

INSIDE...

President's Office 1

Instruction 4

Student Services 7

Finance and Administration . 10

Human Resource Services ... 12

DEIAA Office 12

Institutional Research, Planning
& Grants (IRP&G) 13

Public Affairs Office 14

Foundation 17

November 8, 2024

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Another Record Fundraising Day for the Palomar College Foundation

The amazing Palomar College Foundation team, led by Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and the Foundation's Golf Committee, hosted an incredible day at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo. As one of the Foundation's premier events, approximately \$150,000 was raised to support the mission of the Foundation and positively impact the success of Palomar students. We are incredibly fortunate to have the Foundation and its volunteers who work tirelessly to remove financial barriers for our students.



Foundation Board Chair Will Rivera, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Foundation Development Officers Linda Moynan and Cathy Splett, Foundation Accountant Kayla Kelsey, and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey.

Recognition and Awards

Due to the amazing work of our faculty, students, and administrators, Palomar College has earned recognition and more than a few awards during this past month. The Bonsall Unified School District (BUSD) recognized Palomar College as an Exemplary Community Partner for our shared mission to provide quality education and create impactful opportunities for Bonsall High School students. Our

partnership with BUSD provides for the Bonsall Early College program which includes dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and classes at our Fallbrook Education Center. This partnership has been extremely successful. One example of this occurred last May at commencement when eight Bonsall High School students walked across the stage as they earned their Associate Teacher Certificate of Achievement.

We recently learned that four members of our incredible women's basketball team made the 2023-24 California Community College Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-Academic Team! A 3.5 minimum grade point average during the school year must be achieved in order to make the squad. Congratulations go to Palomar Comets Mackenzie Kozina who earned a 3.94 GPA, Dayvis Key who achieved a 3.86 GPA, Angeline Valdivia with a 3.61 and Macyn Raleigh who finished with a 3.52 GPA.

Bravura, the Palomar College literary magazine was recognized as the best community college literary magazine in the western region, and the third best in the nation at a national conference of community college educators. Four student writers for *Bravura* also received recognition for their contributions to the magazine. I am grateful to Associate Professor Stacey Trujillo, and Associate Professor Clare Rolens for inspiring our students to do their very best work.

Congratulations are in order for the Palomar College Speech and Debate team. The team has experienced two very successful debate events this fall. Most recently, they competed at the Sunset Cliffs Classic held at Point Loma Nazarene University. Universities and community colleges from around the nation attend this event. In addition to students receiving semi-finalist status, the team earned two individual first place finishes, and a second place individual award. Last but not least, Izzy Brousseau was recognized as a Novice International Public Debate Association Debate Octofinalist. An octofinalist is identified once



From L to R: Fallbrook Education Center Director Ryan Williams, Bonsall High School Principal Daniel Smuts, Dual Enrollment Supervisor Jennifer Finn, Bonsall High School Early College/CTE Coordinator Eryn Barker, Interim Dean of Dual Enrollment Dr. Glyn Bongolan, Dean of Instruction Jenny Fererro, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Bonsall Unified School District Interim Superintendent Dr. Heather Golly, Fallbrook Education Center Senior Education Center Coordinator Yvette Maynard, and Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Tina Recalde.



A photo of the Best Magazine Award along with the 2024 edition of Bravura



the eight preliminary rounds have been complete, and the 16 best teams compete in knock-out debates (known as the Octofinals). This culminates in a Grand Final. Overall, the Palomar Speech and Debate Team won third place in the Community College Division Sweepstakes.

2024 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Conference

Along with Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez, Governing Board Vice President Dr. Judy Patacsil, and Governing Board members Jacqueline Kaiser and Michelle Rains, I attended the 2024 ACCT Conference in Seattle, Washington. The sessions were informative and the conversations were valuable as 1,800 attendees came together to discuss the most pressing issues facing community colleges. ACCT is a national organization that regularly brings community college leaders together to address real-world challenges and help students succeed through advocacy and education.



The ACCT Conference hosted over 1,800 community college trustees and administrators

Campus Engagement

The Palomar College Performing Arts department never disappoints. All 97 minutes of *The Complete Works Of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised] [Again]* was entertaining. It kept the audience laughing and engaged. It was a great way to spend an afternoon.

I attended the Fallbrook Education Center Community Advisory Council meeting on October 16. In addition to our Council members, Center Director Ryan Williams, Senior Education Center Coordinator Yvette Maynard, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy also attended. Our discussions centered on the current developments at the Center, the upcoming start of the construction on the 40,000 square foot building, forthcoming collaborations, and the structure of future meetings.

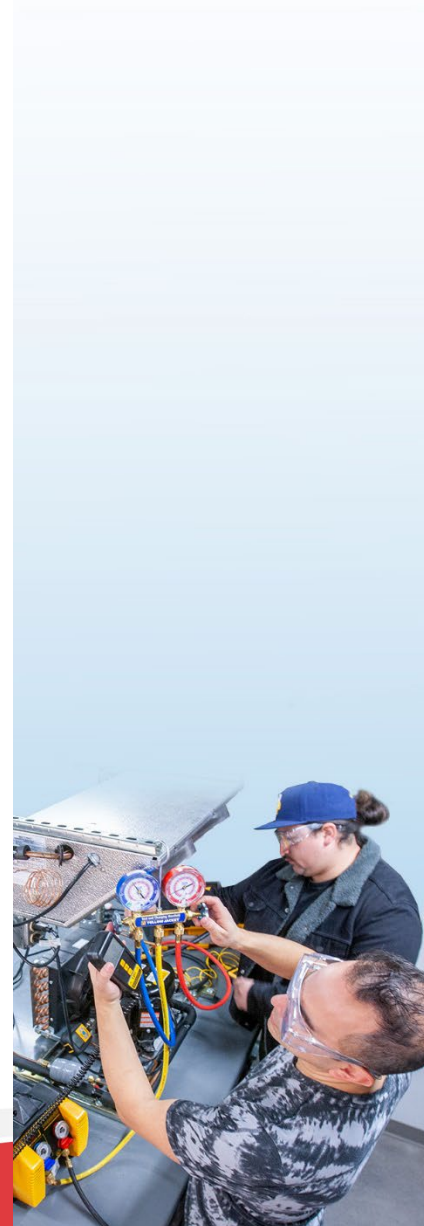
Community Engagement

In the early part of October, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, and I attended the annual auction hosted by the Boys & Girls Club of San Marcos. It is always a terrific opportunity to connect with elected officials and business and community leaders in the region. As a member of the Board of Directors, I am easily reminded of the importance of the work we do together to make our region the best it can possibly be.



TrueCare Director of Community Engagement Sonia Gonzales, TrueCare President and CEO Michelle Gonzalez, Boys and Girls Club Incoming CEO Christine Vaughan, Palomar College Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, and Palomar

I joined a panel discussion with Palomar College Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Dr. Tina Recalde at the California Community Colleges Chief



Instructional Officers Fall 2024 conference. The session enabled us to share best practices while learning from other colleagues, including San Diego Mesa College Vice President of Instruction, Isabel O'Connor.

I was joined by Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez, Governing Board Member Cassandra Schaeg, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Dr. Tina Recalde, Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and Foundation Development Officer Linda Moynan, at the MiraCosta College Community Leaders Breakfast: Report to the Region. MiraCosta College is celebrating 90 years of educating and training students in the region.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to meet with Gloria Corral, President and CEO of the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE). PIQE is a national organization with a branch in California. In partnership with school districts in California PIQE provides a variety of hands-on workshops, seminars, and ongoing support for parents and school leaders. I am looking forward to working with PIQE as we continue our focus on student success.



MiraCosta College Superintendent/President Dr. Sunny Cooke and Palomar College Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

During the month of October, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Dr. Tina Recalde attended the Strengthening Student Success and Chief Instructional Officer (CIO) conferences. During the CIO conference, Superintendent/President Dr. Rivera-Lacey and Dr. Recalde participated in a panel discussion entitled Exploring the CEO and CIO Partnership. During the discussion, each shared the practices that they each use to ensure that the partnership is supportive of their roles and the success of the institution. The Office of Instruction continues to work on the implementation of the new Nuventive platform for outcomes assessment. The new version will allow faculty and service areas to analyze their disaggregated data and implement strategies to improve the success of our disproportionately impacted students.

Palomar College hosted a two-day CurriQunet Users Conference at the Rancho Bernardo Educational Center on October 17-18. Nine sessions were presented to update users and administrators on many topics including the upcoming user experience upgrade called Maverick, an overview of available administrative management tools, API integrations with other vendors, round table discussions of best practices and areas of improvement, and the implications of common course numbering to curriculum data management. Over 50 participants from throughout the United States had the opportunity to share experiences and to collaborate on common goals and challenges.

Arts, Media & Business Administration Division

Our journalism students took a field trip to San Diego State University (SDSU) on September 26. The students were able to meet the dean, faculty, and the student staff of the Daily Aztec. Fifty percent of the students plan to apply for fall 2025 transfer to SDSU.



Palomar Performs staged The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] [again] at the Howard Brubeck Theatre on October 4 – 13. This updated and reimagined version of the beloved comedy condensed the Bard's 37 plays into a whirlwind 90-minute performance. The play combined physical comedy, improvisation, and witty wordplay, showcasing Shakespeare's timeless brilliance through a fresh and playful lens.



Palomar College performance of the Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] [again].

Many patrons attended the Boehm Gallery opening reception of Ripe, our Annual Art and Photography Faculty Exhibition. It was held on September 12. The exhibition ran through October 8. The new exhibition GLOW opened on October 21. This illuminating exhibition features works by Neon and Plasma Artists Danielle Bonnet, David Svenson, and Brian Coleman. The closing reception and Artist Talk are scheduled for November 12.

Noche Havana performances were held in the Performing Arts Studio Theatre on October 25 – 26. The evening started with a buffet of authentic Cuban food and a live salsa band. A dance class and an open dance floor preceded the Agogo performance. The performances of our Applied Music Program students were held on October 11 and will take place again on November 8 and 22. These students have worked diligently to prepare for their performances. Audiences will enjoy watching our future professional musicians as they grow in their craft and support them as they go forward.



A promotional poster for GLOW, an art exhibition at Palomar College

Career Technical and Extended Education Division

On September 25, Palomar College Career Services hosted an Administration of Justice Career Fair. The program-specific networking event allowed students to explore career opportunities aligned with their specialized skills and interests. Over 40 students registered for the career fair and made meaningful connections with potential employers for internships and future employment. Representatives in attendance were from various agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, San Diego Police Department and Crime Lab, San Diego Sheriff's Department and Crime Lab, Palomar College Police Department, Carlsbad Police Department, the Office of the San Diego County District Attorney and One Safe Place. Discussions between students and employers ranged from current job openings to diverse career paths within law enforcement and justice sectors. The college and employers alike are enthusiastic about expanding these partnerships through additional work-based learning activities, further preparing students for successful transitions into the workforce. Students were well-prepared for the fair thanks to dedicated workshops led by Job Developer, Jeanette Meliska-Romero, on resume building and job fair readiness in their classes.

Two onboarding events were hosted for members of the United Domestic Workers (UDW). Twenty-three union members were welcomed to "their" college, introducing them



to services, programs, and courses; and setting up appointments for next steps. Seven of the attendees are planning to take courses in spring 2025. Seventy-six K-12 adult school students attended the first Path to Palomar event on October 15. They were introduced to college life, provided a tour and given information on Pathways at Palomar, including the various trade programs, nursing, and emergency medical education. During the last hour of the event, Dr. Rivera-Lacey shared her journey and a panel of former adult school students who had transitioned to Palomar College shared their experiences with the guests. Key post-event survey findings indicated a significant portion (73%) of attendees as "very likely" to take classes at Palomar, with many stating they received sufficient information to make informed decisions. We are now in the process of connecting with all participants to set up next steps. In addition, 100% of respondents found the student panel informative, which speaks to the effectiveness of peer-driven communication. Many participants shared positive feedback, indicating their excitement to join the Palomar community. The next events are planned for later this semester and in spring 2025.

We are currently supporting faculty in developing new noncredit programs. These include college and career readiness courses tailored to adults with disabilities and emergency medical education courses that will be designed for students in our English as a Second Language program.

Languages and Literature Division

The Palomar Speech and Debate Team attended the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association (PSCFA) Warm-Up at El Camino College the weekend of September 28-29. Students Marcus Daza and Izzy Brousseau won Superior Certificates in International Parliamentary Debate, winning three out of their four rounds. Marcus Daza also won an Excellent Certificate in Impromptu Speaking. This was their first speech tournament ever, and the Speech Team looks forward to another successful season! They also had a successful experience at the



Members of the award winning Palomar College Speech and Debate team.

Sunset Cliffs Classic at Point Loma Nazarene University during the weekend of October 25. This was a difficult tournament with universities and community colleges from around the nation competing in individual events and debate. Milos Vuskovic was a semifinalist in Novice Impromptu and Novice Extemporaneous categories, Natalie Schmoke was awarded second place in Novice Prose, Max Hutchins received first place in Novice Drama, and Kat Caldwell took first place in Senior Impromptu. Izzy Brousseau was recognized as a Novice International Public Debate Association (IPDA) Debate Octofinalist. An octofinalist is identified once the eight preliminary rounds have been completed, and the 16 best teams compete in knock-out debates (known as the Octofinals). This culminates in a Grand Final. In the end, the Palomar Speech and Debate Team won third place in the Community College Division Sweepstakes!

The Palomar College literary magazine *Bravura* won several awards at the Community College Humanities Association conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, in October. *Bravura* 2024 won first place for Best Magazine in the Pacific-Western Division. They also had four students win individual awards from the 2024 edition:

- Sophia Segerstrom, "Front Lawn Flamingo's Soliloquy" 3rd Place-Tie Best Short Stories: Pacific-Western Division.
- Mattie Hernandez, "The Power of Names" 3rd Place-Tie Best Short Stories: Pacific-Western Division.



- Adel Bautista, "Just the Two of Us" 2nd Place for Best Photography: Pacific-Western Division.
- Jimena Pacheco, "Trials and Tribulations of Identity" 1st Place for Best Creative Nonfiction: Pacific-Western Division.

Bravura 2024 was also recognized beyond the Pacific-Western Division. They placed third in the nation for Best Magazine. Divisional awards are extremely competitive, so for the overall magazine to be recognized in the top three out of all five divisions is extremely exciting.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) department has been busy with various outreach events and orientations. They did two tabling events at Vallecitos Elementary School and a Back-to-School Night event at Alta Vista High School. In addition, in-class college and ESL orientations were conducted in introductory level courses at the San Marcos campus and the Fallbrook Education Center. The ESL Tutoring Center participated in Tutor Appreciation Week and did a "Take Home a Free Book" event October 7 – 10. Students have been able to practice their English in two separate events held in October. On October 28 ESL students at the Escondido Education Center participated in a pumpkin party and pumpkin decorating contest organized by ESL instructors. Participating students explained the inspiration for their pumpkins to their peers and instructors. On October 31, ESL instructors and students participated in the Day of the Dead Cultural Exhibits and Tutorials at the St. John's Episcopal Church site in Fallbrook. The event was open to the public and ESL students were able to practice English while educating participants about their cultures and traditions through exhibits, tutorials, and theater.



The results of the pumpkin painting activity hosted by the ESL department.

Fallbrook Education Center

The Bonsall Unified School District recognized Palomar College as an Exemplary Community Partner at their October 16 Governing Board meeting for our shared mission to provide quality education and create impactful opportunities for Bonsall High School students. A presentation on the Bonsall Early College program followed. This program includes dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and classes at the Fallbrook Education Center for Bonsall High School students. The data points from the Spring 2024 Early College report showed:

- 105% increase in total college units taken since the last term which includes 31 classes (78 students)
- +19% increase in Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students (80% total)
- +23% increase in Hispanic students (58% total)
- +25% increase in First Generation (58% total)
- 82% received a "B" grade or better (91.4% received passing grades)

STUDENT SERVICES

EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs, Foster Youth

The month of October was extremely busy in EOPS. In early October, the EOPS association hosted their annual conference in San Diego. The EOPS team attended the 4-



day conference and were able to engage with colleagues from other institutions. EOPS is the original social justice program in the state of California. The majority of the conference offered a focus on furthering this work to address the needs of marginalized populations across the state.

During the fall EOPS application cycle, the number of applications doubled compared to last year to 560 applications. During the process more than 300 new students were qualified, providing them with access to resources that will address barriers to degree completion.

A Hispanic Heritage month themed college hour was held in October. The event included games, lunch, and opportunities to engage with our students outside of our regular appointments. Approximately 70 students attended. On October 24, the EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS/Foster Youth team hosted the fifth annual Fall Family Fun event. This fall carnival event provided an opportunity for our student parents to engage with their children in a fun, relaxed environment. We had nearly 100 attendees, including more than 60 children. Families were able to partake in arts and crafts, carnival games, and pumpkin decorating.



Fun was had by all at the EOPS Fall Family Fun event.

TRIO Programs

TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) had a productive month, collaborating with three Escondido high schools to support college application events for the Class of 2025. Both the Escondido and Vista ETS teams hosted a financial aid night, covering college timelines, application information, and a FAFSA workshop for seniors. At Escondido middle schools, 6th – 8th graders attended a COLLEGE 101 workshop. Additionally, ETS participated in the Escondido Union High School District's College and Career fair to connect with new students and showcase the efforts of ETS.

TRIO North County Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC) began a partnership with Union Domestic Workers (UDW), presenting to future Palomar students on admissions, financial aid, and enrollment. NCEOC also continues monthly support for veterans and military students at Camp Pendleton and recently connected with many students at the EOP&S Family Fall Night.

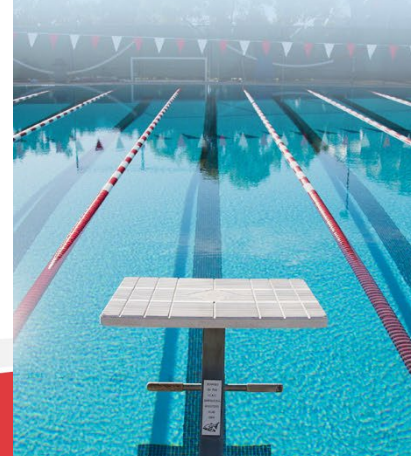
Office of Student Recruitment

In the month of October, the Office of Student Recruitment conducted 27 group and individual tours connecting with over 230 students and participated in 37 outreach activities impacting 2,458 prospective students.

Student Services Communications Systems & Technology

Over 40,000 students were contacted via text message to inform them of their priority registration date and time. To better engage Native American students, a student data group has been developed for use the Office of Student Recruitment. In collaboration with the Office of Instruction, we are preparing a notification for students who have designated a major in a program that has been discontinued. The information will include instructions on how to designate a new major and to contact a counselor as needed.

Per the California Community College Chancellor's Office Vision Aligned Reporting initiative, an additional tracking solution for "Aid in Kind" was implemented. We are also



making progress toward the launch of the Palomar College Title IX Annual Training for all students. The launch is planned for early November.

Student Life & Leadership

Student Life and Leadership held many events and activities ahead of the November general election to provide students with opportunities for civic engagement and voter empowerment. On September 17, we hosted a Voter Registration event with the League of Women Voters and San Diego County Registrar of Voters. The event included informational tables, and participants were able to answer questions about the upcoming election and register students to vote. Through our civic engagements events this semester, we supported over 40 students in registering to vote! On October 2, we hosted a second civic engagement and voter registration event and invited internal campus partners, campus clubs and the Dreamers Program. On October 16 and October 30, we hosted a Comet Hour and events with the candidates running in the U.S. Congressional 50th district to increase voter awareness.

Associated Student Government (ASG) and Inter-Club Council (ICC)

The Associated Student Government attended the California Community College Student Affairs Association (CCCCSAA) Student Leadership Conference from October 11-13 in Los Angeles. At the conference, student leaders networked with peers from across the state, and participated in intentional workshops to help support their roles as student government leaders.

On October 10, ASG hosted Mental Health Awareness Day by bringing in resources for students to support their mental health and wellness. In addition, this occasion was marked by the official opening of Calm Corner – a space designated for meditation, reflection, and/or prayer for students. The ASG held their annual Halloween event on October 31. The event included a costume contest, snacks for students, pumpkin painting, and additional activities.

There are now 20 active clubs, with other clubs being approved and reinstated every week. Inter-Club Council meetings are consistently meeting quorum and club representatives are reporting on their events, meetings, and club initiatives. The International Student Association has collaborated with the Palomar Transfer Student Association for a Halloween event that was held on October 28. Student Life and Leadership has continued to provide Student Activities hours at the Fallbrook, Escondido, and Rancho Bernardo Education Centers, and will continue to visit the centers throughout the semester.

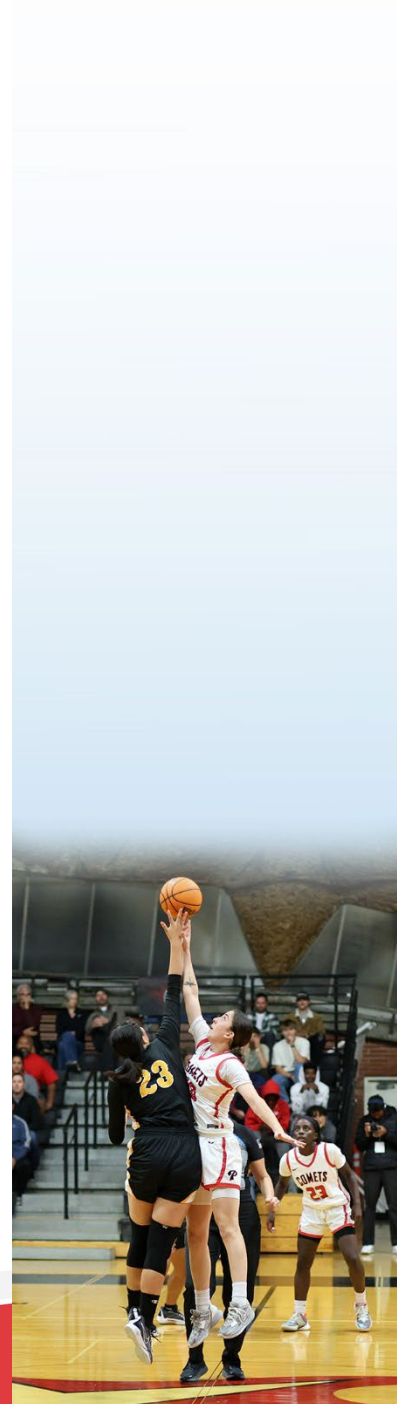
Anita and Stan Maag Nutrition Center and Basic Needs

From October 1 through October 29, there were over 60 new Food and Nutrition Center registrants, and a total of 4,610 lbs. of fresh produce and grocery items were provided to our students at the Center. Over 60 households and a total of 121 individuals benefited from the Center in October. In addition, the Grab and Go refrigerated units were restocked weekly at the Escondido, Rancho Bernardo, and Fallbrook Education Centers. Over 414 pounds of snacks and produce were stocked in the units during October. With all services combined, the Center, events/farmers markets, and the Grab n' Go units district wide, a total of 7,858 pounds of food were distributed.

Palomar College Basic Needs continues to strengthen its partnerships with organizations including the North County Food Bank and CalFresh in order to provide additional services and support for students.

Student Health Centers and Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS)

The much-anticipated November elections are right around the corner. With every election comes heightened stress and uncertainty, and it may feel like there is even more at stake this



election season. Throughout the entire election season, BHCS is offering ongoing supportive measures to provide students with tips for managing election-related stress and to help students take care of their mental health. *Note: these sessions are not intended to be spaces for political debate. They are intentional, safe spaces designed to build community, create space for students to process, and to support students with managing stress.*

Our licensed therapists, interns, peer mentors in the Student Wellness Advocacy Group, and student advocates in the Active Minds club are all providing a range of supportive events, skill shops, and workshops to help students cope with stress and difficult emotions. We encourage students to visit our [Calendar of Events](#) on the Health Promotion website for more information. Our therapists in BHCS remain available daily from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on the San Marcos Campus and via telehealth for any urgent crises that may emerge. Students can visit BHCS in the NB-2 building on the San Marcos campus or call 760-891-7531 to schedule an appointment. A licensed clinician will be present at each of the Education Centers every Thursday in November.

Furthermore, BHCS has designated liaisons across our many support programs including Umoja, Puente, Pride, Veterans Resource Center, Rising Scholars, and Dreamer Success Program. As a result of these collaborative relationships, we have arranged pre-scheduled community spaces during the weeks of November 4 and November 11 and as long as is needed for our clinicians to be present with our students. In addition to community spaces, a drop-in Managing Stress and Uncertainty workshop will be offered Monday-Thursday at 1:00 p.m. during the first two weeks of November as well.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services:

We welcomed Joel Ortiz, as our Payroll Business Systems Analyst. He will be working closely with the payroll department to support the day-to-day efforts as well as internal process improvements.

Business Services

Business Services is developing two RFPs, one for district auditing services and the other for food services. Several other bids are in progress for multiple public works projects and various other projects that will be completed across the district. The Athletics Phase 2 project went out for bid on October 30. Responses are due back on December 12. Results of this bid will be vetted and presented to the Governing Board in February 2025 for approval along with an updated Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for this project.

Campus Police

The recruitment of new police officers has been extended into November. On October 29 Chief Moore completed the inaugural San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Leadership Development Co-hort. President Emeritus Dr. Boggs served as one of the facilitators of the program, which was co-sponsored by CSU San Marcos.

Facilities Department

Construction & Facilities Planning

The athletics phase one project is now complete.

Facilities Maintenance

The work to rebuild the main electrical service that provides power to the NS Building and Planetarium was completed in October. The process to replace the HVAC systems and installation of a new roof for the AA/ST Building will begin in early November.



Custodial Services

An equipment audit is underway to evaluate the inventory of cleaning equipment. Equipment recommendations will be made to increase jobsite safety, efficiency, and employee workplace satisfaction.

The team has set up and supported dozens of events since the beginning of Fall 2024. Custodial Services is successfully supporting the home football games and continues to adapt and learn how to best support this outstanding new facility.

Environmental Health and Safety/Risk Management

The Great California Shakeout Earthquake drill took place in the morning and in the evening on October 17. These drills were conducted at all district locations.

Information Services (IS)

During the month of September, Information Services employees remained busy working on regular operational and technical support tasks, as well as on numerous technology projects, initiatives, and tasks.

Help Desk

First-level support was provided to over 2,700 incoming phone calls, emails, or walk-in requests for assistance. Over two-thirds of these were resolved within the first contact.

Systems and Programming Team

The first phase of three phases was completed for the technical design, development and implementation of a new data collection page, processes, and reporting required for the Chancellor's Office mandated Vision Aligned Reporting (VAR). In addition, enhancements to our student application and processing were developed and implemented. This is another step forward in combatting fraud and increasing efficiency in our CCC Apply student application processing. Work is continuing on the final technical design, development, and integration of the our system and processes for AB-2683 compliance, the mandatory Title IX training for students. Finally, modifications were made to several application pages, reports, and interfaces to enable the display of preferred names for students and staff. This represents another step forward in ensuring our commitment to employee and student equity and inclusion.

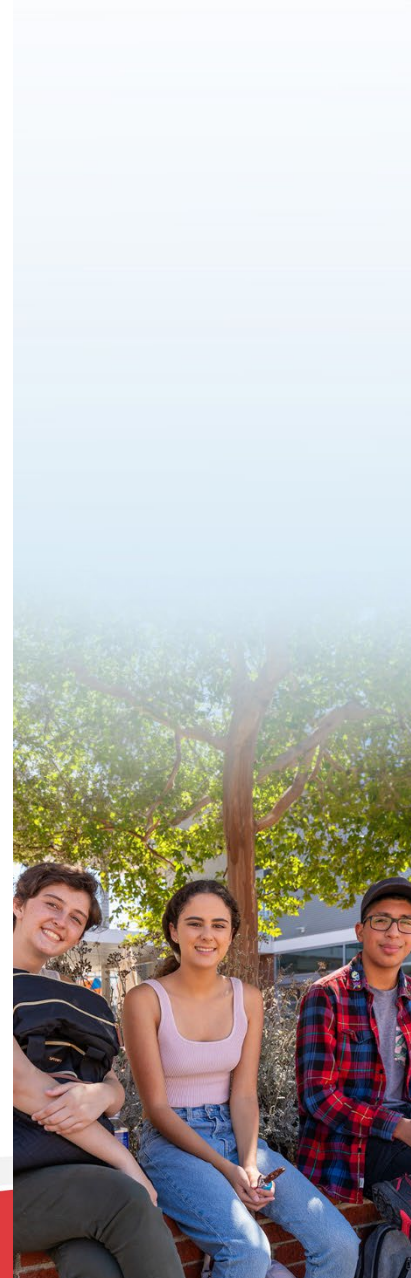
Network and Data Center (NADC) Team

The planning and preparation work for the networking and technology infrastructure for both the Athletics Phase II and Fallbrook 40 construction projects continued. The team provided technical support for the successful test of our Informacast Emergency Notification System during the two lockdown drills on September 12. A few changes were implemented to resolve delayed notifications sent to a few on-campus telephones and a digital display in a single classroom.

Technical Services and Audio-Visual (AV) Team

Numerous technology updates, enhancements and installations in support of instructional classroom and lab updates, department remodels, and new or enhanced offices/spaces, were completed in October.

The team provided their expertise in the relocation of all technology for dozens of employees, as needed for temporary moves in support of the planned HVAC upgrade and roof installation on the AA/ST Building. In addition, the final installations of audio visual and other technology equipment was completed, as part of the new athletics stadium and adjoining team rooms.



The development of a comprehensive, sustainable technology equipment refresh plan, with a goal of replacing technology equipment on a regular basis before it becomes unusable, insecure, or otherwise obsolete is in progress.

Cybersecurity

An increased number of servers and workstations were impacted and improved by the regular, recurring network, and system scans and remediation processes. A new annual, comprehensive Cyber security Assessment, as required for compliance with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) is in process.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Employee Training

Employee required trainings have been launched and we continue to make strides in ensuring all employees have completed both Title IX and Sexual Harassment training and the BP 3000 training titled “Racial Equity Training: Playing Behind a Screen: The Implicit Bias in Our Colleges”.

Negotiations

The District and the Palomar Faculty Federation will be presenting their proposals for annual contract reopeners at the Governing Board meeting in November. We look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively in the coming months.

Benefits

Part-time faculty open enrollment concluded with 103 members qualifying and enrolling in the district funded medical insurance program. We have 61 part-time faculty members participating in the dental insurance, and 42 enrolled in the vision insurance. Medical enrollment increased by 10 participants compared to the spring 2024 semester, the dental and vision numbers remained the same.

Anthem is in contract negotiations with Scripps hospitals and Scripps doctors. The current contract is set to expire December 31, 2024. If an agreement is not reached, then Scripps will no longer be an in-network provider for all Anthem insurance plans. All members who may be impacted by these negotiations have been contacted by Anthem and Scripps.

Recruitment

Recruitment figures as of October 28:

26 permanent recruitments in progress

- 5 – Admin/CAST
- 19 – Classified
- 2 – Faculty

55 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

DEIAA OFFICE

The California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED) hosted their annual conference in San Diego. This year’s convention, themed “50 Years of Breaking



Barriers," not only honored past accomplishments but also served as a bold promise for the future. The conference provided an opportunity to reaffirm their unwavering commitment to access, equity, and inclusion. Palomar College Rising Scholars presented about the intersection of incarceration for students of color with disabilities.

The California Chapter of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) held its annual fall institute for the first time in the Central Valley with the theme of Leaning into Discomfort, Leading with Purpose. Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle serves as the Director of Equity and Social Justice for the California Chapter of the American College Personnel Association, which supports professional development across the state for student affairs professionals.

Community Engagement

La ROCA Festival Latino provided an opportunity to create a sense of community, foster education and empower the Latino community. This community event rooted in Latino culture also provided entertainment and food. Dr. Belisle provided a welcome to all community members present and a message of gratitude to the event organizers.

The Office of Inclusive Excellence at CSU San Marcos invited Dr. Belisle to attend the 10th annual All Peoples Luncheon (APL). The APL is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect upon their commitment to inclusive excellence. A distinguished student was awarded the champion award for Inclusive Excellence and Diversity and Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber gave the keynote address honoring the DEI efforts of CSU San Marcos. Palomar College was acknowledged as a collaborative partner in the region.



Ariel Stevenson, CSU San Marcos Deputy Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Nicole Belisle, and Dr. Aswad Allen, CSU San Marcos Chief Diversity Officer

Held during Filipino American History Month, the inaugural Larry Itliong breakfast served to acknowledge student participants of the Council of Philippine American Organizations (COPAO) Virgil Yalong – Larry Itliong Filipino American History Month Essay Contest and address educational interests of the Filipino American community. Palomar College was proud to partner with the co-hosts COPAO and the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHSS) – San Diego Chapter. Ms. Cynthia Bonta, activist and mother of California Attorney General Rob Bonta, provided an inspirational keynote highlighting community and the importance of solidarity.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) continues to prepare the initial draft of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) midterm report. In October, the Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) convened to discuss progress on the report and continued its review and discussion of the new accreditation standards.



Integrated Planning

The Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) team is setting target goals for five key institutional metrics identified by the College Council to assess progress on strategic plans and enrollment management strategies. Meanwhile, the Policies and Procedures Task Force has met twice to review Chapters 1 and 2 of our Board Policies and Administrative Procedures. As part of this review, the Task Force has recommended that the College Council consider revisiting and updating the Vision, Mission, and Values statement of the College, as outlined in BP 2100. In response, the College Council has created an ad hoc group to coordinate this review process.

Institutional Research

The research team is completing and delivering several key research projects requested by the campus community. Highlights include launching a new dual enrollment dashboard and preparing a summary report on the success of students approved to enroll in more than 19 units per semester. The team is also finalizing a report on the math “higher dosage” tutoring pilot, and nearing completion of a new Distance Education dashboard. Additionally, they have successfully completed the fall Integrated Postsecondary Data System (IPEDS) federal survey and are set to submit the Palomar College Faculty Obligation Number report by November 1st.

In support of the Faculty Strong Workforce Institute, the team has developed individualized data dashboards for participating faculty. These dashboards allow faculty to review student success data for their courses and conduct self-assessments aimed at enhancing outcomes for specific student groups. Additionally, two research team members provided on-site support to faculty participants during the program's October launch.

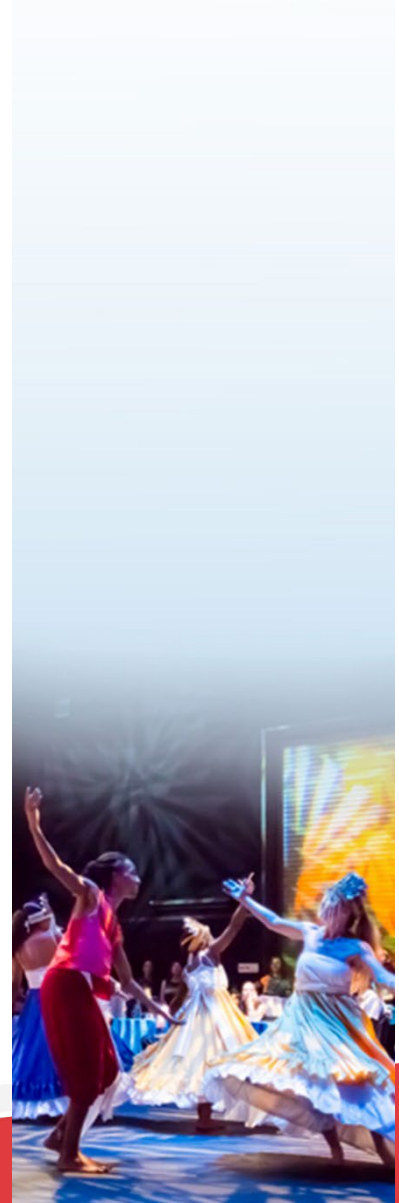
Grants

The college currently has six proposals under review. Additionally, a proposal is being developed for submission to the newly established National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP). Palomar College is collaborating on this proposal under the Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC) program. The team continues to support ongoing grants and is also overseeing the closeout process for completed projects that have successfully met their goals. The team continues to support our current awards and those in the process of closing out upon successful completion of project outcomes. These include the Pathway to Law School Initiative and the California Apprenticeship Initiative New and Innovative Grant, both from the California Community College Chancellors Office Workforce and Economic Development Division, and the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program.

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 September, the campaign generated over 498,000 impressions, while remaining cost efficient. The refresh of the microsite utilized for the digital media campaign was initiated and the planned launch is in early November.



The integrated marketing and communications campaign to support fall enrollment goals continued with an emphasis on promoting 4-week and 8-week courses. The campaign includes outdoor advertising, as well as community based online ads and support for our Camp Pendleton education site.



All of the ad placements designed to support the spring 2025 enrollment goals were created and placed. The campaign will start on November 4 and include a comprehensive digital marketing strategy, community centered digital and print advertising, our digital billboard, and webstreaming ads that feature Palomar College alumni and radio personality Jesse Lozano. The webstreaming campaign includes Over-the-Top (OTT) video advertising. The OTT ads are targeted to platforms and programming that align with our student demographics. Throughout the month of October, our digital billboard also included a promotional ad for the President's Invitational Golf Classic. In November, we will display artwork thanking our veterans.



The Palomar College Veterans Day recognition digital display

The Palomar.edu website continues to perform well. We experienced an increase compared to last October in both users and new users of 2% and 4% respectively. These metrics are an indication of increased engagement of our target audiences through all media channels and outreach. Social media remains the 5th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn sites 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.



Sample Social Media Post in October



Sample Social Media Post in October

Throughout the month of October our social media posts centered on increasing awareness for the opportunities to enroll in fall courses, open 4-week and 8-week courses,



Undocumented Student Awareness month, spring 2025 priority registration, performing arts events, and campus activities.

A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms shows steady growth for all channels. Our growth in Facebook “Likes” and X followers increased 1% and 2% respectively compared to last October. Followers on LinkedIn grew 4% compared to October 2023. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 14%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 40% compared to the previous October.

Community and Media Relations

PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy participated as the official timekeeper at the San Marcos City Council candidate forum on October 3. In addition, she attended and welcomed the participants of the Rising Stars program hosted by the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce and San Marcos Unified School District on October 15. On October 18 PIO Lanthier Bandy joined Palomar College colleagues and Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez and Trustee Cassandra Schaeg at the MiraCosta College Report to the Community. She also attended the Fallbrook Community Advisory Council on October 16. Since early September, the Public Affairs Office has worked with 16 student reporters to help shape their stories, schedule interviews, and provide requested data. Finally, as part of the California Community College Chancellor’s Office Vision 2030 public relations plan, PIO Lanthier Bandy arranged for an interview with former Rising Scholar student, now employee of Palomar College who transferred to CSU San Marcos. The story will publish statewide in the coming weeks.

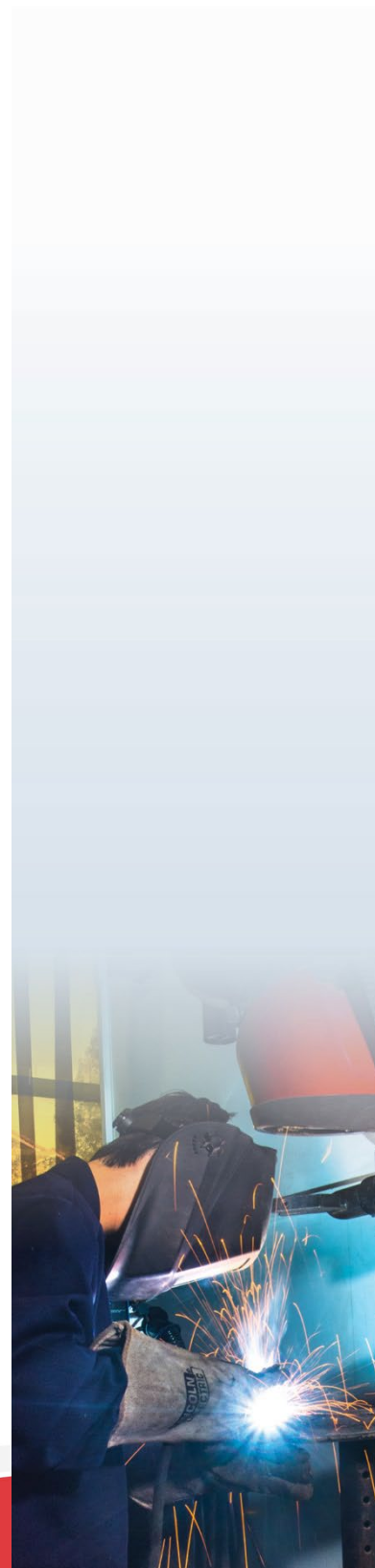
In collaboration with the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA) a press release was distributed on Hispanic Heritage month events being held at each of our institutions. A story [Palomar College Supports and Celebrates Undocumented Students](#) was developed and posted on [Palomar News](#). In addition a [student success story](#) and on our [Credit for Prior Learning program](#) were featured on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received over 465 media mentions in the month of October. This equates to a publicity market value of over \$141,000 for the District.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the monthly meetings of the Community College League of California Government Affairs meeting and Government Relations Liaisons meeting hosted by the California Community College Chancellors Office. On October 16 U.S. Congressman Scott Peters visited with our students for a civic engagement event at the San Marcos campus and on October 30, U.S. Congressional Candidate Peter Bono was on campus for a student focused Q&A session. Both events were well attended and students and employees were heavily engaged in the conversations.



The home side bleachers windscreen project at the football stadium.



The installation of the windscreens on the home and visitor bleachers at the football stadium was the highlight of October for Creative Services. This project in collaboration with the athletics and facilities departments was designed throughout the summer and it is rewarding to see the installation take place. The Creative Services team worked diligently throughout the month of October to begin the design of the 2023-24 Annual Report. The Report is expected to be distributed in early November. The team also supported the signage needs related to department and division moves due to the roof repair and HVAC work that will be done on the ST/AA building.



The visitor side bleachers windscreen project at the football stadium.

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

The President's Invitational Golf Classic

A successful President's Invitational Golf Classic took place on October 21 at The Country Club of Rancho Bernardo. Over 90 golfers participated and raised approximately \$150,000 to support the success of Palomar students! These funds will support the Foundation's core programs, including scholarships, textbook assistance, and emergency grants.



Golfers enjoy a meal and brief program after a day on the green!

Major Gifts & Scholarship Program

It is with great pride that the Foundation will add \$20,220 from the San Diego Foundation to support the Pete Rogers (Endowed) Welding Scholarship. Funds received this month were part of the effort of Foundation Board Member, Malena Bennett, who helped orchestrate the Carlsbad Rotary Club Wine event this summer. Funds will provide scholarships for students studying welding into perpetuity.

President's Associates

We are pleased to announce four individuals renewed their President's Associates memberships this month. As of today, the Foundation has 40 members who are part of this exclusive group. We are excited to host the President's Associates Annual Gathering, scheduled for December 16. The event promises to be a memorable evening of networking and celebration, bringing together the President's Associates, members, and Friends of the Foundation. We look forward to this opportunity to honor our valued supporters and foster close community relationships.



Grant Program

The Foundation submitted two grant proposals this month: one to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors District 2 (Anderson) – Neighborhood Reinvestment Program, focused on architectural education at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, and another to District 5 (Desmond) – Community Enhancement, supporting the Performing Arts Special Guest Artist Music Series.

Foundation Board of Directors and Advisory Councils

Finance & Investment Committee

The Foundation announced a Request for Proposal for auditing and tax services in June of this year and has selected CWDL as the new auditor for the 2024 tax year. The decision was approved at the October Foundation Board of Directors meeting. CWDL has extensive experience and expertise with non-profits and educational institutions, including community college Foundations, and the Foundation looks forward to this new partnership.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Foundation Board of Directors met on October 28. Approval of two faculty innovation grants were supported along with financial statements for July and August.

Fallbrook Advisory Council

The Fallbrook Advisory Council met on October 16 at the Fallbrook Education Center. Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy, Fallbrook Education Center Director Ryan Williams, and Senior Center Coordinator Yvette Maynard attended. Center Director Williams provided college and education center updates. The Council discussed transportation and collaborations that may come to fruition in the future. In addition, discussion was held about the future engagement of council members and timing of future meetings for 2025.

Community Engagement

Palomar College was represented in the community at several events this month. Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, and Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the annual San Marcos Boys & Girls Club event on October 5. The “disco” themed event showcased the importance of the Club and partnership with Palomar College in supporting youth in our region. Dr. Rivera-Lacey serves on the Club’s Board of Directors.

Palomar College also attended the MiraCosta College Report to the Region on October 18 and the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce mixer on October 23. The North San Diego Business Chamber Leadership Academy hosted Executive Director Rungaitis as a guest speaker to the Emerging Leaders group on October 24.

The Foundation team hosted Peggy Martin, a local community leader, on a campus tour. Peggy has lived in San Marcos for decades but never toured campus. She is considering a seat on the Foundation board of directors.



Dr. Rivera-Lacey & Dr. Diane Studinka at the San Marcos Boys & Girls Club annual event.

