

October 10, 2025

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Topping Off the Fallbrook Education Center

The Topping Off ceremony at the Fallbrook Education Center on October 1 was a celebration of a significant milestone. About 150 Palomar College and Balfour Beatty employees joined Fallbrook community members to sign the beam and witness its placement on the 40,000 square-foot permanent education and student services building that is targeted to open in 2027. I am proud and grateful to the team of talented individuals who have contributed to this project. It will have a long lasting impact on the future generations of Palomar College students in the northern region of our district.



Governing Board President Jacqueline Kaiser, Trustee Emeritus Mark Evilsizer, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, and Student Trustee Ariel Fridman

Congratulations to our Camp Pendleton Students

Since 1972, Palomar College has been helping thousands of active duty military and their family members achieve their educational goals at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. On September 5, we celebrated 57 of these students who earned their degrees or certificates. Most of the students earned certificates of achievement in our Military Leadership program. During the ceremony, we were inspired by keynote speaker Brigadier General Nick I. Brown, Commanding General of Camp Pendleton. Governing Board President Jacqueline



Palomar College Graduates at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton joined by Vice President Tina Recalde, Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, Vice President Mata and Student Trustee Ariel Fridman

Kaiser, Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, and Student Trustee Ariel Fridman joined Vice President Dr. Tina Recalde, Vice President Nick Mata and me at the ceremony. I am grateful to our Center Director Ryan Williams and Senior Center Coordinator Yvette Maynard for making this a meaningful event for our students.

Continuous Collaboration

I was thrilled to provide keynote remarks during the 2025 Concilio - National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC) Annual Leadership Symposium in Long Beach held in late September. While there, I had the honor to connect with Dolores Huerta, a leader still dedicated to migrant education at 95 years old. As someone who worked in migrant education programs during my earliest years in education, I experienced the positive impact her advocacy had on the lives of many migrant families.

I had the opportunity to participate as a panelist at the ProXimo at AVANCE Global conference. The conference is the nation's premier Latino business and cultural event, bringing together over 6,000 professionals, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders. As part of the Latinx Ed Track panel, we discussed the importance of embracing artificial intelligence and making it accessible to all. The panel included Dr. Pati Ruiz, Director of Learning Technology Research-Digital Promise, and Dr. Mark Sanchez, Superintendent/President of Southwestern College.



Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey providing keynote address at the 2025 Concilio - (NCCHC) annual leadership conference

Community Engagement on Grape Day

Over 25 Palomar College employees participated in the Annual Grape Day 5k Run/Walk in Escondido on September 13. It was great to connect with employees and students during such an important community event hosted by Escondido Sunrise Rotary to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Palomar College Women's Soccer players and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey at Grape Day 5k in Escondido

Continually Learning

As a lifelong educator, one never stops learning. I recently started the Higher Education Neurodiversity, Equity, and Trauma-Informed Approaches (NETA) for Community College Professionals Certificate program at the University of San Diego, School of Leadership and Education Sciences. It is clear that this



program will provide insights into how to best support neurodiverse students both in the classroom and in the workforce. I am looking forward to implementing what I learn to ensure more inclusive educational practices are in place at Palomar College.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

The Fall 2025 semester is off to a good start. It is wonderful having so many students on campus and seeing their excitement about starting the academic year whether they are beginning or continuing their academic journey at Palomar College. We are continuing to see an increase in enrollment and are still adding classes in disciplines that have high demand.

Language and Literature Division

The World Languages Resource Center (WLRC) is featuring a fall display inspired by German fairy tales, brought to life with hand-sewn felt figures crafted by Senior Instructional Support Assistant Judith Marquez.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) department introduced a new professional development series to support faculty and staff through evolving changes in the field. Topics include ESL and AI, accessibility, hyflex modalities, serving immigration-impacted students, and Civic Objectives and Additional Assessment Plans (COAAPs) integration. In addition to professional development efforts, the department expanded its academic ESL offerings at the Escondido and Rancho Bernardo education centers. Outreach continues to grow, with a focus on flexibility and access.



A display inspired by German fairy tales hosted in the World Languages Resource Center.

Arts, Media, and Business Administration

On September 4, the Business Administration department held its annual Fall Social outside and staff while learning about academic and social opportunities. A “Guess Who?” icebreaker game added fun and engagement, with several students winning gift bags.



Students, staff, faculty and administrators who attended the Business Administration department event on September 4.

Students in the accounting department joined peers from MiraCosta College, CSUSM, and industry professionals at a CalCPA-hosted event at CSUSM.

Students engaged with transfer students and CPA professionals who shared real-world insights and tips for successfully transitioning from community college to CPA careers.

Art Department faculty Briana Miyoko Stanley, Hwang (Bo) Kim, and Tim Murdoch will showcase their work in Unknown Frontier, a vibrant group exhibition opening October 4 at the TECHNE Art Center in Oceanside. The show features interactive, colorful works using



unexpected techniques and materials. In addition, professor Briana Miyoko Stanley will present a solo exhibition at the Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum of Art in Santa Barbara, on view through December 20.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

On September 3, the Child Development and Education department hosted a Virtual Meet and Greet with over 60 attendees. Students connected with faculty and ECE Lab School staff while learning about courses, permits, job opportunities, and available resources. The department also welcomed the third cohort of the Early Care and Education Apprenticeship Program in partnership with the Career Technical Education division, MAAC Project Head Start, and Early Care and Education Pathways To Success (ECEPTS). Apprentices begin coursework at Palomar College while gaining hands-on experience in Early Head Start and Head Start Centers.

Professional Development Department

A 3-day AI Literacy Workshop was hosted for the first cohort of 25 employees. This

immersive experience is part of a broader effort to become an AI-ready institution and prepare employees to support students for future careers. Participants explored responsible AI

use, ethical considerations, academic integrity, and

practical applications in and out of the classroom. Regardless of experience level, attendees walked away with meaningful insights and tools to begin integrating AI into their work. The second cohort is scheduled for early January.



The first cohort of Palomar College employees to pursue the AI Literacy workshop

STUDENT SERVICES

TRIO/Grant Funded Student Programs

We are pleased to share the exciting news that Palomar College has been awarded funding for two TRIO Talent Search grants and one TRIO North County Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC) grant. This marks a significant investment in our community and reaffirms Palomar's leadership in expanding educational opportunities for underserved students and families.

The TRIO Talent Search grants will allow us to provide college access services to 1,000 middle and high school students in grades 6-12. Students will benefit from academic advising, tutoring, financial aid guidance, career exploration, college campus visits, and cultural enrichment activities. Student trips and exposure to college and career pathways will further expand their aspirations and readiness for higher education. The grants ensure continued strong partnerships with Vista and Escondido high schools, where students will receive direct, personalized support to prepare for post-secondary success.

The NCEOC grant provides services for 1,000 adults in our region. Participants will receive support in college admissions, financial aid applications, and enrollment assistance to ensure they can successfully access higher education opportunities. This program will be a vital



resource for adults seeking to return to school, complete their degrees, or pursue new career opportunities.

This exciting milestone reflects the collective work of our TRIO team, community partners, and Palomar College leadership in prioritizing equity and opportunity. Combined, these grants will serve over 2,000 students and community members annually. They align with the Palomar College vision to transform lives for a better future. We are confident that these programs will strengthen our pipeline from middle school through adult learners, opening doors to higher education for generations to come.

Student Life & Leadership

Student Life and Leadership has been working diligently to support students this semester through the distribution of Student Activity Cards, campus events such as Comets Welcome and Club Rush, and the recruitment and establishment of a new Associated Student Government (ASG) Board.

Student activity cards have been distributed at the education centers during the day and through extended hours. In partnership with our colleagues at the education centers, outreach has expanded to serve our ESL evening students. As of September 25, we have issued 1,228 student activity cards.

At the start of the semester, Student Life and Leadership in collaboration with ASG held the Comets Welcome event on August 25-26, which served as the college's official welcome event to help students transition into the semester. The event featured 18 departments providing information on programs, services, and resources that support student success, while also creating a welcoming environment for both new and returning students. In addition, Club Rush was held on September 3-4, bringing together 21 student clubs and providing an opportunity for organizations to recruit members, showcase their activities, and encourage students to join and get involved in campus life.

Associated Student Government (ASG)

The ASG has made significant progress in establishing its board this semester. On September 19, all vacant executive positions were filled, bringing the board to 16 members. Recruitment efforts remain active through class presentations, Comet Hour events, and Palomar Promise Skillshops, with many new students expressing interest. At present, 9 senators and 4 delegate positions remain open.

From September 19-21, the ASG held its Fall 2025 Retreat, which provided onboarding, training on roles and responsibilities, parliamentary procedures, and team building. During the retreat, members also began establishing their committees. ASG students have demonstrated passion and excitement to serve as the student voice, and we look forward to the work they will accomplish this year.

Basic Needs

Supporting the basic needs of our students is a collective effort, strengthened through collaboration with campus departments and community partners. Throughout September, the Basic Needs team expanded access to essential resources while engaging students through a variety of outreach events and initiatives. In partnership with Career Services, the team participated in the grand opening of the Career Center on September 10-11, highlighting Comet's Closet, which provides free professional clothing to support students preparing for interviews and portraits. The team also provided targeted outreach through classroom and program presentations, including Professor Wong's Counseling 110 course and the Black Student Success program.



At the heart of this work, the Anita and Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center has continued to serve as the cornerstone of food support for the Palomar community. In September, the Center welcomed 134 new households representing 220 members, supported 336 unduplicated households across 1,633 visits, and distributed more than 5,500 pounds of food. In addition, the Center provided 34 hygiene kits, 118 packs of period products, and diapers to 37 households with children or dependents. Beyond the Center, Campus Care Lockers at the San Marcos campus and Education Centers fulfilled 48 student orders for groceries, hygiene kits, diapers, and period products. Staff also assisted students with CalFresh applications, provided 17 students with free clothing through Comet's Closet, and facilitated 12 emergency housing referrals.

To further increase accessibility, Basic Needs maintained Grab-and-Go Stations at multiple locations across the district. In September, these self-serve options distributed 1,588 pounds of snacks and fresh produce at the San Marcos campus, and an additional 309 pounds at the Escondido, Fallbrook, and Rancho Bernardo Education Centers. These stations continue to provide students with immediate and reliable nourishment throughout the day, ensuring that basic needs support is both visible and accessible across the Palomar community.

Student Health & Behavioral Health Services

Behavioral Health and Counseling Services (BHCS) partnered with Breaking Chains to provide suicide intervention skills training to students in honor of Suicide Prevention Month. The speaker provided students with relevant statistics and engaged them in a learning activity to empower them with relevant resources that can be of support. The Active Minds club also had their first meeting and began planning their activities for the rest of the academic year.

Tabling was provided by the Health Promotion team throughout the month of September at the San Marcos campus and the Fallbrook and Rancho Bernardo Education Centers to help increase awareness of mental health services on campus. The BHCS therapists also teamed up with the Health Promotion student workers to provide a Mindfulness, Meditation and Relaxation Skillshop.

BHCS therapists and interns have been busy providing support in the clinic with individual sessions as well as support for crises. The demand for these services continues to increase and requests for services are coming earlier in the term compared to previous years. The BHCS team is still working collaboratively to ensure that students can be seen as soon as possible for individual appointments as well as engaging in prevention work through the various collaborations we've established with on-campus affinity programs.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

CWDL has been engaged as our new auditor, with a targeted completion of the FY 2024-25 audit by November 1.

Facilities Department

Construction & Facilities Planning

At the Fallbrook 40 project, the irrigation well was successfully drilled to a depth of 773 feet. At this depth, water flow was deemed adequate to meet landscaping demands throughout the center. The well is currently being developed along with final water quality tests. Additionally, structural steel erection was completed on October 1 and celebrated during a "Topping Off" ceremony. The Athletics Phase 2 project continued to move forward with the lower-level concrete slab installation and placement of the exterior ADA



ramp and stairs. Work has also started on the upper-level area, where the utilities have been installed and backfilled. Preparations for the foundations in the upper area were initiated, including excavation, rebar placement and setting of column anchor bolts.

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

An Emergency Lockdown Drill was executed on September 10 throughout the District. The drill supported preparedness for scenarios such as a hazardous materials situation in the surrounding neighborhood, gas leak on campus, or active shooter.

A special project was completed in the Natural Science building chemical storage room identifying 799 chemicals. Of those, 532 were disposed of offsite due to age and lack of use. Additionally, outdated Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units were replaced across the District with new models. Finally, the first Safety & Security Committee meeting of the semester was held on September 3. Safety concerns regarding speed bumps in Lot 12 were discussed with prompt follow-on action taken by the facilities team to remedy the hazards.

Custodial Services

Custodial Services has continued to maintain cleanliness standards throughout the district. Notably, custodial staff completed special projects that included scrubbing/resealing floors at the Student Services Center and steam cleaning upholstered furniture at the Pride Center. Special event support also ramped up with the start of the semester including Club Rush, the Service Learning Fair, California Native American Day Celebration, and two home football games.

Building and Ground Services

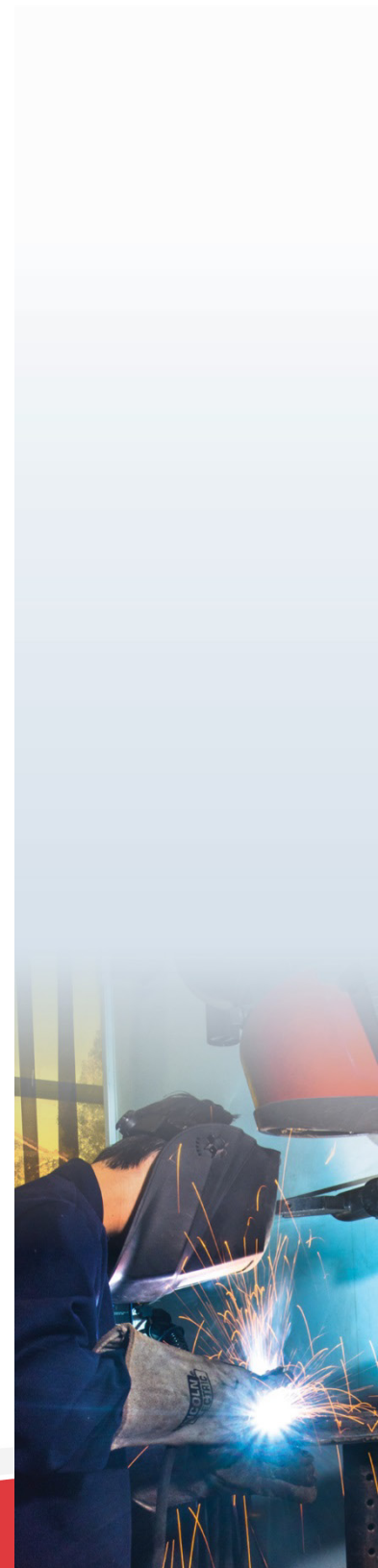
Building Services continued to enhance safety on the campus, completing the installation of a crosswalk, sidewalk and accompanying LED signage at the entrance to Lot 12. Additionally, a complete remodel of the Coach's restroom/shower in O-15 was finished. Grounds Services enhanced serviceability by removing overgrown shrubbery in the vicinity of A and SU buildings.

Information Services Department

Information Services has been actively working to fill several key vacancies across the department, with steady progress being made in each area. The recruitment for the Director of Information Services has reached an important milestone. Both first and second-level interviews have been completed, and an offer was accepted by the finalist. We anticipate a formal start date soon and are excited about the leadership this individual will bring to the team.

For the Manager of Networking and Data Center Services position, first-level interviews have concluded successfully. We are now in the process of scheduling second-level interviews, with the goal of extending an offer by the end of October. This role is critical to maintaining and advancing our infrastructure. In the Technical Support Specialist (Help Desk) area, we are addressing two vacancies. One position was opened for lateral transfer. An internal candidate expressed interest, was interviewed, and has accepted the offer. The second position will be posted externally soon. Lastly, the recruitment for the Manager of Systems and Programming remains ongoing.

Overall, Information Services is making meaningful progress in rebuilding and strengthening our team. These hires will be instrumental in supporting our strategic initiatives and ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality technology services across the district.



Business Services Department

Food Services will be adjusting their Friday hours starting on October 3, with the Food Court open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Coffee Station will be closed on Fridays.

Business Services is continuing in its efforts to remove and auction surplus items that are outdated, broken, or no longer utilized by the college. Another surplus sale will be taking place in late fall with the anticipated timeframe being late October or early November.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Human Resource Services participated in the “Building Bridges: Career and Community Fair,” a free multi-industry job fair hosted by the San Diego Workforce Partnership, Escondido Public Library, and Mershops North County Mall. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with job seekers and community partners while highlighting Palomar College programs and career pathways.

Benefits

The benefits office completed open enrollment for full-time employees and retirees on August 29. All changes are effective October 1. Currently, the benefits office is in its last week of open enrollment for part-time faculty. All part-time faculty are required to re-enroll in fall and spring. Fall open enrollment will cover benefits October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. The next part-time open enrollment will be held in February 2026 with spring semester benefits covering April 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026.

A successful flu shot clinic was held on September 23. Team Life attended the clinic to spread the word about upcoming events.

Recruitment figures as of September 29:

28 permanent recruitments in progress

- 8 – Admin/CAST
- 20 – Classified

56 part-time faculty recruitments in progress

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

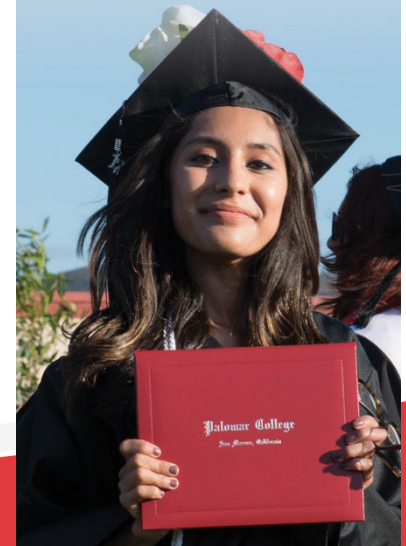
CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICE

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. The bi-weekly Accessible Palomar newsletter has been launched along with presentations at various leadership and shared governance meetings. Throughout the fall semester, ATRC, Distance Education, and Instructional Designers have over 70 training sessions scheduled along with open office hours. Please report any accessibility issues to the [Digital Accessibility Website](#).



Palomar College Recruitment Technician Mary Riveros, engages with a prospective employee at the Building Bridges: Career and Community Fair



California Native American Day Celebration

The Native Students Support Program for Inclusion, Resilience, and Education (NSPIRE) Program and the American Indian Studies (AIS) department led the California Native American Day celebration on September 25. This event honored the rich history, cultures, and contributions of California Indians. The program included Kumeyaay bird singers and presentations by AIS faculty.



Kumeyaay Bird Singers at California Native American Day Celebration

Excelencia in Education

Dr. Belisle is leading the Palomar affiliate's team participating in the Excelencia in Education's Seal Serving Institutional Transformation Assessment (SSITA) Fall Cohort. *Excelencia* in Education's mission is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. SSITA is a self-assessment tool that provides a starting point for colleges to assess with a Latino lens who they are serving, not serving, and want to serve with data, practice, and leadership. Palomar's institutional team affiliates include Drs. Nancy Browne, Jenny Fererro, Michael Large and Joe LeDesma.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The Accreditation Steering Committee convened its first meeting of the semester to review progress on the Midterm Report and discuss recent updates to the Accreditation Standards and Policies. The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team also met with faculty engaged in the Canvas Student Learning Outcomes pilot, incorporating their assessment summaries into the Accrediting Commission for Colleges and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Midterm report. The report is nearly finalized and will move through governance review this fall.

Integrated Planning

The Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants (IRP&G) is supporting the Governance Evaluation Task Force as it prepares to share its review of the Palomar College governance structure and processes with the campus community. Feedback will inform refinements to the recommendations before they are presented to College Council at the end of the fall semester.

The Program Review and Resource Allocation Committee held its first fall meeting to set priorities for the semester. The Committee will recommend one-time funding priorities identified through the program review process and examine ways to strengthen communication of outcomes from its prioritization work.

Institutional Research

The IRP&G team continues to advance several projects. The Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) dashboard is in its final stages, and preparations are underway for the region's economic impact study. The team is also updating enrollment reports to better account for distance education modalities, completing fall Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) reporting, and working to streamline the IRP&G website to improve accessibility.



Grants

IRP&G facilitated launch meetings for two newly awarded grants, including a federal award in the Career, Technical, and Extended Education (CTEE) division and a state award in the Math, Science, and Engineering (MSE) division. These meetings established roles, timelines, fiscal controls, and compliance measures to support early implementation. IRP&G will continue to provide compliance oversight and operational support as these grants progress.

The U.S. Department of Education has discontinued the Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions program. Palomar College received an award in 2024–25, directed its grant toward strengthening outreach and in reach, enhancing onboarding, and expanding academic support to improve completion of math gateway courses. The Department of Education has granted the College a no-cost extension to complete activities and close out the grant in accordance with federal requirements.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The marketing campaign with a specific focus to support fall enrollment continued in September. 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 nearly 370,000 impressions while remaining cost-efficient.

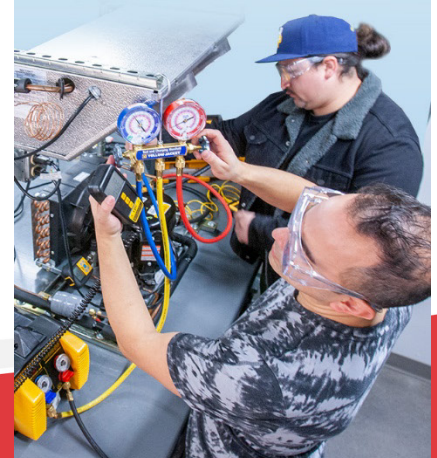
The comprehensive advertising campaign also included digital bulletin advertising on Interstate 15, a full-page ad in the North County Informador, which also featured a web banner ad. A cinema ad continues to run at the Angelika Carmel Mountain Theatre to increase brand awareness in the southern region of our district.

The web streaming campaign that features iHeart Radio featuring Palomar College alumnus and radio personality Jesse Lozano ended and performed well, meeting all key performance indicators. The campaign will be refreshed to support the spring 2026 enrollment goals and launch in early November. The spring campaign will also include a direct mail postcard deliverable to 155,000 households within the district.

Compared to September 2024, traffic to the palomar.edu website increased nearly 20%. New users increased by 19%. These results are positively impacted by the comprehensive advertising strategy implemented in September. Social media traffic to the website increased 21% over the previous September 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 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 September. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to September 2024. Instagram is continuing to show a significant increase at 13%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew 15% compared to the previous September.

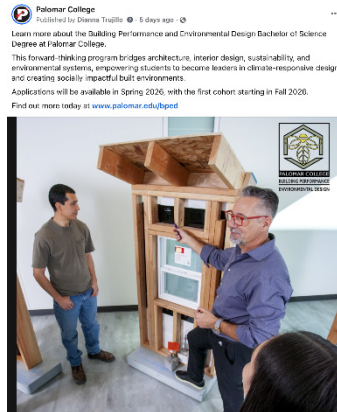
Throughout September, our social media posts focused on student support services, events, reminders of important dates for financial aid, etc., and the upcoming opportunity to apply



for the Bachelor of Science in Building Performance and Environmental Design.



Sample Social Media Post



Sample Social Media Post

Community and Media Relations

In collaboration with facilities, information services, Fallbrook Education Center leaders, Palomar College Foundation, and Balfour Beatty, the Public Information Office was instrumental in designing and implementing the Topping Off ceremony of the 40,000 square foot permanent building at the Fallbrook Education Center on October 1. The event was attended by over 150 employees and community members.

Three stories were posted to the [Palomar News website](#) in September. A press release was issued regarding the [National Science Foundation grant](#) received by the Water Technology program. In addition, a feature story was published on a recent [graduation ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton](#), which provided the opportunity for 57 military affiliated students to cross the stage and celebrate their educational achievement. A second press release was distributed regarding the national recognition received by Palomar [Professor Wing Cheung](#). Palomar College received 444 media mentions in September, including mentions from local, regional and online media organizations, with an overall publicity value of over \$1.2 million.

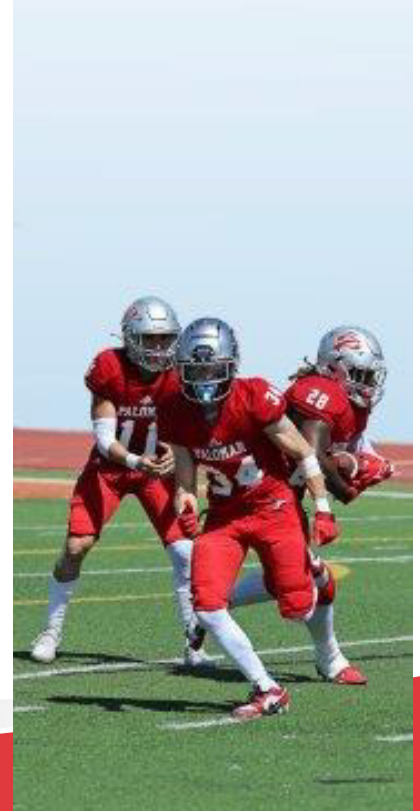
PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce board of directors meeting, where an update on economic infrastructure and housing project updates were received by San Marcos City Manager Michelle Bender. Earlier in the month she attended the San Marcos Chamber Rising Stars event. This event is in collaboration with the San Marcos Unified School District and recognizes high school seniors who have overcome obstacles to achieve their academic goals.



San Marcos Chamber Chair Mike Winters, three Rising Star Students, and San Marcos Chamber CEO Rick Rungaitis

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the government affairs meetings hosted by the California Community College Chancellors Office, the Community College League of California (CCLC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). In addition, she



attended the quarterly meeting of the Prop M Independent Citizens Oversight Committee, the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association monthly meeting, and a planning meeting for a proposed legislative breakfast for the region's elected officials.

The Creative Services team designed and delivered projects to support a variety of initiatives including the 2024-25 Annual Report, 2025-26 Budget Book, and the 2025 Annual Security Report. This is in addition to collateral design for the 2025 Performing Arts season, event support, collateral updates, and redesigns, and palomar.edu content.

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

Scholarship Program

Palomar College Foundation is grateful to report significant recent support for our students. Chief James Drabinski has once again provided \$10,000 to assist our Emergency Medical Education (EME) students. Chief Drabinski has been a steadfast supporter for many years, recognizing the critical assistance students need to successfully complete their training.

We are also honored to announce a transformational \$500,000 gift from the estate of former Palomar professor Iris Kohler. Ms. Kohler's generous bequest will create lasting support for business students, ensuring future generations benefit from her legacy as an educator.

In addition, with the recent change to our scholarship application timeline, we received a 50% increase in applications this year, an encouraging sign that more students are engaging in these vital opportunities. Over 500 scholarships were awarded this month to deserving students.

Grant Program

Palomar College is honored to have been selected as a recipient of The Allstate Foundation College Service Grant. This prestigious grant is designed to support and expand youth-led service initiatives across college campuses nationwide. The \$15,000 grant will allow us to create new opportunities for student leadership, promote service, and foster a deeper connection between students and the broader community. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to developing student leadership and engagement opportunities. We look forward to highlighting the impact of this grant throughout the academic year as our students take the lead in creating meaningful, community-focused leadership and service.

Magic Golf Cart Tours

This month, Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis introduced Palomar College to three community members through the Foundation's signature Magic Golf Cart Tour. The tours were recommended by Foundation Board Member Chakri Bokka and included guests Kian Colestock, Lola Adeyemo, and Shirin Alipanah. Each tour offered a personalized glimpse into the College's programs, facilities, and impact sparking meaningful interest in supporting the Palomar College Foundation.

President's Invitational Golf Classic

Preparations are underway for the upcoming President's Invitational Golf Classic at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo. The tournament has already raised \$150,000 in support of student success, and



Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and Shirin Alipanah



we look forward to welcoming our players and sponsors for what promises to be a great event.

Community Engagement

Honoring our Region's Heroes Breakfast Palomar College Police Chief Chris Moore and Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the annual North San Diego Business Chamber's Honoring our Region's Heroes breakfast on September 9. The event recognizes heroic efforts of first responders in the area over the past year. Education partners from CSUSM joined us at the event.



CSU San Marcos Campus Police Department team members, Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and Palomar College Police Chief Chris Moore

North County African American Women's Association - Gentlemen's Gourmet event Palomar College team members attended the annual Gentlemen's Gourmet event hosted by the North County African American Women's Association (NCAAWA) on September 27. This spirited evening featured a lively cooking competition and served as a scholarship fundraiser, where local gentlemen partnered with professional chefs to showcase their culinary talents, all in support of higher education and student success. Palomar College Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle was able to serve in one of the highly coveted judge roles for a second year.



Palomar College employees Richard Carr, Grady Williams III, Nicole Belisle, Kristie Hill Cummings, Sandrine Beken, Cassandra Lochard, Taniesha Hellon, and Samantha Miller

Additional Community Engagement

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis represented Palomar College at several key leadership events in September. On September 18, she participated in the North San Diego Business Chamber Board of Directors meeting, contributing to regional discussions on business and education collaboration. Later in the month, on September 24, she attended the REF Global Nonprofit CEO Forum. Additionally, Stacy was invited to join an exclusive roundtable discussion with Sue Cunningham, CEO of the international Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The small-group conversation focused on emerging trends in higher education advancement, including philanthropy, marketing and communications, and alumni relations.

