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April 4, 2025

PRESIDENT’S OFFICE

Baccalaureate Degree Progresses Toward Final Approval

Our provisionally-approved application for a Bachelor of Science in Building Performance and Environmental Design did not receive any intersegmental objections from the CSU Office of the Chancellor, University of California (UC) Office of the President, or the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities. This is great news as we proceed with our required substantive change submission to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Once we receive approval from ACCJC, the program will transition from conditional approval to full approval and be presented to the President of the Board of Governors of the California Community College System for final approval. Once approved, we will begin enrolling students for the first cohort projected to start in Fall 2026.

The Building Performance & Environmental Design degree is designed to equip the next generation of professionals with the expertise needed to create environmentally and socially responsible built environments. We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and leadership of our faculty, staff, and administrators who have made this opportunity a reality for our students.

Apprenticeship Celebration

In partnership with MAAC we celebrated the first cohort of the Next Level Early Care & Education (ECE) Apprenticeship Program. We recognized the hard work and dedication of 20 teacher apprentices, marking a significant milestone for this program and for the future of early childhood education in San Diego County. Through this innovative two-year program, teacher apprentices earn while they learn—completing college coursework through Palomar College while gaining paid, hands-on experience at a MAAC early learning center under the guidance of a mentor. Upon program completion, participants are qualified to apply for their Associate Teacher Permit and prepared for full-time employment working with children in our local communities. You can learn more about this program on our [Palomar News](#) website.



Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey at the MAAC/Palomar College apprenticeship program celebration.

A Successful Community Showcase

Over 310 elected officials, community and business leaders, faculty, staff and administrators enjoyed the Community Showcase on March 5. We received incredible feedback on our accomplishments, future goals and the connection Palomar College has to supporting the educational and workforce needs of our region. It was an honor to present the 2025 Comet Award to the family of Pete Rogers. Pete was a dedicated member of our Foundation Board and committed to the success of our students. I am particularly grateful to Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and the entire Foundation team for their tireless work and dedication to making the 2025 Community Showcase a success.



President Emeritus Dr. George Boggs, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Governing Board Secretary Yvette Marie Acosta, Governing Board President Jacqueline Kaiser, Student Trustee Reagan Barnum, Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, and Governing Board Trustee Dr. Judy Patacsil

2025 ACCT Governance Leadership Institute

Governing Board President Jacqueline Kaiser, Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley, Governing Board Trustee Dr. Judy Patacsil and I attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Governance Leadership Institute (GLI) from March 16 – March 18. The various workshops and general sessions provided best practices and practical insights to approach the challenges within community colleges and potential external impacts. I really appreciated the opportunity to connect with leaders from throughout the United States and discuss their approaches to continued enrollment growth and retention.

Student Engagement

Connecting with our students is the best part of my job and the English as a Second Language (ESL) scavenger hunt makes getting to know our students extra special. During the scavenger hunt students were able to practice their language skills while exploring our beautiful campus and engaging with various departments. While they visited the Office of the President, we talked about our educational journeys and how education is the key to their future success.

Strategic Partnerships

Palomar College has many partnerships throughout our district that align with our mission, vision, and values. These collaborations directly benefit our students and serve the needs of the region's workforce. I had the pleasure of meeting with Michelle Gonzalez, the President and CEO of TrueCare, a nonprofit healthcare provider serving North San Diego and South



Riverside Counties. TrueCare has been a great partner throughout the years. Our discussion included ways we can continue to expand our goals and objectives to best serve future students.

Recognition

On March 10, I joined Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel at the State Capitol and was honored to accept the State Assembly District 76 Distinguished Woman of the Year award. It was an incredible honor to be nominated among so many woman leaders in the region and extremely humbling to receive this award.



Assemblymember Heath Flora, Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel, Superintendent/President Dr. Rivera-Lacey, Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, and Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas.

Honoring a Legacy

The naming of the Palomar College baseball field to Bob Vetter Field was a great celebration of Coach Vetter's legacy. Coach Vetter was dedicated to the success of Palomar athletics and his commitment to student athletes was steadfast. Coach Vetter's family celebrated with 100 guests, and a win for Palomar baseball.



Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Student Trustee Reagan Barnum, and Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

During the month of March, Poway to Palomar Middle College (PPMC) held their annual PPMC Showcase at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center. The event provided an opportunity to engage with students at tables demonstrating the engagement efforts of their clubs and extracurricular activities, for students to showcase their musical and vocal talents, and celebrate the awards that students earned over the last year. The event was well attended and demonstrated the dedication of the Poway Unified School District and their efforts to support and



celebrate student achievement. The PPMC students also had a table promoting Palomar College classes and were sharing the positive experiences they had when taking the classes.

We are thrilled to report that our application for a Bachelor of Science in Building Performance and Environmental Design, which received provisional approval last month, did not receive any intersegmental objections and is now moving to the Board of Governors for final approval. As part of the process, work is underway for the required Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Substantive Change report and faculty are hard at work finalizing curriculum for our first upper-division courses. We look forward to starting our first baccalaureate program in fall 2026.

Languages and Literature Division

On March 8, we had 30 students from the Palomar College San Diego Mesa College ASL-English interpreting programs participate in a training opportunity to learn how to work with individuals who are DeafBlind. The students were joined by two DeafBlind brothers and their interpreters, who use Protactile and Tactile sign language. Both brothers are artists and shared their amazing art with the students, and they also participated in our guiding activity.

At the conclusion of the training, the students were excited to be able to converse with each of the brothers. The students are looking forward to incorporating their new skills at the CSU Northridge Technology Conference, where they are volunteering as Co-Navigators.

The World Languages Resource Center (WLRC) has been busy hosting several cultural events for students. Our professors have showcased the music and history of various countries, as students practice their language skills.

To better serve students the English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring hours have been extended to accommodate students taking evening classes and online tutoring sessions have been added. The ESL self-placement guide is almost ready to go live; the guide will make it easier for students to determine what classes they should pursue. In addition, Tracy Fung, AB-1705 Coordinator, led a very successful and inspiring professional development session for ESL faculty featuring a panel of current and former ESL students.



A poster promoting the March 14 ESL department's Sing and Learn Spanish event was designed to provide students to improve their language skills.

In terms of outreach and partnerships, our ESL Advisor and Matriculation Coordinator have been conducting high school visits to share information about our programs. We had a successful presentation at the Palomar College High School Counselor Conference on March 14. The department is working with the Child Development and Education department and MAAC/HeadStart on an apprenticeship program and expanding noncredit partnerships. In collaboration with the Emergency Medical Education program, a new ESL class called Workplace ESL: Medical Fields will soon be offered.

Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Division

Students who successfully completed 2,000 hours of early childhood classroom experience and earned their Associate Teacher Certificate from Palomar College were celebrated on March 3. The event drew over 160 attendees. Speakers included Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, and Professor Heather Pham, who recognized the students' dedication and highlighted the strong



partnership with MAAC that made this apprenticeship program a success.

In March, the Child Development & Education department, in partnership with Guitars in the Classroom and a grant from the Cushman Foundation, hosted an Early Childhood Education Music Leadership workshop. Attendees included staff, faculty, students, mentor teachers, and community members. Each received a free ukulele and a lesson on reintroducing live music to early education classrooms.



Palomar College staff, faculty, students, mentor teachers, and community members participated in the Guitars in the Classroom workshop.

On March 19, the faculty from the Child Development and Education department participated in a workshop on student retention. The session focused on practical, proactive strategies to enhance student engagement and success from day one. Professors explored best practices such as managing waitlists effectively, communicating with students before the semester starts, opening Canvas early, creating a welcoming online environment, and using Canvas tools to identify and support at-risk students.

Child Development and Education Professor and Service-Learning Coordinator, Gina Wilson, and the Service-Learning Team hosted the newest community partner, Let's Play A Game Foundation. The day focused on using play to connect people, inspire learning, and build stronger communities. The event brought together professors from the SBS division and students from the Psychology and Child Development departments to experience the foundation's mission in action.

The Early Childhood Education Lab School hosted an open house for prospective parents and families at both the San Marcos and Escondido Education Center sites. Both events were well attended, and families received tours and met with teachers and staff.

Professor Gwin coordinated the first Women's History Conference which occurred on March 19 and 20. The ten sessions explored an eclectic set of presentations including 19th Century Californian-Mexican Culinary History, Women's Veteran's History, Immigrant Latinas in Education, Women in the Arts including spoken word performances, and the History of Missing and Indigenous Women.

STUDENT SERVICES

Office of Student Recruitment (OSR)

The Office of Student Recruitment hosted the annual High School Counselor Conference on March 14. High school counselors and administrators from throughout the district and region were given updates on Palomar College and attended breakout sessions focused on Career and Technical Education. The event was a success due to the collaboration of faculty, staff, and students.



Over the past month, OSR has conducted 20 events which impacted 423 students, and provided 15 tours to a total of 159 students.

This spring, Palomar College will be participating in the California Reconnect program. Thanks to participation from Student Services, Institutional Research Planning & Grants, and the Office of Student Recruitment, 1,000 students who recently stopped or dropped out will be contacted with the goal of re-enrollment to achieve their degree or credential. This initiative will begin in May.

Systems, Technology & Projects

Manager of Student Services Communications, Systems and Technology, Joseph Allen attended the Vision Aligned Resources (VAR) Training on March 7. The team is coordinating with the Office of Instruction on modifications to the Palomar.edu website to improve search results and accessibility for [common course numbering](#). In addition, the team worked with the California Virtual Campus–Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI) staff to resolve challenges with the project.

Due to the temporary closure to make repairs to the Student Services Center roof and HVAC system, a signage and communication campaign was designed and implemented prior to the start of spring break. The campaign includes a “[Student Services Center Under Construction](#)” webpage, Canvas announcement, directional signage, and email and hard copy communications.

In collaboration with Information Services, Peoplesoft system updates and Highpoint patches and fixes are underway. The system improvements will be evaluated in early April and the improvements will be launched thereafter.

Student Life & Leadership, Associated Government, & Inter-Club Council

March was a dynamic month for Student Life & Leadership, filled with student engagement, advocacy, and collaboration. We hosted a Comet Hour event in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, providing an opportunity for students to connect and engage in a fun and festive atmosphere. Additionally, we collaborated with Health Services to promote essential student resources at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, ensuring students have access to the support they need.

A highlight of the month was our Associated Student Government (ASG) leaders’ trip to Washington, D.C., where they participated in legislative visits to advocate for the federal-level legislative priorities of community colleges. Our student leaders passionately championed issues such as increasing the Pell Grant award, ending the taxation of Pell Grants, and supporting H.R. 6585 Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act to expand workforce development opportunities. They also advocated for key education programs like TRIO programs, SEOG grants, and Federal Work-Study, as well as policies that provide support for Dreamers in higher education. During these visits, our representatives expressed the high-level impact of Rising Scholars and TRIO programs,



ASG Student Leaders visiting the U.S. Congressional and Senate Offices in Washington, D.C.



and how these programs help students acclimate to Palomar College ensuring student success.

Anita and Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center and Basic Needs

In March, the Anita and Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center expanded its services, registering 39 new participants and supporting a total of 239 households and 510 individuals. Through our food distribution efforts, we provided 5,180 pounds of fresh produce and grocery items. To further increase accessibility, our Grab-and-Go stations—located at 15 sites across the San Marcos campus—distributed 808 pounds of snacks, while campus fridges at the Escondido, Rancho Bernardo, and Fallbrook Education Centers supplied 215 pounds of fresh produce and snacks.

Hygiene and basic needs remained a priority, with 14 households receiving hygiene kits, 37 households accessing menstrual supplies, and 10 households receiving diapers. Beyond food and supplies, the Basic Needs team connected 9 students with housing referrals and assisted 7 students in applying for CalFresh benefits. Additionally, we continue to provide free clothing through Comet's Closet, ensuring students have access to essential resources that support their well-being.

To further expand support services, we established a new partnership with Doors of Change, a nonprofit dedicated to providing housing, education, and employment opportunities for homeless youth. This collaboration has already led to meaningful student assistance, including securing funding to support the transportation needs of students and in emergency rental support. By strengthening community partnerships and broadening available resources, we remain committed to addressing food insecurity, housing instability, and other essential needs that contribute to student success.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Facilities Department

Construction & Facilities Planning

The Athletics Phase 2 contracts were approved at the March 11 Governing Board meeting. Mobilization for the project is set to begin in early April, with construction expected to start by mid-April. The landscape project at the Fallbrook 40 site was successfully rebid in mid-March. This project is now on track for approval by the Governing Board in April, clearing the way for the next phase of its development.

On the sustainability front, Palomar College was selected as one of only five community college districts in the state to participate in a program with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). This partnership will assess feasibility and provide a conceptual design for a microgrid energy generation system, with the Fallbrook Education Center as the potential location for the system. We are still in the preliminary stages of this project, with a focus on data collection and analysis. It presents a significant promise for enhancing our sustainability efforts.

Environmental Health & Safety/Risk Management

Several routine inspections and assessments were completed this month. Annual fire alarm inspections and testing were completed in multiple buildings, including the student union, the food court/bookstore, pool area, and the M, CT, SW, G, O, and WFC buildings.

A total of 20 ergonomic assessments and consultations were completed, with necessary ergonomic installations and deliveries made to improve workplace comfort and safety. A total of 11 hazardous/biological/pathological waste collections, inventories, and shipments



were completed in accordance with safety protocols. Palomar College successfully completed the required 5-year property valuation inspection to ensure proper insurance coverage for the San Marcos campus.

Custodial Services

This month, the Custodial team has been working diligently to support various campus needs. This included the completion of furniture moves and cleaning tasks to assist with the temporary relocation of Student Services Center staff and counselors. In addition, custodians have been providing essential services for a variety of events, including the baseball field naming ceremony and performances at the Howard Brubeck Theater. With the spring semester now in full swing, the custodial staff has been focused on sustaining a clean and welcoming environment, to ensure all assigned buildings and restrooms are properly cleaned and maintained for the students, faculty, and staff.

Facilities Maintenance

Over the past month, several key projects have been successfully completed across various facilities. The installation of two new HVAC units at the Dome was completed on schedule, ensuring improved climate control for the space. Additionally, the replacement of one HVAC unit and the roof at the cafeteria has been finalized, addressing long-standing maintenance concerns and enhancing the building's energy efficiency. At the parking structure at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, the replacement of the power inverter was completed, restoring reliable power supply to the structure. Meanwhile, the interior painting of the FD building was completed, providing a refreshed and clean look to the space. Lastly, the installation of a new sink and cabinets in the EDGE Center was completed, improving the functionality and aesthetics of the room.

Business Services

In anticipation of the 2024-25 fiscal year end closing the deadlines for purchasing were distributed to all employees. These established deadlines ensure that purchases are complete with sufficient time to allow orders to be received at the district by June 30, 2025.

Business Services has been working on multiple Requests for Proposals (RFP) and bids, including the RFP for Managed Food and Vending Services. After proposals were evaluated and interviews were completed, a new vendor has been selected and will be presented at the Governing Board meeting on April 8. In addition, the RFP for Independent Auditing Services posted March 13, 2025, and it will close on April 7, 2025. On March 20, a bid for the San Marcos Campus Lot #12 Crosswalk Project opened and it will close on April 15. Lastly, an RFP for Digital Advertising Strategy Design, Implementation, and Management is in the development stage and is anticipated to open for proposals in April.

Information Services

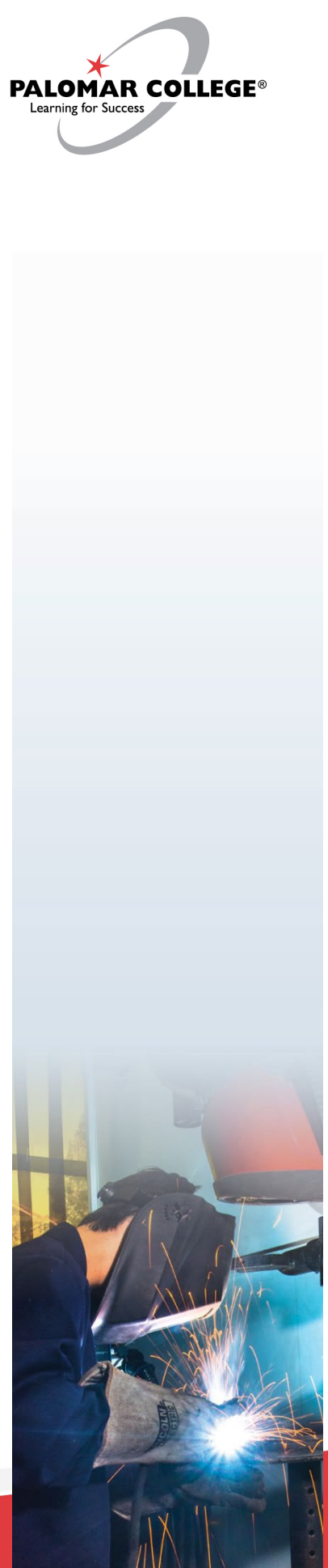
Our Information Services employees have been busy working on various operational and technical support tasks, as well as on numerous technology projects, initiatives, and tasks.

Help Desk

The Help Desk continues to provide first-level support via phone and walk-in visits. A standard operating procedures document and an update to the Help Desk phone menu to better support callers are both in progress.

Systems and Programming

The Systems and programming team has been working with student services on various projects including preparing for an upgrade to Campus Solutions which is scheduled for April.



Network and Data Center (NADC)

The NADC team managed a technology infrastructure upgrade at the Escondido Education Center during spring break. This upgrade replaced all network switches with current technology resulting in high speed bandwidth to the desktop. In addition, this project included the replacement of all telephone handsets at the Center.

Technical Services and Audio-Visual (AV)

The Technical Services team has been busy working alongside the facilities department on the technology portion of moving staff impacted by the HVAC replacement and roofing projects for both AA/ST and the Student Services Center.

Cybersecurity

The implementation of the Microsoft Multifactor Authentication (MFA) is continuing. To date 80% of the departments have transitioned over to MFA. All hourly employees, new hires, and emeritus retirees have also been transitioned. The newest Cybersecurity End Users Training package has been approved and assigned to all employees. A Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) risk assessment and NIST 800-171 gap analysis have been completed, and work will begin acting on areas of concern. A software/application approval process based on the Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Toolkit (HECVAT) is being developed for the district. HECVAT is a questionnaire that helps higher education professionals measure vendor risk and streamline procurement processes. It covers cybersecurity, privacy, and compliance standards.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

With a continued focus on hiring processes that streamline and shorten timelines as well as improve the experience for our new employees, Human Resources engaged with Student Services to explore ways to support the onboarding of our student employees and those who are awarded Federal Work-Study to expedite the time it takes to begin working and receiving funds.

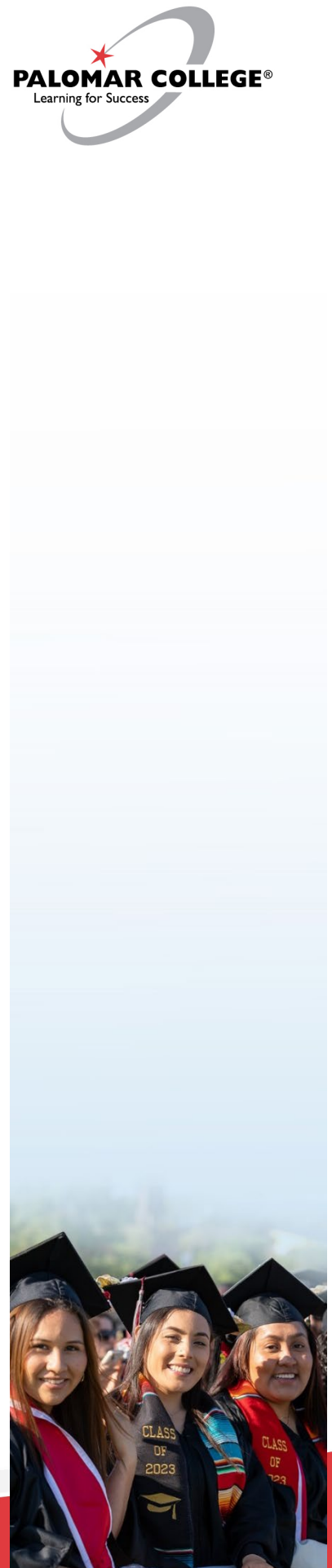
Additionally, in collaboration with the Internal Auditor and Finance, Human Resources has been updating the process by which Position Authorization Requests are routed, evaluated, and approved to better track and meet commitment accounting recommendations that were developed during the internal audit. The new process to submit Position Authorizations through PeopleAdmin will launch on March 31.

Benefits

The part-time faculty benefits open enrollment concluded on March 3. A total of 111 part-time faculty members enrolled for the spring 2025 semester, 62 chose the Kaiser program and 49 selected Anthem. This reflects a total increase of 7 members. Enrollment in the dental insurance program declined by 5 for an enrollment of 56 and the vision enrollment is 41, which decreased by 2 members. We appreciate the Palomar Faculty Federation's assistance in communicating with our part-time faculty colleagues to help make the open enrollment period successful. The benefits office and team life will host free biometric screenings for employees on April 8, there are 43 employees scheduled for these screenings.

Recruitment figures as of March 20:

- 29 permanent recruitments in progress
 - 10 – Admin/CAST
 - 3 – Certificated/ECE Lab School
 - 14 – Classified
 - 2 – Faculty



59 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

DEIAA OFFICE

Our colleagues from the Chancellor's Office Accessibility Center visited Palomar College and hosted several workshops to assist with the implementation of the Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (ACMM). The team is currently reviewing the information shared during the sessions and will provide benchmarks for future initiatives. Once these results come back, they will be shared at a College Council meeting and with all employees.

The San Diego/Imperial County Community College Association (SDICCCA) Distance Education Coordinators, Instructional Designers, and Canvas Admins collaborated to develop and implement AccessAbility Week. The event offered sessions designed to enhance the region's learning around accessibility.

The Rancho Bernardo Education Center was the host site for the San Diego Chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (SDAAWCC) Annual Summit. There were several awards presented to Palomar College colleagues in various categories. Administrator Awardee - Dr. Leslie Salas; Faculty Awardee - Dr. Kelly Falcone; Classified Professional Awardee - Cheryl Kearse; and Student Awardee – Lucia Romero.



San Diego Chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges award winners Cheryl Kearse, Lucia Romero, and Dr. Leslie Salas.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The college is preparing annual Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) reports. These reports are part of our commitment to the annual monitoring of performance. The 2025 Annual Fiscal Report provides fiscal trend data across a series of metrics. The 2025 Annual Report includes data on overall enrollment, distance education enrollment, and student success metrics, including the institution-set standards and stretch goals established by the college. Both reports are due on April 11.

Integrated Planning

The annual Program Review and Planning (PRP) Cycle was launched in late February and all instructional and non-instructional units are engaged in completing their PRP form. This process includes a comprehensive review and strategic planning cycle every four years, with annual updates to ensure continuous improvement. The PRP integrates data analysis, reflection, goal setting, outcome assessment, and resource requests, enabling programs and units to systematically evaluate their effectiveness and plan for future enhancements. For



career education programs, this process also incorporates labor market analysis, regional data review, and engagement with career and technical industry advisory committees to maintain relevance and alignment with workforce needs.

Institutional Research

It has been a busy and productive month for the Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) research team. The team recently finalized the results from last year's Program Services Survey and is distributing the report to all participating units. This work provides insights regarding the use of services to non-instructional units completing their PRP forms. The team is also preparing to administer the biennial Disabled Student Programs and Services survey as required by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

In addition to survey reporting, the team is completing the 2025 Annual Report for accreditation. Earlier this month, the Senior Director met with the Faculty Senate to provide an update on the college's institution-set standards and stretch goals. These goals include course success rates, degree completion, certificate completion, and transfer outcomes. After spring break, she will return to the Senate to review these metrics and determine whether any adjustments are necessary.

The IRP&G team is also in the process of updating the publicly available data dashboards. These updates include adding clear descriptions for each dashboard to improve accessibility and understanding for all users.

Finally, the research team is developing new metrics for inclusion in the college's annual Institutional Effectiveness Report to the Board. These new measures will focus on Return on Education and broader social mobility outcomes, reflecting the college's commitment to student success and long-term impact.

Grants

IRP&G submitted the 2025 fiscal year application package to request the designation of the district as an eligible institution to apply for funding under Titles III, V, and VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The team also attended the 2025 fiscal year Annual Grants Training provided by the National Grant Management Association. With close to 2,000 participants, training included updates to 2 CFR Part 200, also known as the Uniform Guidance, the primary regulation governing grants issued by the US Government.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The team is finalizing the media placements that will launch in May to support the summer and fall enrollment strategy. The Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy inclusive of academic area advertising as well as brand-related enrollment-focused ads designed to support enrollment goals continued through March. This integrated digital advertising strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and the palomar.edu website. In February, the campaign generated over 508,432 impressions while remaining cost-efficient. In collaboration with Business Services, we are preparing a Request for Proposal for a Digital Advertising Strategy Design, Implementation, and Management agency. This is a standard practice as the end of the contract with the current vendor is upcoming.

The Palomar.edu website experienced a slight decrease of 3,000 users in March compared to the previous March, although the average engagement time increased. Social media traffic to the website increased 10% over the previous March and remains the 4th ranked source of all



traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn generated the majority of the social media traffic. The other overall top channels of traffic to the website are direct traffic, organic search, and referral traffic.



A year-over-year performance comparison of growth within each of our social media platforms shows mixed results. The growth in both Facebook and X followers compared to last March was flat. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to March 2024. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 12%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 20% compared to the previous March.

Throughout March, our social media posts focused on increasing awareness of 4-week and 8-week courses, graduation deadlines, kudos to athletic teams and student athletes, the performing arts schedule, and campus activities.



Sample Social Media Post in March



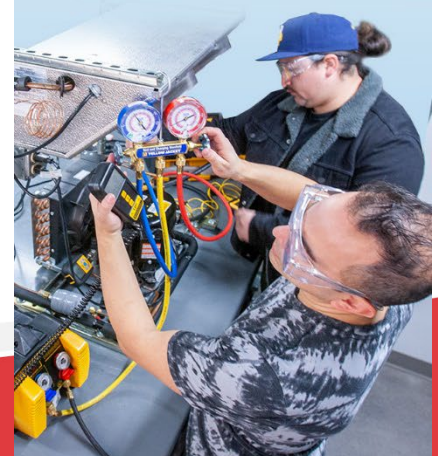
Sample Social Media Post in March

Community and Media Relations

The Public Affairs Office continues to work with student reporters to provide information and schedule interviews for their stories.

Three press releases were issued in March. One featured the [S & P Global Rating Service](#) affirmation of the District's AA General Obligation Bond Rating. The second was a joint release announcing the renewal of our partnership with [National University](#). The final release of the month celebrated Superintendent/President Dr. Rivera-Lacey being designated as the State Assembly District 76 [Distinguished Woman of the Year](#). These stories garnered the attention of national, regional, and local media outlets. A story on the completion of the first cohort of the [Early Care and Education Apprenticeship program](#) was posted to Palomar News. This story and press releases are available on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received 226 media mentions in the first three weeks of March. This equates to a publicity market value of over \$869,000 for the District.

PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee meeting and Board of Directors retreat. She also attended the Chamber's Rising Stars event which features three high school students and their inspirational stories of overcoming significant challenges along their educational journey. The event was attended by City of San Marcos Mayor and City Council members, the San Marcos Unified School District Superintendent, and representatives of U.S. Congressman Scott Peters, State Senator Brian Jones, and Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel.



Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the Government Relations Liaison meetings hosted by the Community College League of California (CCLC), and California Community College Chancellor's Office. In support of Associated Student Government (ASG) student leaders' trip to Washington D.C., PIO Lanthier Bandy scheduled meetings with staff members of all of the U.S. Congressional representatives and both U.S. Senate Offices. Students were able to engage with staff and discuss the legislative priorities of community colleges. In addition, she prepared and presented a training for the student leaders, inclusive of best practices and talking points in advance of their travel.

PIO Lanthier Bandy also worked with San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association Public Information Officers to prepare a request for an appropriation from Senator Alex Padilla and Senator Adam Schiff to support workforce development education and training programs in San Diego County.

The Creative Services team finalized the signage program for the Fallbrook Education Center, Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee Annual Report, and the required signage for the temporary relocation of departments within the Student Services Center. This is in addition to collateral items for upcoming events, course/program promotion, and the promotional needs of the performing arts department.

FOUNDATION

Palomar College Community Showcase – Report to the Community

The Palomar College Foundation hosted the 2025 Palomar College Community Showcase – *Waves of Innovation* on March 5 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Over 310 attendees, including community members, educational partners, and elected officials, gathered to celebrate the impact of education and philanthropy. Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Superintendent/President of Palomar College, delivered a Report to the Community, highlighting key achievements and initiatives. The event also featured the Palomar College Water Technology Program and its role in workforce development and sustainability. A key moment was the presentation of the 2025 Comet Award to honor Pete Rogers for his dedication to student success.

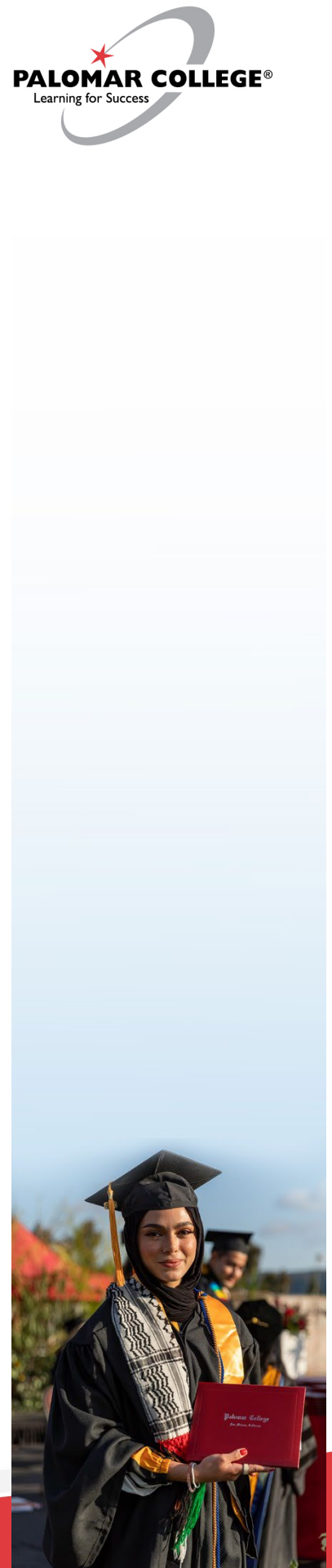


Foundation Board of Directors Chair Richard Marks, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Deborah Rogers, Zachary Rogers, and Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis

Fundraising Activities

Scholarship Program

March has been an exciting month for sustaining scholarship support from wonderful groups that have demonstrated a continued commitment to the mission of the foundation to remove financial barriers to student success. Through these close partnerships, the Foundation was able to secure a \$42,000 from the Assistance League of Inland North County for scholarships in Nursing, EME, and Trades. Through stewardship and the impact of individualized scholarship books, partnerships were strengthened as proven by the \$10,000 donation by Hal and Carol Needham to support students in the Trades programs.



We were also fortunate to have two nursing alumni who contributed to their scholarship with a \$4,000 donation, allowing us to continue to support students in this program. Finally, with the overwhelming support of our Comet Award recipient Pete Rogers, many have donated to the Pete Rogers Welding Scholarship.

Laptops & Emergency Grants for Students - Spring 2025

The Palomar College Foundation remains steadfast in its mission to remove financial barriers to education through its Laptop and Emergency Grant Program. During the spring 2025 semester, the Foundation has provided over \$12,000 in emergency grants to 49 students, ensuring they can continue their education despite unexpected financial challenges. Additionally, nine students received laptops, equipping them with essential technology to support their academic success.

Community Engagement

Palomar College hosted the San Diego County Boys & Girls Club annual event on the San Marcos campus on March 18. This event brought each of the nine Club's Youth of the Year to campus along with their families.

Vetter Field Naming Ceremony

On March 8, the Foundation hosted 100 guests at a VIP reception prior to the Palomar College baseball game. A pre-game ceremony occurred to dedicate the official naming of the baseball field as Bob Vetter Field.



Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Robby Vetter, Emily Vetter, Vice President of Student Services Nick Mata and Athletic Director Dan Lynds

