

September 5, 2025

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Welcome to the Fall 2025 Semester
It is exciting to welcome 20,350 students to the Fall 2025 semester. I am really proud of our faculty, staff and administrators for their unrelenting commitment to welcoming our new and returning students as they continue their educational journey here at Palomar College. I am also happy to welcome our new employees as they take on roles and responsibilities that will contribute to the success of our institution.



Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and Executive Assistant Valerie White welcomed students on the "President Star cart".

All College Day - Accessibility in Action: Elevating Student Success

Despite being the hottest day of summer, the Fall 2025 All College Day held on the last day of Flex Week was a great success. During All College Day, we launched our Accessible Palomar initiative, which is designed to keep us focused on how we design, teach, and serve our entire community. This is particularly important as we continue to prioritize student success. Student Success is Our Success! I am grateful to Governing Board trustees Roberto



Governing Board Trustees Roberto Rodriguez and Dr. Judy Patacsil, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Student Trustee Ariel Fridman, and Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley

Rodriguez, Dr. Judy Patacsil, Student Trustee Ariel Fridman, who were able to join us for All College Day, and a special note of thanks to Governing Board Vice President Dr. Holly Hamilton Bleakley for her remarks at the start of the program.

Rising Scholars Summer Completion Ceremony

Just prior to the start of the Fall semester, we celebrated students who completed the Rising Scholars summer program. We were honored to have San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones join the celebration and provide each student with a certificate of recognition in addition to their Palomar College program completion certificate and a “swag bag” of gifts. Thirty-one students completed the summer program and are set to enroll in the Fall semester.



Palomar College Faculty members Dr. Oscar Soto and Dr. Hosna Sadat-Ahadi, Program Coordinator Dr. Nora Kenney, Andreev Miranda, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, and Mayor of San Marcos Rebecca Jones

In Honor of Klaus and Brigitte Kirchhoff

We started the semester with the naming of the Library/LRC conference room (LRC-1116) in honor of Palomar College Foundation donor Klaus Kirchhoff and his late wife Brigitte. The Kirchhoff family endowments support the trades, including the nursing program and fire academy. Their contributions also support emergency grants for students and the Rising Scholars program. Mr. Kirchhoff was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude for all Palomar College does to support student success.



Members of the Executive Cabinet with Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and Klaus Kirchhoff

2025-26 College Council Planning

The College Council met prior to the start of the Fall semester to define its role and goals for the 2025-26 academic year, explore the student journey inclusive of metrics, and review new accreditation standards. The planning session was an ideal opportunity for our college



leaders to connect and share ideas that impact our students and the future of our institution.

First Week of the Semester Media Coverage

With gratitude to KGTV Channel 10 Reporter Adam Campos, Palomar College alumni Cynthia Murillo, and 2025-26 Palomar College Associated Student Government President Yaretzi Hernandez, we could not have asked for better [news coverage](#) on the first day of the semester. Our own PCTV crew created this [Back to School video](#) featuring our amazing students and employees. It is a great time to be a Comet!

Continuous Collaboration

For the second year in a row, I had the privilege of attending the Latinx CEO Convening, sponsored by the UC Davis Wheelhouse Institute, COLEGAS, and Santa Rosa Junior College. It was a great opportunity to connect with other CEOs from throughout the state and discuss important and valuable ideas on how to best serve our students.



California Community College Superintendents and Presidents at the Latinx CEO Convening sponsored by the UC Davis Wheelhouse Institute, COLEGAS, and Santa Rosa Junior College

Preparing Future Comets

As a board member of the San Marcos Boys and Girls Club, I had the pleasure of attending their Flapjacks for Backpacks Pancake Breakfast & Back-to-School Fair. The event provided more than 500 local youth with backpacks and school supplies to start the new school year. I am grateful to Dr. Andrew Mertig, Palomar College Manager of Outreach and Onboarding Services, who set up our display booth and connected with attendees young and old.

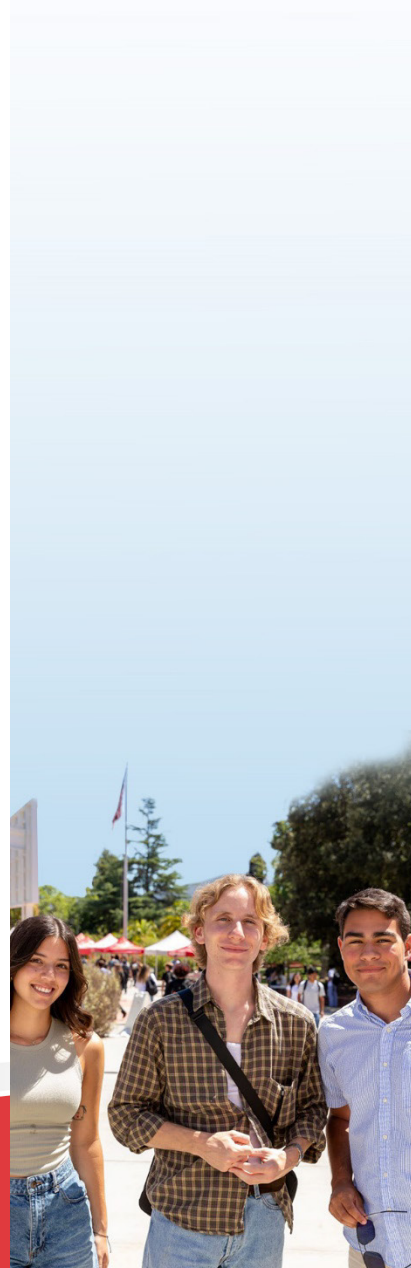
OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

In preparation for the Fall 2025 semester, the Office of Instruction has been adjusting the class schedule to meet students' needs and engaging in professional development to support the student journey. On August 8, the instructional deans, associate deans, and directors participated in an all-day strategic planning convening focused on accessibility, enrollment, budget, and Student-Centered Scheduling. These conversations will continue over the 2025-2026 academic year.

During Flex Week, a number of faculty and staff presented professional development sessions. Some of the topics included Cultivating Accessible Design Habits for an Inclusive Digital World, Learn by Doing: How to Create Accessible Word and PowerPoint Files, Applying Universal Design for Learning to the Classroom, Learning Outcomes Assessment: The New Process, Canvas



Ovi Vasquez, the featured speaker at the Fall 2025 All College Day



Discussions Checkpoints, and Dual Enrollment Nuts and Bolts, among others. All of the sessions highlight the great work that Palomar College employees are doing, and it is great to see the network of support for improving our practices. All College Day, held on the last day of Flex Week, focused on Accessibility in Action: Elevating Student Success and featured Ovi Vasquez as the keynote speaker.

Language and Literature Division

ASL Professor David Hamilton recently participated in the SoCal ASL Round Table at CSU Long Beach. The event brought together professors from 15 colleges and representatives from four universities and provided a valuable opportunity for collaboration and idea-sharing in preparation for the new academic year.

The World Languages department is pleased to announce that Arabic 101 and Chinese 101 are being offered again for the third consecutive semester, reflecting strong and consistent student demand. Looking ahead to spring, the department plans to offer second-level courses in both Arabic and Chinese. Many of the department's courses utilize zero-cost or low-cost textbooks, helping to reduce expenses for students.



Attendees of the SoCal ASL Round Table at CSU Long Beach

The English as a Second Language (ESL) department had a productive summer and is looking forward to an exciting Fall semester. A new partnership with the Poway Adult School is underway, aimed at supporting students in transitioning from adult education into academic ESL courses. Academic ESL classes have recently launched at the Education Center in Escondido, with plans to expand to the Rancho Bernardo Education Center in the spring. Hyflex course offerings have increased across the district, and the department is grateful for the support it has received in producing these results. Finally, the ESL team continues to engage in impactful outreach.

The Languages and Literature division office participated in the Palomar Promise welcome event and scavenger hunt on August 14. Students learned more about the departments, programs, and services within the division.



New Palomar College student visiting the Languages and Literature division table during welcome event

Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Division

Over the past month, the Academic Technology Resource Center (ATRC) team advanced several key initiatives, including multiple Flex Week trainings. Notable sessions included website accessibility for administrators and guidance on Zoom cloud recording deletion schedules. The ATRC continues to provide timely support by resolving faculty help tickets efficiently.



Tutoring Services had an active summer, highlighted by a 4-week Upward Bound Chemistry program featuring hands-on activities for 128 students. Recruitment efforts for student peer tutors have been successful, with several new tutors joining for the Fall semester. In addition, Interim Manager Alex Cuatok and Tutoring Coordinators met with counterparts at CSUSM to exchange resources and best practices.

Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) Division

Thanks to funding from the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) grant, two new programs have launched to help students complete their math requirements within one year. The Academic Math Coaching initiative brings three professionals to campus who offer personalized support, lead student success workshops, and help students build confidence and skills in math. A second program, called High Dosage Tutoring, places tutors directly in select math classrooms to provide intensive, real-time support. Training for both programs began this summer, and we are looking forward to realizing the results of both programs.

Career Technical and Extended Education Division

Palomar College partnered with Jerome's Furniture to offer paid Computer Science and Information Technology internships during the summer. Palomar College students Stavros Morrison and Dashiell Penning were hired for the internships. As a systems engineer intern, Stavros will assist Jerome's with a large project to upgrade network infrastructure at all of its locations. As a full stack developer intern, Dashiell will be using AI applications to develop a customer-facing software tool. In addition to hands-on experience, the students will be mentored by Jerome's team members with decades of experience in the field. We are looking forward to seeing where this partnership goes in the future.

The Palomar College Welding Technology program had a lot to celebrate this summer with students starting new jobs and internships. Welding Technology faculty forged a new internship opportunity with Mobileweld, a San Marcos company that specializes in structural welding and sheet metal fabrication. The faculty also helped Basile Construction, a general engineering construction company that focuses on the installation of underground piping infrastructure, hire their newest welder. In both cases, the faculty worked with the companies to coordinate on-campus events that combined welding skills tests and job interviews for interested students. The companies were able to assess numerous candidates from the Welding Technology program on both welding skills and interview responses.

Mobileweld selected student Alex Mitchell to intern in the summer and Chris Goldberg to intern in the Fall. The internship will provide students with invaluable hands-on experience with fabrication, metal preparation, and welding techniques with mentorship



Palomar College welding program student Alex Mitchell



Palomar College Welding program student Gabriel Contreras.



from an American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector.

Basile Construction hired student Gabriel Contreras. Gabriel will primarily be repairing excavator buckets and compaction wheels used in construction equipment. This position will provide Gabriel with an exceptional launching point for his career in welding.

STUDENT SERVICES

Rising Scholars Program

On August 13, the Rising Scholars program celebrated their eighth summer program with 31 students completing two classes they took as a cohort. The students also participated in weekly activities designed to bolster a sense of community and transfer pathways. During the awards ceremony, San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones and Palomar College Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey presented students with certificates to acknowledge the hard work and dedication required to complete the intensive eight-week program. The Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors and donors attended, and students received stipends based on their participation.

Palomar Promise and EOPS

The summer student welcome series culminated with an in-person Welcome Day event on August 14. The event was designed around the theme: “Campus Quest: Find Your Adventure – Explore, Discover, and Belong.” The goal of this event was to help students become familiar with the campus environment, build confidence and a sense of community, and take care of any last-minute college business before the semester begins.

Student Life & Leadership – Associated Student Government (ASG)

Student Life & Leadership supported Palomar College student participation in the MiraCosta College Student Leadership Conference, where student leaders from MiraCosta College and Palomar College gathered for workshops, networking, and skill-building. ASG President Yaretzi Hernandez and VP of Internal Affairs LaCraigory Garrett attended with ASG staff advisors. Highlights included leadership development workshops, cross-college networking, and keynote speakers who inspired students to strengthen student life at Palomar.

Student Life & Leadership participated in Promise Welcome Days by presenting the Your College Era, an interactive session with 49 student participants designed to introduce new Promise students to campus involvement opportunities.

The Student Life & Leadership office hosted the ASG Kick-Off on August 22 to welcome students interested in student government and campus leadership opportunities. We welcomed 15 students who expressed interest in joining ASG and provided them with an overview of ASG roles, responsibilities, and upcoming events. During the event, students had the opportunity to:

- Meet current ASG members and ask questions about involvement.
- Learn about key initiatives and projects for the semester.
- Engage with their peers and staff.

Student Life and Leadership – Basic Needs

Supporting the basic needs of our students is a collective effort that thrives through strong collaboration with campus and community partners. Over the past several weeks, the Basic Needs team was grateful to be included in the summer programming of Palomar Promise and EOPS to help welcome new students and connect them with essential resources. We hosted a Thriving at Palomar: Discover Free Resources for Food, Housing, and More! workshop as part of this summer series. We also participated in the in-person Welcome



Day on August 14, where staff engaged with students, led tours of the Anita and Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center, and registered 42 new students for pantry access and basic needs services.

Through our housing partnerships, we continue to expand awareness of resources for students experiencing or at risk of being unhoused. In collaboration with Doors of Change, which provides housing support for youth, we learned of a new provider in our region: Urban Street Angels, which recently opened a youth shelter in Vista serving at-risk individuals ages 17–24.

The Anita and Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center continues to serve as a cornerstone of basic needs support. During August, the Center welcomed 28 new student users and supported a total of 121 unduplicated households across 725 visits. A total of 3,766 pounds of food were distributed, in addition to 26 hygiene kits, 31 packs of period products, and diapers for 42 households with young children or dependents. Our zero-waste partnership with Feeding San Diego continues to flourish, and we are excited to announce a new partnership with Stater Bros supermarket in San Marcos, which donated 2,899 pounds of food in August. Our Campus Care Lockers at the main campus and education centers fulfilled 21 student orders for groceries, hygiene kits, diapers, and period products. Staff also continued to assist students with CalFresh applications and supported students through the Comets Closet, which provides free clothing.

To make food even more accessible throughout the day, Grab-and-Go stations and campus fridges are available at multiple locations. In August, these self-serve options provided 744 pounds of snacks and fresh produce at the San Marcos campus, and an additional 176 pounds at the Escondido, Fallbrook, and Rancho Bernardo Education Centers. These stations remain a popular and immediate source of nourishment for students across the district.

Systems Technology & Projects

The Fall 2025 [Student Services Office Hours](#) have been posted on the website in preparation for the Fall semester and the [Student Guide](#) information site was updated to improve engagement with students.

The OnBase system, a scanning technology that supports student services with updating documents into our electronic filing system, was updated. The [class search function](#) on the MyPalomar student portal now includes “Cal-GETC” requirements as a filter option. This enables students to identify courses that are transferable to the UC system.

A meeting was held with the [California Virtual College \(CVC\)](#) support team to assist in the development of a single page FAQ handout for student-facing staff to use in advising students. The CVC system was updated to remove concurrent enrolled courses from the Teaching College class search.

During Flex Week, we hosted a workshop called Student Services: What, Where, When! Get an overview of the Variety of Student Services Available for Your Students. This informative session informed Palomar College employees about the Student Services Office Hours website, the main event calendar, and our New [Student Guide](#) information site. We also introduced Palomar.edu website links staff and faculty can embed in emails and in course information to help students connect with the right student services department.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Facilities Department

Construction & Facilities Planning

At the Fallbrook 40 project, structural steel erection is now underway. Crews completed underground plumbing installation and placed the slab on grade for both the mechanical yard and the battery energy storage system areas. Progress continued with the Athletics Phase 2 project, where the contractor completed the lower-level foundations and masonry walls. The slab on grade was placed for the grounds services storage building, and all underground utilities for the lower level were installed. Crews also backfilled site retaining walls and placed the concrete restraining/retaining wall that separates the upper and lower building levels.

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

Risk Management delivered a presentation to nursing department faculty on the Palomar College student accident reporting process for both classroom and clinical settings. The session was attended by 30 faculty and staff. During Flex Week, the team also hosted a Chemical Hygiene & Lab Safety Training workshop, providing essential safety knowledge to campus stakeholders. EH&S supported a successful evacuation drill at the education center in Escondido, the first to be independently led by the center's emergency response team. This drill marked a major milestone toward the EH&S districtwide goal of empowering local campus teams to manage their own emergency responses. Congratulations to Director Tom Medel and his team for their excellent work.

Custodial Services

Custodial Services focused on completing summer cleaning projects districtwide. This included detailed classroom cleaning, floor care, deep restroom cleaning, stadium pressure washing, and preparation of common areas to ensure facilities were ready for the Fall semester. In addition to daily operations, the team provided extensive event support, including setup and cleaning for Welcome Day, All College Day, and the Athletics Welcome Back BBQ.

Building Services

Building services completed several key improvement projects, including the installation of a new HVAC unit and roof at the NA building, as well as two split HVAC systems at the ITC building. An epoxy floor coating was installed in room C-15, and new flooring was placed in DA-12, enhancing both functionality and appearance.

Business Services Department

The purchasing department successfully managed year-end purchasing and initiated purchasing for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The contracts team has also been working to get time sensitive summer contracts completed while also working on the uptick in requests for contracts needed at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The Business Services team has been working on the implementation of a new contract management software called Agiloft. Agiloft enables the automation and streamlining of the contracting processes. The software creates a log of all incoming requests and provides real-time information as to where contract requests are in the process. Any communication related to the contract is also managed and stored within the system. This automation will greatly increase efficiency for all parties and speed up the contracting process for everyone.



HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

As we prepare for a busy and exciting Fall semester, Human Resource Services has been focused on supporting both new and returning employees. This summer, we continued to explore building our onboarding efforts and will continue to work with all campus stakeholders to add to our onboarding processes during the first year of employment.

Human Resources has been hiring new part-time instructors for the Fall semester as we welcome back our students and as classes resume. Looking ahead, student employment will be a priority this year, creating more opportunities for students to work on campus and allow valuable work experience.

EEO, Title IX, and Compliance

As part of our Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) plan requirements, we successfully completed Governing Board training and will be providing an update on our EEO plan in the coming months.

Benefits

Full-time employee open enrollment will close August 29. Thirty-six employees have made changes to their benefits during the first three weeks of open enrollment. The benefits team hosted 27 opportunities for employees to meet with the benefits team or participate in workshops. The workshops were held at the main campus and at all three education centers. The benefits team is currently preparing for the part-time faculty open enrollment that begins September 9. During the part-time faculty open enrollment, we will host an onsite Costco Flu Clinic on September 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in MD-155C.

Recruitment figures as of August 25:

33 permanent recruitments in progress

- 8 – Admin/CAST
- 24 – Classified
- 1 – Faculty

67 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICE

Welcome to Dr. Angela Kong, as the interim project director for student success programs, Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander populations. We look forward to all the work she will develop to support students this year.

Building an Accessible Palomar

Accessibility is an integral part of our diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and antiracism values. It reflects both our compliance with federal and state standards and our alignment with institutional strategic plans, ensuring that accessibility is embedded in how we design, teach, and serve our community. Compliance with federal accessibility laws is required, and all digital content must be accessible by 2026. An accessibility work group is collaborating with the Chancellor's Office frameworks and accessibility best practices to provide the tools and resources needed to support this work. The [Digital Accessibility hub](#) is being updated regularly with new information to support our shared commitment to accessibility.



Flex week Sessions

Dr. Belisle presented two flex week presentations designed for employees to provide meaningful feedback on Palomar College's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Antiracism (DEIAA) Initiatives. Thank you for the constructive feedback on these efforts, and more updates will be coming soon!

Excelencia in Education

Dr. Belisle is leading the Palomar College affiliate team that is participating in the Excelencia in Education Data Institute. *Excelencia* in Education's mission is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. The Data Institute provided institutional teams opportunities to engage in collaborative learning to identify strengths, needs, and opportunities in leveraging disaggregated data to intentionally serve Latino students. Palomar's institutional team affiliates include Drs. Nancy Browne, Jenny Ferrero, Michael Large and Joe LeDesma.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) has integrated evidence into the draft Midterm Report and scheduled meetings with faculty who participated in the Canvas Student Learning Outcomes pilot assessment to review and summarize their findings. These summaries will inform the Midterm Report's section on student learning outcomes assessment.

In addition, the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) was selected to serve on a peer review team for the 2025–26 academic year. This service provides valuable insight into the new accreditation standards and their application, while also reinforcing the importance and value of accreditation's peer review system.

Integrated Planning

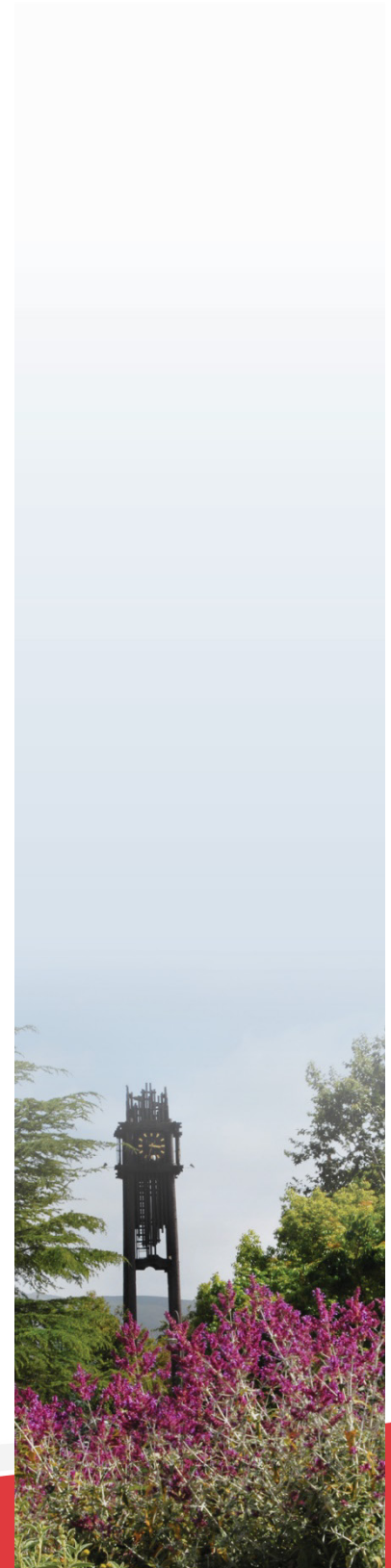
The Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) Office launched the new academic year by helping to organize and facilitate three planning convenings. During these convenings, the Executive Team, Leadership Team, and College Council reviewed updated student journey metrics and goals, accreditation institution-set standards, and equity metrics. Each group also discussed annual priorities, ensuring alignment with the goals and objectives of the College's current Educational Vision Plan.

Institutional Research

The IRP&G team is developing a dashboard to track the impact of Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) awards on student progress and completion. The dashboard will highlight CPL awards and their connection to student outcomes. The team is also refining standard enrollment reports to align with the new common course numbering sequences. In addition, the team has prepared a draft report summarizing results from the Fall student survey questions related to sense of belonging.

Grants

The 2024–25 Annual Grants Report has been published on the [IRP&G grants webpage](#). In FY 2024–25, Palomar College managed 27 competitive grants aligned with institutional priorities, totaling \$60.8 million. During the year, the college launched four new projects and successfully closed three grants, each completed on time and in full compliance with sponsor goals, objectives, and reporting requirements. Our proposal success rate remains strong, reflecting the college's ability to compete for and manage large-scale awards that directly support student access, persistence, and completion.



IRP&G produces impact reports that summarize the activities and achievements of the grant, and the benefits to students and the institution. Newly available on the IRP&G website is an impact report for the recently closed National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant. This three-year initiative expanded UAS (drone) pathways through new coursework, professional development workshops for secondary and postsecondary educators, and summer high school academies.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The marketing campaign with a specific focus to support Fall enrollment continued in August. 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 to run. This integrated digital advertising strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and the palomar.edu website. In July, the campaign generated over 484,620 impressions while remaining cost-efficient.

The comprehensive advertising campaign included billboard advertising on Highway 78 and Interstate 15, as well as digital web banner ad placements in the UT Community Press. In addition, quarter page print ads ran in the Times Advocate, Valley Roadrunner, and Hidden Meadow News, as well as a full-page print ad and web banner ad in North County Informador publication and website. In support of enrollment goals at the Camp Pendleton education site, a digital marquee featured Palomar College.

The web streaming campaign launched with iHeart Radio featuring Palomar College alumnus and radio personality Jesse Lozano ran as scheduled in August. The campaign includes Over-the-Top (OTT) video advertising. The OTT ads are targeted at platforms and programming that align with our student demographics and are designed to drive traffic to the palomar.edu website.

Compared to August 2024, traffic to the palomar.edu website increased nearly 5%. New users increased by over 2%. These results are positively impacted by the digital advertising strategy. Social media traffic to the website increased 29% over the previous August 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 to Palomar.edu. The overall top channels of traffic to the website are direct traffic, organic search, and referral traffic.



A sample social media post in August



A sample social media post in August

Throughout August, our social media posts focused on increasing awareness of upcoming enrollment dates, reminders to apply for Palomar College scholarships, student support



programs, San Marcos campus construction updates, new course numbering, Fall 2025 parking permits, and welcome events.

A year-over-year performance comparison of growth within each of our social media platforms shows mixed results. Facebook followers increased by just over 1% and X followers decreased 1% compared to last August. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to August 2024. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 13%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 14% compared to the previous August.

Community and Media Relations

The [KGTV-Channel 10 news story](#) featuring the interviews done earlier this summer with Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and two student leaders aired on August 25, the first day of the Fall semester.

Three stories were posted to the [Palomar News website](#) in August. A [story](#) that published at the start of the month highlighted the opportunity to enroll in the Fall semester and featured three new programs that will launch in the fall semester. A feature story was published on [Angela Kong - the Palomar College Woman of the Year](#). A [press release](#) was issued at the start of the Fall semester as well. Palomar College received 223 media mentions in August, including many media clippings from online media organizations reaching nearly 2 million people, with an overall publicity value of over \$2.3 million.

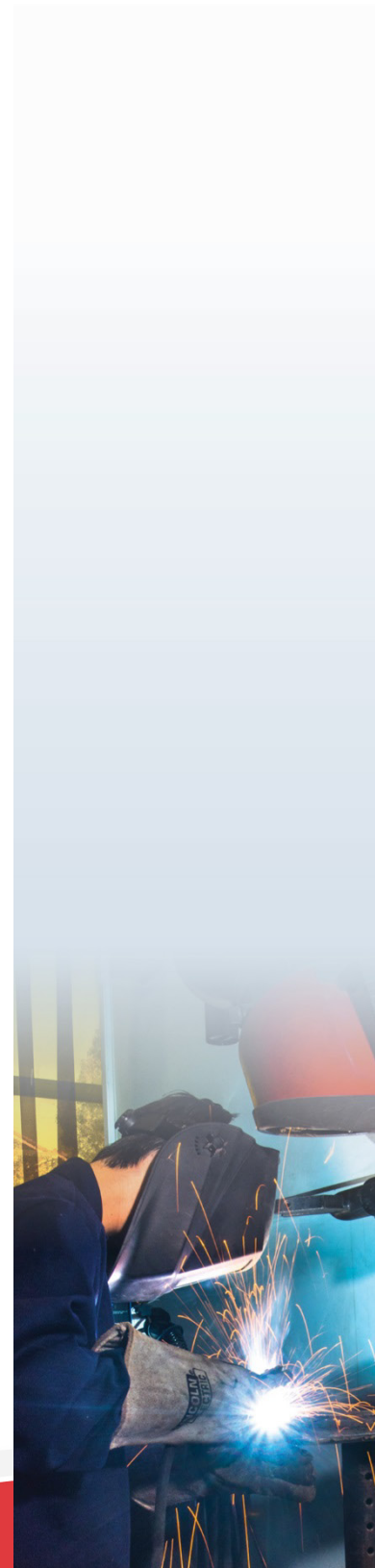
PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce executive committee, board of directors, and strategic planning meetings. In addition, she facilitated the attendance of the City of San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones at the Rising Scholars Summer Cohort completion ceremony on August 13. Mayor Jones presented proclamations to each student who completed the program.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the accessibility strategic planning session and accessibility workgroup meetings to assist in the launch of the Accessible Palomar initiative. She also attended the College Council planning session as well as the Government Relations Liaison meetings hosted by the California Community College Chancellors Office, and the Community College League of California (CCLC). In addition, she attended a planning meeting for a press conference hosted on August 28 by the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association at Southwestern College.

Collaboration on the development of two video productions designed to educate students on the common course numbering initiative and the importance of pursuing an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) continued. The video on the ADT was finished and shared on social media as well as on the [articulation webpage](#) on the Palomar.edu website. The course numbering videos will be released in September.

The Creative Services team designed and delivered projects to support a variety of initiatives including Accessible Palomar, Fall All College Day, Welcome Day, the 2024-25 Annual Report, 2025-26 Budget Book, and Pride Center rebranding. This is in addition to a signage plan for the arboretum, collateral design for the 2025 Performing Arts season, collateral updates, and redesigns, and palomar.edu content.



FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

Scholarship Program

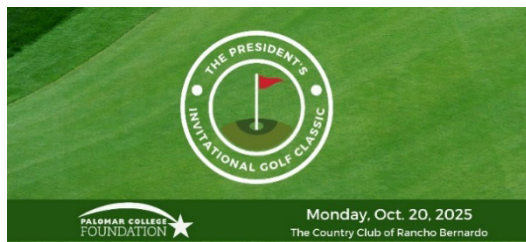
This month, the Foundation was honored to receive significant scholarship support for our students. The Needham family contributed \$12,500 to fund trade scholarships, ensuring students in skilled programs have the resources to complete their education. A gift of \$3,000 for the Daniel Pratola Scholarship was given to continue to provide opportunities for our nursing students. In addition, \$32,800 was secured for the Osher Scholarships fund, further strengthening our commitment to student success. Together, these gifts will open doors for countless students pursuing their educational and career goals.

Grant Program

The Foundation is pleased to announce the award of a \$2,500 grant from The Conrad Prebys Foundation to support guest artist performances at the Palomar College Performing Arts Concert Hour. In addition, the Foundation has submitted a \$20,000 grant request to the Scott and Elizabeth Christensen Foundation to support the Rising Scholars Program as well as the Foundation's vital Emergency Grant Program.

President's Invitational Golf Classic

The President's Invitational Golf Classic will be held on October 20 at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo. This year's tournament has already raised an impressive \$145,000 in support of student success. With 102 golfers set to join us on the course, the event promises to be both a fun and impactful day, bringing our community together in support of scholarships and programs that change lives.



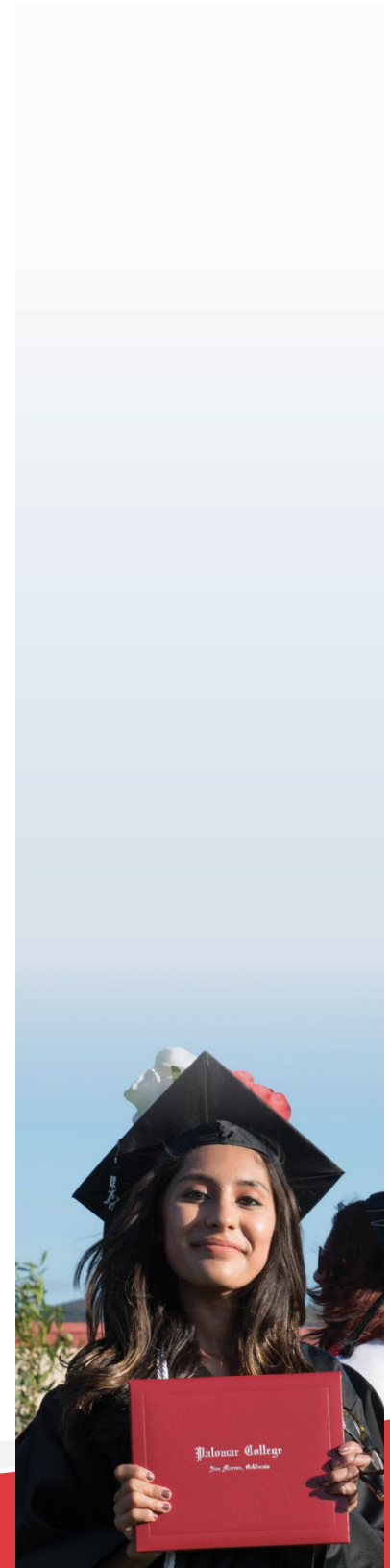
A promotional ad for the President's Invitational Golf Classic on October 20, 2025

Rising Scholars Summer Program & Completion Ceremony

The Foundation is proud to support the Rising Scholars Summer Program by funding student participation stipends and providing essential technology needs. This investment reflects our ongoing commitment to educational access and student success. On August 13, several generous donors, Foundation Board members, and San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones joined in celebrating the accomplishments of the 31 summer program graduates. The event highlighted the transformative impact of the program and the collective support that makes it possible.



Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, Foundation Donor Pete Cohen, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, and Program Coordinator Dr. Nora Kenney



NAMING CELEBRATION – KIRCHHOFF CONFERENCE ROOM

The Foundation was honored to celebrate Klaus Kirchhoff, and to fondly remember his late wife, Brigitte, during a special naming celebration held on August 25. Foundation board members, family, and friends gathered to formally dedicate the Library/LRC conference room 116 in their name. The event served as a heartfelt tribute to the Kirchhoffs' enduring legacy and generous contributions, marking a meaningful moment in the history of Palomar College.



Palomar College Foundation Board Members with Klaus Kirchhoff

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

On August 22, the Foundation proudly participated in All Campus Day to welcome back faculty and staff. Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis addressed the campus community, highlighting the vital role the Foundation plays in supporting students. Through the C.I.R.C.L.E. payroll deduction campaign, employees are able to make a monthly contribution to help remove financial barriers to education.

As part of our outreach, the Foundation hosted an information table and presented a special gift to each of the 100 current C.I.R.C.L.E. members in appreciation of their ongoing commitment. Thanks to these efforts, six new staff members joined the program, further strengthening our collective ability to ensure Palomar students have the resources they need to stay in school and succeed.

Foundation Board & Community Engagement

The Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors held a regular meeting on August 25. In addition, the committees of the board met earlier in the month including Finance & Investment, and the Fund Development committee.

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the Board of Directors for the Network for California Community College Foundations (NCCCCF) on August 21. This esteemed statewide organization, in partnership with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, is dedicated to advancing the role of philanthropy in strengthening community colleges, enhancing student success, and preparing a highly skilled workforce.

