

INSIDE...

President's Office 1

Instruction4

Student Services5

Finance and Administration6

Human Resource Services8

DEIAA Office8

Institutional Research, Planning
& Grants (IRP&G)9

Public Affairs Office 10

Foundation 12

February 1, 2025

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Welcome to Spring Semester!
We start the semester with great news – the California Community College Board of Governors unanimously approved Center Status for the Rancho Bernardo Education Center on January 14. Once we reach 1,000 full-time equivalent students (FTES), we will earn an additional \$3 million dollars in funding. This is a great achievement for the District, and I am grateful to Center Director Tom Medel for his leadership and dedication, and to Senior Director Michelle Barton for her time and commitment in guiding us through the process with such incredible results.



Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera Lacey at the All College Day event.

Our All College Day on January 23 was a great success. The program opened with enthusiastic remarks by Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley. We celebrated milestones and our collective achievements and discussed upcoming training opportunities and institutional priorities. Enrollment recovery and growth, hiring the most qualified employees, and student and employee health and safety remain our top priorities.

Official Grand Opening of the Softball Stadium

The official opening of the softball stadium was an opportunity to honor one of our highest achieving teams in Palomar College history. With five state championships, 39 conference championships, statewide team academic awards, 57 All-American Athletes, and countless 4-year college transfers, we have plenty to be proud about the Comet softball program. The opening is a result of countless



Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera Lacey, Softball Head Coach Lacey Craft, and Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez

hours in planning, designing, and construction. We could not ask for a more beautiful stadium. Go Comets!

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

The Palomar College community was well-represented at the Martin Luther King Jr. parade on January 19 in San Diego. Many of the community colleges in the region attended as well as CSU San Marcos and San Diego State University. We also attended the annual Dr. King Community Prayer Breakfast on January 20, hosted by the North San Diego County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The event provides an opportunity to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to connect with our colleagues and community leaders throughout the region.



Palomar College Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, MiraCosta Superintendent/President Dr. Sunny Cooke, and CSU San Marcos President Dr. Ellen Neufeldt.

Campus Engagement

There is nothing better than going to a doubleheader athletics event. In early January, Palomar Comet fans were able to enjoy both the men's and women's basketball teams play on the same evening. While cheering on our student athletes, I learned that our athletics department is streaming the games, which makes attending the games while traveling a great option.

I was able to attend the Palomar College LEaD Academy held at our Rancho Bernardo Education Center. The Academy is designed as a 2-day training for emerging leaders from across our college and includes ongoing purposeful development for those already in a leadership position. Specifically, the curriculum focuses on leadership theories, models and competencies with an emphasis on leading within the California Community College system. It was great to connect with our future and current leaders.



Palomar College employees in attendance at the LEaD academy held at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.



I am grateful to the Professional Development Committee for their unrelenting commitment and diligent work that went into the development of our Flex Week workshop schedule. I was able to attend the *Undocu Advocate* and the *Race, Power, and Policy: Our Collective Imaginations for Educational Equity* workshops. Both provided engaging and thoughtful approaches to the success of all of our students and the importance of engaging our entire institution in student equity and achievement.

Community Engagement

In mid-January, I attended the Executive Board Retreat for the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC). Being with leaders throughout the nation is always an opportunity to learn, gain new insights on institutional challenges, and to identify what ideas might benefit Palomar College. As a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) with over 52% of our students identifying as Latino/a, it is incredibly important to continue to connect with colleagues and bring new approaches to leading our HSI.

On January 24 and January 25, I attended the Community College League of California (CCLC) Effective Trusteeship Workshop in Sacramento with Trustee Roberto Rodriguez. The workshop focused on fiscal responsibilities, student support, governance and accreditation. The CCLC welcomed the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board on the evening of January 25. The CCCT Board consists of 21 members elected statewide by the 73 district governing boards and a student-member elected by the student trustees. It was a proud moment for Trustee Dr. Judy Patacsil and me to see Palomar College Trustee Roberto Rodriguez sworn in as one of the newest members of the CCCT Board. The CCCT Board takes positions on and formulates education policy issues that come before the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, the state legislature, and other relevant state-level boards and commissions. This policy board provides input to the CCLC Board to advance the mission and effectively serve the member colleges.

Immediately following the Effective Trusteeship Workshop, we joined Trustee Dr. Judy Patacsil, and Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy, as well as San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCA) leaders, trustees and student trustees at the CCLC Legislative Conference. The Legislative Conference is designed to share best practices in advocacy to engage our state legislators on the most important issues facing our students and institutions. During the conference, Trustee Rodriguez participated



The Executive Board of the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC)



Palomar College Trustee Dr. Judy Patacsil, Palomar College Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey.



as a panelist with other members of SDICCCA. The panel discussion was designed to guide participants in advocating for policymakers and how community college representatives, faculty, staff, students, and supporters can effectively communicate their priorities and concerns to lawmakers. On January 27, we met with our state legislators and shared our focus on student success and reiterated the fiscal needs of community colleges in our region.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

During the month of January, the Office of Instruction has been working to review enrollment data and adjust class offerings to meet student needs throughout the district. In addition to supporting the work around Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM), Instruction has been working with Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRPG) to develop the new comprehensive Program Review and Planning (PRP) documents and timeline based on recommendations from the Instructional PRP Committee and Education, Equity and Student Success Council (EESSC). IRPG is currently working on putting together all of the data dashboards that faculty will utilize to complete assessments of their programs. Training will be offered to faculty in mid-February. The Office of Instruction has also been supporting the implementation of the new version of Nuventive that will be utilized for outcome assessment at the course, program, and institutional levels. A special thank you to Associate Professors Shelbi Hathaway and April Cunningham for leading this work, as well as our Accreditation Coordinator Marti Snyder, and all of the individuals in the Instruction Office, Curriculum, Information Services, and Academic Technology Resource Center (ATRC) that have put in many hours around this project.

The SEM Project team attended the Midpoint Convening in San Jose on January 15 and 16, which provided them with a great opportunity to share their progress on the project, network with other teams, and receive feedback from other colleges. During the convening, members of the team attended sessions related to Leadership for Data-Informed Scheduling, Advancing Equity through Strategic Enrollment Management, Scheduling Innovation through Cross Functional Collaboration, and Student-Centered Outreach and Communication. The convening also provided an opportunity for the team to complete a communication audit related to the program, develop a communication strategy, and a timeline by which to share the deliverables and receive campuswide feedback. The team looks forward to sharing their work throughout the spring semester.

Languages and Literature Division

Palomar College Campus Police Officer Monika Forest taught a women's self-defense class for nine members of the Division and the Library/Learning Resource Center staff. She shared techniques for handling situations and improving safety.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) department continues to build relationships in the community, including a potential partnership with Dr. Bronner's to provide vocational ESL training. ESL tutoring services are extending their hours to provide evening support during the spring semester. The ESL offices at all Education Centers, ESL Tutoring Center, ESL computer lab, ESL advisor offices, ESL part-time faculty office, and all full-time faculty offices have been provided with Know your Rights red cards that they can distribute to students. Classroom visits have been coordinated with campus police and the Cariño Dream Village to promote Know Your Rights training for students at all locations.

Arts, Media, and Business Administration Division

During the weekend of January 18-19, the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) held their regional conference and auditions at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Three Palomar College vocal students and two of the Palomar College voice faculty



had the pleasure of participating. Sherrie Sales (student of Professor Matt Fallesen) earned third place in her category (non-traditional adult classical) and Katherine Lawrence (student of Professor Katina Mitchell) earned second place in her category (lower college classical). Nicole Milling (student of Professor Katina Mitchell) placed in the top five, so she is eligible to submit a video for the national round auditions, as is Katherine. Unfortunately, there is no national round for Sherrie's category. Finally, Matt Fallesen presented a video lecture on "Personal Finance for Musicians."

Dual Enrollment

On February 6, there will be a campus forum to review the Dual Enrollment Strategic Plan. This will be a great opportunity for the campus community to provide input into the plan. This year, Dual Enrollment will be adding five new College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) agreements. These include agreements with Ramona Unified School District and four charter schools. Dual Enrollment will also be renewing four CCAP agreements with current partners. We look forward to the continued growth of this program to support students throughout our region.

STUDENT SERVICES

Palomar Promise Program

The Palomar Promise team implemented multiple targeted efforts to help increase spring registration. A series of phone campaigns were conducted to connect with Promise students who had not yet registered for spring classes, and those who did not have a spring education plan. These calls served as check-ins to remind students about Promise deadlines, offer support, and assess their needs. Students contacted during the phone and email campaigns were encouraged to schedule counseling appointments to receive personalized support in selecting classes that aligned with their academic goals. Several dedicated help sessions (virtually and in-person) were also offered to provide hands-on guidance and support with the registration process, ensuring Promise students completed their spring class enrollment efficiently.

As of January 21, a total of 2,270 Promise Year 1 and Year 2 students have maintained their eligibility from fall to spring; representing 80% program persistence from fall to spring for our Year 1 cohort and 85% program persistence from fall to spring for our Year 2 cohort.

Student Recruitment

The Office of Student Recruitment conducted tours for over 1,000 students in the first half of the academic year, with presentations and other events impacting over 5,000 prospective students. In December, high school applications grew by 47%. There were 34 scheduled recruitment activities for January, and requests for the spring are up significantly.

The annual Palomar College High School Counselor Conference will be held on the San Marcos Campus on Friday, March 14.

Student Services Communications Systems & Technology

On January 8, the Sexual Assault/Harassment prevention Title IX annual training for all Palomar College students was launched. Stakeholders specific to the implementation of the course auditor function within Highpoint were identified and the timeline was initiated for this project.

Manager Dr. Joseph Allen attended the Association of California Community College Administrators Mentee Program meeting in Sacramento. During flex week, a "Student Services: What, Where, When!" session was held. The session featured an overview of the



Division and online resources available to assist Palomar employees needing to direct students to the ideal department or source of information.

Student Life & Leadership, Associated Student Government (ASG) and Inter-Club Council (ICC)

Comet Welcome Days were held on January 27 and 28 in the Student Union Quad. This resource fair is a way to welcome students back to campus, spread awareness, and increase visibility of the programs and departments that are on campus and available to serve our students. Some of the campus partners that signed up included TRIO SSS, the Anita & Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center, Associated Student Government, Library, Counseling, Wellness and Fitness Center, and more.

Club Rush will be held on February 3 and 4 in the Student Union Quad. Clubs are already reinstating for the spring semester and will use Club Rush as a recruitment and student engagement opportunity. A significant number of clubs are planning to join. The first ICC meeting was held on January 31.

ASG attended planning meetings throughout the winter intersession with the Dean of Student Life and Leadership Dr. Amrik Johal and Supervisor for Student Life and Leadership Fabiola Hernandez to prepare for the Spring 2025 semester. Plans include Comet Hours and events, travel, the spring semester retreat, and shared governance committees. The first ASG meeting was held on January 31.

Basic Needs & Anita & Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center

Between December 13 and January 17, the Food and Nutrition Center proudly welcomed 21 new registrants, expanding its reach to 108 households, representing a total of 261 individuals with essential food and nutrition assistance. During this period, we distributed 2,037 pounds of fresh produce and grocery items, directly addressing food insecurity among our students and their families.

Through strengthened partnerships with the North County Food Bank and CalFresh, the Palomar College Basic Needs team continues to enhance its capacity to provide comprehensive support. These collaborations enable us to connect students with additional resources, empowering them to focus on their education without the burden of food insecurity.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

The Governor released his January budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2025. The Chancellor's Office provides a [succinct analysis of the state budget](#) and its impact on community colleges.

Facilities Department

Facilities Operations

Facilities contracted with Utility Cost Management (UCM) to identify savings opportunities with our utility providers. Changes were implemented to our accounts which are expected to reduce Palomar's ongoing utility costs. During our first quarter, we've saved over \$27,000 on our utility bills.

Construction & Facilities Planning

Construction on the 40,000-square-foot 2-story building at the Fallbrook Education Center is underway. Site mobilization is complete. Site demo and utility mark out for the new



building is complete. Domestic water, firewater and natural gas utilities have been rerouted and have been tied back into the existing systems. Stormwater is 95% complete and sewer system utility rerouting is in progress and should be done by the end of this week. Work on the new power and data utilities started the week of January 20.

Facilities Maintenance

The roof was replaced at the Student Health Center at the San Marcos campus. Duct work in the T Building is underway. The subfloor was replaced in classroom DA-2 and crawl space ventilation was installed in the DA Building. The HVAC and roof replacement project in the AA/ST building is progressing on schedule. The installation of a new room in the cafeteria is in progress. There will be minimal interruptions to food services, and it will remain open during the project.

Environmental Health & Safety

During the month of January, OSHA Construction 10 and Rodent/Pest Control training was provided to the facilities maintenance staff. The emergency evacuation plans and practice fire drills in 29 of 38 buildings across all 4 campuses are complete. This equates to a 79% completion rate. Evacuation drill training and implementation for Building M and O was completed last month.

Custodial Services

The detailing of classrooms at the Escondido Education Center is complete. Similar work is continuing at other district locations. At the San Marcos campus, carpets in the high-traffic areas of the LRC have been shampooed, a carpet cleaning project was completed at the Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS), and the Boehm Gallery's hard floor has been scrubbed and sealed.

Information Services (IS)

During the month of January, Information Services employees remained busy working on various operational and technical support tasks, as well as on numerous technology projects, initiatives, and tasks. Highlights in each area include the following:

Systems and Programming Team

The systems and programming team have been working with student services on the rollout of Title IX training for students. The team has also been applying patches and upgrades to Campus Solutions, submitting MIS reports to the Chancellor's Office, and has been working with payroll on applying tax updates.

Help Desk

The help desk continues to provide first-level support via phone calls and walk-ins. They have also been busy onboarding new employees and assisting with getting things ready for the spring semester.

Network and Data Center (NADC) Team

The NADC team upgraded the district Cisco VoIP phone system over the winter break to the latest version. With this upgrade, we fixed the voicemail system that sends new voicemail recordings to the users' email inbox. We have been working with facilities on the new construction at the Fallbrook Education Center and preparing new firewalls for the San Marcos campus and Fallbrook Education Center.

Technical Services and Audio-Visual (AV) Team

The technical services team has been busy getting student labs ready for the spring semester and assisting faculty and staff as needed.



HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Human Resources is excited to support the onboarding of new employees as we start the spring semester. The district has many key recruitments that we are confident will be filled over the course of the next few months, including the Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, Director of Information Services, and the Director, Financial Aid, Veterans, and Scholarship Services.

Members of the Human Resources team will be attending the Los Angeles Career Connect Job Fair (formally known as the California Community Colleges Registry Job Fair) on January 25. Our goal in attending job fair events such as this one is to recruit highly qualified candidates to Palomar College.

Negotiations

Negotiations with the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF) are ongoing and productive. We are making progress in reviewing and updating the handbooks for the Administrative Association (AA) and the Confidential and Supervisory Team (CAST). In addition, Human Resources is working with AA representatives to develop an evaluation tool that seeks input from faculty and staff.

Benefits

The benefits team is actively planning for the spring 2025 part-time faculty benefit open enrollment, which begins on February 11 and ends on March 3. The employee contributions for spring 2025 benefits begin on the March 2025 payroll.

The benefits team continues to support employees who were with Scripps Health providers as Anthem and Scripps could not reach an agreement prior to the January 1 deadline. Employees continue to have the same benefit plan structure. However, to seek care in-network, they need to contact Anthem to either switch to another in-network provider (ex: UCSD, Sharp, Palomar Health, etc.) or seek approval for continuation of care under Scripps Health.

Recruitment figures as of January 16, 2025

35 permanent recruitments in progress

- 9 – Admin/CAST
- 3 – Certificated/ECE Lab School
- 21 – Classified
- 2 – Faculty

54 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

DEIAA OFFICE

The DEIAA Office welcomes Alan Santistevan as our Tribal Liaison. He is excited to continue his work supporting community college students and to rebuild relationships with our local Tribal Nations.



Community Engagement

The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was honored by the Palomar community who participated in the 43rd annual MLK Parade in San Diego on January 19. Palomar College participated in the parade alongside our North County Higher Education Alliance (NCHEA) partners MiraCosta College and CSU San Marcos. The parade had participation from various high schools, community colleges, universities and youth organizations.



Palomar College employees at the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in San Diego

The North San Diego County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hosted their annual Dr. King Community Prayer Breakfast on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This event brought together community members, from organizational leaders to elected officials, to honor the principles Dr. King advocated for. The Palomar College Foundation sponsored a table at the event.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

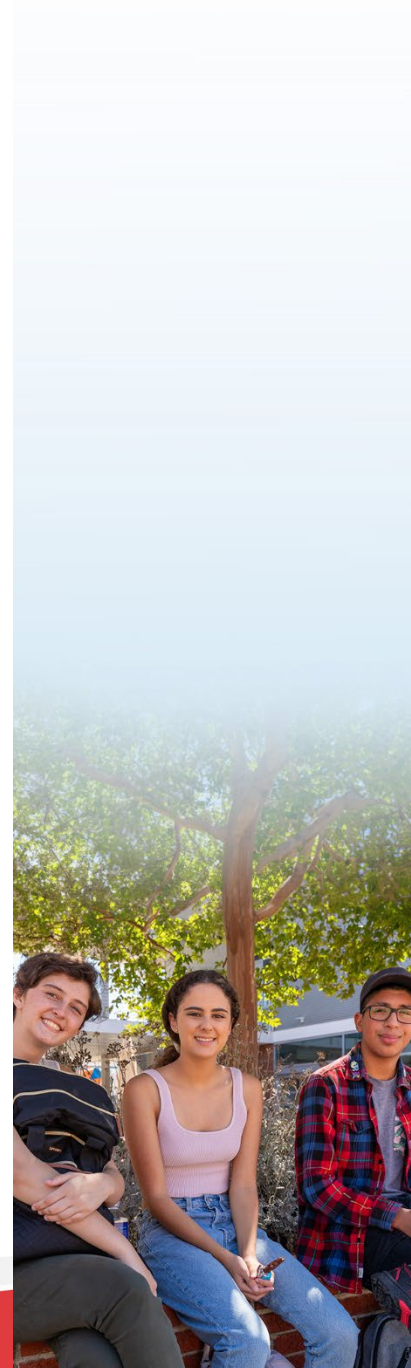
Work to complete the Palomar College midterm report is continuing. The college is piloting its upgraded student learning outcomes database, which enables faculty to review disaggregated assessment results and develop plans to address areas for improvement. Instructional Services is inviting several disciplines to participate in the spring pilot and provide summary reflections. This feedback will inform the midterm report required section on Student Learning Outcomes Assessment. The full report is slated for completion by the end of the spring term, with updates and revisions planned over the summer. In Fall 2025, the report will move through governance groups for review and recommendations.

Integrated Planning

On January 14, the California Community College Board of Governors approved our application to transition the Rancho Bernardo Education Center to full center status. While the site is recognized as an Education Center by the college's accrediting commission, this state-level approval makes it eligible for additional state-based funding upon reaching 1,000 FTES. This milestone enhances our ability to expand access, resources, and services to better meet the needs of the community.

Institutional Research

The Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) team is launching the new year with an ambitious spring research agenda. With more than 60 projects scheduled during the spring term, the team is sharing the results of the Spring 2024 Community College Survey of Student Engagement, completing the winter Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System (IPEDS) reporting, and updating the Program Review and Planning (PRP) data. Additionally, IRP&G is finalizing data for the Regional Dual Enrollment Data project. This initiative supports the California Community College Chancellor's Office Vision 2030 goal to expand dual enrollment opportunities for all high school students. Through the San Diego-Imperial Counties Regional Consortium, the region's community colleges annually provide aggregated course-level dual enrollment data, contributing to a publicly accessible dashboard.



This resource helps highlight dual enrollment trends across the region and supports the expansion of equitable, high-quality early college programs.

Grants

The Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) team continues to support the efforts of Palomar College to pursue and manage grants. The team recently published the Grant Handbook, a detailed guide to help college personnel identify, apply for, and manage grant funding opportunities. The handbook offers guidance on all aspects of the grant lifecycle, ensuring that college processes are clear and consistently followed. The process is outlined in the diagram.



Palomar College Grant Life Cycle Diagram

Work has also begun on the annual application to the U.S. Department of Education to confirm the eligibility of Palomar College for funding under Title III, Part F, or Title V. This process verifies that the College meets the program-specific requirements as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), ensuring eligibility to apply for federal funding designated for HSIs.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

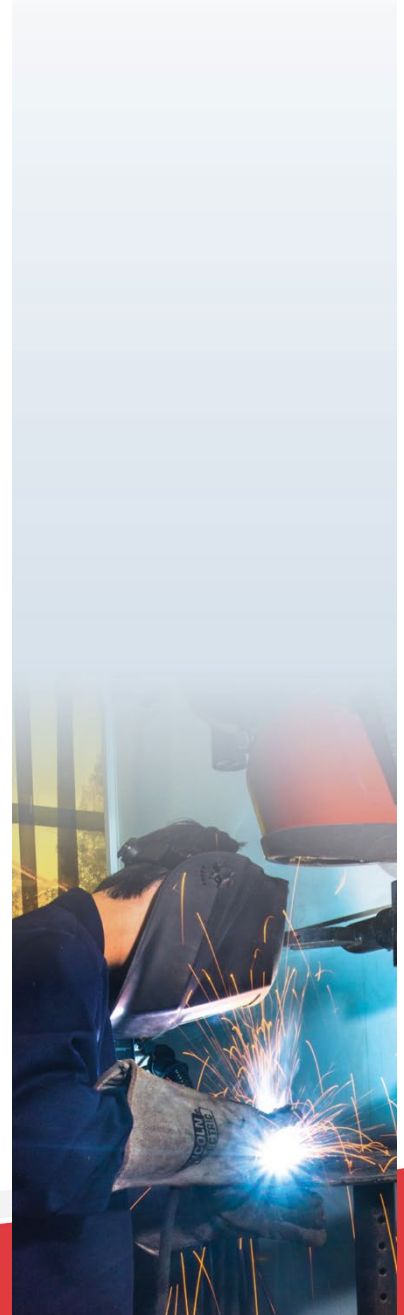
Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy inclusive of academic area advertising as well as brand-related enrollment-focused ads designed to support spring 2025 enrollment goals launched on November 4 and continued through January. This integrated digital advertising strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and the palomar.edu website. In December, the campaign generated over 488,000 impressions while remaining cost efficient.

In addition, to the digital strategy, the spring 2025 enrollment marketing campaign also includes direct mail delivery to 155,000 households within the district, community-centered digital and print advertising, our digital billboard, transit ads, and web streaming 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. A billboard on Highway 78 launched on January 13.

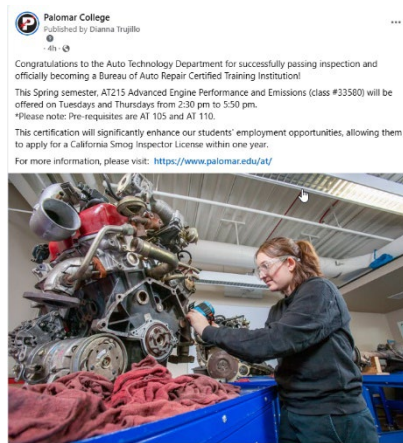
The Palomar.edu website experienced a decrease in users in January compared to the previous January, although the average engagement time was up 20%. Social media remains the 4th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, TikTok, LinkedIn, and X generated the majority 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.

Throughout January our social media posts centered on increasing awareness of spring 2025 registration, zero textbook cost courses, kudos to athletic teams, and campus activities.





Sample Social Media Post in January



Sample Social Media Post in January

A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms shows steady growth for all channels. The growth in both Facebook and X followers compared to last January was flat. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to January 2024. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 12%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 25% compared to the previous January.

Community and Media Relations

PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. The Public Affairs Office has already started to work with student reporters to provide information and schedule interviews for their stories.

The Public Affairs Office, in collaboration with colleagues in athletics, the foundation, facilities and information services, designed and hosted the grand opening event for the softball stadium. Community Liaison and Policy Aide Alyssa Formolo from County Supervisor Jim Desmond's office presented a certificate of recognition at the ceremony, as did San Marcos City Councilmember Danielle LeBlang. A media alert was issued to our media partners in advance of the grand opening and a post-event [press release](#) was also distributed. It was utilized by several of our local media outlets.



Community Liaison and Policy Aide Alyssa Formolo from County Supervisor Jim Desmond's office and Palomar College VP of Student Services Nick Mata at the grand opening of the softball stadium.

A press release regarding the selection of [the Palomar College Police Academy](#) to run a pilot program that will give greater emphasis to physical and mental fitness in training the state's future law enforcement officers was written and distributed on January 6. This story garnered the attention of local media outlets. This press release and that regarding the softball stadium grand opening are available on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received 171 media mentions in the first three weeks of January. This equates to a publicity market value of nearly \$156,000 for the District.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the monthly meetings of the San Diego Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA) and the Government Relations Liaisons meeting hosted by the Community College League of California (CCLC). She also issued



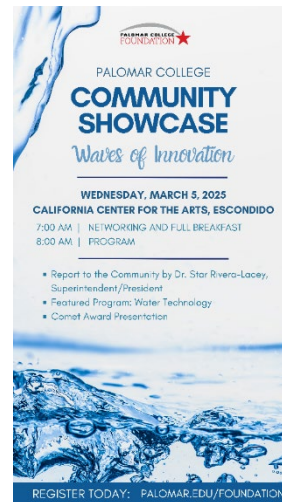
invitations to all Palomar College state legislators to join the SDICCCA delegation for a briefing during the CCLC Legislative Conference at the end of January. This campaign was successful, and the delegation will be meeting with a majority of legislators from the region. Similarly, congressional member offices were contacted for appointments during the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) conference in February. The conference and appointments will be attended by Palomar College Governing Board members, Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, and PIO Lanthier Bandy.

The Creative Services team has contributed to the design of the signage package for the Fallbrook Education Center. This is in addition to collateral items for the softball stadium opening, upcoming events, the promotional needs of the performing arts department and continued design work for the softball team locker room and outfield signage.

FOUNDATION

Palomar College Community Showcase

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. For more information, visit the [Community Showcase webpage](#).



Fundraising Activities

Scholarship Program

The Foundation is pleased to share several exciting updates regarding recent scholarship funding. In partnership with the Jewish Community Foundation, we obtained over \$49,000 in scholarships dedicated to supporting Rising Scholars (formerly incarcerated students) and students pursuing careers in the trades. Funding of \$8,500 was secured from the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation to support the Leota Peters Scholarship, designed to support first responders. The Theodore Kilman Scholarship received \$3,000 for continuation and to contribute toward building the corpus to endow the scholarship in perpetuity.

Additionally, the Foundation is proud to announce that in the spring semester we will award over \$32,000 in scholarships to students in our first responder programs.

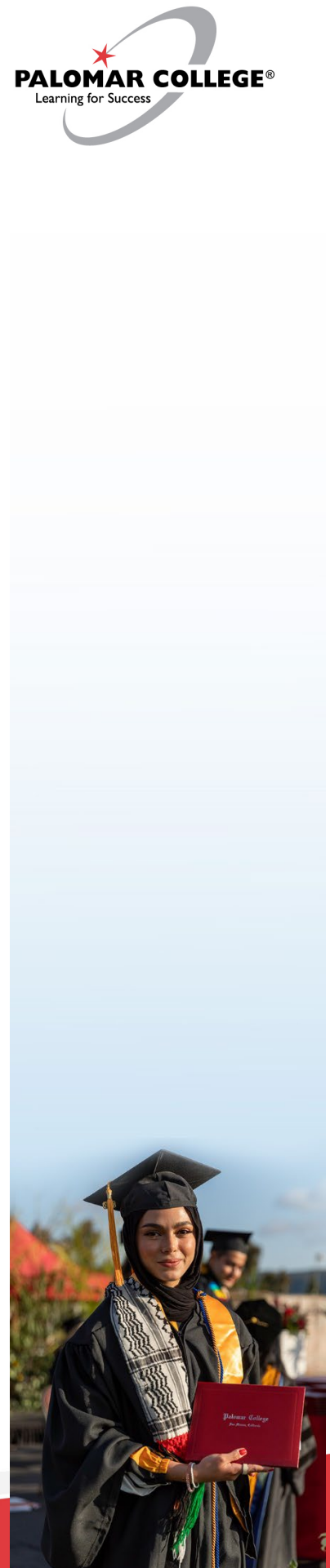
Grant Program

The Foundation is proud to announce the receipt of three significant grants at the close of December 2024. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors – District 5 awarded \$46,000 through the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program to fund the purchase of a cargo van for the Maag Food & Nutrition Center, as well as \$5,000 through the Community Enhancement Program to support Performing Arts outreach for middle and high school students. Furthermore, the Christensen Foundation provided a \$30,000 grant to support the Rising Scholars Program and the Foundation's Emergency Grant Program, doubling their largest previous contribution and underscoring the strength of our partnership.

The Foundation has submitted the semi-annual report for the San Diego District Attorney Community Grant, which was awarded in July 2024 for \$50,000 to support the Rising Scholars Program.

Donor Meetings

The Foundation was pleased to extend a warm welcome and provide a campus tour to Carol Gendel, President of the San Marcos Community Foundation. The SM Community



Foundation recently funded our request to support the revitalization of the radio system in the police academy program.

Foundation Board of Directors

The annual meeting of the Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors occurred on December 16. At this meeting, four new members were voted onto the board. In addition, the passing of the gavel from the 2024 and 2025 Chair of the Board, Will Rivera, to the 2025 and 2026 Chair, Richard Marks, occurred.

Community Engagement

Palomar College was represented at the MLK parade on Sunday, January 19 as well as the NAACP Prayer Breakfast on Monday, January 20.

