (formerly “Ask Me” tables) set up throughout the San Marcos campus. The stations offered Palomar branded swag, snacks, and water. Over 130 staff and faculty signed up to assist students by answering questions and offering directions to classrooms.



Counseling Services

In July 2024, the college submitted three TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant applications. These applications included the renewal of our existing TRIO SSS grant and two additional grants aimed at supporting STEM majors and English language learners. To be eligible for services, students must be first-generation, low-income, or have a disability. Our current TRIO/SSS program offers services designed to enhance the retention, graduation, transfer rates, and academic performance of our student participants. If awarded, these grants will provide continued funding for five years, enabling us to support our students and deliver holistic services to foster their success.

As part of Welcome Day 2024 programming, a variety of hyflex workshops were hosted by Palomar Promise, EOPS, the Black Student Success Teams, and TRIO SSS. These workshops were designed to help new students become acquainted with the staff, departments, and resources available at the college.

Our Black Student Success Team hosted an in-person orientation for new Black/African American students on August 7. Students met their Black Student Success Counselors Dr. Taneisha Hellon and Kalon Bell and their Success Coach Fabiola Hernandez. They received words of advice from our Peer Mentor, Lee Checa-Valdez, who transferred to Humboldt State University this fall. Students received assistance registering in UMOJA and other available courses and toured the campus to become familiarized with their class location(s). We are grateful to Adriana Alvarez and Dean Salas for providing all students with back-to-school backpacks and solar powered chargers using Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) funds. We look forward to continuing to offer our Black/African American students additional student support and engagement opportunities throughout the academic year.

Pathway Advisors are the new members of the Black Student Success Team. They met this summer to receive training and begin planning for the new academic year. This role will be critical in connecting students to instructional faculty experts in their fields of interest.

The Black Student Success Team also collaborated with Creative Services on a logo designed to bring awareness to our Black Student Success resources. This is another exciting new step towards bringing visibility to these efforts.



New Black Student Success logo design

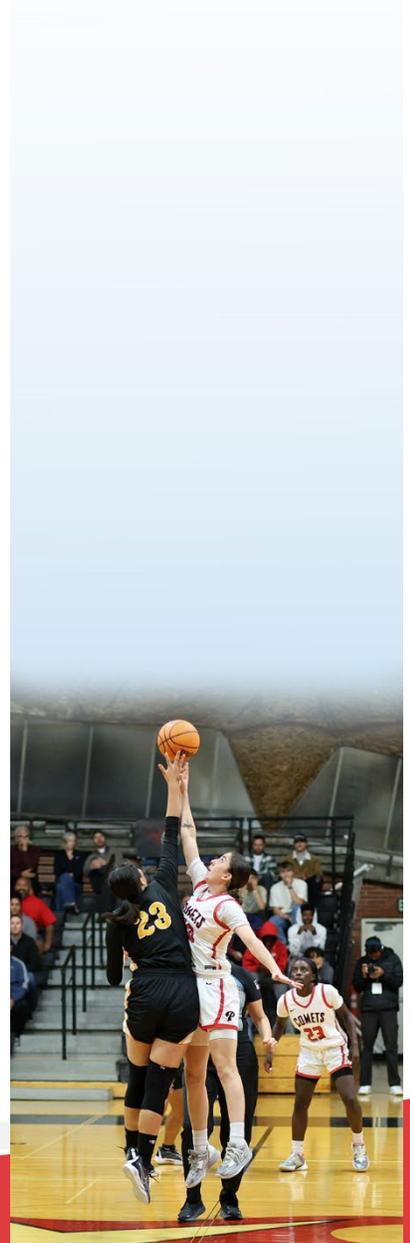
Student Health & Behavioral Health Centers

Student Health and Behavioral Health Centers will be offering both in person and telehealth appointments for students enrolled in classes for the fall semester. We will also be offering flu vaccines once the semester is underway.

Basic Needs and the Anita and Stan Maag Nutrition Center

Katie Ramos, our new Basic Needs Manager, has hit the ground running in supporting the Basic Needs program and understanding the diverse needs of our campus community. Katie has increased community partnerships within the district in order to address the needs of the Anita and Stan Maag Nutrition Center (Center), as well as overall basic needs. This includes outreach to Strike Out Hunger, Feeding San Diego, Leah's Pantry, and many other community partners.

During the month of August, 829 pounds of food was distributed across the District in the Gran N Go fridges. 200 pounds of food was stocked at the Education Centers and 467



pounds of food was given to students at the farmer's markets during the first week of the Fall semester. 1,200 pounds of food was given out at the Center. This totals over 2,500 pounds of food distributed to the student community during the month of August.

During Comet Welcome Days, we had San Diego County representatives on-site to support 37 students with state assistance, including CalFresh enrollment.

Student Life and Leadership

Student Life and Leadership hosted Comet Welcome Days on August 27 and 28. Many departments attended and provided resources and information to students, and we had an amazing student turnout this semester.



Comet Welcome Days event

The Office of Student Life and Leadership also held evening hours at the Access and Engagement Center in SU-19 to provide our evening students with the option to purchase their Student Activity Cards.

Student Activity Card Hours at the Education Centers for the Fall semester started on August 29 and will continue through September and October.

The team is continuing to plan for Club Rush during the first week of September as well as Civic Engagement events through the beginning of the semester; many clubs signed up early to participate in this semester's club rush activities and have already submitted their club activations.

The ASG executive team continues to hold meetings to plan for the Fall semester retreat, first ASG meeting, and campus-wide events. We also held a mini retreat with Dr. Rivera-Lacey, VP of Student Services Nick Mata, Dean of Student Life and Leadership Dr. Amrik Johal, the Student Life and Leadership team, Student Trustee Reagan Barnum, ASG VP Yaretzi Hernandez, and ASG President Safiya Swearingen to discuss the relationship between the Student Trustee and the ASG Executive team to plan partnerships and collaborations for the upcoming semester.

Dean of Student Life and Leadership, Dr. Amrik Johal, Supervisor of Student Life & Leadership Pippa Pierce, and Director of Behavioral Health Counseling Services, Dr. Patrick Savaiano, provided a flex week training on Student Conduct and Behavioral Intervention to provide faculty and staff with tangible tools and resources.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

The 2023-24 fiscal year is closed. The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted Budget will be presented for approval at the Governing Board meeting on September 10.

Business Services

The Fallbrook 40 bid closed on August 15 and 75 total bids were received. The Business Services department is completing the vetting process for all submitted bids to assure they are responsive and responsible, as well as preparing responses for any bid protests. The department will prepare a recommendation to award contracts for bid packages to be approved at the Governing Board meeting on October 8. After contracts are awarded, they



will be assigned to our Construction Manager (CM) at Risk, Balfour Beatty Construction, per our CM at Risk Agreement.

It is anticipated that the October Governing Board meeting agenda will also include the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the 40,000 square foot building project at the Fallbrook Education Center.

Campus Police

Six police officers and our dispatchers attended an active shooter scenario hosted by CSU San Marcos Police Department. It involved San Diego County Sheriff's Department and fire departments in the region with "actors" portraying an event on campus. In addition, two other officers attended further training hosted by San Diego Community College District Police Department.

Due to the training Chief Moore received in May, he and a faculty member co-facilitated two, 3-hour threat assessment sessions sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security as a part of Flex Week. Officers from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and San Diego State University Police Department attended.

Chief Moore and our new police officers were provided a tour of One Safe Place, which offers victim services and investigative assistance with victims of trauma. One Safe Place enjoys a great partnership with Palomar College and is a resource for our students and staff.

At the start of the Fall semester officers were deployed to all district sites to support student and staff safety. Officers also supported the information stations and the various welcome events in the Student Union.

Construction & Facilities Planning

Prop M Projects

The Athletics Stadiums project has reached the substantial completion stage of the schedule and is approaching final completion. A grand opening celebration will be held on September 5 and the first home football game in the College's history will be played on September 7.

Contractor bids were received for the Fallbrook 40 construction project. Bids are currently under review and evaluation. The contracts will then be assigned to Balfour Beatty Construction for the trade contracts and thus awarding Balfour Beatty the final project GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) based upon bid results.

The bid documents for the Athletics Phase II project are being prepared so that bidding can proceed following the Fallbrook 40 bid process.

Facilities

The Custodial department continued to perform extensive deep cleaning and flooring services in preparation for the fall semester. The maintenance staff continued to replace HVAC systems and tuning up the other systems to maximize indoor air quality. Several major projects were completed in preparation for the move of the fashion department to the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.

The district has had another significant success in our arboretum conservation efforts regarding the commonly known as the hidden-petaled abutilon. This native Hawaiian plant is listed as critically endangered with fewer than 100 left in wild on the island of Lanai. We have several plants in the ground on the San Marcos campus and this Summer they have bloomed for the first time and may have developed seed.



Environmental Health and Safety/Risk Management

EH&S/Risk Management Facilitated one-hour CPR & AED safety training for all employees during Flex Week. This was a highly successful training session with 60 employees in attendance. An emergency evacuation practice drill was successfully conducted on August 15 for the AA/ST Building. The new Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is nearing completion.

Information Services (IS)

Information Services worked on numerous technology projects, initiatives, and tasks required for the start of the Fall semester, as well as finalizing the installation and configuration of required technology for the phase one opening of the new Athletics Stadium.

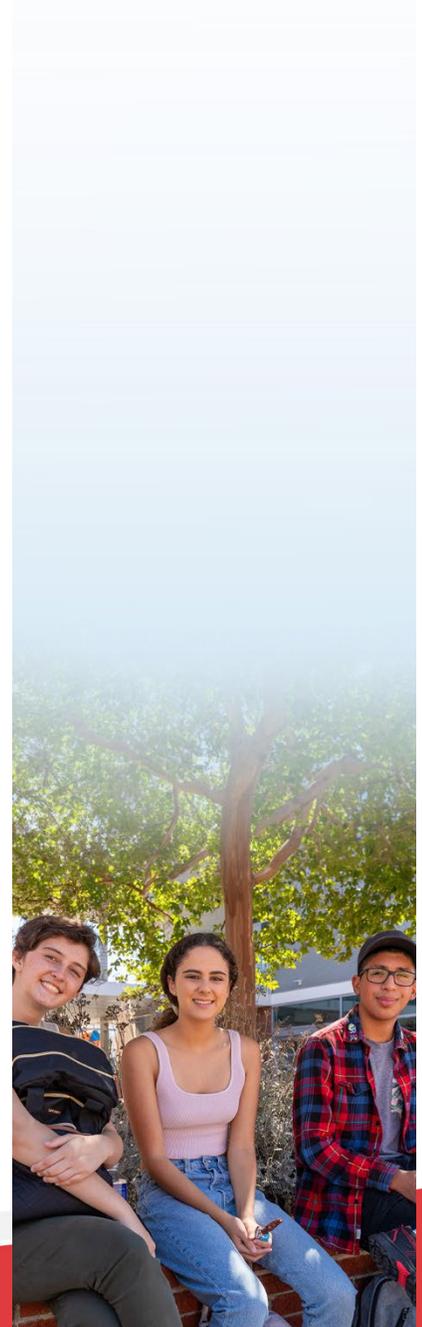
All systems and programming tasks required for the final rollout of Basic Needs and Food Lockers was completed and ready for full implementation. In addition, numerous legislative and regulatory updates and patches to our PeopleSoft student system were done, all of which were required for the new State and Federal Financial Aid calculations, evaluations, processing, and disbursements.

The technical design, development and implementation of new data collection page, processes, and reporting required for the Chancellor's Office mandated Vision Aligned Reporting (VAR) continued throughout the month of August. As did the on-going design, development and implementation of technical enhancements to support the automation of fraud detection processes in Palomar's CCC Apply student application downloads and processing.

Technical design, development and integration in support and compliance with AB-2683, the Chancellor's Office Mandatory Title IX Training for students was initiated. In addition, the analysis and design of developing an improved Notice of Hourly Employee (NOHE) time reporting form and process for non-instructional assignments was started.

The IS Network and Data Center (NADC) Team is working closely with facilities and district contractors on the final installation and configuration of infrastructure, equipment, devices, and technical systems for the new Athletics Stadium and adjoining Team Rooms. The team also worked closely with facilities and district architects on final technology infrastructure and equipment requirements and specifications for incorporation into plans and bid documents for both the Athletics Phase II and Fallbrook 40 construction projects. The final installation, configuration and deployment of all new security cameras and the license plate reader system as part of the Escondido Safety and Security project was completed.

The Technical Services and Audio-Visual (AV) Team completed numerous updates, refreshes and/or replacements of technology equipment, systems, applications and instructional software in classrooms and student labs to support the start of the Fall semester. The team also completed technology enhancements and installations in support of numerous department remodels, moves, and new offices/spaces, across the district. In addition, the final installation and configuration of AV and other equipment, devices and applications required for full operations at the new Athletics Stadium were done. This included the implementation of a new electronic ticketing system, inclusive of a mobile app for the purchase and sale of tickets, ticket entry scanning.



HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)



The Human Resource Services division has been focused on supporting all current employees and recruiting highly qualified new employees. Human Resources presented a workshop to faculty members regarding the Faculty Vocational Salary Grade Advancement. It is important to recognize Christine Winterle and Monique Dumbrique for their work on this initiative.

Negotiations

Based on additional funding from the Chancellor's Office, the District was able to enter into an agreement with Palomar Faculty Federation regarding additional office hours for our part time faculty members. We are confident that our students will benefit from the additional opportunities to meet with their professors.

Benefits

During the month of August, full-time employees were able to make changes to their benefits. To aid employees in doing so the Benefits Office hosted eight days of employee drop-in office hours, three days of onsite American Fidelity meetings, two days of onsite Aflac drop-ins, two SISC presentations, four EAP presentations, and an in-person CalPERS pension basics workshop. As of August 26, sixty-one of our full-time employees have made changes to their benefits. Another seventy-five employees have met with the American Fidelity representatives regarding the Flexible Spending Accounts and other voluntary benefits. After the close of full-time open enrollment on August 30, the benefits office will initiate part-time faculty open enrollment, which begins on September 10 and ends September 30. The changes made during the full-time and part-time faculty open enrollments will take effect October 1.

Recruitment

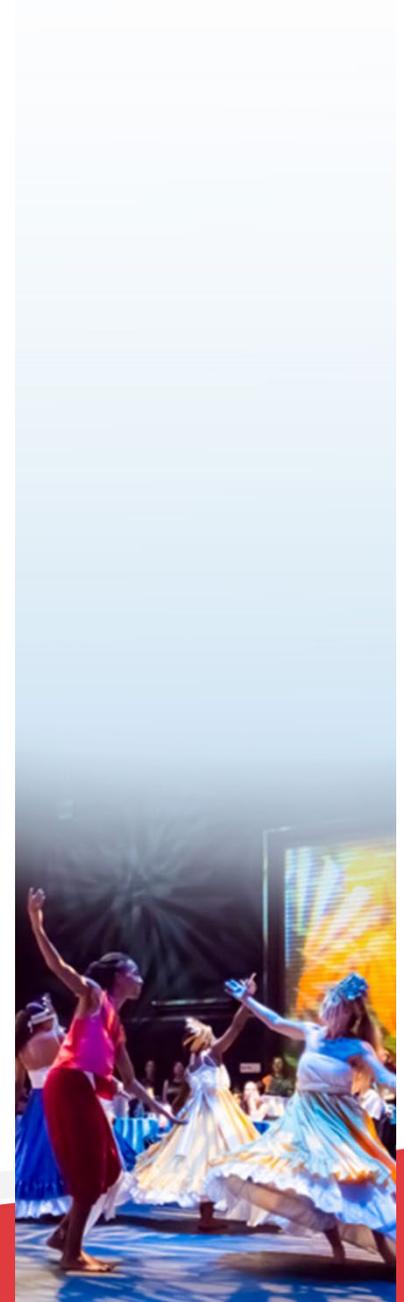
Recruitment figures as of August 26:

- 26 permanent recruitments in progress
 - 4 – Admin/CAST
 - 18 – Classified
 - 4 – Faculty
- 63 part-time faculty recruitments in progress
 - 20 additional part-time faculty postings have closed, and departments are still hiring from those application pools

DEIAA OFFICE

Accessibility as a Priority

Flex week began the launch of the "First A in DEIAA: Accessibility" campaign. Accessibility is not just about complying with legal standards; it is about ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed. Including accessibility in the umbrella of DEIAA is intentional, allowing for more inclusive, supportive, and effective learning environments for all students. During All College Day on August 23, web coordinator, Kelly Helming, and Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) Dr. Nicole Belisle, shared the recent Department of Justice ruling regarding new accessibility regulations. This ruling extended the prohibition of discrimination against individuals with disabilities into our digital spaces. Please visit [this webpage](#) for workshops, training and additional resources. The Access and Inclusion subcommittee has reconvened and will be working with the Chancellor's Office Accessibility Center to participate in the Accessibility Capability Maturity Model in Spring 2025.



Student Engagement

The DEIAA office tabled with a variety of student programs and services during Comet Welcome Days in front of the Student Union. This was an opportunity to receive student feedback about Palomar's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) initiatives. Creative Services developed HSI stickers for the campus with Palomar's HSI logo. If you are interested in receiving some to represent in your office or to give to students, please contact Baruc Castillo (bcastillo@palomar.edu) to request them. The DEIAA Office will be tabling on campus to honor National Hispanic Serving Institutions Week from September 9 – 15 and Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week from September 23 – 27.

Flex Week Highlights

The CDO was able to join the first day of the **Faculty Cultural Curriculum Teaching Institute (FCCTI)** which is an expanded opportunity for instructional faculty to address the completion and retention rates of disproportionately impacted students in their classes by interpreting data and using culturally responsive practices to enhance their classroom pedagogy and materials. Palomar faculty members Nina Shmorhun, John Armenta, John McMurria, Michael Mufson, and Dr. Sabrina Menchaca led this institute. This institute is funded by the Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Practices (CRPP) Innovative Best Practices (IBP) Grant awarded by the California Community College's (CCC) Chancellor's Office, Institutional Effectiveness Division.

Another notable workshop was hosted by the Professional Development team. Dr. Jennifer Imazeki, Associate Vice President for Faculty and Staff Diversity at San Diego State University led two sessions focused on "Equity and Inclusion in Everything We Do" to demonstrate how "best practices" are equitable and inclusive practices. The first session, "Evidence-Based Strategies for Effective Teaching & Student Support" discussed how evidence-based strategies for effective teaching and student support align with core principles of equity-minded and inclusive practice. And in the second session, "Institutional Infrastructure to Support Faculty & Staff for Equitable/Inclusive Work" Dr. Imazeki shared the institutional infrastructure needed to support faculty and staff as they engage in equitable and inclusive work.

Dr. Belisle also co/facilitated the following flex week offerings: Equitizing the COR - which supported faculty in revising their course outline of record (COR); Inclusive Supervision - which discussed inclusive supervisory practices and strategies; and Creating Infrastructure for Affinity Group Success - which focused on building infrastructure for Palomar's affinity groups.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) is reviewing recent midterm reports utilizing Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' new template and standards as it continues to craft Palomar's report. In addition, AWLT will be developing plans for introducing and integrating the new accreditation standards throughout the college.

Integrated Planning

In partnership with leadership and the College Council, IRP&G has selected five student success metrics for aligning and tracking progress on Palomar's plans and enrollment management strategies. The metrics fall along the student journey and address enrollment, momentum, and completion. They include the following: yield rate



(registrations/applications), financial aid awards, persistence (first term to second term and first year to second year enrollment) rate, course success rate, and completion rate.

Leadership and the College Council held their annual retreats. During their retreats each reviewed the student success metrics listed above, discussed the policies and procedures comprehensive update process, and initiated a three-year evaluation of the College's governance process.

Institutional Research

The Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) research team continues to carry out an ambitious agenda. A few key projects include the following.

- **Dual Enrollment Dashboard:** This tool will track and analyze data related to students enrolled in both high school and college courses simultaneously. It will provide insights into student performance, enrollment trends, and success rates.
- **Distance Education Dashboard:** This dashboard focuses on tracking and evaluating data related to online learning. Like the dual enrollment dashboard, this tool will include data on enrollment and student performance.
- **Data Collection for Career Technical Education (CTE) Programs:** The team is gathering and analyzing data for the College's CTE review. This information will provide insights into program effectiveness, student outcomes, and regional trends.
- **Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE):** The team has received results from this survey, which measures student engagement and satisfaction. They are working on creating communication tools and presentations to effectively summarize and share these findings.

Grants

The District currently has five proposals under funder review: four direct awards submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, and one as a sub awardee to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). For 2024-25, we are awaiting two agreements for continuing NIH awards, both as sub-awards from California State University San Marcos. Additionally, the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) has accepted a preliminary proposal for Palomar to participate in the Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity program. As a result, the grant team will be part of a nationwide cohort of two- and four-year institutions to develop a full proposal for submission to TIP in January 2025. Two other proposals are also under development for submission to the Foundation of California's Community Colleges Learning Lab and the National Science Foundation Advanced Technology Education program. All currently held awards are on track to meet 2023-24 year-end reporting requirements.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy inclusive of academic area 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 July, the campaign did not include programmatic advertising, as funding for this portion of the campaign was pending. Without the inclusion of programmatic level advertising, the campaign generated nearly 317,000 impressions, while remaining cost efficient.

The integrated marketing and communications campaign to support fall enrollment goals continued. The campaign includes outdoor and transit advertising, as well as an updated web streaming campaign with endorsement ads featuring alum and radio personality Jesse Lozano



and Over-the-Top (OTT) video advertising. The OTT ads are targeted to platforms and programming that align with our student demographics. Ads specific to our Camp Pendleton education site also continued. Our digital billboard also included a promotional ad for the President's Invitational Golf Classic.



Promotional digital billboard ad for the President's Invitational Golf Classic

The Palomar.edu website continues to perform well. Out of the 209,000 Palomar.edu users, 193,000 were new users. This is an indication of increased engagement of our target audiences through all media channels and outreach. We experienced a 5% increase in engagement compared to last August.

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

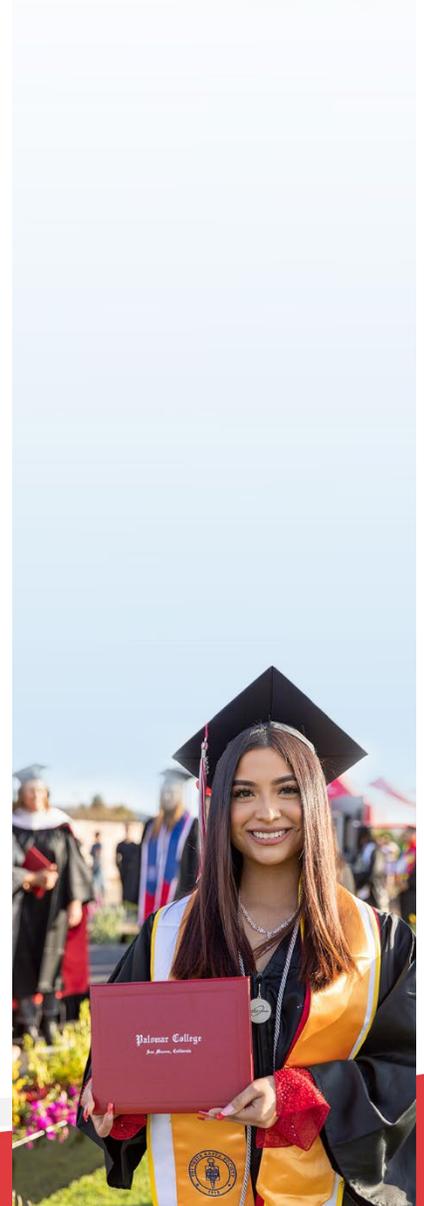
Throughout the month of August our social media posts centered on increasing awareness for the opportunities to enroll in fall courses, open 4-week and 8-week courses, application workshops, and important deadlines.



Sample Social Media Post in August



Sample Social Media Post in August



A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms shows steady growth for all channels. Our growth in Facebook “Likes” and Twitter followers increased 1% and 3% respectively compared to last August. Followers on LinkedIn grew 4% compared to August 2023. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 13%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 49% compared to the previous August and 3% compared to last month.

Community and Media Relations

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended both the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce.

A [story on Palomar becoming a Teaching College](#) as part of the California Virtual College (CVC) Course Exchange was published in early August. Press releases were distributed regarding how each of our education centers support the needs of the local and regional workforce. Each of the releases were distributed to community media organizations near and around each center, respectively. Both the [Escondido Education Center release](#) and the [Rancho Bernardo Education Center release](#) generated coverage. A press release was distributed with the exciting story of [story of Nellie Martinez](#) receiving a prestigious fellowship from the National Community College Hispanic Council. During the first week of the fall semester a [press release](#) on Palomar’s response to the state and federal financial aid challenges ensuring our students received as large of a financial aid disbursement as possible and our increased enrollment was issued to all media outlets within the District. These stories published can be found on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received a total of nearly 300 media mentions in the month of August. This equates to a publicity market value of over \$2 million for the District.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

The final plans for the grand opening celebration for the football stadium were completed in collaboration with a cross functional team from many departments in the College. In collaboration with Finance and Administrative Services, and the athletics department, the PIO Lanthier Bandy facilitated a discussion with the City of San Marcos regarding a future use of facilities agreement. She also attended the Community College League of California Government Affairs meeting.

We welcomed Ben Arboleda, Senior Graphics Coordinator, to the Creative Services team in August. Ben will be instrumental in improving processes and guiding the design projects on the team. The team was heavily engaged with athletics and facilities to finalize the designs of the windscreens for both the football and softball stadiums, as well as signage for the press box. In addition, promotional item design and purchase, new directional signage and collateral development were all completed in the month of August. The PIO engaged a photographer for the welcome events held at the San Marcos campus, All College Day, and the first few days of the fall semester. All of the photography will be used to refresh the department’s photo resource library.

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

The President’s Invitational Golf Classic

The President’s Invitational Golf Classic golf committee met to continue to work on sponsorship revenue for the event. Revenue to date has exceeded \$116,000 with eight weeks remaining until the tournament. The golf classic will take place on October 21, at The Country Club of Rancho Bernardo and is the largest fundraising event for the Foundation.



Major Gifts & Scholarship Program

The Foundation received \$33,350 from the Bernard Osher Foundation/Foundation for California Community Colleges to support numerous Palomar College scholarships awarded in the 2024 Fall semester. This matching scholarship program was established in 2009, generating annual scholarship revenue between \$60,000-\$80,000. We also received \$12,500 for the Hal and Carol Needham Scholarship, focusing on the trades, \$8,000 from the Woman’s Club of Carlsbad, and \$5,000 for the Louise Agee Bingham Scholarship, both of which focus on the nursing programs. In addition, this semester, scholarship awards with endowed and annual funding include \$12,500 for the Fire Academy and \$20,000 for the EME program. The fall semester scholarships awarded were more than \$220,000, not including the fire and EME programs.

Grant Program

The Foundation received a generous grant of \$24,282 from The AES Corporation, specifically designated to support the first responder programs. Of this funding, \$14,800 is allocated for the Emergency Medical Education (EME) Virtual Reality Training Tool, which includes virtual reality headsets and a one-year license. The remaining \$9,482 will enable the Fire Academy to purchase saws, significantly enhancing the hands-on training experiences for our students.

Donor Stewardship

Foundation Board & Donor Development Meetings

Each summer, Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis meets individually with the Foundation Board members to assess their experience on the board and discuss commitments for the coming year. These meetings have been mutually beneficial, with all board members offering valuable feedback and continued commitment to the mission.

Additionally, Executive Director Rungaitis met with prospective board member Chakri Bokka to discuss membership and provide a campus tour. She also met with Kathy Karpe, CEO of Casa de Amparo, to discuss how our two organizations can partner. As a follow-up, Steven Salter in Student Services will meet with a team member to discuss ways we can bridge the gap to a Palomar College education for former foster youth transitioning from Casa de Amparo.

Rising Scholars – End-of-Summer Cohort Celebration

The Rising Scholars program celebrated 30 students completing the summer cohort on August 21. Many donors who support the program attended to share their support to these new and to the current Rising Scholars students.



Stacy Rungaitis, Corporate Donor Mark Press,, Chris Spielmaker Foundation Board member and donor.



Proud Rising Scholar Supporters Chuck Lowery, Pete Cohen & Greg



Employee Giving - C.I.R.C.L.E. (Comets Investing in Really Changing Lives through Education)

A On August 23, the Foundation participated in All Campus Day to welcome back faculty, staff, and administrators. In addition to Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis addressing the attendees during the program, the Foundation hosted a table to promote the monthly payroll deduction campaign (C.I.R.C.L.E.) and engage with the campus community. As a gesture of appreciation each C.I.R.C.L.E. member received a special gift for their continued support in removing financial barriers for our students. As a result of these efforts, we are excited to announce that eleven new employees joined the C.I.R.C.L.E. program.

Community Engagement

The Foundation team along with Board Chair, Will Rivera, volunteered their support at the 7th Annual Cal Coast Cares Foundation event on August 12. For 24 years, Cal Coast Cares Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of Palomar College, contributing over \$92,000 to help eliminate financial barriers for our students.

The National Park Service hosted Palomar College and over 400 guests on Alcatraz for the film screening of the documentary *Almost Home*, along with a panel discussion. The experience for our students was exceptional and showcased Palomar’s national reputation in leading the formerly incarcerated programming space.



Linda Moynan, Foundation; Will Rivera, Cal Coast and Foundation Chair; and Cathy Splett, Foundation



Rising Scholar students visit Alcatraz

