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May 9, 2025

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Districtwide Earth Day Celebration
In honor of Earth Day, nearly 60 students and employees took part in tree and shrub plantings at the San Marcos campus and at the education centers in Escondido and Rancho Bernardo, as well as a clean-up initiative at the Fallbrook Education Center. Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley joined the team at the Fallbrook Education Center and their efforts resulted in the collection of 37.2 lbs. of waste and recyclables at the Center, a surrounding trail, and the neighboring community. Earth Day activities concluded on April 25 with a cleanup of the Edwin and Frances Hunter Arboretum. The work included raking, planting, and thinning of plant material that was recycled for other uses. These activities were organized by the Palomar College Sustainability Task Force and will have a lasting impact on all of the sites.



Fallbrook Education Center Director Ryan Williams, Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly-Hamilton Bleakley, and Senior Education Center Coordinator Yvette Maynard at the Earth Day clean-up event at the Fallbrook Education Center.

Our Students are Our Purpose
Like enrollment growth, student success is a districtwide effort. As we continue to increase enrollment and identify new strategies to impact our future enrollment goals, our unrelenting focus on student success remains. At the first meeting of the Superintendent/President Student Advisory Council, the discussion emphasized that students are our purpose. Each student has their own inspirational story, and our daily interactions help them achieve their goals.



The first meeting of the Superintendent/President Student Advisory Council meeting.

Bringing Our Community Together

Congratulations to our union partners for a successful inaugural “Solidarity & Strength” festival on April 26. The festival hosted by the Council of Classified Employees (CCE, AFT Local 4522), the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF, AFT Local 6161), and Palomar College Associated Student Government, was designed to connect the community in a vibrant celebration of labor, freedom, and unity. Both Governing Board Trustees Roberto Rodriguez and Dr. Judy Patacsil joined me at the event. It was great to see our employees, their families and our students connect and enjoy the festivities.



Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and Governing Board Trustee Dr. Judy Patacsil at the Solidarity & Strength festival.

Regional Accreditation Workshop

The Regional Accreditation Workshop for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) was hosted at the Palomar College Rancho Bernardo Education Center on April 29. Community colleges have an incredible impact on our region and throughout California, and this workshop was a great opportunity to learn about the incredible work taking place at community colleges. We are always grateful to connect with colleagues and share best practices.

Celebrating Indigenous Culture and Art

I was joined by Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley at the Southern California Indigenous Culture & Art Festival in Escondido. It was a pleasure to connect with Escondido City Councilmember Judy Fitzgerald, the primary event organizer, and Chairman of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians Stephen Cope. The festival aims to uplift Indigenous artists and youth, and it encourages community involvement through sponsorships and volunteering. Many Native American community leaders and special guests shared their insights and stories.



Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley, Chairman of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians Stephen Cope and Escondido City Councilmember Judy Fitzgerald at the Indigenous Culture & Art Festival.



Increasing Awareness for Sexual Assault Prevention

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is a time for advocates, survivors, loved ones, and the community to come together to raise awareness, educate, and promote prevention efforts related to sexual violence. To aid in increasing awareness, the Palomar College Campus Police Department, and our Student Health Services Health Promotion team organized Denim Day on April 30. Denim Day is a worldwide campaign to fight against sexual violence. This resource event was designed to educate students and employees and to remind us of the importance of remaining proactive in educating others.



Palomar Campus Police Chief Chris Moore and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey on Denim Day

Supporting Our Future Students

I had the pleasure of speaking at the Vista Unified School District's graduation celebration for students who participated in the Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID is an in-school academic support program for 7th-12th grade students. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for college eligibility and success. It was inspiring to know that many of the graduates are planning to attend Palomar College in the fall.



Vista Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Matt Doyle, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, and Vista Unified School District Board Member Martha Alvarado.



Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, City of San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, and TRIO Project Director Nellie Martinez

Strategic Partnerships

Palomar College had the pleasure of supporting TrueCare, our healthcare industry partner, at their Illumination Gala on April 12. The event provides an opportunity to connect with elected officials and community leaders throughout the region. As a nonprofit



healthcare provider serving North San Diego and South Riverside Counties, our partnership with TrueCare is beneficial to our students as they seek opportunities to gain hands-on experience in the healthcare field.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

In April, the Vice President of Instruction attended the Chief Instructional Officer (CIO) conference, which provided valuable insight into the initiatives of the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), proposed legislation and the implementation process of approved policies throughout the state. Sessions at the conference also focused on Artificial Intelligence in Practice, Dual Enrollment, Attendance Accounting, Guided Pathways, and Short-Term Scheduling. As Palomar College is engaged in work and discussions around each of these subjects, the sessions provided opportunities to see how other colleges within the state are embedding this work into their institutions.

On April 25, the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Project team held their second on-campus convening at the Chairs and Directors meeting. The team presented an overview of their project, including deliverables and an implementation timeline. They also shared the roadshow that the team organized to provide multiple opportunities for students, staff, faculty, and administrators to provide input and feedback. The SEM team has done amazing work this academic year and we look forward to them showcasing their project at the STEM final convening in May.

Languages and Literature Division

American Sign Language (ASL) professors John O'Loughlin and David Hamilton, in collaboration with the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF), held a workshop for Palomar employees called "DEAFinitely Inclusive: ASL for Everyday Interactions at Palomar." They covered basic ASL signs and phrases, as well as aspects of Deaf culture. Participants also received a bookmark that included a link to practice videos that Professors Hamilton and O'Loughlin created.

The Palomar Speech and Debate Team returned from the Phi Rho Pi National Speech Tournament in Norfolk, Virginia. Fifty-one community colleges and over 400 students from across the nation competed in the six-day event. The team won seven medals in their respective categories. Milos Vuskovic and Rachael Shepard each won bronze medals in extemporaneous speaking and IPDA debate categories. Dia Hill earned a bronze medal in impromptu speaking. Kat Caldwell won a gold medal in IPDA debate and in the impromptu speaking categories, making her the top speaker in the nation at this event. The team had a wonderful year which included winning 50 trophies during the 2024-2025 tournament season.

World Languages held another successful Cafe International event on April 22. The theme this semester was the environment, and students had the chance to play games, learn Latin dances, make flowers, and enjoy some wonderful food from around the world.



Palomar College students enjoying the Cafe International event.



The English as a Second Language (ESL) department, with support from the Palomar College Foundation and the Palomar Faculty Federation, created over 100 care packages to donate to the Cariño Dream Village to give to students impacted by changes in immigration.

The (ESL) department held a faculty professional development opportunity featuring a student panel focused on how students can be better served and supported. The students spoke eloquently and shared from their hearts, and it was very moving. The department continues to provide orientations and outreach opportunities in our communities, including high schools, the Avocado festival, and more. The department started an 8-week contract education course (not for credit) at Dr. Bronner's and completed curriculum for a new Vocational ESL class to support students in the medical fields. Kelly Falcone hosted a special ESL Accessibility workshop to help faculty make minor changes to daily habits in order to provide more inclusive spaces for our students.



ESL department faculty, staff, and administrators displaying the care packages for students impacted by immigration changes.

Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) Division

On April 11, the Math department hosted Math Innovation Day. The event was a collaborative effort between Palomar College, MiraCosta College, and CSU San Marcos, with support through a grant from the North County Higher Education Alliance

(NCHEA). The event was designed to be a professional development day focused on mathematics education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Topics included Equity in the Math Classroom and the ICUCARE Framework, presented by Dr. Pamela Seda. Math DEIA strategies through hip hop, art, sushi, and dance, were presented by Dr. Roberto Rubalcaba, and transformative research on classroom instruction in postsecondary mathematics were presented by Dr. Daniel Reinholz. This was a fantastic opportunity for faculty and staff to network and collaborate with leading equity scholars in the field.



Palomar College, MiraCosta College and CSU San Marcos faculty and employees participate in Math Innovation Day.



Earth Sciences Professor Nina Shmorhun and 17 Palomar College students at a field trip to Joshua Tree National Park and the Salton Sea.

Earth Sciences Professor Nina Shmorhun travelled with 17 students to explore the geology of Joshua Tree National Park and the Salton Sea during a field trip. Over four days, students had the



opportunity to camp underneath the stars, learn about two billion years of geologic history of the region, explore the ongoing movement of the San Andreas fault, explore the diverse flora/fauna of the region, and learn about the Indigenous history of Joshua Tree.

The Nursing Career Fair was held on April 10 and offered final-year nursing students a valuable opportunity to explore various career paths, connect with hiring organizations and agencies, and learn about RN-BSN programs. Faculty from the nursing department conducted mock interviews to help students develop their professional communication skills and build confidence for real-world interviews after graduation. Additionally, the faculty reviewed students' résumés and provided feedback to strengthen their application materials, including cover letters and other supporting documents.



Nursing students participate in the Nursing Career Fair on April 10.

Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Division

The Palomar College Child Development faculty were invited to Sacramento by the California Early Childhood Mentor Program (CECMP) to share strategies for strengthening partnerships with the local early childhood education (ECE) community. This recognition highlights Palomar's dedication to connecting students, mentor teachers, and early childhood centers—bridging academic learning with real-world application and preparing a passionate, well-equipped ECE workforce.

On April 10, the department hosted a student-focused workshop titled *Mindfulness for Future Educators*. Twenty-two participants, including faculty, students, and teachers from Palomar's ECE Lab School, explored techniques to manage stress, improve focus, and cultivate positive learning environments for children.

In addition, the Early Childhood Education Lab School sites in San Marcos and Escondido recently received five-star ratings—the highest possible—through the California State Preschool Program (CSPP). This evaluation was conducted as part of the San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI), a quality improvement system that supports early learning providers serving children from birth to age five. Funded by Quality Counts California and First 5 San Diego, SDQPI provides personalized coaching for site leaders, professional development for staff, peer networking through Communities of Practice, and access to stipends as available. This adult-focused model strengthens educator effectiveness, directly benefiting the children in their care. This top rating affirms our commitment to delivering high-quality early education and continuously enhancing learning environments for young children.

On April 11, ninety-seven faculty and students from Palomar College, MiraCosta College, and CSU San Marcos participated in the NCHEA-sponsored César Chávez Day of Service. Organized in part by Palomar Service Learning Coordinators Angela Kong and Gina Wilson, the event began with a keynote by Palomar College Ethnic Studies professor Angélica Yañez and included volunteer work at five nonprofit organizations in north county.



Arts, Media, Business Administration Division

The Latin Nights performance was held on April 18. The evening began with a salsa class, open dance floor with a live band, and informal performances by Agogo, the Afro-Cuban and Brazilian Drum and Dance Ensemble, and World Drum and Dance Students.

Monica Garcia, a Palomar College journalism student won the Debra Stephens Scholarship from the San Diego Association of Black Journalists (SDABJ) at the awards banquet on April 11. She earned the \$1,500 scholarship to cover tuition after submitting a 300-word essay and interviewing with the SDABJ board. Garcia, the Arts and Culture editor for The Telescope, has been accepted into four universities with journalism programs and is deciding between San Diego State University and CSU Long Beach.



Monica Garcia, a Palomar College journalism student, accepting a scholarship from the San Diego Association of Black Journalists.

Griselda Garcia, Photo Editor for The Telescope, was accepted to study abroad in Arles, France, this summer through IEI Media's The Arles Project 2025. With only 18 spots available, she underwent a rigorous selection process. Garcia will work on international reporting and photography in partnership with the University of Jamestown, study French, and create a story or photo essay on local events or news. Participants will stay with host families during the trip.

On April 19, the Performance Lab hosted two showings of "Ride the Cyclone," a student-produced play written by Jacob Richmond and Brooke Maxwell and directed by Benjamin Demi-Paris. The story revolves around The Amazing Karnak, a fortune-telling machine that predicts deaths, and a high school choir killed in a rollercoaster accident. In the afterlife, Karnak offers one choir member a chance to be revived. The six choir members compete through various songs to prove why they deserve to live again. This joyous exploration of the unknown invites audiences to *Ride the Cyclone*.

Dual Enrollment

The Poway to Palomar Middle College held its first annual Apprenticeship Fair in partnership with Palomar College at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center on April 4. Nineteen apprenticeship programs and companies tabled the event with 92 students in attendance.

The Middle College at Orange Glen (MC@OG), in partnership with the Palomar College Dual Enrollment program, welcomed its fifth cohort during the annual parent and student orientation, offered in both Spanish and English. This year, MC@OG is admitting its largest class to date with potentially 115 students starting in the 9th grade.

Career Technical and Extended Education Division

On April 24, the division of Career Technical and Extended Education welcomed 235 students from partner high schools and adult education programs for an immersive career exploration, the "Women in Trades" event. Visitors included 82 students from local high schools and 153 from K-12 adult schools across the region. Guided by Palomar staff and ambassadors, participants engaged in hands-on experiences across multiple technical disciplines. Automotive, HVAC, Welding, Water, and Cabinetry and Furniture Technology programs showcased specialized industry equipment and student projects.



The Administration of Justice and Emergency Medicine Education departments demonstrated professional techniques and specialized equipment. Highlights included a live emergency response demonstration by a Mercy Air helicopter team and an opportunity to engage with the San Marcos Fire Department and the Palomar College Emergency Medicine Education faculty. The Drone Technology program featured a special presentation with industry partner SDG&E to illustrate real-world applications of drone technology.

Over lunch, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and Assistant Superintendent/VP of Instruction Dr. Tina Recalde welcomed the visitors and shared their own education and career journeys. The event spotlighted female professionals throughout the programs, challenging persistent stereotypes while inspiring students of all backgrounds to consider diverse career paths. The day concluded with a student panel featuring current Palomar College and former adult education students sharing their educational paths and career aspirations.

STUDENT SERVICES

Office for Student Success

Black Student Success Week took place April 21-25 as part of a statewide initiative to celebrate and advocate for the success of Black students within California Community Colleges. This annual event serves as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the academic well-being of all historically underserved students, with a special focus on Black and African American students.

This year's theme, Lift Up, Level Up: The Rise of Black-Serving Institutions, emphasized the importance of empowering students while highlighting the growing impact of Black-Serving Institutions. During the week, live webinars offered valuable tools and strategies to support student success, while in-person workshops showcased our campus-specific programs and resources.

In partnership with Career Services, a panel discussion "Building Legacy: Business Pathway Career" was hosted and featured Black business professionals Eric Hellon, Mercedes Tiggs, and Roosevelt Williams III. They shared their personal and professional journeys, offering inspiring insights into the world of business. To further support career readiness, Career Services also provided one-on-one resume reviews and personalized feedback to help students prepare for the upcoming Business Pathway Career Fair.

Additionally, students from our UMOJA program shared their experiences visiting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), offering both inspiration and valuable insight for those considering HBCUs as part of their educational journey.

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center (SHC) has been treating students for various health concerns. There is a flu and cold bug going around as well as a few Covid cases. Free Covid tests are available in the SHC for students.



A pictorial of images from Black Student Success Week activities.



The Student Health Center medical providers will be supporting a Demin Day event on April 30 in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Narcan training (SB 367) continues to be offered with a free dose of Narcan distributed to the student/staff upon completion of the training. We are working with Professional Development to make the training available to all employees via Zoom. Free fentanyl test strips (AB 461) and drink test strips (SB 1013) are available to our students.

Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS) and Health Promotions

Behavioral Health Counseling has been busy with student therapy sessions and assisting students navigate through this stressful time of mid-terms. The BHCS interns are finishing their internships. They have been invaluable over this academic year to support and provide counseling services to our students. A new cohort of interns will be joining BHCS in the fall semester.

The health promotions team offered various skills shops, outreach programs and events throughout the month of April. Topics included: “Coping with Anxiety,” “Understanding Depression and Suicide,” “Healthy Relationships,” an Earth Day Resource Fair, and “Mindfulness Through Vision Boards.”

BHCS is preparing and planning for Mental Health Month in May. A kickoff event will be held on May 2 in collaboration with our community partner, TrueCare. Breakfast and lunch items will be offered along with drinks and swag. In addition, a keynote speaker will share his experience surviving a suicide attempt.

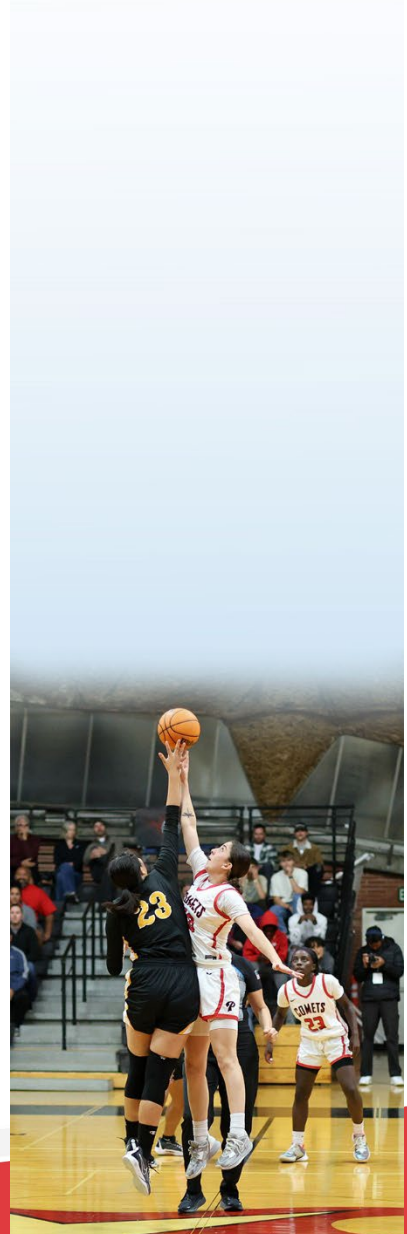
Student Life & Leadership (SL&L), Associated Student Government (ASG), and Inter-Club Council

Grad Fest brought together students preparing for graduation to celebrate and access important commencement information and resources. The ASG Candidate Forum offered students the opportunity to meet their student government candidates and ask questions before voting in May, further promoting civic engagement on campus. We are thrilled to report that our student engagement has not only increased, but we have surpassed the number of active student clubs from last year, boasting an impressive 36 active student clubs this spring.

Commencement is May 23, and planning is well underway as we look to host the first-ever ceremony at the new football stadium. This is a campuswide effort that will make this special moment memorable for our graduates and their loved ones.

There have been a wide range of student activities throughout the month, including a mid-semester Club Rush, resource fairs, advocacy, and a strong push for ASG Elections season. SL&L started the month with our Associated Student Government (ASG) leaders attending this year’s Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) General Assembly in Los Angeles. Student leaders discussed and voted on important resolutions that will be reviewed by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office. They also had the opportunity to attend workshops and develop leadership skills and build professional connections with other student leadership groups and organizations.

Access and Engagement Extended Hours events in collaboration with Behavioral Health and Basic Needs were held. The events are designed to increase awareness of expanded campus services for English as a Second Language (ESL) and non-traditional students. These were hosted at our Escondido Education Center and San Marcos campus. Students were informed of the availability of basic needs support; and ASG Elections/Club Rush helped boost engagement and candidate visibility. We also hosted an Earth Day-themed Comet



Hour focused on sustainability and mental health awareness.

Basic Needs

Thanks to a generous donation secured by the Palomar College Foundation, a new cargo van was purchased for the Basic Needs program. This essential addition will significantly expand our ability to support students throughout the district, increase the volume of food and supplies we can pick up each week, and enhance both the quantity and quality of the fresh food and resources we provide.

In April, the Anita and Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center (FNC) continued to grow its impact. We welcomed 51 new students and supported a total of 277 households, serving 560 individuals. Through our food distribution efforts, we provided 5,232 pounds of fresh produce and grocery items to students and their families.

The FNC is now an official Feeding San Diego-approved site. This new partnership will provide expanded access to surplus food from local grocery stores and restaurants, as well as a new food bank and delivery options to enhance our services.

To further increase accessibility, our Grab-and-Go stations—located at 15 sites across the San Marcos campus—distributed 624 pounds of snacks, while our stations at the Escondido, Rancho Bernardo, and Fallbrook Education Centers provided an additional 200 pounds of fresh produce and snacks. In addition to food assistance, we remained committed to meeting the basic needs of our students, distributing hygiene kits to 35 individuals, period supplies to 101 individuals, and diapers and baby wipes to 37 individuals. Our team also connected 11 students with housing referrals and supported 8 students in applying for CalFresh benefits.

Comet's Closet, which provides free clothing to students, remains a valuable resource. One of our valued partners, Shariah's Closet, donated over 12 bags of clothing, including full suits, professional attire, and several mannequins, expanding the variety of clothing available to students.

On April 10, the Basic Needs team participated in the Palomar College Escondido Education Center Resource Fair in collaboration with Behavioral Health Counseling Services, Student Health Services, and the Access & Engagement Center. We partnered with TrueCare, who provided onsite support to students regarding CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and Covered California programs. We also hosted several pop-up farmers' markets offering free produce and staple food items. During these outreach efforts, including participation in the ASG's Earth Day celebration, we registered 104 new students for food and basic needs services.

Rising Scholars

As part of their work-based learning course, Rising Scholars co-hosted a resource fair and screening and panel discussion of *The Strike* at CSU San Marcos on April 5. The event was sponsored by Rising Scholars and Student Equity and Achievement, Cal State San Marcos Project Rebound, USD Torero Urban Scholars, and MiraCosta College Transitions Scholars. Nearly 300 people attended the event.

On April 15, the Rising Scholars collaborated with regional educational and workforce organizations as part of the San Diego Reentry Roundtable Education Subcommittee-sponsored Zoom symposium, *Education for Empowerment*. Eighty-two people attended, and speakers talked about pathways to higher education, careers, and graduate school for formerly incarcerated students.

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) is hosting its annual Spring Plenary Session in Irvine, at which time the PCTV-produced and Emmy-winning



documentary *Almost Home: Life After Incarceration* will be screened. Two program staff will travel with four students to appear on a post-screening panel, where formerly incarcerated students will share their perspectives on rehabilitation through education. Faculty leaders from across the state will attend and learn how Palomar College has established a best-in-class program for formerly incarcerated students.

TRIO Talent Search and North County Education Opportunity Center (NCEOC)

Seventy students were invited to participate in a college and career exploration trip over spring break. The students visited Cal Poly Pomona, where the TRIO Upward Bound program graciously hosted a campus tour. They shared valuable insights about the different pathways to postsecondary education, which was incredibly helpful and inspiring for our students.

Following the campus visit, students had the opportunity to tour Warner Brothers Studios. The students had a great time learning about career options in the film industry, including welding, carpentry, lighting and set design, and production—expanding their view of what's possible beyond traditional careers.

In addition to the field trips, TRiO Education Talent Search has been actively hosting outreach nights at the Escondido Education Center and at Vista Unified School District sites. These events are helping us share program information with students and parents, and ensure we reach our funded numbers for students served.

NCEOC is excited to share that the Annual Performance Report (APR) portal is now open, and we are ready to submit our report. The NCEOC team also participated in the Fallbrook Avocado Festival this month, where we connected with the community and shared program resources to support outreach in the Fallbrook area.

Student Services Systems, Technology, and Projects

Information Services successfully refreshed PeopleSoft and HighPoint with PeopleSoft Update Manager Image 34 (PUM34) and HighPoint updates for our production environment with minimal issues. We provided our partner institution, National University, with the data agreement information for scholarship and pathway communication.

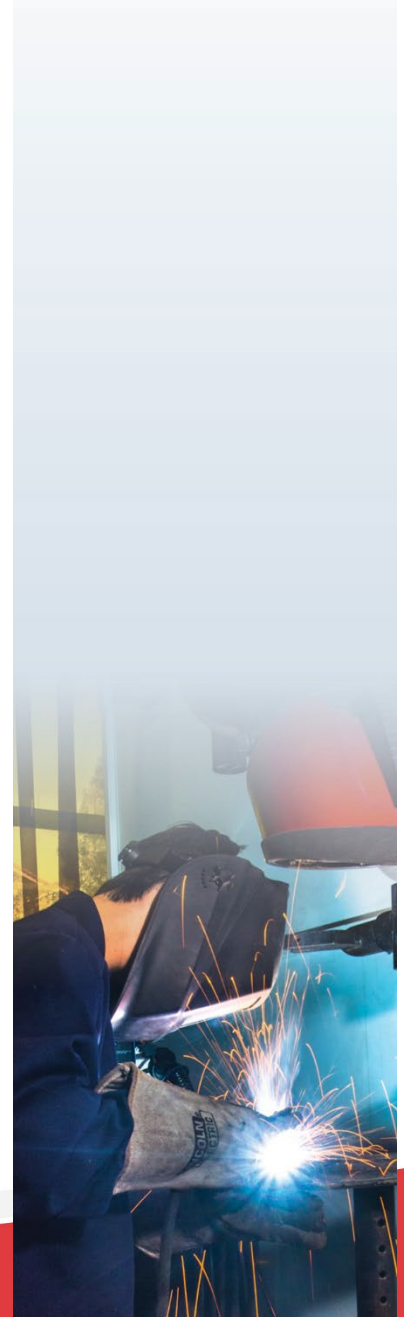
Information was sent to 2025 graduates of the upcoming celebration events for Mahafali, APAHE, and La Raza. Emails were also sent to incoming students to assist in recruiting for the next Puente cohort.

We published ESL placement rules in a production environment for students and the ESL department. In collaboration with the Office of Instruction, an update to the Common Course Numbering (CCN) website was completed, resulting in searchability for expanded CCN listing. We developed and published a centralized password and technology help resources webpage for students.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

After completing the bid process, a new auditor was identified and will be recommended to the Governing Board in May for approval. CWDL is a regional CPA firm located in San Diego and currently audits over 30% of the community college districts in California. The Partners at CWDL currently manage the audits of over 35 community college districts, 30



Proposition 39 bond audits, 45-auxiliaries, and non-profits, and over 100 school districts throughout California and Arizona.

SAP Concur, a software service company providing travel and expense management services to businesses, will be used in combination with the California State Department of General Services travel program to refine our travel expense processes. We will be taking advantage of statewide negotiated discounts for flights, hotels, and rental cars, and automating our expense account process.

Business Services

Business Services finalized the public bidding process for the Parking Lot 12 crosswalk project. The award of this bid is on the Governing Board agenda in May for approval. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was completed for district audit services, with the award recommendation also on the Governing Board agenda in May for approval. Additionally, the department has advertised an RFP that is actively now seeking proposals for Digital Advertising Strategy Design, Implementation, and Management. This RFP closes on May 21, 2025, and will be brought to the Governing Board for approval once the evaluation committee determines the outcome.

In planning for the close of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Business Services developed a year-end deadline list for districtwide distribution. This list of purchasing deadlines includes May 2 as the final date for submitting requisitions for items to be received by June 30. Purchases received after this fiscal close date will be paid from the 2025-2026 budget funds.

Facilities Department

Facilities contracted with Utility Cost Management (UCM) to identify cost-saving opportunities with utility providers. As a result, changes were implemented across various accounts, which are expected to reduce ongoing utility expenses. In the second quarter alone, the college saved over \$46,000 on utility bills, bringing the total savings for the fiscal year to nearly \$74,000.

Construction & Facilities Planning

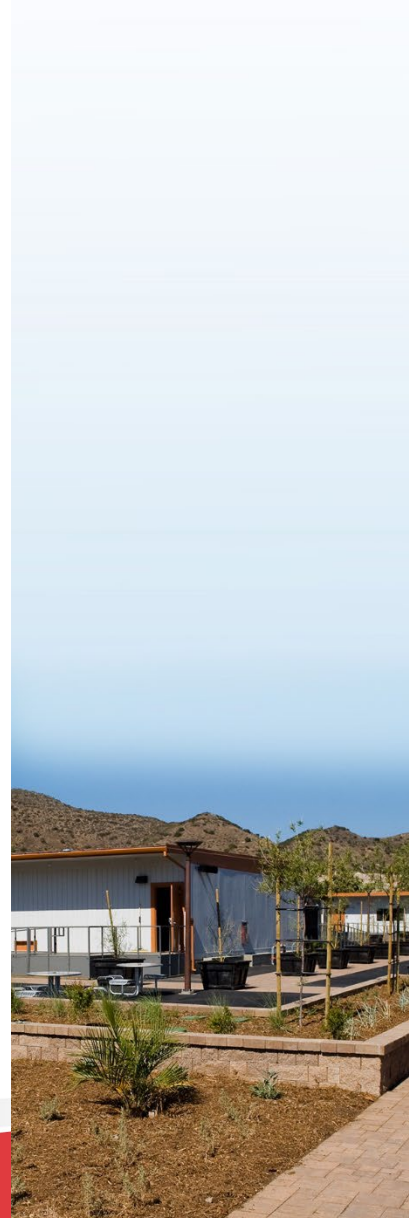
The Athletics Phase 2 project has officially been mobilized, and construction began on the 18-month project located at the north end of the new football stadium. In celebration of Earth Day, the Sustainability Task Force helped organize a series of events, including tree and shrub planting, as well as campus cleanup activities at the San Marcos campus and the three Education Centers.

Environmental Health & Safety/Risk Management (EH&S/RM)

Ergonomic assessments and workspace reconfigurations were carried out for employees during their relocation from the SSC building to the FD building. This process also included performing risk assessments to identify safety hazards and provide recommendations for corrective actions. A presentation outlining EH&S/RM programs and hazard reporting procedures was developed for the monthly New Hire Orientation hosted by Human Resource Services. Additionally, a user guide was created to help employees access a new online safety data sheet inventory system, and a training schedule for relevant employees is in development. Furthermore, EH&S/RM staff participated in a series of professional development training sessions to enhance their skills and knowledge in their respective fields.

Custodial Services

Custodial Services has been highly active over the past month, supporting one of the busiest seasons for events. Notable highlights include the Spring College Fair, Math Innovation Day, Latin Nights, Earth Day celebrations, Paths to Palomar, the Solidarity and Strength Festival,



and numerous other events. In addition to these special events, custodial staff have consistently fulfilled their daily responsibilities, ensuring that classrooms, offices, restrooms, and common areas across all campuses were cleaned, sanitized, and well-maintained.

Facilities Maintenance

Building Services coordinated several significant projects this month, including the demolition of ceilings and walls in room P32, the removal of HVAC units and replacement of the roof at the SSC building, and the installation of a new shower area and restroom in the former Campus Police space, which is being repurposed as the future home of the Basic Needs Center. In addition, the grounds services team supported the Arboretum Clean-Up Day, contributing to the ongoing maintenance and beautification of campus green spaces.

Campus Police

Chief Moore attended the spring conference of Cal College and University Chiefs Association. The featured speaker was San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan. Topics on the unhoused, technology and mental health were featured.

An earthquake was experienced on campus. Chief Moore served as the incident commander and worked with the PIO for campus messaging. He attended an after-action meeting with Environmental Health & Safety.

As a member of the 30x30 pledge to increase female representation in policing, Chief Moore hosted female officers, CSO's and professional staff at the San Diego Police Foundation Women in Blue. The annual event showcases pioneering women in roles at San Diego Police. The event was featured on our social media platforms. On April 23 Chief Moore served as a representative on the DRC and Administration of Justice Advisory Boards.

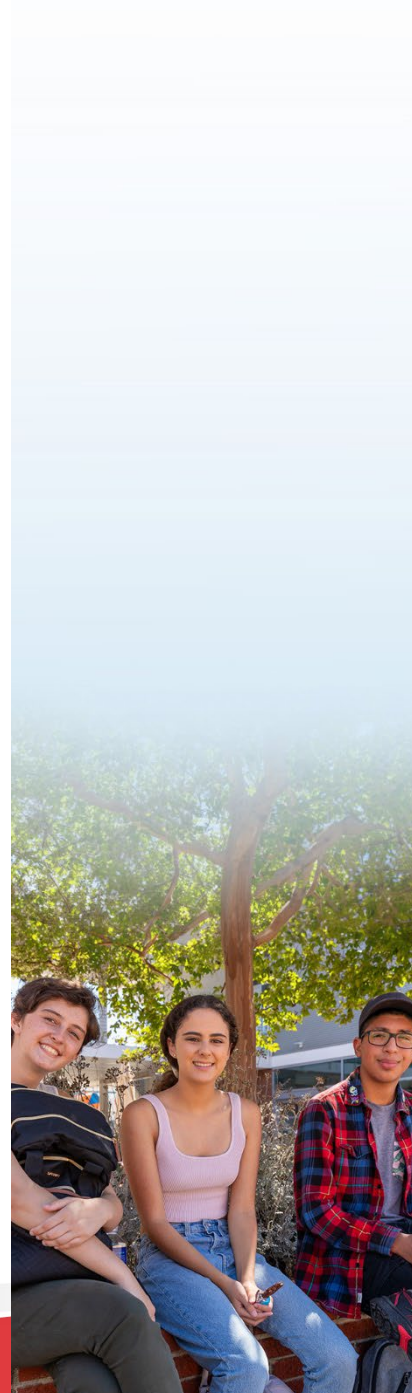
HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Human Resource Services is committed to supporting CSU San Marcos students as they plan for life after graduation and exploring career pathways. Human Resources participated in the CSU San Marcos 2025 Job & Internship Fair. Over 620 CSU San Marcos students attended. There were a lot of Palomar College alumni at the event who were excited to see us, one of them even showing the Comet pride with the tattoo on his arm.

Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Anna Pedroza and Director Christine Winterle attended the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) conference from April 27-29. The conference focuses on ways to enhance Human Resource services and how to implement best practices that impact the full employee experience. Workshops will focus on a new onboarding experience, enhancing job development, recruitment and retention as well as utilizing data and systems for decision-making. This unique opportunity allows us to collaborate and share ideas with Human Resource professionals from across the country and bring home resources and ideas to Palomar.



A Palomar College alumni proudly showing his Palomar Comet arm tattoo.



Benefits

Human Resources received the medical plan rates for the next plan cycle that begins October 1, 2025. The increase across the board for active employees and retirees for both Kaiser and Anthem plans increased from 10%-11.7%, depending on the plan. The District has shared this information with all constituents and will engage in discussions on impacts on the College.

Recruitment figures as of April 23:

34 permanent recruitments in progress

- 13 – Admin/CAST
- 3 – Certificated/ECE Lab School
- 16 – Classified
- 2 – Faculty

60 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

DEIAA OFFICE

CSU San Marcos and MiraCosta College Service Learning and Volunteering Center hosted the annual César Chávez Day of Service. The Palomar College Service Learning Program joined in the event on April 11. Palomar College Associate Professor Dr. Angelica M. Yanez, and CSU San Marcos Associate Professor and Ethnic Studies Program Director Dr. Jason Magabo Perez jumpstarted the event with an inspiring keynote. Students and community members from all three institutions volunteered at various locations across north county. Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle joined Dr. Angela Kong, Service Learning Coordinator, and a number of students, faculty, and staff to volunteer at the Oceanside Lifeline Community Services.



Palomar College administrators, faculty, staff, and students participating in the César Chávez Day of Service

The Pride Center hosted a watch party for the virtual 2025 CCC LGBTQ+ Summit, held on April 15 and April 16. The Summit focused on improving not only individual community college campuses but encouraging changes at the structural level as well. And despite the major Zoom outage, attendees were able to engage with the trainings, speakers, and student testimonials, hoping to enhance LGBTQ+ campus programs and student support services.

The 2025 NASSSP Summit: Connecting the Circle – Shaping Tomorrow's American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Leaders is a collaboration between the Native American Student Support and Success Program (NASSSP) and the I Can Go to College Campaign. This virtual event took place on April 30, and empowered attendees with best practices, toolkits, and mentorship opportunities to enhance support for AIAN students. A number of Palomar community members were able to attend.



INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The College submitted its 2025 Annual Fiscal Report and Annual Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges by the April 11 deadline. Additionally, a Substantive Change Proposal to offer a Baccalaureate Degree was submitted to the Commission on April 25. This proposal will be reviewed by the Substantive Change Committee at its May 12 meeting. If approved, the proposed Bachelor of Science in Building Performance and Environmental Design will advance to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for final approval.

Integrated Planning

Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) staff are preparing the annual Institutional Effectiveness Presentation for the Governing Board. This presentation includes analysis of community and student data such as population trends, community participation, student enrollment, academic progress, and outcomes. The report will emphasize six key planning metrics the College is prioritizing over the next several years. Senior Director Michelle Barton also provided an update to the College Council, outlining these six institutional metrics and their associated goals.

Institutional Research

IRP&G staff continue to execute the spring research agenda, which includes contributing to the Institutional Effectiveness presentation, researching return on investment in education, updating data dashboards, and analyzing the results of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement. Later this month, the research team will present findings from a student survey focused on the use of tutoring services.

Grants

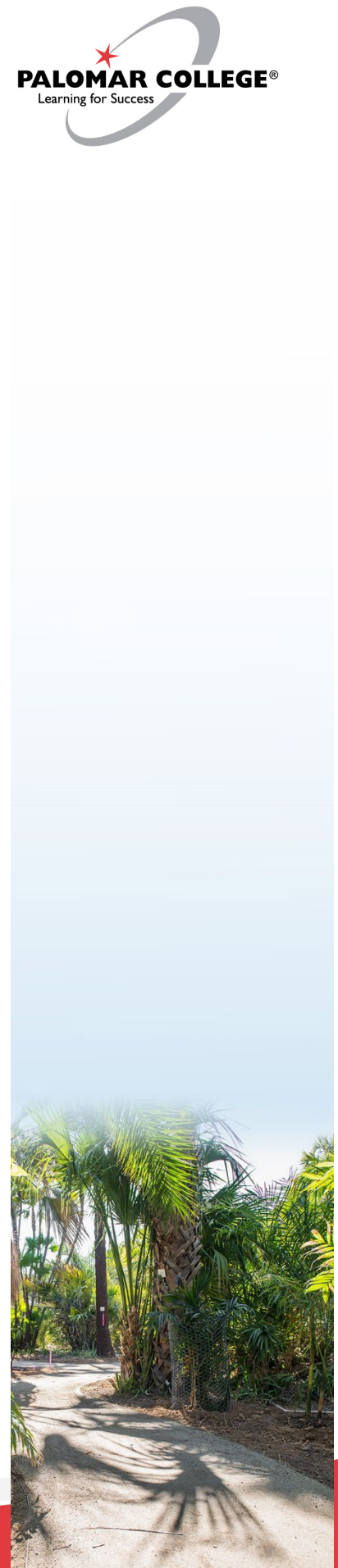
At the request of Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, the district's Grants Manager is leading a cross-functional team to review and enhance the Time and Effort reporting processes. This initiative aims to ensure compliance with federal regulations, specifically 2 CFR § 200.430, and to develop consistent and transparent procedures across the institution.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The media placements designed to support the summer and fall enrollment goals launched in early May. 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 as scheduled. This integrated digital advertising strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and the palomar.edu website. In March, the campaign generated nearly 499,000 impressions while remaining cost-efficient.

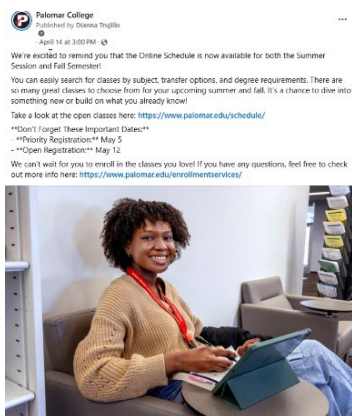
Social media traffic to the website increased 49% over the previous April and remains the 4th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, Google LinkedIn, and Instagram generated the majority of the social media traffic to Palomar.edu. The other overall top channels of social media traffic to the website were Reddit, X, and



Yelp. The 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 April remained flat. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to April 2024. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 13%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 17% compared to the previous April.

Throughout April, our social media posts focused on increasing awareness of upcoming enrollment dates, kudos to athletic teams and student athletes, the performing arts schedule, construction updates, and campus events.



Sample Social Media Post in April



Sample Social Media Post in April

Community and Media Relations

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

A press release was issued in early April announcing the affirmation of the Aa2 bond rating for Palomar College by [Moody's Ratings](#). This release garnered the attention of national, regional, and local media outlets. In addition, stories on the naming of [Bob Vetter Field](#), the [Palomar College Foundation Community Showcase](#), and [Palomar College Earth Day Activities](#) were all published to Palomar News. A [student profile story](#) and [faculty profile story](#) also posted to Palomar News in April. These stories and the press releases are available on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received 348 media mentions in the first three weeks of March. This equates to a publicity market value of over \$304,000 for the district.

PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee meeting and Board of Directors meeting and was asked to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee of the Chamber.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy worked with San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association Public Information Officers to prepare a request for the funding of a California \$100 million one-time Community College Student Support Block Grant.

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. On April 16, she attended the State of the County address by Board of



Supervisors Acting Chair Tara Lawson-Remer. PIO Lanthier Bandy also met with the new Legislative Affairs Analyst for the City of San Marcos to further solidify the mutually beneficial relationship between Palomar College and the City.

The Creative Services team initiated designs for the Commencement program and signage and supported numerous on campus year-end events through collateral development and signage. This is in addition to promotional summer and fall course schedules for all three education centers, course/program promotion, and the promotional needs of the performing arts department.



Acting Board of Supervisors Chair Tara Lawson-Remer presents the State of the County address

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

Scholarship Program

April was another life-changing month for scholarship activities, with several important gifts and awards that will significantly impact our students. We received a generous donation of more than \$15,000 to the Matthew and Marion Dietschman Scholarship, helping to ensure ongoing support for students pursuing nursing. Additionally, California Coast Credit Union contributed \$2,500 to fund the Cal Coast Scholarship, continuing their strong partnership in promoting student success.

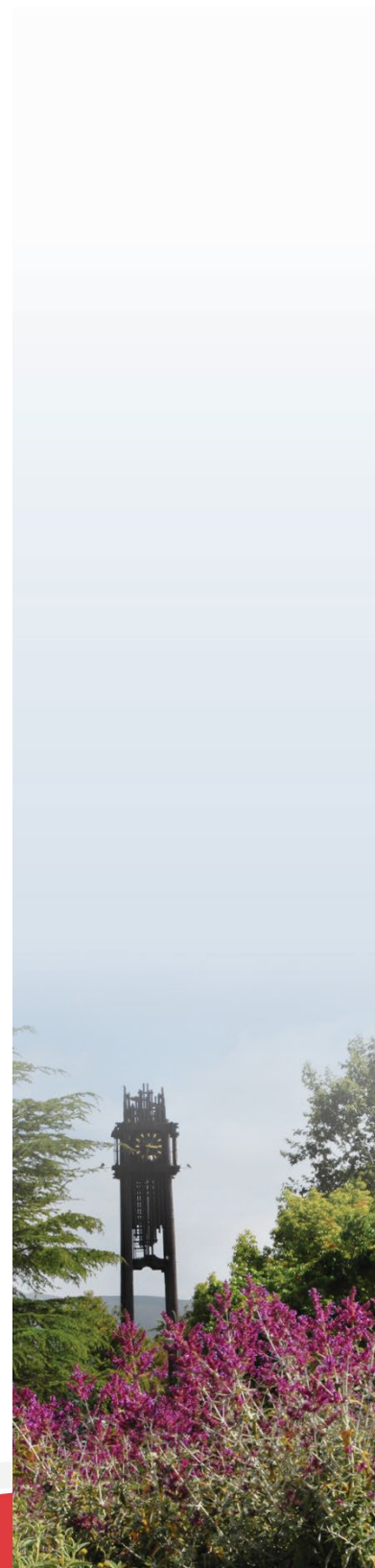
In collaboration with Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary, we were thrilled to award scholarships to 54 nursing students (some pictured below), providing critical financial assistance as they prepare to enter the healthcare workforce. We also renewed two key scholarships supporting veteran students: the Ric Davy Scholarship at \$2,500, and the Poway Veterans Scholarship at \$1,000. These donors recognize the commitment and perseverance of our veteran students as they continue their academic journey. Overall, April was a remarkable month marked by new opportunities and renewed support for our students.



Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary – Nursing Scholarship Recipients

Grant Program

The Palomar College Foundation was honored to receive a \$15,000 grant from Hunter Industries to support our Emergency Grant Program, the Edwin & Francis Hunter Arboretum, and scholarships for students in the trades. This generous investment is helping to remove financial barriers and open new opportunities for our students. Hunter Industries is represented on the Foundation Board of Directors by Katie Johanski, Director of Risk Management.



In addition, the Foundation recently submitted two new grant applications including one to The Allstate Foundation to enhance student services, and another to the HMC Designing Futures Foundation to support scholarships for students in the Architecture program.

Stewardship

More than 105 Palomar College employees are making a direct impact on student success by giving through payroll deduction as part of our C.I.R.C.L.E. (Comets Investing in Really Changing Lives through Education) campaign. Their contributions help fund scholarships, emergency grants, textbook support, and other vital resources. To show our appreciation, the Foundation team surprised each donor with a special treat and a message letting them know they're "flippin' awesome." It's a small gesture for a substantial impact. Their generosity is a reminder that when we come together as a campus community, we truly change lives through education.

President's Associates

The President's Associates, a community of dedicated donors giving \$1,000 annually, plays a vital role in supporting the Foundation. We are proud to welcome Robert Larson, from PACRA, as our newest member, joining 42 others committed to removing financial barriers for our students.

PACRA Luncheon

On April 17, Foundation Executive Director, Stacy Rungaitis had the pleasure of joining the Palomar College Retirees' Association (PACRA) at their annual meeting and luncheon. This special group of former employees enjoyed an update on Palomar College and Foundation.

2024 Foundation Audit Report

The Palomar College Foundation is pleased to share the 2024 financial audit resulted in an unmodified opinion: the best result possible for a financial audit. The Finance & Investment Committee appointed the Audit Committee who presented the information to the Board of Directors for approval on April 28.

Foundation Board of Directors

The Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors held a regular meeting on Monday, April 28. In addition, the committees of the board met in the month of April including Finance & Investment, Audit, Fund Development, and the Grant Review Committee.

Community Engagement

Three Palomar College employees, including the Foundation's Development Officer, Cathy Splett, participated in the San Marcos Chamber Leadership Development Program, an intensive five-week course limited to 25 participants. The program is designed to engage emerging leaders, inspire established ones, and build lasting professional connections. Each participant earned a Certificate of Completion from Cal State San Marcos Extended Learning. Palomar College President Emeritus, Dr. George Boggs and Foundation Board Chair Richard Marks contributed as a program presenter.



From left to right: Richard Marks, Palomar College Foundation Board Chair; Adam Kasarda, Director of Disability Resources; Cathy Splett, Development Officer; Rick Rungaitis, CEO San Marcos Chamber of Commerce; Rebecca Jones, Mayor of San Marcos; and Timothy Cross, Custodial Services Supervisor II.



On April 12, Palomar College was represented at the TrueCare gala. TrueCare is a San Marcos-based healthcare provider and partners with Palomar College for many services to students.

Magic Golf Cart Rides

The Foundation hosted five tours on the “magic golf cart” ride of the San Marcos campus. The tours resulted in funding to the Foundation, workforce pipelines and internships explored, and many new champions of Palomar College in our community! Tours included: San Marcos Mayor and Councilmember; Vista Chamber of Commerce business owners (4), Ron LeLakes, YMCA Escondido CEO, Matt Cleary, EDCO CEO, and Greg Snaer, Advisory Council Member with community members.



Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, City of San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, City of San Marcos Councilmember Danielle LeBlang, and PIO Julie



Advisory Council Member Greg Snaer, Community Members Danicks Brown-Frazier and Alexis Dixon, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and Community Member Jessica Kelly



General Manager, EDCO Waste & Recycling Services Matthew Cleary, and Welding Adjunct Faculty Member Justin Matkins inside the Welding bay at Palomar College.

