

April 10, 2026

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Welcome Back to the Spring Semester

After a relaxing and rejuvenating spring break, we are off to a running start for the second half of the spring semester. As our students focus on completing their coursework and head toward commencement, I want to thank all of our employees for your ongoing commitment to the success of our students.

Prior to leaving on spring break, we were able to add additional 8-week classes to meet the needs of our students. Students enrolled in these classes very quickly and they were full by the time we returned from spring break. We are continuing to keep an eye on the final 4-week classes that will begin on April 27 to see if there are any additional opportunities to add classes to support our students. These fast track sessions are important for strategically meeting our enrollment goals and providing students with opportunities to complete their educational goals at a faster pace.

A Center of Pride and Belonging

Congratulations to our Pride Center team for a successful grand opening of the new Pride Center in SU-17. The new center reestablishes our commitment to creating a space to honor, support, and celebrate our dynamic and diverse LGBTQ community. This milestone is the result of a passionate commitment to our LGBTQ students and employees, and is a real example of our dedication to a stigma- free and healthy environment for our Palomar community. Attendees enjoyed remarks from Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, Student Trustee Ariel Fridman and Palomar colleagues who had a significant role in the expansion of the Center. While many individuals contributed to the development of the new Center, I want to specifically thank Dr. Ben Mudgett and Dr. Abbie Cory, who continue to be steadfast advocates and have had an integral part in the



Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Nick Mata, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Pride Center Coordinator Lene Reynolds, Pride Center Faculty Coordinator Dr. Ben Mudgett, Dean Dr. Leslie Salas, Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, and Student Trustee Ariel Fridman

establishment of the new Center. We are very grateful for the expertise and commitment of those within our community who contributed to the realization of this accomplishment.

Celebration of Early Care and Education Apprenticeship Program Students

In early March, we celebrated 18 Early Care and Education (ECE) apprentices who completed their coursework and are ready to move on to jobs in this high demand industry. This program blends paid, hands-on teaching at MAAC early learning centers with Palomar College coursework, guiding participants toward their Associate Teacher Permit and preparing them for full-time employment. The event reflected the power of our partnership with MAAC and the positive impact of investing in early educators.



Acting Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Justin Smiley, Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, MAAC Apprenticeship Program Manager Barbara Garcia, MAAC Associate Director of Operations for Child Development Oscar Matos, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, MAAC Interim President & Chief Executive Officer Adolfo Ventura, MAAC Director of Economic Development Claudia Huerta, MAAC Associate Director of Engagement and Economic Mobility Daniel Alvarez Mendoza, ECEPTS Registered Apprenticeship Programs Director Shanell Brumfield, and Interim Associate Dean of Workforce Development and Extended Studies, Wendy Nelson

CEO Symposium

Prior to the start of spring break, I attended the CEO Symposium hosted by the Community College League of California (CCLC). The symposium offered the opportunity to connect with CEOs from throughout the state to discuss and strategize on various issues impacting our districts. As part of the event, we were able to recognize the dedication of the CEOs retiring from their districts, including two of our partners, Dr. Sunny Cooke from MiraCosta College and Dr. Roger Schultz from Mt. San Jacinto College.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

Arts, Media, and Business Administration

The Performing Arts department recently saw the successful run of the spring musical, “Into the Woods.” Directed by Gerilyn Brault, with music direction by Dr. Ellen Weller, a student cast and remarkable set, lighting, sound, and costume design by Palomar employees, the musical sold out for several performances. The Performing Arts department also hosted the Live in the Brubeck! Palomar Day and Night Jazz Ensembles performance, the Spring Choral Showcase, Exotic Sounds and Expeditions by the Palomar Comet Concert Band, and Joyful Discoveries by the Palomar Symphony Orchestra.

Professor Briana Stanley from the Art department recently completed a three-week artist-in-residency at the Sitka Center for Art & Ecology in Oregon, bringing new perspectives and learning back to share with colleagues and students.



Students in the Journalism program visited New York City at the beginning of March to attend the College Media Association Spring Convention. This opportunity was provided through a Career Technical Education grant and with support from staff and administrators. The students were selected to attend based on their work on The Telescope newspaper. While there, they attended a variety of workshops ranging from media law and artificial intelligence to reporting, writing and technology changes. They were able to tour media organizations like the *New York Times*, talk to professors and students from 4-year journalism programs, and meet working professionals. The hard-working and talented students ended the conference by learning that they earned awards in all 10 categories entered. The competition comprised 2-year journalism programs from across the nation. Being one of the smallest programs in attendance, this recognition is well received and extremely meaningful. The Journalism department appreciates the opportunity to continue to develop these amazing students.

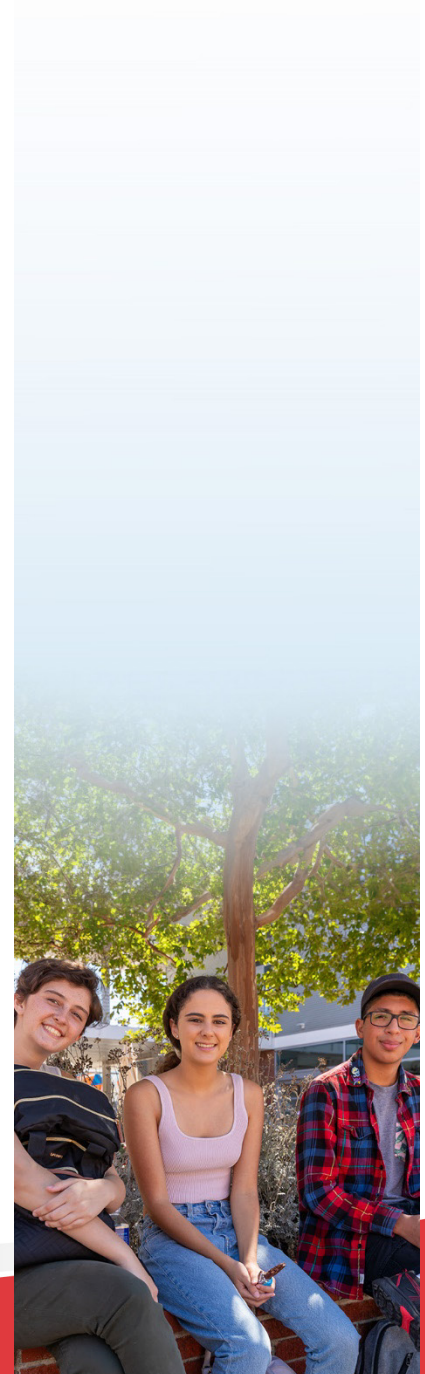


Palomar College Journalism students and staff in front of the New York Times building while attending a conference in New York.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

On March 9, Palomar College hosted a celebration honoring the second cohort of 18 MAAC Early Care & Education apprenticeship students. These students completed 2,000 hours of early childhood classroom experience and earned their Child Development: Associate Teacher Certificate. The event welcomed more than 150 attendees and featured remarks from Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Ricalde, Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, and Professor Heather Pham. Speakers recognized the students' dedication and highlighted the strong partnership between Palomar College and MAAC that is integral to the success of the apprenticeship program.

As part of the Chicano Studies curriculum, the Systems Under Pressure exhibition, a result of a collaboration between the Ethnic Studies and Art departments, brought together an energetic and diverse audience of 150 attendees, with a mix of students, faculty, and administrators from Palomar College, CSU San Marcos, San Diego State University, MiraCosta College, and San Diego Mesa College. The event created a welcoming and dynamic space where learning, creativity, and community intersected. Students were actively engaged throughout the program with activities, including reading poetry during the opening, and participating in hands-on printmaking workshops, and a faculty-led Ethnic Studies workshop. The symposium and artist engagements, featuring renowned Chicano artist Malaquías Montoya, fostered thoughtful dialogue around social justice, cultural resistance, and the role of the arts in shaping public discourse. Overall, the exhibition strengthened



cross-departmental and cross-institutional collaboration while highlighting the impact of culturally grounded interdisciplinary programming on student learning and community engagement. Its success has already generated interest in a continued partnership, including the possibility of a related event at Cal State San Marcos.

Languages and Literature Division

On March 7, students from both cohorts in the ASL-English Translation and Interpreting Studies program attended a training on how to work as co-navigators with individuals who are DeafBlind. Two brothers, who are both DeafBlind and use ProTactile ASL (PTASL), attended and shared their life experiences as individuals who are DeafBlind. Each brother was supported by two PTASL interpreters who demonstrated effective PTASL techniques and strategies. Students engaged in interactive, hands-on practice, guiding one another and the brothers around the H building. This training strengthened participants' skills and prepared them to volunteer at the CSU Northridge Assistive Technology conference, held later in March.



Palomar College ASL-English Translation and Interpreting Studies students engage in hands on co-navigator training

The ESL department has remained highly engaged. The ESL Tutoring Center is planning résumé building and job interview workshops for April and May. The Center also continues to host well attended conversation hours every Wednesday evening. In March, the tutoring center successfully hosted Take Home a Free Book Week, giving ESL students the opportunity to select a free book. In addition, the department's outreach team has been active at local high schools and community events, including a tabling event at the Mexican General Consulate in San Diego and the Early Care Education apprenticeship program celebration, where they shared information about ESL and INEA programs. Faculty will also participate in AB 1705 professional development training on April 3, focusing on assessing Student Learning Outcomes in Canvas and exploring AI bias.

The ESL program continues to grow and actively engage students at all locations. The evening program held at the San Marcos campus is excited about the new after-hours cashier's drop box and plans to introduce it to students at an orientation event next semester to help them fully utilize this service. At the Education Center in Escondido, the program continues to thrive; a recent resource fair was well attended, and students were excited to receive student activity cards. To further support community building, an egg hunt and egg-dye activity for morning classes will be held in April, along with two game nights for evening students. The program at the Fallbrook Education Center is enthusiastic about participating in the Avocado Festival again this year as it continues to strengthen partnerships and expand class offerings. In addition, the department continues its collaboration with Dr. Bronner's and will offer its third contracted class at that site beginning in March.

Workforce, Community and Continuing Education

On March 12, the Continuing Education department hosted Paths to Palomar, an Education to Career Network event that brings together our K-12 adult school community and



noncredit students. Over 100 participants from four adult schools explored what Palomar College makes possible. After Continuing Education Director Dr. Ute Maschke and Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde welcomed the guests to campus, the event began with a brief introduction to Palomar College, its programs, and student support services. Afterward, groups toured the campus and visited several programs where participants had a chance to view some of the facilities and chat with faculty in the Automotive Technology, Cabinetry and Furniture Making, Business Administration, Graphic Communications, Biology, Engineering, Psychology, and Sociology programs. The event included a panel of former adult school students who shared their educational journeys and provided recommendations to incoming students. Though pursuing different goals and careers, the alumni agreed that no matter where one is on their journey, Palomar College is an institution that will support students along their journey.



Attendees of Paths to Palomar, an Education to Career Network event that brings together our K-12 adult school community and noncredit students

More than 120 students from six North County Adult Transition Programs (ATP) took part in Palomar's inaugural ATP Arts & Crafts Fair on March 16. Sponsored by the Continuing Education department, the event showcased student talent, promoted campus inclusivity, and introduced the new non-credit Pre-Vocational Certificate Program, known as S.P.A.R.K. (Strength, Purpose, Advocacy, Resilience, Knowledge). S.P.A.R.K. consists of six courses and supports students in building skills for success in the workplace and community.

During the Arts & Crafts Fair, ATP students offered a diverse array of handmade items for display and sale, such as clothing, succulents, candles, artwork, coasters, keychains, and more. In addition, attendees participated in a campus scavenger hunt centered on S.P.A.R.K. principles and attended an interactive presentation led by current S.P.A.R.K. student Lucy Blasena and faculty member Laura Power. The feedback received indicated that the information presented was informative and helpful.



ATP students enjoying the scavenger hunt hosted as part of the event



The event was made possible through strong institutional support across campus, including Student Support Services, athletics, the Disability Resource Center, and the Office of Student Recruitment.

Office of Early College Credit

Palomar College launched its first dual enrollment course at the Youth Transition Campus, serving justice-impacted youth. For 2026, the campus has temporarily transitioned from San Diego Mesa College to Palomar College. The counseling 110 College Success Skills course is being taught by a Palomar College instructor who also serves as a counselor with Juvenile Court and Community Schools.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Life and Leadership

The Associated Student Government (ASG) sent nine student leaders and Student Trustee Ariel Fridman with advisor Stephanie Linnander and Basic Needs Assistant Isabel Rodriguez to Washington D.C. to attend the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges (SCCC) Federal Advocacy Academy. The group conducted four federal legislative visits

with staff from the office of Congressman Mike Levin, Congressman Darrell Issa, Congressman Scott Peters and U.S. Senator Adam Schiff. Student leaders advocated for expansion of the workforce Pell Grant eligible programs, basic needs support for SNAP/CalFresh, and the expansion of equity programs such as TRIO. Student leaders prepared unique stories from Palomar College student experiences and incorporated personal story-telling elements to advocate important matters for the district.

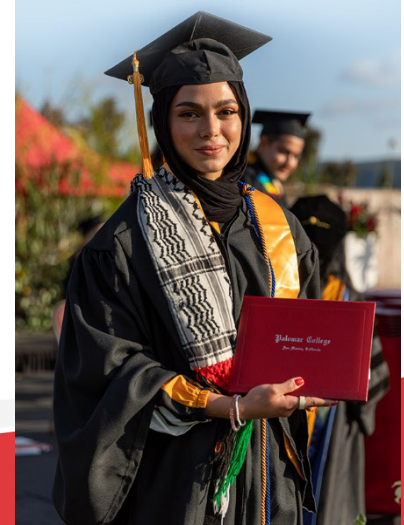


Isabel Rodriguez, Rabab Hussain, Dashiell Penning, Naomi Miller, California Community College Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian, Yaretzi Hernandez, Stephanie Linnander, Lexie Ruiz, and Ryeowon Kim at the SCCC Federal Advocacy Academy in Washington D.C.

Shortly thereafter, the ASG traveled to Sacramento for state legislative visits with Senator Brian Jones and Assemblymember David Alvarez. Topics discussed included reforms to the Student-Centered Funding Formula, the expansion of CalFresh, and extended support for apprenticeship programs. Student leaders also joined the “March in March” demonstration to protect student rights as they marched through the Sacramento capitol.

Basic Needs

In March, the Basic Needs program continued to expand outreach and services across Palomar College, with a focus on increasing access for students attending evening courses and at the education centers. Evening resource fairs designed to connect students to campus and community resources were held at the Escondido Education Center and the Fallbrook Education Center. Partners included the San Diego Food Bank, TrueCare, TURN – Improving Lives, TRIO NCEOC, EOPS, and the Early Childhood Education Lab School.



During the events, Student Life & Leadership processed activity cards, and Basic Needs hosted a farmers' market-style food distribution, providing free fresh produce to students and their families.

Additional outreach was conducted at the San Marcos campus to increase awareness of available services. The department also participated in a site visit and interview as part of the Blue Zones Ignite Assessment in partnership with the City of San Marcos, TrueCare, and Gary and Mary West PACE. This provided an opportunity to highlight the role of community colleges in addressing basic needs, share real-time insights on barriers impacting students, and contribute to broader community planning efforts focused on improving health, economic stability, and access to essential resources.

Throughout the month, the Anita & Stan Maag Food and Nutrition center served 301 students and their households across 1,025 visits, including 62 new students, and distributed 4,510 pounds of food. In addition to food distribution, students received hygiene kits, diapers, and period products, access to Comet's Closet clothing resources, assistance with CalFresh applications, and referrals to emergency housing resources. Campus Care Lockers fulfilled 17 districtwide orders for groceries and essential supplies, and Grab-and-Go stations distributed approximately 1,520 pounds of food at the San Marcos campus and an additional 510 pounds at the education centers.

Student Health & Wellness

Interviews were held during March to select three new interns from the Master's in Social Work program at CSU San Marcos. Those selected will join the Palomar team during the 26-27 academic year. Additionally, our new part-time counselor has completed orientation and will be providing mental health support to the Dreamer Success Program students through both individual sessions and group offerings. We are beginning to look at increasing the amount of support we can provide to the Rising Scholars program in the next academic year. Some of the clinicians that also provide clinical supervision, and training reviewed the strengths and areas of improvement of the training program based on feedback from current interns. The clinic has also had an uptick of students needing urgent mental health support in addition to regular caseloads and we're happy to report that through collaboration and flexibility we've been able to meet the demand.

The Health Promotion team is continuing their tabling events to make students aware of the mental health support services available. Additionally, the health promotion team is collaborating with an outside speaker that is planning to conduct a healthy relationships workshop series at the Escondido Education Center on April 7. The Active Minds club is continuing to recruit students to participate and become leaders in the club.

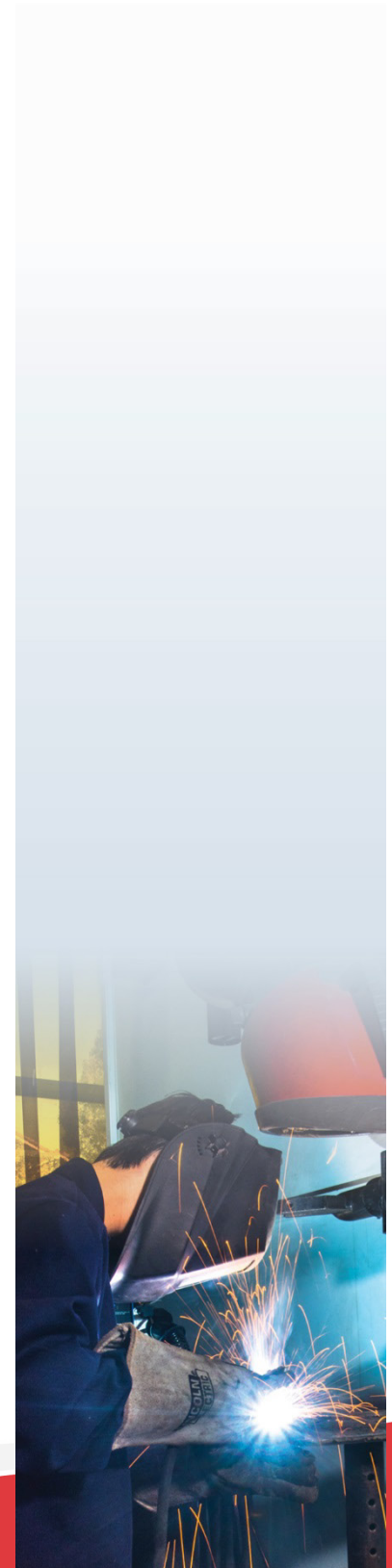
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

The Fiscal Services office collaborated with the Institutional Research Department to complete and submit the FY 2024-25 Fiscal Report for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDs).

Budget Department

The budget development process was launched, and the FY 2026-27 budget is in development.



Payroll Department

Payroll verified that our direct deposit payroll files comply with the updated National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) Automated Clearing House (ACH) requirements. These new requirements deployed nationwide are part of a larger risk management strategy that is intended to reduce the incidence of successful fraud attempts and improve the recovery of funds after frauds have occurred. By complying with the NACHA new requirements, we are reducing the potential fraudulent activities when we pay our employees electronically.

Student Accounts and Cashier's Office

After hours drop boxes were installed to allow students to submit payments outside of regular business hours. The district's portion of 1098 forms were successfully e-filed in March.

Business Services

The Business Services team has been addressing year-end purchasing and contracts for the current 2025-26 fiscal year and the subsequent opening of the new 2026-27 fiscal year. The purchasing deadlines for the current fiscal year have been communicated to all employees to ensure year-end planning is in place. In addition, the team is in the process of finalizing the preparation of a public works bid for the Facilities department for districtwide weed abatement and sprinkler repair services, with the intention of this work beginning in early fall.

The specifications, bid timeline, and preparation of bid documents for the purchase of an industrial CNC Router machine for the Cabinet and Furniture Technology Program is also in process.

Our bookstore vendor Follett has received final approval to accept EBT cards. An announcement will be going out to the campus soon in coordination with the Public Information Office. Our food services vendor, PFD Management, Inc., has applied to accept EBT cards as well and has been working through the process for approval since late 2025. We hope to hear the status of their application in the upcoming months.

Finally, the department will be seeking a full-time Buyer, as well as two full-time positions that have opened due to recent retirements: one in Mail Services and the other in Contract Services.

Facilities Operations

Construction & Facilities Planning

The Fallbrook 40 project continues to progress with the installation of the rooftop photovoltaic system, utilities rough ins on first floor, drywall installation on second floor, exterior wall framing and sheathing, mechanical system installation in the central plant, and waterproofing of second floor exterior slab walkway.

On the Athletics Phase 2 project, interior utilities rough-ins and drywall work continued. The roofing for the mechanical was completed, and the mechanical units are in the process of being set and installed. Roofing on the north low roof, exterior wall framing on the south clerestory, and exterior wall sheathing are all in progress. The grounds maintenance building roof steel installation and decking are finished with rough grading of the site in progress.

Finally, a conceptual design with initial cost estimates is in progress for the SSC Building Renovation.



Environmental Health & Safety/Risk Management

Risk Management collected updated emergency radio data from all district emergency response and facilities personnel to finalize vendor contract renewals, ensuring seamless communication coverage during emergencies. In addition, the renewal process for the International Student Health Insurance policy and Fine Arts liability insurance was completed. Finally, a formal process was initiated for departments to identify personnel required to wear respirators. The program ensures all identified personnel undergo mandated medical evaluations, fit testing, and safety training to prevent hazardous chemical exposure in accordance with the college's respirator program (OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134).

Environmental Health & Safety continued with both annual and five-year fire alarm/sprinkler inspections and repairs across the district. Staff are continuing to work with departments to address safety exceptions/violations that were identified by Keenan & Associates in December 2025. Follow-up inspections are scheduled for April 14-16.

Custodial Services

Custodial Services played a key role in ensuring several major campus events were clean, prepared, and well-maintained, including the Women's History Month Celebration, Nursing Education Career Fair, Paths to Palomar, ASG Comet Hour, and the Early Care Education Apprenticeship Recognition Ceremony. Staff also assisted with multiple furniture moves for both the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and Team Life.

Building and Ground Services

Building Services repaired the T-building roof, HVAC loop leak to the H-building, and dust collector vent that supports the T-shop welding instruction.

Grounds Services continued to trim trees in front of the M&O building, north of LRC, and adjacent to the Brubeck Theater. In addition, new trees were planted in the Arboretum and at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Human Resources has continued to prioritize the completion of employee evaluations, while collaborating with supervisors to ensure consistency, timeliness, and alignment with organizational goals. Emphasis has been placed on using the evaluation process not only as a compliance tool, but as an opportunity to support employee development, recognize performance, and identify areas for growth.

In addition, HRS will be focused on strengthening supervisory effectiveness through targeted training initiatives. This includes equipping supervisors with practical tools and strategies to better support their teams, foster engagement, and address performance proactively.

Benefits

The district provides accessibility services that are available through benefits@palomar.edu and are inclusive of accommodations or adjustments to the work environment to support job performance. In addition, sign language interpretation and real time captioning support are available. Requests for these services should be made two weeks in advance of an event and five days in advance of a workshop.



Recruitment

Recruitment figures as of March 30, 2026:

- 45 permanent recruitments in progress
 - 8 – Admin/CAST
 - 36 – Classified
 - 1 – Faculty
- 75 part-time faculty recruitments in progress
18 additional part-time faculty postings have closed, and departments are still hiring from those application pools

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICE

Women's History Month

On March 10, the Empowered Women Alliance hosted the Women's History Month Festival spotlighting women in STEM. The festival gave an opportunity for the Palomar community to engage in yoga, culinary therapy, and science crafts like slimemaking led by Palomar faculty. Along with a movie screening of Hidden Figures, there was a discussion to debrief after the movie. Palomar Professor Emeritus Cindy Anfinson was honored as Woman of the Year.

Vista Council for Equity and Antiracism

Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Belisle has represented Palomar College on the Vista Council for Equity and Antiracism for the past two years. At the last meeting, the council highlighted the student-centered process used at Vista Unified School District to achieve the district's equity goals.

Professional Development

Dr. Belisle attended the annual conference for the National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE). As a Chief Diversity Officer Fellow, she presented the work she has been doing at Palomar this academic year.

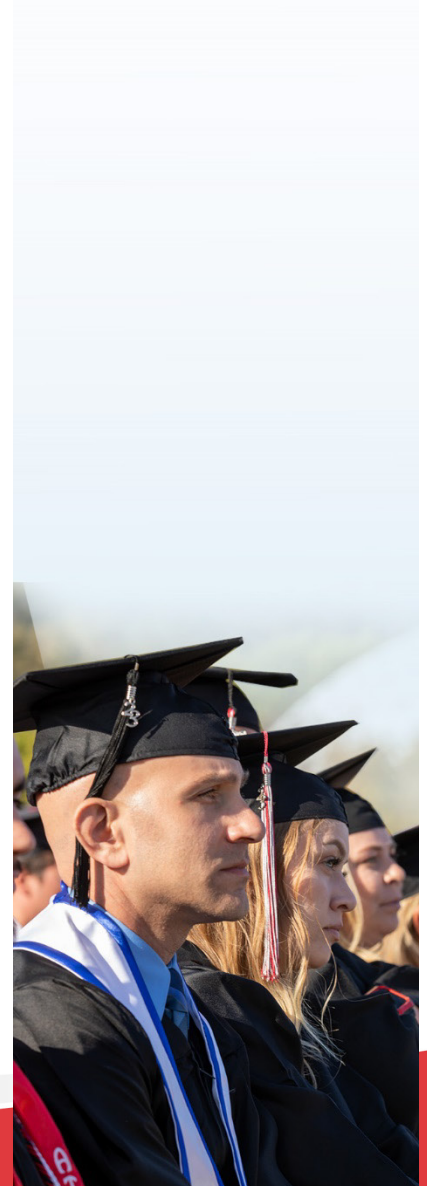
Accessible Palomar

As the Title II deadline of April 24, 2026 is quickly approaching, the accessibility workgroup has been continually working 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. Similar to the Couch to 5K training plans, we have launched the Couch to Compliance campaign to support our accessibility sprint this spring. 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 College is currently completing its Annual Accreditation Report and Annual Fiscal Report, which are both due on April 15. The Annual Fiscal Report was submitted earlier this month. The Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) met with Faculty Senate on March 30 to



review the College's institution-set standards on course success rates, degrees, certificates, and transfers. The ALO will return to the Senate on April 6 to confirm standards and goals for the upcoming year.

Integrated Planning

IRP&G is updating its daily report to align with the state's transition to the Standardized Attendance Accounting Method for credit FTES, which will replace weekly census, daily census, and alternative attendance accounting beginning with 2026–27 reporting.

The office worked with Enrollment Services, Instructional Services, and Information Services to identify needed modifications to PeopleSoft panels to capture the data required under the new formulas. IRP&G has also run a prior-year report and is now validating and reviewing FTES calculations using the updated method. The goal is to have the revised daily report in place for the start of the summer and fall registration cycle.

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 the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (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.

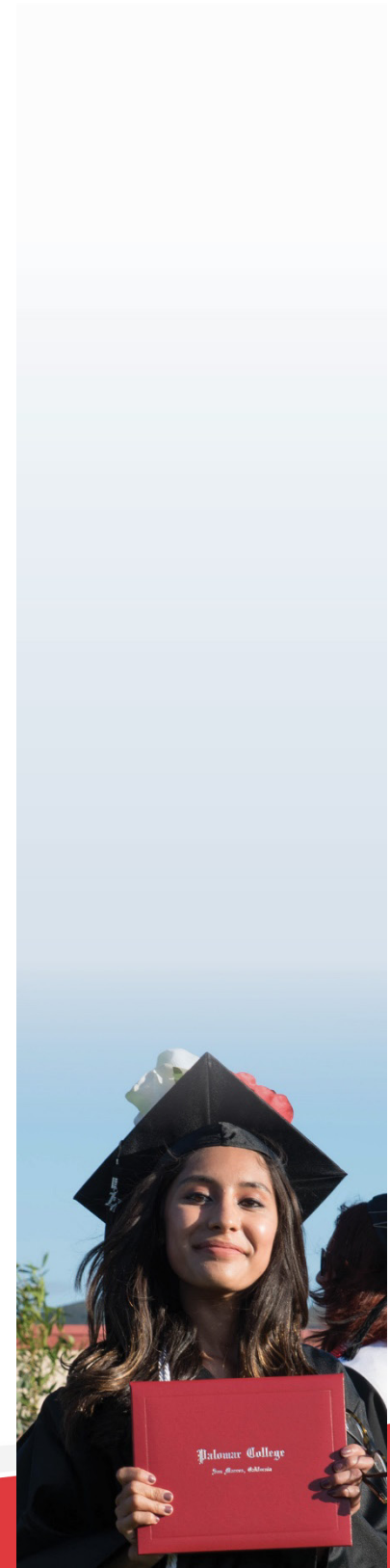
Grants

IRP&G continued to strengthen the College's grants capacity and compliance practices. The Grants Manager participated in the National Grants Management Association's Annual Grants Training to stay current on federal compliance, financial management, and audit-ready documentation practices, with key updates to be incorporated into local procedures and training. The office also supported Instruction in developing two proposals to the Border Region Talent Pipeline K–16 Education Collaboratives Grant Program to expand early college and dual enrollment pathways with local high schools. In addition, IRP&G provided ongoing training for project leads and staff on the college's new Time and Effort reporting process to support consistent documentation and compliance across competitive grants.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The integrated marketing campaign designed to support enrollment goals and increase awareness among our target audiences continued throughout March. The campaign includes the Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy, inclusive of academic area advertising as well as brand-related enrollment-focused ads, generating over 397,000 impressions while remaining cost-efficient.



The comprehensive advertising campaign featured a diverse mix of placements, including digital bulletin ads along Interstate 15, a full-page ad in North County Informador, which included an accompanying web banner. This is in addition to a print ad in high school sports programs and a full-page ad in the San Diego Business Journal. In the southern portion of the district, a cinema ad continued to run. The web-streaming campaign with iHeart Radio featuring Palomar College alumnus and radio personality Jesse Lozano launched and features the promotion of non-credit programs. 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 placement of promotional signage on the San Marcos campus and Rancho Bernardo Education Center continued throughout the month.

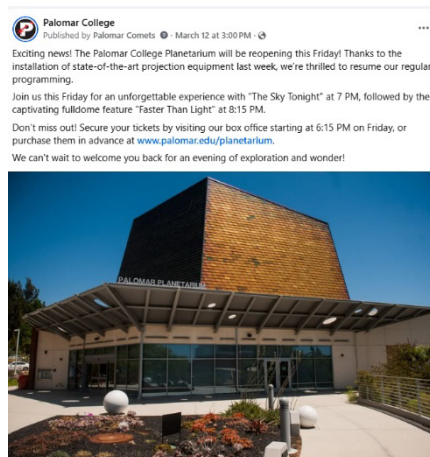
Compared to March 2025, new user traffic to the palomar.edu website increased by 63%. These results are positively impacted by the comprehensive advertising strategy implemented in March. Display advertising was the 4th ranked source of traffic generated to the website. Social media traffic was the 5th ranked source of traffic. Facebook, 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 March, our social media posts focused on enrollment in 4-week and 8-week spring classes, including the promotion of low-enrolled courses, student support services, events, performing arts, and athletic achievements.

A year-over-year performance comparison of growth within each of our social media platforms shows mixed results. Facebook followers increased by nearly 3% and X followers increased 1% compared to last March. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to March 2025. Compared to the previous March, 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 March including a story on the [Community Showcase](#) and a feature on the student success within the [Media Studies department](#). A [press release](#) was issued on the recent achievements of the second cohort of the MAAC – Palomar College Early Care and Education Apprenticeship program. These stories are made available on the [Palomar News website](#).



In addition, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde was featured in the Education Roundtable of [the San Diego Business Journal](#). The section described how Palomar College programs benefit the business community.



Palomar College received 338 media mentions in January, including mentions from local, regional, and online media organizations, with an overall publicity value of nearly \$647,000.

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce government affairs and board of directors meetings. As part of the assessment phase of the City of San Marcos being recognized as a Blue Zone, PIO Lanthier Bandy attended an interview between a Blue Zone team leader and our Basic Needs Manager. The session was for the Blue Zone team to gain insights into how agencies and institutions within San Marcos serve the needs of the community.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy developed the meeting calendar with federal legislators, produced reference materials, and conducted a government relations training for student leaders prior to their attendance at the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges Federal Advocacy Academy in Washington D. C. Earlier in the month, she attended the government affairs meetings hosted by the Association of Community College Trustees, California Community College Chancellor's Office, and Community College League of California (CCLC), in addition to joining a SANDAG briefing on new rapid transportation routes that will positively impact district locations. She also attended the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA) monthly meeting and the California Secretary of State meeting in preparation for engaging students in the 2026 election cycle. Lastly, PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the Palomar College Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting.

The Creative Services team designed and delivered projects to support a variety of initiatives and student support programs. This work is in addition to designing the cover for the 2026 commencement program, updating the district's emergency procedures guide, guidance on immigration enforcement, and collateral materials for the Performing Arts department.

FOUNDATION

Community Showcase

The Palomar College Community Showcase Sparks of Possibilities on March 4 welcomed over 300 guests and generated \$30,000 in sponsorship support to underwrite the cost of the event. The morning's most touching moment was the presentation of the Comet Award to Mary Curran-Downey. In honor of her son Jonathan, who found his passion in Palomar's media studies program, her family established a scholarship and announced a \$100,000 planned gift to ensure his legacy continues to change students' lives. The event was featured in a Palomar News article - [Palomar College Showcases Impact on Regional Workforce](#).

Fundraising Activities

Scholarships

The Palomar College Foundation is grateful to share several generous gifts that continue to remove financial barriers and support student success. The Needham family contributed \$22,500 to sustain scholarships for trade students, while the Assistance League of Inland North County provided \$27,900 to support students in trades, EME, and nursing programs. The Matthew and Marion Dietschman Scholarship received \$22,800 to assist nursing students and first responders, and an additional \$4,000 was gifted from the Beth



Forbes/D’etta Aki Nursing Scholarship. Cal Coast Credit Union also contributed \$2,500 in scholarship support. In addition, we are honored to receive a new \$10,000 endowment from Joy Hook, established in memory of her late husband, to create the Jack Hook Memorial Scholarship, ensuring his legacy of dedication to students will continue to inspire and support learners for years to come.

Grant Program

The Foundation submitted two grant proposals this month. The first request is for the District Attorney’s Community Grant Program for \$50,000 to support the Rising Scholars Summer Program. The second, submitted to The Allstate Foundation College Service Grant program, requests \$10,000 to strengthen student leadership and enhance student service initiatives.

Laptops & Emergency Grants for Students - Spring Semester

The Palomar College Foundation continues its commitment to removing financial barriers through its Laptop and Emergency Grant Program. During the Spring 2026 semester, the Foundation provided more than \$24,000 in emergency grants to 94 students facing unexpected financial hardships. Additionally, 32 students received laptops to support their academic success.

The demand for assistance has increased by 50% compared to Spring 2025, reflecting the growing economic challenges many students face as they balance school, work, and family responsibilities. The generosity of Foundation donors remains essential in ensuring students have the support they need to stay enrolled and continue pursuing their educational goals.

Foundation Board, Community & Donor Engagement

Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde was the featured speaker at the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Community Connect series on March 5. Dr. Recalde shared an update with the 25 in attendance and provided a dynamic dialogue with the group. Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy were in attendance.



Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde and San Marcos Chamber of Commerce CEO Rick Rungaitis at the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Community Connect series

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the Board of Directors for the North San Diego Business Chamber on March 19 as well as their Regional Connect in Rancho Bernardo on March 11. Stacy also attended the Escondido YMCA Campus of Well Being Grand Opening on March 13. Palomar College hosted the San Diego Regional Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Contest on March 11. Interim Director of Student Recruitment Nellie Martinez provided a welcome to the group on behalf of the college.

