

March 6, 2026

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## PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



*Palomar College Governing Board trustees and administrators and San Diego Community College District Governing Board trustees, administrators and students joined Congressman Mike Levin for a discussion on community college federal legislative priorities in Washington D.C.*

### Planning for the Future

The Palomar College Governing Board, Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy, and I joined trustees, administrators, and staff from throughout the nation at the 2026 Community College National Legislative Summit (NLS) in Washington D.C. in early February. We were able to meet with our Congressional delegation and their staff. We shared the importance of continuing to fully fund the Pell Grant and to modify the taxation of the grant so that our students can fully benefit from financial aid funding. We also attended a forum reserved for California Community College trustees, administrators, and staff with Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff. Community colleges receive support from all levels of the federal government and the Summit was an important opportunity to thank our legislators and reiterate the need for their continued support of our top priorities to impact student success now and into the future.

### Sparkling the Possibilities at the Community Showcase

Congratulations to the Palomar College Foundation on an extraordinary Community Showcase on March 4, where we proudly touted our successes from the past year and plans for our future to a sellout crowd. I am grateful to Governing Board President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley for welcoming our guests and to Governing Board Vice President Yvette Marie Acosta, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, and Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez for

attending the event. The Showcase was well attended by elected officials, community leaders, and Foundation supporters from throughout our district.

**Community College Baccaulaureate Association (CCBA) Conference**

Palomar College was well represented at the Community College Baccaulaureate Association (CCBA) conference in Long Beach in February. Our faculty and administrators presented our Bachelors of Science in Building Performance and Environmental Design program to attendees. I am excited to share that our application period ended on February 15 and we received a strong pool of applicants for our first cohort that will start in fall 2026. Acceptances will be sent in early to mid-April.



*Dean of Instruction Dr. Jenny Fererro, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Professor Jessica Newman, Academic Department Assistant Mary Carpenter, Professor Joe Lucido, and Acting Vice President of Instruction Justin Smiley*

**Connecting with the Community**

It was an honor to join members of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce at their Community Connections event. I presented an update on our accomplishments and future priorities and engaged in an important dialogue on how we support the needs of our region’s workforce. I sincerely appreciated the opportunity to connect with our business and community leaders.

**Deserving of Recognition**

Congratulations to Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Amrik Johal, Dean of Instruction Dr. Jenny Fererro and Dean of Languages and Literature Dr. Leanne Maunu for completing the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Great Deans professional development program in February. The eight-month program involved participating in a cohort of deans from throughout the California Community College system, with in-person and virtual convenings, mentorship, support, and training. Key areas of focus for the program include equity and social justice, supervision and leadership, administrative policies, procedures, structures, and community building.

**OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION**

**Acting Vice President of Instruction**

Spring 2026 is in full swing across the Office of Instruction. I had the pleasure of attending the Community College Baccaulaureate Association Conference “Degrees of Change 2026” with a team from Palomar, where we engaged with colleagues from across the country on



best practices and innovative baccalaureate program offerings. One highlight was the presentation by Professors Joseph Lucido and Jessica Newman, who provided a captivating presentation of our new BPED degree launching this fall.



We continue to make meaningful progress toward our strategic enrollment management goals. Since January, we have added 47 new late-start class sections to better meet student demand, and we are expanding our pilot for a newly developed schedule planning tool as we begin preparing for spring 2027 course scheduling. In parallel, a workgroup was formed to address system changes required by the California Community College Chancellor's Office standardized accounting method used to calculate full-time equivalent students, ensuring our processes remain accurate and compliant with the new method. The tenure and evaluations team has also been busy collaborating with our Information Services department to launch a new digital tool that will streamline faculty evaluation processes. This spring, we are launching the new student evaluations survey, with a full rollout for all faculty evaluations planned for launch in the fall.

Finally, we are excited about the momentum building around adult learner pathways and continuing education. We are actively developing new partnerships and expanding our offerings in this space. Director Ute Maschke recently presented the Continuing Education Strategic Plan to the Equity, Education, and Student Success Council (EESCC), setting the stage for meaningful growth ahead.

### **Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) Division**

The Engineering department and the Math and Science Learning Center will be coordinating a 5-week Robotics and Wind Turbine competition. Robotic and wind turbine model kits will be provided to teams of students. The competition begins on February 24 and concludes with a student showcase demonstration of the finished robots and wind turbines on April 6. This student engagement competition is designed to foster hands-on learning, teamwork, and innovation through applied engineering challenges. Participating students will explore fundamental concepts in robotics, renewable energy, and design thinking while developing critical problem-solving and collaboration skills.

### **Social and Behavioral Sciences Division**

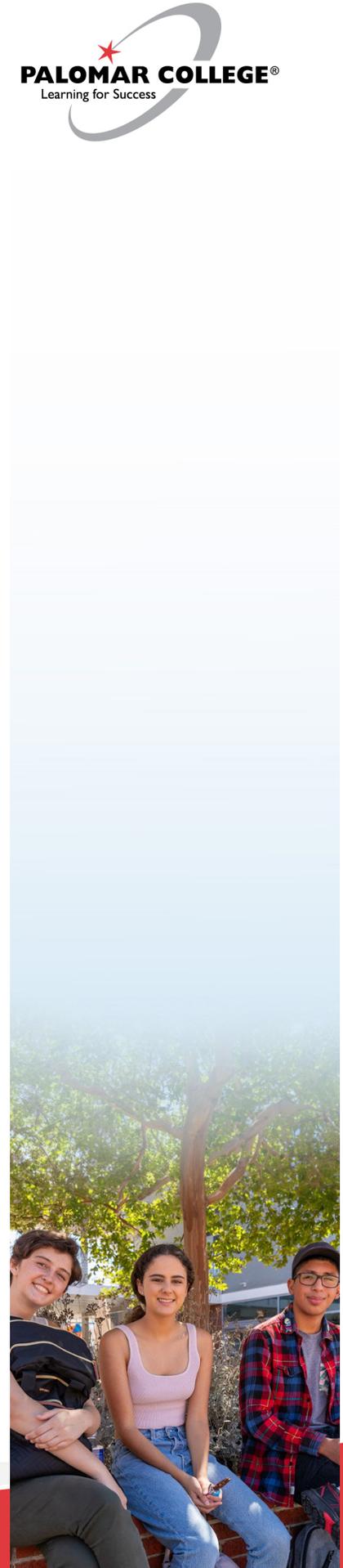
On February 4, the Child Development and Education department hosted a Virtual Meet and Greet with over 30 attendees. The event provided Child Development & Education students with a valuable opportunity to connect with professors and Early Childhood Education Lab School staff while learning about course offerings, the permit process, job opportunities, and campus and community resources.

The Economics, History, and Political Science departments tabled at the Black History Month student event and had great success hosting an electronic game of Black History Jeopardy for attendees.

### **Languages and Literature Division**

The English as a Second Language (ESL) department developed new programs at Pauma Elementary, Poway Adult School and the Fallbrook Food Pantry and all are progressing well. This is in addition to the recently restarted class at the San Marcos Library which is thriving. The ESL Tutoring Center continues to operate smoothly, with tutors supporting students both in the center and embedded in classes. The department is also preparing for Take Home a Free Book Week from March 2-5, along with additional game nights and skillshops throughout the semester.

The outreach team has started visiting local high schools to promote Palomar College to English Language Development students and to connect with families during English Learner



Advisory Committee meetings. They are also collaborating with the Palomar College Continuing Education team to expand partnerships with Career Technical Education programs, building on successful work completed last semester.

The second cohort of the Child Development Apprenticeship students has completed its coursework and is now finishing required work hours, with a celebration scheduled for March 9. The new vocational ESL for medical fields class is off to a strong start, and the department will launch its third contracted class at Dr. Bronner’s in March.

The academic ESL program now offers 11 classes and has experienced a 145% increase in enrollment since last spring, supported by expanded evening course offerings at the Escondido Education Center and a growing presence at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.

**Career Technical and Extended Education Division**

On January 30, Palomar College proudly celebrated the graduation of its Paramedic Academy cohort, honoring the dedication, resilience, and clinical excellence demonstrated by each graduate. After completing rigorous classroom instruction, skills labs, and field internships, these new paramedics are prepared to deliver advanced life support and critical emergency care in high-pressure environments. The ceremony recognized their commitment to serving the community and marked an important milestone as they transition into vital roles within the region’s emergency medical services system.



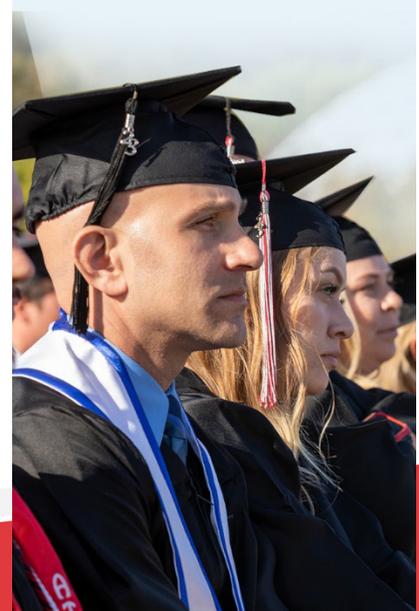
*Paramedic Academy graduates*

**Professional Development**

Palomar College hosted the Year-2 kick-off event for the AI Grand Challenge Grants at our EDGE Center. Professor Luis Guerrero and Professor Diana Ortiz gathered alongside researchers from UC San Diego, San Diego State University, CSU San Marcos and the San Diego Community College District to discuss the many facets of the grant. Topics included the deployment of AI literacy courses for students, AI literacy workshops for faculty, and AI tutors/assistants deployed in STEM courses. Palomar College is



*AI Grand Challenge Grants Team from Palomar College, San Diego Community College District, UC San Diego, San Diego State University, and CSU San Marcos*



part of this 2.5 year, \$1.5 million grant with our intersegmental partners with a focus on “improving student engagement and outcomes equitably with course-specific open-sourced AI-tutors.” This meeting established the tone for the work during the remaining 1.5 years of the grant. Palomar employees will continue to benefit from AI literacy workshops. Two cohorts of employees have completed the curriculum, one in fall 2025 and one in spring 2026. The third cohort will take place in fall 2026.

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Student Recruitment and Retention

Numerous on-campus tours were hosted throughout February including both group visits and individual students exploring their pathway to college. Each tour creates access, clarity, and confidence for prospective students and their families. In addition, our Recruitment Specialists have been consistently hosting opportunities at our partner high schools for students to drop in and discuss their questions, ensuring they receive timely, hands-on support.

Rancho Buena Vista High School recently expressed their gratitude for the impactful educational plan presentation facilitated by Christina Gaspar. David Gonzalez partnered with the counselors at Escondido High School to support an on-campus community college application “blast off” event. This outreach opportunity resulted in community college track 12<sup>th</sup> grade students successfully starting and/or submitting their Palomar College admissions application. Similarly, our Student Ambassadors proudly represented Palomar by hosting tabling events at Logan Memorial Educational Campus and at the Mission Hills High School Community Car Show College Fair. These types of opportunities strengthen our relationships, emulate the excellence, and show the care we take with all of our partners and students.

### Behavioral Health Counseling Services and Health Promotion

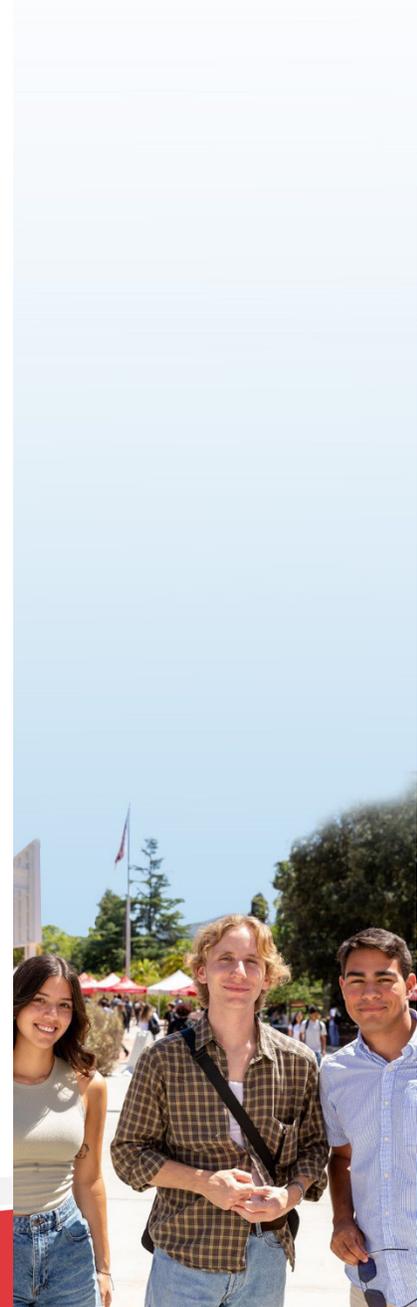
Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS) onboarded a new Behavioral Health Counselor in early February to support the Dreamers program and provide counseling services to students. BHCS has been providing individual counseling sessions along with their various collaborations with Umoja, Dreamer Success, Rising Scholars, Puente, Veteran’s Resource Center, and Pride. In addition to new and returning students, the team has successfully managed various walk-in urgent appointments and maintained the safety and well-being of Palomar students.

The team is also working on an internal process and additional training for our new partnership with Exodus Recovery and the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT). MCRT is a non-law enforcement mobile crisis intervention program for children, youth, and adults. This resource will be available in addition to the support provided by BHCS.

The health promotion team collaborated with BHCS to provide classroom presentations to three classes in February in addition to their other outreach events as well as planning for their next Active Minds Club meetings in March.

### Basic Needs

In February, the Basic Needs department focused on outreach, food access, and CalFresh awareness efforts across the district, inclusive of participating in the 2026 Black History Month Fair. Thirty-four students were registered for the Anita & Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center at the Fair.



Throughout the month, in recognition of CalFresh Awareness efforts, our San Diego Food Bank representative tabled on campus to assist students directly with CalFresh application support, and on February 25, the California Community College Chancellor’s Office ambassadors conducted additional outreach to increase awareness and connect students to food assistance resources.

The Anita & Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center continued providing comprehensive food support to students and their families, welcoming 57 new students, supporting 274 students and their households across 943 total visits, and distributing 4,609 pounds of food. In addition to food distribution, the Center provided hygiene kits, diapers, and period products for households with dependents, assisted students with CalFresh applications, and connected several students to emergency housing resources. To expand access beyond regular operating hours and support students who may prefer more flexible or discreet options, Campus Care Lockers fulfilled 36 districtwide orders for groceries, hygiene supplies, diapers, and period products. Grab and Go Stations also continued serving students across the district, distributing approximately 1,757 pounds of snacks and fresh produce at the San Marcos campus and an additional 525.5 pounds at the education centers, ensuring equitable access to resources at all Palomar College locations.

**Student Life & Leadership**

The Associated Student Government (ASG) has been busy bringing campus life to Palomar College by engaging in multiple events. They hosted a 2-day Spring Club Rush event with over 33 student clubs and organizations on campus, joined the Black History Month Fair, and held two ASG Comet Hours. The ASG Comet Hour events brought together 12 student clubs for a Valentine’s Day celebration and “Spill the Tea with ASG” connected student leaders with their peers to share and hear students feedback and experiences on campus. ASG has been working to increase their presence and engagement with students ahead of their Washington D.C. and Sacramento advocacy efforts during the spring 2026 semester.

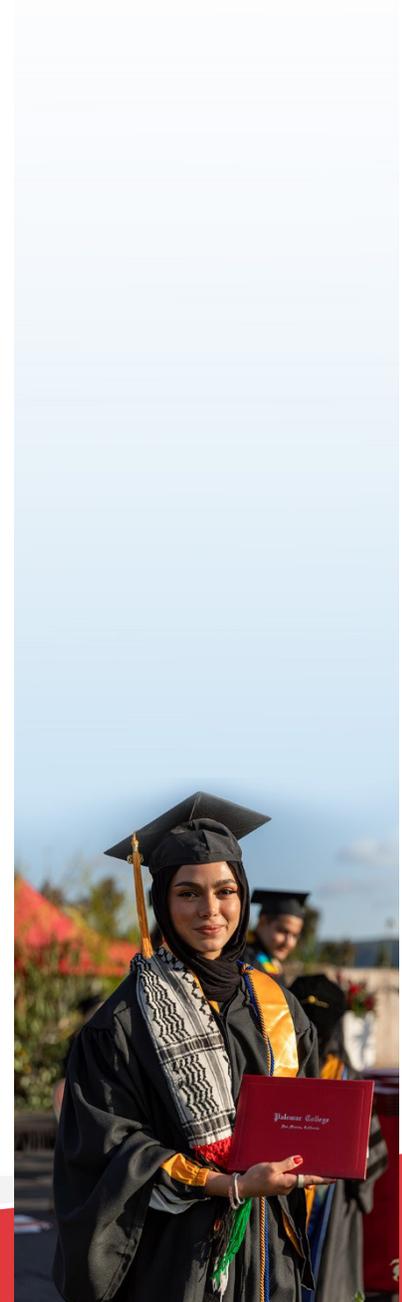
The ASG held a swearing-in ceremony for new members on February 23. In addition, the election cycle for the 26-27 academic year was initiated. Students are now able to begin submitting their intentions to run in the upcoming elections. An ASG Candidate Forum will be held in April with student elections opening on April 27. With 24 current members of the Associated Student Government, we are excited to see what this elections cycle brings for student leadership in the 2026-27 academic year.



*Swearing-in Ceremony of newly appointed members of ASG*

**Systems, Technology, and Projects**

Manager Joseph Allen presented a workshop on “How To and the Importance of Building Campus Technology to Assist Students” at the annual Association of California Community College Administrators conference in Long Beach.



The team is working with Palomar College department and program leaders to update Palomar.edu webpages that are centered on reaching prospective high school students for dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs. This work ensures consistent support to students looking to take college classes while in high school. The team also continued to lead the implementation of email communication to students regarding available student success support programs.

OnBase System training sessions will be held for Information Services (IS), Enrollment Services, Records, Financial Aid Services and Human Resource Services to ensure the full capabilities of the software are leveraged. The team is working with IS to troubleshoot and resolve a Title IX training process issue in the student dashboard and to update the IS Frequently Asked Question webpage to include accessible information that can be included in AI chatbot knowledge base.

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### Fiscal Services

While the development of the tentative budget for FY 2026-27 continues, Fiscal Services is working with the Office of Instruction and Student Services to design and finalize fiscal processes and accounts associated with supporting the success of the bachelor's degree in building performance and environmental design. The team is also updating documentation and procedures for the Concur Travel platform.

### Facilities Operations

#### Construction & Facilities Planning

Progress on the Fallbrook 40 project continued throughout February inclusive of exterior wall framing and sheathing, utilities rough-in installation, and interior wall framing and drywall on all floors. On the Athletics Phase 2 project, exterior wall framing and sheathing, utilities rough-ins, interior wall framing continued.

#### Environmental Health & Safety/Risk Management

Risk Management submitted required insurance data for the district's annual property & liability renewal and initiated the 2026-27 international student health insurance renewal process. Additionally, the bi-annual Hazardous Waste Report to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control was completed and submitted, ensuring compliance with state hazardous waste regulations.

On the emergency preparedness front, a district-wide lockdown drill was conducted on February 11, reinforcing safety culture, testing emergency communication systems, and strengthening response readiness for students and employees.

Environmental Health advanced safety and compliance efforts by replacing damaged fire extinguisher cabinets in the parking structure, completing four ergonomic assessments for employees, and conducting eleven off-site shipments of hazardous materials to support instructional operations and compliance.

#### Custodial Services

Following a highly competitive recruitment process, the hire of Timothy Cross as the Custodial Services Manager was finalized.

The custodial staff continued to prioritize routine cleaning of classrooms, restrooms, offices, and common areas to ensure facilities remain clean, safe, and fully operational in support of daily instruction and student services. In addition, several special events were supported



with setup and post-event cleanup including the Black History Month Fair, EOPS Welcome Back event, Service Learning Fair, Waterman Pentathlon, ASG Valentine's Day event and the Grand Re-opening of the Native American Resource Center.

#### **Building and Ground Services**

Building Services oversaw the replacement of the roof on the LL building, remodel of the east end of the J building for storage in support of automotive instruction, and repair of the air compressors at the T-building in support of Cabinet and Furniture instruction.

Grounds Services continued bush and tree trimming across the campus including the perimeters of the LRC and A, O, and M&O buildings. The team began installing new plant ID tags in the field, planted some new trees in the Arboretum, and germinated seeds of some native and non-native trees for future planting across the district.

#### **Campus Police Department**

Campus Police hired three full-time Community Service Officers, which will allow expanded weekend and evening coverage. We also hired a full-time Police Parking Specialist to coordinate our event parking and parking permit system.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)**

Human Resource Services continues to streamline internal processes and strengthen collaboration across divisions. Recent work with the Payroll department resulted in updated operating procedures related to load-bank leaves. We are also partnering with the Tenure Evaluation and Review Board to implement a new online faculty evaluation pilot designed to simplify and modernize evaluation workflows. In addition, we continue to collaborate with Information Services on enhancements to the district's electronic document management system, with the goal of improving document handling and workflow efficiency for HR-related forms and processes.

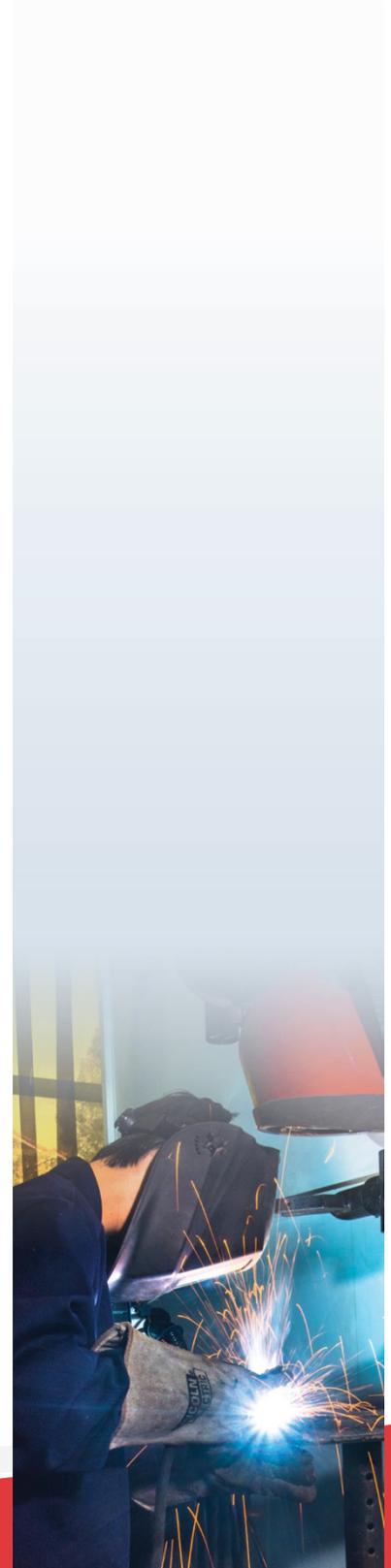
Human Resources continues to provide guidance to the Governing Board, as requested, in support of the Superintendent/President recruitment process. Since our initial update in January, Human Resources was present to provide support as needed during the February 24 special Governing Board meeting as the consultant finalized next steps for the hiring of the position.

In addition, Human Resources has been meeting regularly with both the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF) and the Council for Classified Employees (CCE) to support ongoing negotiations and maintain strong collaborative relationships. We look forward to continuing these discussions as we work toward agreements that reflect the needs of employees and the strategic direction of the district.

#### **Benefits**

The part-time faculty spring 2026 open enrollment period will remain active through February 28. The Benefits Office and TEAM LIFE will host free employee health screenings on April 28. Employees enrolled in district medical plans who schedule and complete a screening will receive a link to a \$25 Amazon gift card. TEAM LIFE will distribute sign-up information directly to employees.

The Anthem Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to all employees of the district, including part-time and temporary employees. The crisis and support services are available to managers, employees, and any household members. The services include virtual and in-person counseling, legal consultation, financial planning consultation, identity theft



recovery, and entertainment discounts. There are also Talkspace online therapy and MyStrength services available through the EAP. Numerous resources are available on the anthemEAP.com website or by calling 800-999-7222 and using the company code “SISC.”

### Recruitment

Recruitment figures as of February 3, 2026:

- 40 permanent recruitments in progress
  - 7 – Admin/CAST
  - 32 – Classified
  - 1 – Faculty
- 74 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

### Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Initiatives

The California State University Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Student Achievement program in collaboration with the California Community Colleges AANHPI Student Achievement program, California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA) and the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) hosted the inaugural 2026 AANHPI Student Achievement Program (ASAP) Summit. Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle and Interim Project Director of AANHPI Student Success Programs Dr. Angela Kong attended the summit and engaged with leaders across the state to inform the development of AANHPI initiatives at Palomar College.



*Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle and Interim Project Director, Student Success Programs Dr. Angela Kong attended the CSU ASAP Summit*

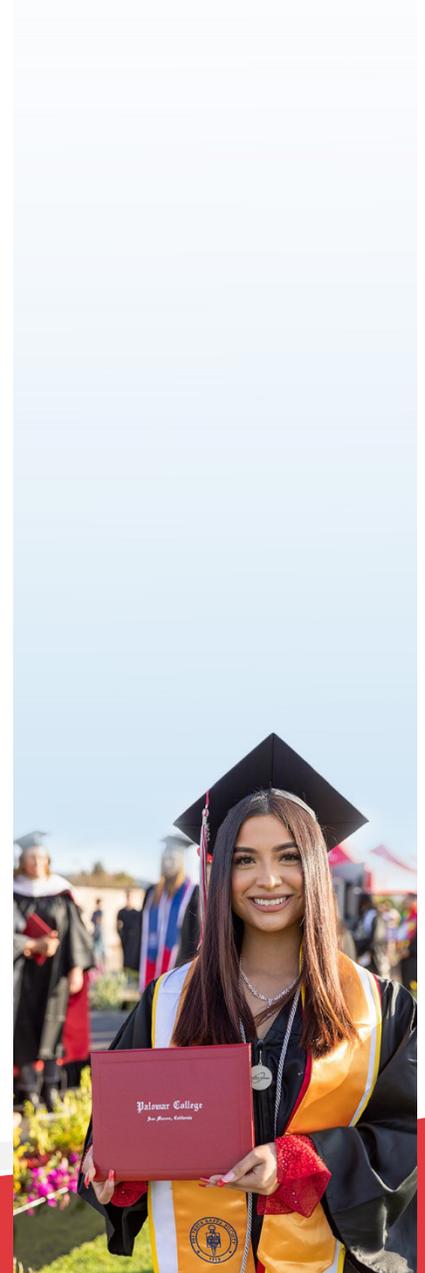
### Professional Learning

The Association of California Community College of Administrators annual

Conference was held in Long Beach in late February. This year the association celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the theme of Honoring Our Journey: Igniting Our Future. Administrators from across Palomar were able to attend and continue their professional learning in focus areas such as enrollment, artificial intelligence, leadership development, and other high priority focus areas.

### Accessible Palomar

As the Title II deadline is quickly approaching (April 24, 2026), the accessibility workgroup has worked to address accessibility issues across the district and provide opportunities for employees to learn and engage in new accessibility habits. Distance Education, Instructional Designers, and the Academic Technology Resource Center (ATRC) offer accessibility-related workshops and open invitations to attend department or program meetings to support ongoing efforts. Even after the deadline, accessibility efforts will remain a priority as



we continue to strengthen our commitment to equitable access across information, services, and learning environments for students, employees, and community members.

## INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

### Accreditation

The Governing Board approved the Accreditation Midterm Report at its February meeting. The report will be submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) before the end of the month.

The College is currently completing its Annual Accreditation Report and Annual Fiscal Report, both due on April 15. The Accreditation Report includes student enrollment and achievement data, while the Fiscal Report provides information used by ACCJC to assess the district's fiscal health.

### Integrated Planning

IRP&G presented estimated College Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) and reviewed enrollment goals established in Vision 2035 and the budget at the most recent budget committee meeting. The team has also updated the daily enrollment dashboards to provide a clearer view of FTES estimates by location. Previously, distance education was reported as a stand-alone location. The updated prototype integrates online FTES into each campus or center and attributes offsite courses to the appropriate location. The report has been launched, and users are being asked to provide feedback over the next few weeks so refinements can be made.

All instructional and non-instructional units are currently completing their Program Review and Planning (PRP) forms, which are due March 13. The PRP process is used to evaluate programs and develop planning goals for the future. Units complete their reviews, develop plans for improvement, and may submit one-time resource requests to support implementation. Once submitted, forms will be reviewed, and resource requests will be compiled and prioritized for funding.

### Institutional Research

IRP&G continues to advance its spring agenda. The team is preparing data for the Governing Board annual Institutional Effectiveness Report in April. As part of this work, the team is exploring how best to provide post-graduation student outcomes data. IRP&G has met with representatives from a partner district and reviewed labor market reports produced by the California State University system, as well as return-on-education data produced by ACCJC. As a result, the team is considering potential approaches for incorporating salary data into analyses of graduate labor market outcomes.

In addition, the team continues to prepare data to support the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) for the college. Data provided by IRP&G for the CLNA will inform the College's identification of priority needs for its local Perkins funding proposal and plan. Additional projects include but are not limited to updating an enrollment demand report, preparing data for the ACCJC annual report, supporting regular grant reporting, and analyzing and preparing a report documenting the outcomes of the fall student survey.

### Grants

Palomar College was selected to participate in Mentor-Connect, a national initiative that provides mentoring and technical assistance to help STEM faculty develop competitive proposals for the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) program. As part of this effort, Director of Continuing Education Dr. Ute Maschke,



Career Technical and Extended Education Associate Dean Wendy Nelson, STEM faculty Dr. Beth Pearson and Dr. Sara Kraus and Grants Manager Pauline Moroz attended the Winter Technical Assistance and Grant Writing workshop to begin developing the college's ATE proposal. As one of 28 colleges selected nationwide, the Palomar team participated in sessions on key topics such as the anatomy of an NSF proposal, logic model development, and budget development.



Director of Continuing Education D., Ute Maschke, Career Technical and Extended Education Associate Dean Wendy Nelson, STEM faculty Dr. Beth Pearson and Dr. Sara Kraus and Grants Manager Pauline Moroz at the Winter Technical Assistance and Grant Writing workshop

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

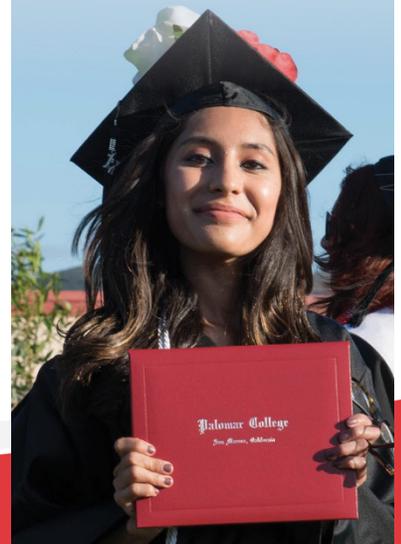
### Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The integrated marketing campaign with a specific focus to support the spring 2026 enrollment goals continued throughout February. The campaign includes the Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy, inclusive of academic advertising as well as brand-related enrollment-focused ads, generating over 431,000 impressions while remaining cost-efficient.

The comprehensive advertising campaign featured a diverse mix of placements, including a billboard on Highway 78, digital bulletin ads along Interstate 15, digital web banner ads in the UT Community Press outlets, and a full-page ad in *North County Informador*, which included an accompanying web banner. In the southern portion of the district, digital transit shelter ads and a cinema ad ran. The web-streaming campaign with iHeart Radio featuring Palomar College alumnus and radio personality Jesse Lozano continued through the middle of the month. This campaign also includes over-the-top (OTT) video advertising targeted at platforms and programming that align with our student demographics, all aimed at driving traffic to the palomar.edu website.

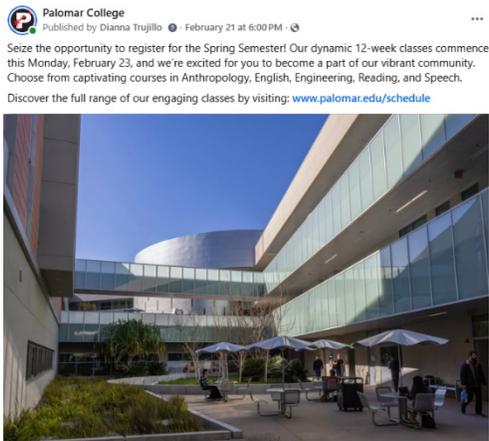
The integration of the BPED bachelor's degree program keywords and phrases into the existing digital advertising strategy, as well as outdoor advertising, cinema ads, and web streaming continued through the end of February. The placement of promotional signage on the San Marcos campus and Rancho Bernardo Education Center continued as well.

Compared to February 2025, new user traffic to the palomar.edu website increased by more than 200%. These results are positively impacted by the comprehensive advertising strategy implemented in February. Social media traffic remains the 4th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, TikTok, LinkedIn, and Instagram 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.



Throughout February, our social media posts focused on enrollment in spring classes, including 12-week courses, and the promotion of low-enrolled courses, student support services, events, athletic achievements, and the opportunity to apply for the Bachelor of Science in Building Performance and Environmental Design.

A year-over-year performance comparison of growth within each of our social media platforms shows mixed results. Facebook followers increased by nearly 2% and X followers were flat compared to last February. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to February 2025. Compared to the previous January, both Instagram and our TikTok channel grew 15% and 14%, respectively.



Sample Social Media Post



Sample Social Media Post

### Community and Media Relations

Several Palomar News stories were initiated in February including one on the bachelor's degree in Building Performance and Environmental Design and the success of alumni from the Media Studies department. A follow up story on the grand re-opening of the Native American Resource Center is in process as well. These stories will be made available on the [Palomar News website](#).

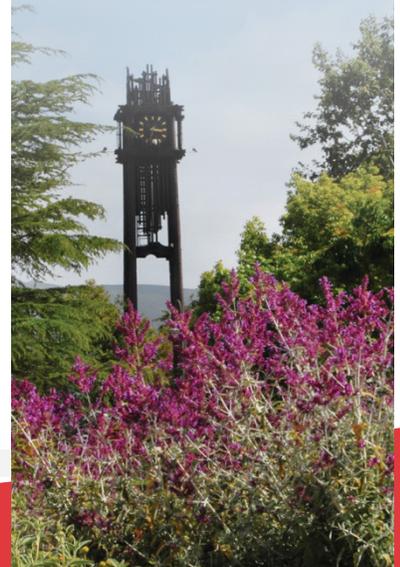
Palomar College received 447 media mentions in January, including mentions from local, regional, and online media organizations, with an overall publicity value of nearly \$1.6 million.

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the grand re-opening of the Native American Resource Center and facilitated the professional photography at the event. She also attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce executive committee, and the board of directors annual retreat.

### Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy developed the meeting calendar with federal legislators and produced the reference materials for use by the Governing Board during the Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington D. C. Earlier in the month, she attended the government affairs meeting hosted by the Community College League of California (CCLC). In addition, she attended the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA) annual dinner.

The Creative Services team designed and delivered projects to support a variety of initiatives and student support programs. This work is in addition to updating the district's emergency procedures guide and collateral materials for the Performing Arts department.



## FOUNDATION

### Community Showcase

The Palomar College Community Showcase was held on March 4 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. More than 300 community members attended the “Report to the Community” by Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde. The program also included the presentation of the Comet Award to foundation donor Mary Curran Downey and featured the Palomar College Fire Academy.



*Palomar College Community Showcase promotional ad*

### Fundraising Activities

#### Scholarships

The Palomar College Foundation is grateful to receive funding from generous scholarship contributors, including the Osher Scholarships program at \$32,800. In addition, the Theodore Killman Scholarship received an additional \$28,000 along with two standing scholarships receiving additional support including the Donna Mason Scholarship at \$1,000 and the Sara Thompson Scholarship at \$2,000. We are deeply appreciative of the continued trust and partnership of our donors. Their generosity allows us to expand our impact and help more students achieve their educational and career goals.

#### Major Gifts

Following a meeting with the donor, our request was approved from the Issa Family Foundation for \$75,000. These funds will support former foster youth, the Rising Scholars, and military-affiliated students. In addition, the Cohen Family Foundation’s request for funding was granted with \$20,000 for the Rising Scholars Program.

#### Grant Program

We are pleased to share that Kaiser Permanente has approved a \$1,500 Community Showcase sponsorship and renewed its \$1,000 President’s Associates membership, reflecting continued philanthropic investment in Palomar College students. Kaiser Permanente has also committed to sponsoring the President’s Invitational Golf Classic in October, further strengthening its annual support.

In addition, the Foundation has been invited to submit a proposal to the Cushman Foundation Phil Fest to fund the Veteran Mental Health Access & Campus Support Initiative. This invitation represents an important opportunity to expand access to culturally responsive mental health services for our military-affiliated students.

#### President’s Associates

Keenan & Associates along with Foundation Board Member Chakri Bokka has renewed their President’s Associates memberships. We are grateful for their continued partnership and support.

#### Foundation Board

The Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors held a regular meeting along with their annual retreat on February 24. In addition, the committees of the board met earlier in the



month including Finance & Investment, Grant Review, and the Fund Development committee.



**Community & Donor Engagement**

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the Board of Directors for the Network for California Community College Foundations (NCCCCF) on February 19. This esteemed statewide organization, in partnership with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, is dedicated to advancing the role of philanthropy in strengthening California's community colleges, enhancing student success, and preparing a highly skilled workforce. She also attended the REF Global nonprofit CEO forum on February 25 and represented Palomar College at the North San Diego Business Chamber Regional Connect event on February 11.

We were honored to welcome the Palomar College Retirees' Association (PACRA) board members back to campus on February 5. During their visit, Executive Director Rungaitis provided a brief campus tour and shared the impact of the Anita & Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center, where students find nourishment, dignity, and support when they need it most. PACRA will host its annual meeting on campus in April.

