

May 8, 2026

INSIDE...

President's Office..... 1
Office of Instruction..... 4
Student Services 8
Finance & Administration
..... 11
Human Resources 13
Chief Diversity Office 14
**Institutional Research
Planning & Grants** 15
Public Affairs Office 16
Foundation..... 18

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Enrollment Strategy Continues

Our focus on increasing enrollment and retention is paramount to our fiscal stability and success as a college. In the coming weeks, we will launch several tactics developed by a multi-disciplinary team to positively impact our enrollment and retention goals. These include a letter in English and Spanish from the Office of the President to parents and guardians of high school seniors within our district informing them of the benefits of attending Palomar College. The letter includes mention of the Promise Program, transfer pathways, and our supportive and engaging student experience. To align with the expected response to the letter, we will open a call center to address inquiries. The call center is designed to manage incoming and outgoing calls. In addition to answering incoming calls, call center employees will contact students who are not enrolled for the fall term, and engage them to return to Palomar. We also remain heavily invested in increasing dual enrollment and early college programs and will continue to focus on ways to consider increasing the availability of high-demand courses.

Sprinting Toward Commencement

It is hard to believe we are just weeks away from the 2026 Commencement Ceremony on May 22. Our celebration of student success would not be possible without a college-wide commitment to making the ceremony a lasting memory for our students and their families. While we expect record-breaking participation from our graduates and a packed stadium of guests, our planning committee has introduced important changes to manage the safety of all involved. This includes a new ticketing system, increased security and signage. As you make your plans to attend the ceremony, please view the [2026 Commencement webpage](#) for updates.



2025 Commencement Ceremony

Accreditation Preparation

A Palomar College team recently attended the regional convening of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The discussion centered on the recent changes to accreditation standards and the requirements to report on the return on investment and social mobility gained by our graduates. Our Institutional Research, Planning and Grants (IRPG) team will

utilize what we learned from the regional convening, along with internal discussions at the Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) kick-off workshop on May 6 with our ACCJC liaison, that will help us develop our roadmap to align with new guidelines and reporting requirements.

Annual Pride Festival

The annual Pride Festival was an incredible success with 44 Palomar College and community organizations joining the celebration of our resilient and vital LGBTQ students, employees, and allies. Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, administrators, students, and Pride Center staff all shared thoughtful celebratory remarks and Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez also joined the festival. We raised the Progress Pride flag in recognition of our ongoing commitment to harmony, healing, and inclusivity at Palomar College. A special note of thanks to Timothy Cross, Manager of Custodial Services, for his expertise in raising the flag on such a breezy day.



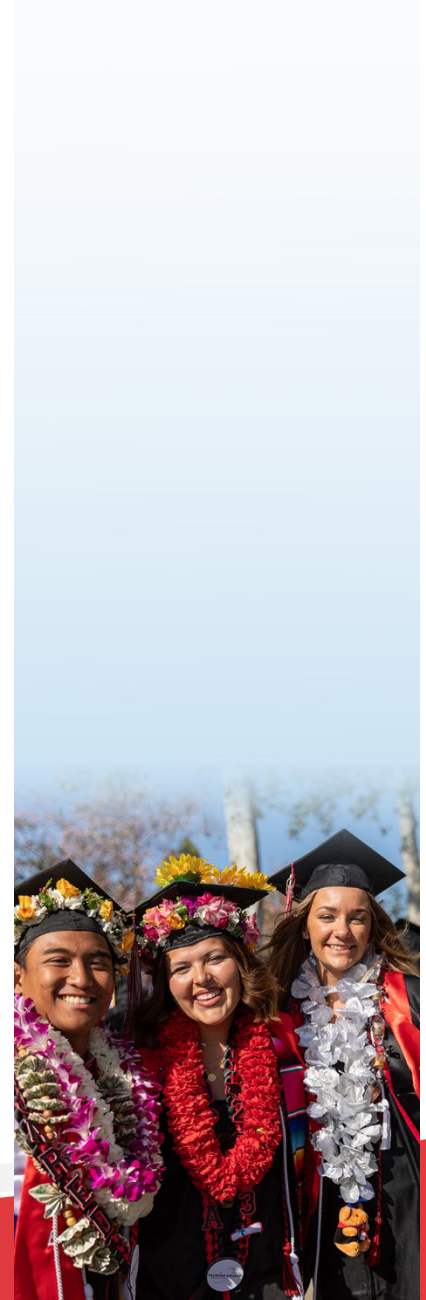
Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Nick Mata, Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Dean of Student Success, Equity and Counseling Services Dr. Leslie Salas, Pride Center Coordinator Lene Reynolds, Pride Center Faculty Coordinator Dr. Ben Mudgett, Rising Scholars Coordinator Dr. Nora Kenney, Interim Project Director Student Success Programs Dr. Angela Kong, Student Support Program Coordinator Emelia Gregor, Student Activities Coordinator Stephanie Linnander, Basic Needs Manager Riham Shenouda, and Palomar Telescope Multimedia Editor Evelyn Galan Acevedo

Supporting our Regional Workforce Needs

In late April, I attended the board of directors meeting and spring conference of the California Community College Association for Occupational Education. As the Communications Officer for the board of directors, I provided public comment at a state budget hearing as they heard testimony on the need to fully restore base funding for the Strong Workforce Program. This program provides funding for all community colleges, supporting the important work we do to educate and prepare the region's workforce.

Strengthening Partnerships

We celebrated the regional impact of TrueCare Healthcare at their gala. I joined Governing Board President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil,



and Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis at the event. TrueCare addresses the community health needs of children, adults and the elderly through a number of accessible clinics and health education initiatives.

Recently, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Nick Mata joined me for a visit to Neighborhood Healthcare to discuss a future partnership to address the educational needs of their employees and the region's workforce. We reviewed a variety of pathways to collaborate on programming that will benefit both of our organizations. We are looking forward to providing more detailed information as our discussions continue.

Earlier in the month, I attended the San Diego North Economic Development Council (SDNEDC) Chairman's Dinner at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. The event provided an opportunity to connect with our region's business leaders, economic development partners and elected officials. I also attended the Purple Star Awards ceremony at Bonsall West Elementary School. For the fifth year in a row, all five schools in the Bonsall Unified School District were recognized by the California Department of Education with the prestigious Purple Star Award. This designation is given to schools that provide outstanding support to military-connected students and their families. As a military-serving higher education institution, our early college education partnership with Bonsall Unified is perfectly aligned with our mission.

Annual Trustees Conference
The Community College League of California (CCLC) hosted the annual trustees conference during the first weekend of May. The conference was an opportunity for CEOs and trustees to gain insight into a variety of topics including goal setting, AI, the Student-Centered Funding Formula, budget reserves, advocacy as democratic leadership, and state and federal legislative initiatives. At the meeting, Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez was re-elected



Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Recalde and Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Nick Mata with Neighborhood Healthcare colleagues



Interim Camp Pendleton Site Manager Yvette Maynard, Bonsall Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Heather Golly, and Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde



Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, and Governing Board President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley at the CCLC Annual Trustee Conference



to the California Community College Trustees Board.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

Congratulations to the Palomar College Educational Television department on their newest documentary, *My Wild Life*, which follows the remarkable career of wildlife photographer Suzi Eszterhas. The film captures her work documenting newborn animals and wildlife families in the wild, and highlighted *Girls Who Click*, an organization dedicated to empowering young women to enter the male-dominated field of wildlife photography. The recent screening sparked great conversation around patience, courage, representation, and the power of visual storytelling.



Palomar College Educational Television team with wildlife photographer Suzi Eszterhas.

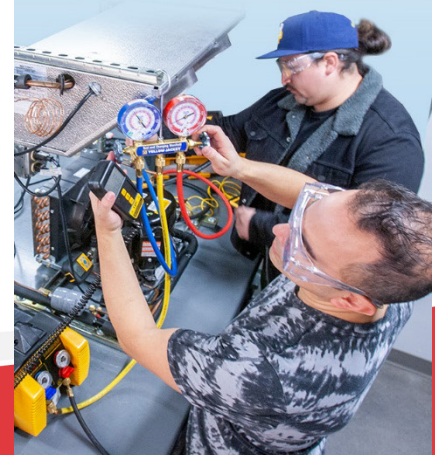
Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Justin Smiley participated in a Workforce Development Roundtable hosted by the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor. The conversation brought together educational and industry leaders from across North County, along with Joshua Wetzel, West Coast Regional Representative, and Troy Selberg, Director of Workforce Initiatives for the U.S. Department of Labor. The discussion included strategies for expanding apprenticeship opportunities in the region and developing programs that are responsive to the needs of today's workforce, all of which supports the work to strengthen career and technical education pathways at Palomar.

VP Smiley also attended *Equity in Action: Collaborate. Implement. Transform*, a conference hosted by the California Community College Chancellor's Office that brought together student equity plan teams from across the state to engage in peer learning, share promising practices, and collaborate on actionable strategies that turn equity planning into meaningful outcomes. A team from Palomar engaged in sessions focused on closing equity gaps and aligning those with the Guided Pathways framework. It was an invaluable opportunity to learn alongside colleagues from institutions across California, and the team gained actionable ideas to strengthen progress on the Palomar student equity plan.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

In early April, the Child Development and Education department participated in the Apprenticeship and Vocational Training Fair at the Palomar College Rancho Bernardo Education Center. Staff hosted an information table and led a breakout session highlighting new certificate offerings, including the Child Development Preschool Certificate, which will be offered in Rancho Bernardo in the fall.

The Social Work and Human Services (SWHS) program hosted a Community Connection event on April 17, with 55 participants with additional students, faculty, and campus community members attending throughout the afternoon. The event provided students with opportunities to engage directly with community partners, learn about available services and career pathways, and begin building professional relationships. The strong level of



engagement highlighted the continued need for connection between students and community partners. Participating organizations included The Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.; Wylde Horses Therapeutic Riding Facility; YMCA of San Diego; Meals on Wheels San Diego County; Operation HOPE North County; Lifeline Community Services – Connections Community Counseling; and Palomar College programs including Social Work and Human Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, Service Learning, Basic Needs, and Rising Scholars.

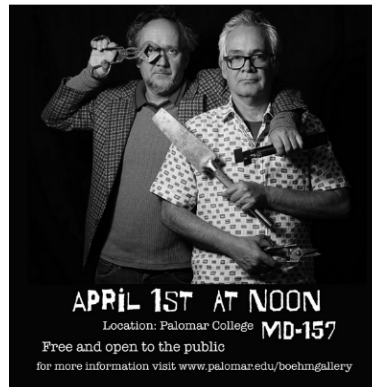
The Palomar Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS) hosted its spring Family Math Night at the San Marcos and Escondido locations, welcoming children ages 1–5 and their families for an evening of hands-on interactive learning. Through developmentally appropriate play, families engaged in activities that supported early math skills and reinforced the importance of strong family involvement in early learning.



ECELS families enjoying Family Math Night

Arts, Media, and Business Administration

The Boehm Gallery hosted an artist talk in April featuring Palomar College artists in residence Einar and Jamex De la Torre. The brothers discussed their binational life and artistic practice spanning from San Diego to the Guadalupe Valley in Baja California, México. Their work is informed by the complexities of immigration and bicultural identity. Known for their signature mixed media style incorporating blown glass sculpture and installation art, the De la Torres brothers shared perspectives on their creative process and the multifaceted narratives represented in their work.



A promotional advertisement for an artist's talk with Einar and Jamex De la Torre

The Art department is entering a busy and creative period with several exhibitions and events showcasing faculty and student work. Professor Sasha Jonestein, Professor and Director of the Boehm Gallery Ryan Bulis, and 15 students from the ceramics program were invited to exhibit at the California Conference for the Advancement of the Ceramic Arts in Davis from April 22–26, providing a valuable opportunity to present their work at a statewide conference.

On campus, the Spring Art & Craft Sale took place April 21–23 at the Boehm Gallery, featuring a wide selection of student made work available for purchase. The annual Art department open house followed on April 23, as classrooms were open to the public, student artwork was on display across disciplines, and live demonstrations in glass, foundry, and other media were hosted. The semester concludes with the annual Student Art Exhibition, on view May 7–19 at the Boehm Gallery, highlighting the range and quality of student work produced throughout the year.

The annual Latin Nights show took place on April 17, offering an energetic evening of Cuban Salsa, Merengue, and Bachata. The event featured informal performances by Agogo, the Afro Cuban and Brazilian Drum and Dance Ensemble, along with World Drum and Dance students, as well as live music by a local salsa band. Guests enjoyed an open dance floor led by founder and director Patriceann Mead and were invited to join in the celebration. Cuban food and appetizers rounded out the festive evening.



VIBES, a Student Composers’ Recital directed by Madelyn Byrne, took place on April 30. The evening featured original compositions by student composers, showcasing a range of styles from classical to modern and offering an engaging program of creativity and artistic expression.

Math, Science and Engineering Division

During spring break, Professors Nina Shmorhun and Jonathan Sleeper led a highly successful geology field course in Death Valley, providing students with an unforgettable hands-on learning experience. Despite extreme temperatures exceeding 100°F, the instructors ensured a safe, engaging, and enjoyable environment throughout the trip. Students explored an extraordinary range of geological features—from some of California’s oldest rocks,



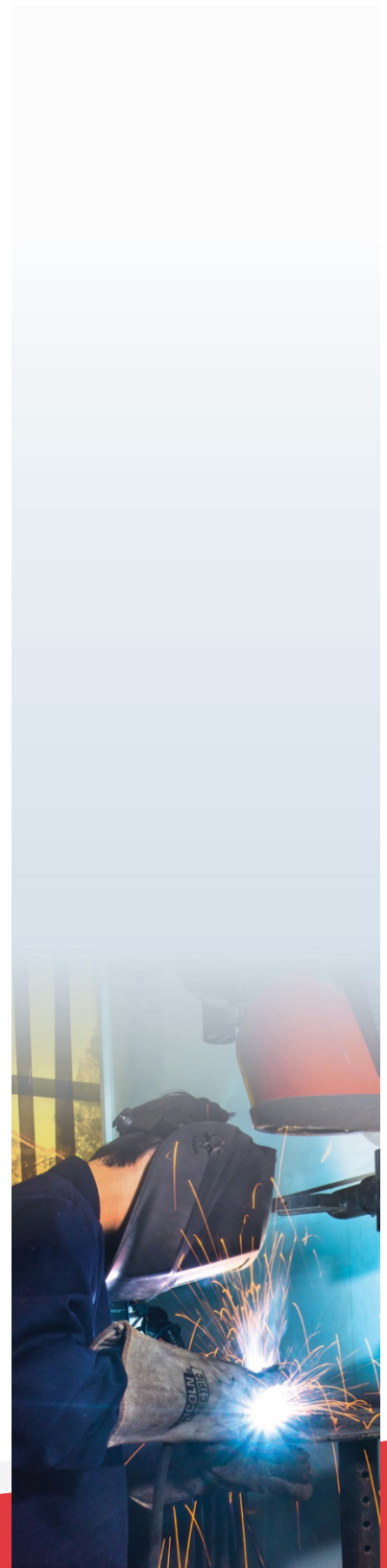
Professors Nina Shmorhun and Jonathan Sleeper and Palomar students at a geology field course in Death Valley

nearly 2 billion years old, to relatively recent volcanic formations, gaining a deep firsthand understanding of the Earth’s dynamic history. For many students, this marked their first field-based learning experience, one that proved so impactful they were reluctant for it to end.

The Math and Science Learning Center continues to have a strong impact on student engagement and academic success. Through mid-April of the spring semester, the center served 476 unique students through 1,672 tutoring sessions and a total of 4,112 visits, while also proctoring 534 exams. In addition, a team of 10 tutors and 2 coaches, supported by the Hispanic Serving Institution grant, are providing high dosage tutoring in enhanced courses such as Math 130E and 140E. Through initiatives including Homework Hubs and targeted study sessions, the Center offers structured, consistent support that strengthens student engagement, builds confidence, and supports academic achievement.

The Nursing department reached a significant milestone for Fall 2026, receiving a record 394 applications, with 354 applicants meeting eligibility requirements. From this highly competitive pool, 36 students were admitted, 26 based on the highest point totals and 10 through a lottery process. The incoming cohort includes 12 men and four veterans, reflecting the program’s ongoing commitment to diversity and access. The department is also making strong progress toward opening an open skills lab prior to August 2026. This state-of-the-art facility will include six hospital beds and fully equipped manikins, providing students with expanded hands-on training in a simulated clinical environment. In addition, the Nursing department successfully hosted the Regional Nursing Advisory meeting on April 10 at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, welcoming more than 65 attendees representing clinical partners, prospective employers, and educational collaborators. The department shared positive program outcomes, including a low attrition rate and a 94% pass rate, and gathered valuable feedback from hospital agency partners to ensure continued alignment with workforce and industry needs.

The Physics and Engineering department participated in the recent K–16 Collaborative outreach event and made significant progress in developing new course offerings aligned with CSU San Marcos bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. These new courses will be launched in the fall, marking an exciting expansion of the program.



Languages and Literature Division

The Speech and Debate team recently returned from the Phi Rho Pi National tournament in Bethesda, Maryland, where they competed for one week against 53 community colleges from across the nation and earned four awards. Izzy Brousseau won bronze in IPDA Debate and Extemporaneous Speaking, while Racheal Shepard earned silver in Extemporaneous Speaking. In addition, Coach Dewi Hokett was honored with the prestigious Phi Rho Pi Award for Service, which recognizes one or two coaches nationally each year for decades of contribution to the organization. With this honor, she joins Professor Chris Lowry, who received the same award in 2016, making Palomar College home to two Phi Rho Pi Service Award recipients.



Palomar College Speech and Debate Team and Coach Dewi Hokett at the Phi Rho Pi National tournament

The World Languages department invited the campus community to visit a display highlighting the rich language and culture of the Arabic-speaking world throughout the month of April. The exhibit, in World Languages Resource Center, celebrated National Arab American Heritage Month.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) department has continued to make progress in supporting students, faculty, and the broader community across programs and locations. The Tutoring Center is operating smoothly, with the “Conversation Hours” remaining engaging and consistently well attended. To further support student success, two job workshops focusing on résumé development and interview skills are planned for May, and another Take Home a Free Book Week is scheduled for later in the month.

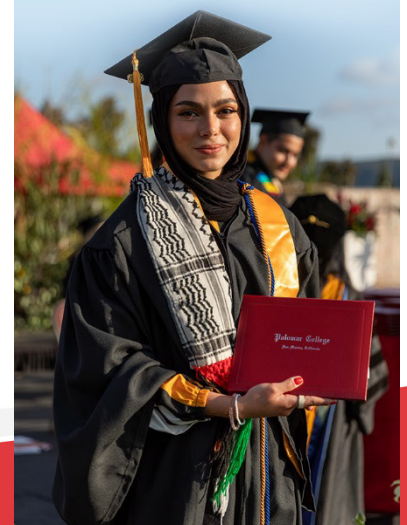
ESL faculty participated in successful training sessions on student learning outcomes and AI bias. In addition, the classified professionals have been actively supporting students through in-class registration visits to assist with enrollment for upcoming courses.

At the Escondido Education Center, the morning program hosted a community building event featuring a student egg hunt, while the evening program held a successful game night. The Fallbrook Education Center team also engaged the community at the Avocado Festival with support from a student ambassador. The department continues meeting with potential community partners to explore opportunities for expanded engagement. Ongoing collaboration with the Behavioral Health Center ensures students have access to mental health support, and a support session for ESL faculty and staff is currently being planned.



Senior Education Center Coordinator for Fallbrook Education Center and Camp Pendleton Brenda Segura, and ESL Faculty Coordinator in Fallbrook Sheri Cully.

Students in the Library and Information Technology program explored Balboa Park. The visit included tours of two specialized art libraries: the San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA) Research Library and Archives and the Dubois Library at the Museum of Photographic Arts at The San Diego Museum of Art. At the SDMA Research Library, students were introduced to art historical resources, archival materials, and research



tools used by curators and scholars to study global art traditions. The visit to the Dubois Library shifted the focus to photographic arts, where students explored collections documenting the history, theory, and practice of photography. Throughout the day, students strengthened their research skills, gained experience navigating specialized collections, and engaged with museum staff who shared their expertise, offering valuable insight into how museums support learning, creativity, and cultural preservation.

Workforce, Community and Continuing Education

The Palomar College Career Center successfully hosted a slate of career-readiness programming designed to support student success and workforce development preparation.

The Administration of Justice Career Fair and Employer Panel focused on careers in law enforcement, legal services, advocacy, forensic science, and public safety. The panel discussion provided first-hand perspectives from professionals working across justice related fields. The career fair offered students the opportunity to connect directly with employers and gain insight into workforce expectations.



Students enjoying an event at the Career Center

The Women in STEM Panel Discussion and Mixer featured a post-panel networking mixer, which provided students with the opportunity to meet directly with panelists, ask specific questions, and receive individual advice related to academic choices, career preparation, and navigating professional pathways. The Career Center also offered several Skill Shops focused on equipping students with practical tools and knowledge to support career exploration and job readiness.

Escondido Education Center

The Center welcomed Governing Board Vice President Yvette Marie Acosta for a tour. The visit included overviews of the Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS), Emergency Medical Education (EME) program, and the Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (ACR) program, along with a comprehensive review of all services offered at the Center.

The Center recently hosted an orientation for prospective Middle College of Orange Glen students entering the 2026-27 academic year. The bilingual event welcomed 100 students. A Path to Pride event was also held in the center parking lot and brought the community together through a variety of resources, live music, and hands-on crafts.

Professional Learning

Palomar College hosted an in-person watch party on April 17 for the California Community Colleges (CCC) conference *Reclaiming Joy: Human-First Teaching in the AI Era*. Statewide, more than 1,300 participants registered to attend online, in addition to 39 watch parties. At the EDGE, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde and several faculty members participated together, engaging in meaningful dialogue on human-centered teaching and the evolving role of AI in education. Conference recordings and materials are available on the event website, [Reclaiming Joy: Human-First Teaching in the AI Era](#).

STUDENT SERVICES

Office of Student Recruitment

The Office of Student Recruitment (OSR) continues to expand its outreach and enrollment support efforts across the district, increasing access and visibility through strategic school-site presence, community partnerships, and student-centered activities. Recruitment



Specialists have increased their on-campus presence by offering extended drop-in hours at key partner high schools, including Escondido High School, Orange Glen High School, Rancho Buena Vista High School, Mission Vista High School, San Pasqual High School, Ivy High School, Mission Hills High School, Poway High School, Mt. Carmel High School, and Alta Vista High School. These expanded hours provide students with timely, individualized support for admissions, financial aid, and enrollment steps.

In addition, OSR Student Ambassadors have had an active role in community engagement efforts by representing Palomar College at several large-scale events this month. These include the Avocado Festival in Fallbrook in partnership with the Fallbrook Education Center, the Latino Family Book Festival at MiraCosta College, and International Workers related community events. Through these efforts, ambassadors have connected with prospective students and families, increasing awareness of Palomar College programs and services.

OSR staff have also supported targeted outreach by delivering informational presentations at Valley Center High School and supported a Dual Enrollment Middle School Application Workshop at the Escondido Education Center. These efforts strengthen partnerships with local schools and create early college access opportunities for students.

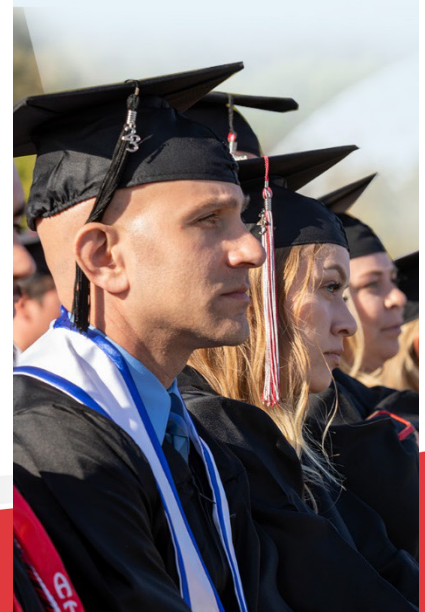
Basic Needs

Basic Needs continues to advance a holistic, equity-minded approach to student support by addressing essential needs that impact the ability of our students to persist and succeed, including food, housing, and overall well-being. Through coordinated campus and community partnerships, the program remains a central point of access for students to connect with critical resources that support their academic journey.

The Basic Needs team expanded outreach and strengthened partnerships to increase awareness and access to services across the district. In recognition of Earth Week, the program led a districtwide donation drive focused on food, hygiene items, and essential supplies, bringing together the Palomar community in support of students. Engagement efforts also included participation in the Social Work and Human Services Community Event, student ambassador-led outreach, and the Fair Chance Fair led by Palomar Rising Scholars, MiraCosta College Transitions Scholars, and CSUSM Project Rebound. In addition, a CalFresh representative from the San Diego Food Bank tabled on campus twice this month to increase awareness and support student enrollment in CalFresh. Basic Needs also met with Urban Street Angels to strengthen referral pathways and explore expanded housing support options for students experiencing housing insecurity. Through Student Equity and Achievement grant funding several students received emergency housing grants, helping to stabilize their living situations and remain enrolled in their courses.

The Anita and Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center continued to provide comprehensive food support, welcoming 63 new students and supporting 324 students and their households across 1,363 visits, with a total of 5,695 pounds of food distributed. In addition to food access, students received hygiene kits, clothing, diapers, and period products, along with CalFresh application assistance and connections to emergency housing resources.

To further expand equitable access, Campus Care Lockers fulfilled 34 districtwide orders, providing flexible and discreet access to groceries and essential supplies. Grab and Go Stations distributed approximately 2,108 pounds of snacks and fresh produce at the San Marcos campus and an additional 713 pounds across education centers.



Student Life & Leadership

The Associated Student Government (ASG) attended the General Assembly in San Francisco with 104 other community colleges to discuss current topics and issues impacting community college students. ASG leaders engaged in debate and resolution voting for the issues community college students find to be most important.

ASG Executives and Senators all contributed to the voting process by casting an initial individual vote with the opportunity to defend their positions. ASG VP Penning voted for 60 resolutions on behalf of Palomar College students as well as consistently participating in debates. In addition, he represented Palomar by participating in the selection of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges Executive Board and regional leadership. His engagement ensured that Palomar contributed to decisions that will have a lasting impact on student advocacy priorities shaping the direction at the state and regional levels.

ASG elections for the 2026-2027 ASG Board and Student Trustee opened on April 27 for the students to cast their votes for representatives for the 2026-27 academic year. Vacancies not filled during the elections will be filled by appointment at the start of the fall 2026 semester. Election results will be announced on May 5. Student Life & Leadership also hosted the League of Women voters for non-partisan voter registration event and will be welcoming them back in May for additional voter registration engagement. Campus partners are working together to ensure a welcoming, well-coordinated, and memorable experience that honors the achievements of our graduates and the support of their families and loved ones. We are excited to celebrate the Class of 2026 on May 22 at 5:00 p.m. at the Palomar College Football Stadium!

Rising Scholars

San Diego County Probation and San Diego County Office of Education selected the Palomar College Dual Enrollment and Rising Scholars programs to offer credit courses at the Youth Transition Campus (YTC) in Kearny Mesa, where incarcerated juveniles and recent high school graduates completed Counseling 110 in April and will take Sociology 100 this summer. Palomar College has entered into an agreement with San Diego Mesa College to ensure shared student support, since YTC is in Mesa's area. The California Community College Chancellor's Office invited Palomar College and San Diego Mesa College representatives to co-present at the April Rising Scholars Juvenile Justice Convening in Los Angeles. Program administrators and staff from both colleges highlighted their groundbreaking partnership.

Earlier in the spring semester, Rising Scholars Coordinator Dr. Nora Kenney, and Rising Scholars Lead Peer Mentor Cynthia Murillo, presented at the Rising Scholars Network Convening in Sacramento. Their presentation highlighted how Palomar College Rising Scholars has established best practices that can be replicated at other colleges and universities across the state and nation. In addition, Rising Scholars coordinator Dr. Nora Kenney has been selected to serve on the San Diego County Alternatives to Incarceration Advisory Group, where she joins other leaders from the region to create innovative solutions to combatting recidivism.

In April, the Rising Scholars coordinator and six formerly incarcerated students travelled to the National Conference on Higher Education in Prison in Cleveland, Ohio. The trip was funded by a Rising Scholars grant, and students were inspired to learn about formerly incarcerated authors, professors, and community leaders from across the nation.

In honor of Fair Chance Month, Rising Scholars students organized a resource fair that took place in partnership with CSU San Marcos Project Rebound and MiraCosta Transitions



Scholars on April 18. Lunch was provided for attendees and was funded by a North County Higher Education Alliance (NCHEA) grant.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

The mid-term audit is currently in process and is scheduled for completion by the end of May. The development of the FY 2026-27 Tentative Budget is actively underway. Process improvement initiatives continue, with a focus on transitioning time sheet management from a manual to automated process to enhance efficiency and accuracy. In addition, through a collaborative team effort with the Office of Instruction and Student Services, the final stage of our bachelor's degree setup is near completion.

Business Services

The Contracts and Purchasing teams worked cooperatively with Facilities to draft and finalize specifications and bid documents for bid # 100-26: Weed Abatement Services, Crucial Habitat Maintenance and As-Needed Service to Irrigation and Irrigation Controls. This districtwide bid for services was shared with local planning groups to notify licensed contractors and broadcast to firms with landscaping licensing through the PlanetBids platform. Bids are due electronically through the District's PlanetBids portal by May 22 and results will be presented for approval at the Governing Board meeting in July, with services anticipated to begin in August.

Police Department

Campus Police attended the San Diego Police Foundation Women in Blue event in early April. This showcases the accomplishments of women in policing and helps to support the Department's 30x30 pledge, 30% representation of women police officers by 2030.

Information Services

Information Services has reached a significant milestone in institutional efficiency and security. Since July 2025, our efforts have focused on consolidating operations, mitigating high-level cybersecurity risks, ensuring strict adherence to state and federal mandates, and enhancing data-driven reporting for student success.

Operational Excellence: Enterprise Service Desk Launch

A centerpiece of our strategic modernization is the launch of Fresh Service, a unified helpdesk that consolidates multiple, distinct departmental support functions into a single, cohesive platform. It provides centralized support by bringing various functional helpdesks into one common portal for all campus needs. The platform is designed to evolve into a comprehensive self-service ecosystem, providing a "single pane of glass" for all institutional support requests.

Cybersecurity and Posture Readiness

Through the Tenable Security Center, a 50% reduction in total network vulnerabilities was achieved. As part of the ransomware defense strategy, 40 simulated scenarios with 100% visibility were completed and now building custom automated threat-detection rules are in development. In addition, a standardized vetting for GLBA requirements was launched and developed formal standards for CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) safeguards.

PeopleSoft ERP: Campus Solutions & Student Success

In compliance with legislative mandates (AB 2683, AB 1705), integrated vector solutions for Title IX training were completed. This is in addition to the modernization of student math placement logic to comply with transfer-level coursework directives. In alignment with



enrollment integrity strategies, Light Leap was implemented for fraud checking. It features real-time detection and is currently in the active testing phase. In partnership with Student Services the team supported the effort to better identify and guide students pursuing an Associate degree for Transfer (ADT).

Advanced Analytics & Institutional Reporting

The team is working closely with department leaders to provide granular and mission-critical data. This effort includes nursing program enrollment numbers and NCLEX pass rates; diagnostic assessment proficiency and pre-entry preparation success; and time-to-enrollment averages for students across different proficiency tiers. The team is also working on Vision Aligned Reporting for specific student services, tracking both the frequency of service and the total dollar amounts allocated per student. Other efforts include working to identify and report on student participation in specific pilot initiatives during the reporting term.

PeopleSoft ERP for Human Resources & Finance.

PeopleSoft Finance was successfully connected with SAP Concur to automate travel and expense management. An updated of the PeopleSoft HCM environment to reflect 2025 IRS tax changes, ensuring accurate federal compliance was completed.

Facilities Operations

The Facilities department, in partnership with Information Services, the Academic Technology Resource Center, and Student Services, is looking forward to working within the new service request management platform, making it easier for employees to submit and track their work orders. While each department continues to manage its own workflows, this shared system offers a single, convenient place to submit requests, eliminating the need to navigate multiple forms and processes.

Construction & Facilities Planning

The Fallbrook 40 project continued to progress with exterior wall construction and finishing mechanical, and electrical and plumbing utility rough-ins. The installation of electrical gear and feeder wiring from the main service entrance is now complete. The new irrigation well has been commissioned and is in full operation.

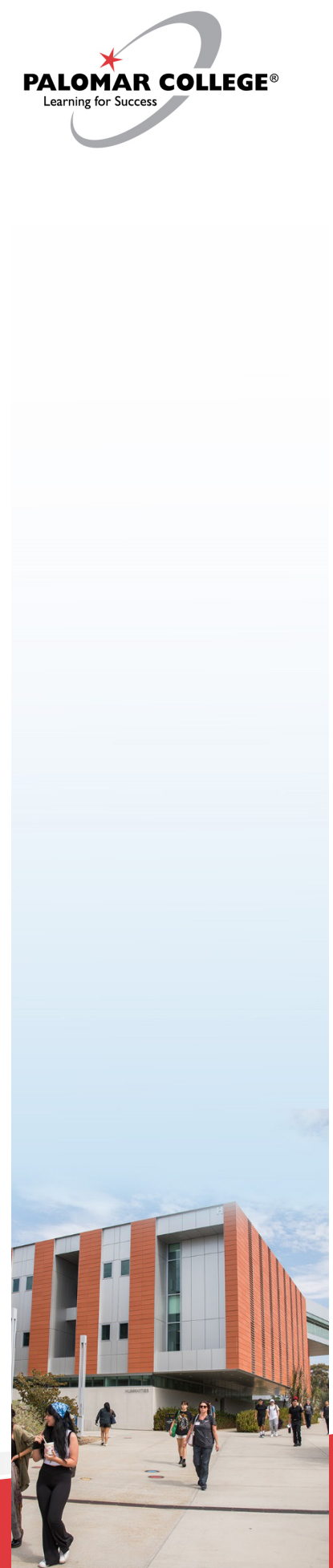
The Athletics Phase 2 project is also progressing well. The roofing is complete on the north flat roof and is being installed in the main "butterfly" roof area. Exterior wall framing is near completion, and exterior sheathing is being installed. All rooftop mechanical equipment has been set in place and utility connections are in progress. The north exterior wall waterproofing is being installed and interior ceiling mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough in is in progress, as is the main electric switchgear installation. Steel and metal roof decking for the grounds building is complete.

The Sustainability Task Force had a successful Earth Week event, with 20 organizations/individuals giving presentations that were available in person and via Zoom. Over 20 organizations also hosted information tables in the student union quad during the 4-day event.

Environmental Health & Safety/Risk Management

Risk Management participated in a "Minors on Campus" webinar alongside cross-functional district partners, including Student Life & Leadership, Campus Police, and the Office of Instruction. This engagement supports efforts to strengthen safeguards, compliance protocols, and liability mitigation strategies associated with programs serving minor students.

The Risk Management coordinated district-wide updates to the emergency procedure guides, safety posters, and evacuation maps continued. These updates support standardized



emergency response protocols and will be posted in all classrooms to enhance situational awareness and response posture. In addition, the required corrective actions identified by the district’s liability insurance carrier were successfully rectified. This effort resolved a total of 82 safety exceptions, significantly strengthening campus safety conditions and reducing risk exposure.

Custodial Services

April was an exceptionally active month for Custodial Services, marked by a high volume of campus events and increased demand for setup, support, and post-event cleaning. Major events supported during the month included the Pride Center Grand Opening, STEM Club Rush, Spring College Fair, AJ Career Fair, SSMART Outreach Event, ASG Candidate Forums, Grad Fest, AODS Event, April Fair Chance Resource Fair, Student Art and Craft Sale, Earth Week activities, WiCyS Cyber Career Day, and the Pride Festival. In addition to event support, Custodial Services continued to maintain routine cleaning and sanitation services across our campuses. The team’s adaptability and commitment were critical in meeting the increased workload while ensuring campus spaces remained clean, safe, and ready for use.

Building and Ground Services

Building Services repaired a leaking HVAC cold/hot water loop to the WC building, installed an exhaust fan at DR-2, placed carpet in AA-113, and replaced multiple fire sprinkler heads in the Dome, MD, Student Union, and O buildings. Grounds Services continued trimming around the Student Services Center, modular buildings, the Polynesian Garden, and parking lot 12. Additionally, updates to the district’s plant database were conducted along with preparation for the Arboretum recertification.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

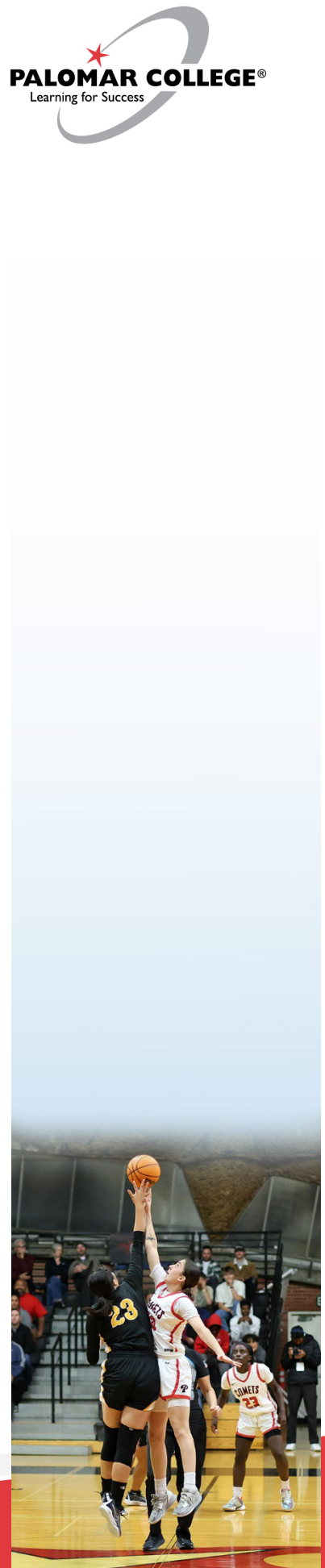
Human Resource Services is preparing for summer activities that support our employees and, in turn, strengthen our ability to serve students. Planned professional development will focus on building skills and engagement for classified staff, as well as leadership growth opportunities. Supervisory and leadership training will also be offered for administrative and supervisory employees to reinforce consistent practices, effective communication, and a supportive workplace culture.

HRS also looks forward to continuing meaningful employee engagement through campus events that recognize and celebrate our employees. These include the Employee Recognition Celebration in May and Classified Appreciation Week, scheduled for the week of June. Both events provide opportunities to recognize contributions, build connections, and highlight the important role employees play in supporting students and college operations.

In addition, HRS continues to review and improve hiring processes to better meet campus and student needs. This work includes simplifying steps where possible and exploring more efficient approaches to hiring. One example is the use of one-day hiring events for student workers, designed to help departments fill positions more quickly while providing students with timely employment opportunities on campus.

Benefits

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. There are many self-care tips to consider, including practicing self-compassion, staying connected to others, physically moving to improve your mood, and resting to recharge. The Anthem Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a free resource for all full-time, part-time, and temporary employees. One of the free tools is “myStrength” which is an online and mobile program that supports emotional health and



wellness. You can find the Anthem EAP information on the [Human Resource Services main webpage](#).

The Benefits Office handles employee FMLA and CFRA leave of absence for the employee themselves, or to care for a family member. All existing employee FMLA and CFRA leave of absence must be renewed July 1 of each year, communication will be going out soon regarding these renewals.

Recruitment

Recruitment figures as of April 28, 2026:

- 46 permanent recruitments in progress
 - 10 – Admin/CAST
 - 35 – Classified
 - 1 – Faculty
- 65 part-time faculty recruitments in progress
15 additional part-time faculty postings have closed, and departments are still hiring from those application pools

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICE

Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) National Conference

The conference centered on the theme "Legacies in Action: Courage & Resilience." Palomar College sent a team from various departments and programs, reflecting our commitment to strengthening institutional structures and providing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) students with dedicated spaces for advocacy, mentorship, and success. A highlight of the conference was a featured panel presentation by Palomar faculty and administrators titled "Courage in Action: Building an AANHPI Community Through Resilience and Collaboration," which shared our campus journey toward providing more robust, intentional support for our students. The team returned reenergized and committed to advancing data-informed equity initiatives that move the college toward increased AANHPI student success and enrollment.

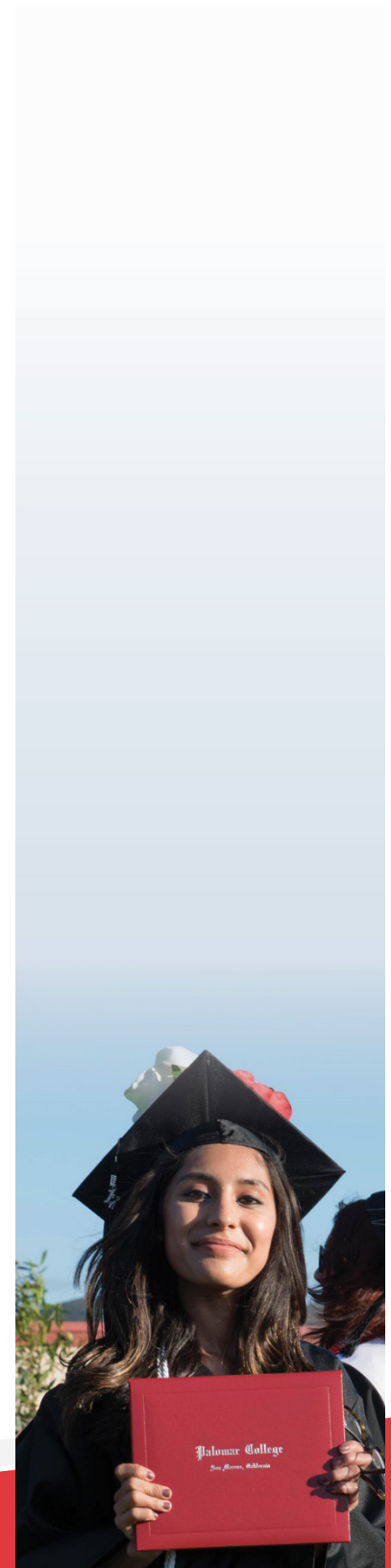
CCC LGBTQ+ Summit - Planted in Pride and Purpose: Cultivating Queer

Futures

The California Community College Chancellor's Office hosted a summit that emphasized intentionality for persistent growth and moving from solidarity to action while making equity a lived practice. Sociology Professor Susan Miller led a session with a Palomar student titled "The Politics of Dehumanization: Why are they Attacking Trans People?" This session examined how political rhetoric, media narratives, and moral panics have fueled the ongoing dehumanization of trans people in the United States. The conference provided thought-provoking and informative sessions and an opportunity for Palomar employees and students to come together, learn from one another, share innovative ideas, and develop strategies to enhance campus programs and student support services.

Black Student Success Week April 20-24

The 2026 theme was "Revolution (Re)Defining Black Student Success." This annual event offers a time to reflect on our commitment to the academic well-being of underserved students, including but not limited to Black and African American students. In addition to the California Community College Chancellor's Office session offerings, Palomar's Office of Student Success hosted events throughout the week focused on Black student success, an empowering student panel on the importance of grounding in community, and the student experience and transfer nuts and bolts at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



NASSSP Summit: Continuing the Circle – Institutionalizing Native Presence, Knowledge, and Success

The summit commemorated the annual collaboration between the Native American Student Support and Success Program (NASSSP) and the California Community College I Can Go to College Campaign. This virtual event took place on April 24 and empowered attendees by centering Native presence, knowledge, and lived experience as essential to student success.

Annual SDICCCA AccessAbility Regional event

The San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA)-sponsored event brought together employees from across the region for a shared learning experience focused on advancing accessibility. Building on the momentum of the inaugural AccessAbility Week in 2025, this year's event continued to deepen collective understanding and commitment to accessibility across our region. The sessions emphasized moving beyond compliance, positioning accessibility as a shared responsibility, and an essential component of equitable campus environments. Through collaboration, participants explored practical strategies and actionable approaches to reduce barriers, reinforcing the importance of ensuring that all students and employees have the access and support needed to fully engage and succeed. Palomar College Instructional Designer Kelly Falcone led this effort alongside other SDICCCA region colleagues.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

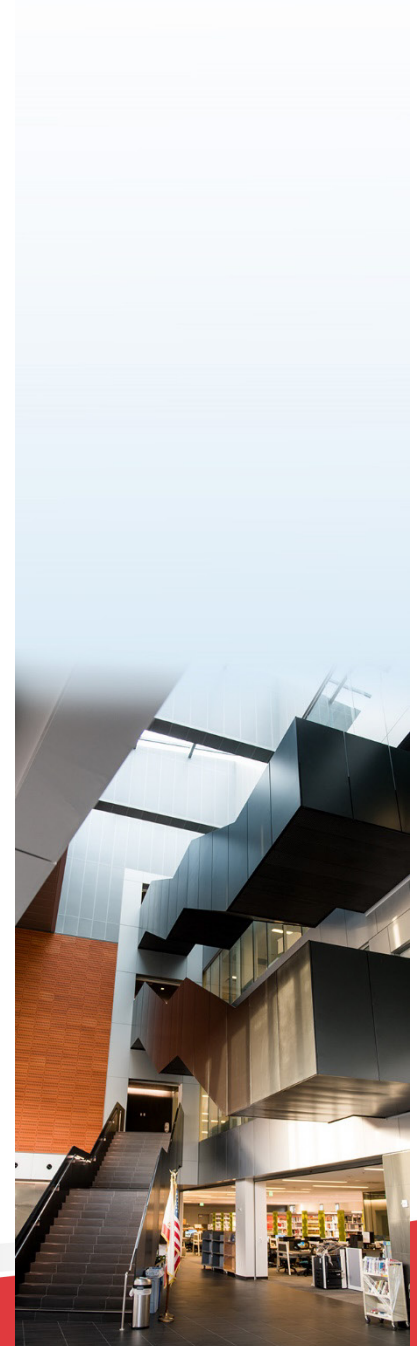
The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) extended the deadline for the Annual Accreditation Report to May 15. This extension provides the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) additional time to determine transfer counts for in-state private and out-of-state universities. All other aspects of the report are complete, pending this data for final submission. The Faculty Senate completed its review of the Palomar College Institution-set Standards, and the Accreditation Steering Committee reviewed the report.

The College will host an Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) kick-off workshop with our ACCJC liaison on May 6. The liaison will walk through required report elements, review the 2024 accreditation standards, present ACCJC rubrics, and facilitate discussion on evidence, meeting standards, and continuous improvement. Participants will include the Accreditation Steering Committee, along with additional leadership and Faculty Senate members.

Integrated Planning

IRP&G is finalizing its daily enrollment report utilizing the state's new Standardized Attendance Accounting Method, in preparation for the anticipated transition to the new methodology beginning July 1, 2026, with the 2026–27 academic year. Senior Director Michell Barton is also collaborating with college leadership to monitor and advance an action plan focused on increasing enrollment and FTES, in alignment with the College's Vision Plan 2035.

All divisions submitted their prioritized Program Review and Planning resource allocation requests by the April 24 deadline. The Resource Allocation Committee will now begin consolidating the submissions and developing a final recommendation for funding.



Institutional Research

IRP&G completed the Governing Board annual Institutional Effectiveness report, which was presented at the Governing Board workshop on April 28. The report covers the community served by the College, student data, and labor market outcomes, along with accountability and planning metrics.

Grants

IRP&G submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Education for the Palomar College FY 2026 designation as an Eligible Institution under Section 312 of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965. This designation would qualify the College to apply for certain HEA grant programs, including Title III, and to receive a Non-Federal Cost-Share Waiver for work experience.

The College's Grants Manager has been invited to join a small team of California Community College grant professionals tasked with establishing a systemwide Grant Professionals Community of Practice within the CCCCCO Vision Resource Center. The initiative aims to foster peer-to-peer collaboration, knowledge sharing, funding alignment, compliance best practices, and audit readiness across districts, ultimately strengthening cross-district coordination, reducing duplication of effort, and enhancing the grant stewardship capacity of the California Community College system.

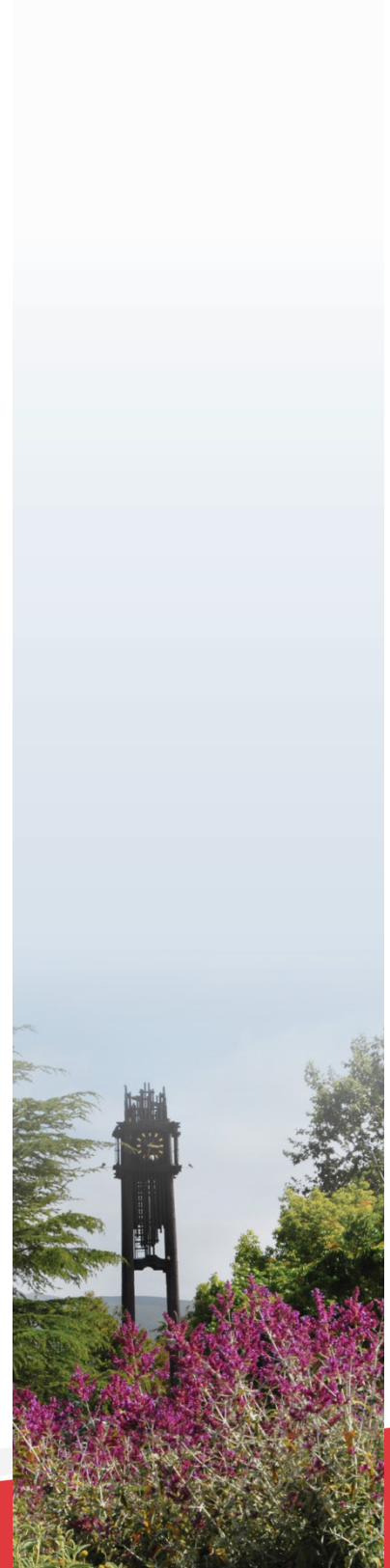
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The integrated marketing campaign designed to support enrollment goals and increase awareness among our target audiences continued throughout April. 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 571,111 impressions while remaining cost-efficient.

The comprehensive advertising campaign featured a diverse mix of placements, including digital bulletin ads along Interstate 15. The efforts included a digital bulletin along Interstate 15, indoor digital billboard screens at various retail establishments within the district, and a new billboard in Fallbrook. We also placed a full-page ad in the North County Informador, accompanied by a web banner. Additional placements included a digital marquee display at Camp Pendleton and a cinema advertisement promoting the Rancho Bernardo Education Center. A new web streaming campaign launched with iHeart Radio is designed to increase the diversity of students within our career technical education programs. The ads feature Palomar College alumnus and radio personality Jesse Lozano and includes over-the-top (OTT) video advertising targeted at platforms and programming of campaign audiences, all aimed at driving traffic to the palomar.edu website. In collaboration with the facilities department, signage promoting enrolling for summer and fall have been posted at the San Marcos campus.

Compared to April 2025, new user traffic to the palomar.edu website increased by 57%. These results are positively impacted by the comprehensive advertising strategy implemented in April. Display advertising was the 4th ranked source of traffic generated to the website. Social media traffic was the 5th ranked source of traffic. 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 continuous improvement. Facebook followers increased by nearly 4% and X followers increased by 1% compared to last April. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to April 2025. Compared to the previous April, both Instagram and our TikTok channel grew 18% and 14%, respectively.

Throughout April, our social media posts focused on student support services, workshops and activities, commencement reminders, events, performing arts, and athletic achievements.



Sample Social Media Post



Sample Social Media Post

On May 11, a marketing and advertising strategy will launch to support the summer and fall enrollment goals. The robust campaign includes the distribution of a direct mail piece to more than 160,000 households within the district, a new billboard on highway 78, transit advertising, and community publication ad placements. The strategy will run through the start of the fall semester.

Community and Media Relations

The [press release](#) issued by the Public Information Office on the Pride Center Grand Opening resulted in news coverage by [KNSD NBC 7 television](#), and several community news websites. A feature on the most recent Palomar College Woman of the Year, Dr. Cynthia Anfinson, is pending final approval and will post to Palomar News in May. This is in addition to several stories planned for the month of May, including a student success profile, commencement, and the Superintendent/President Search. These stories are made available on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received 499 media mentions in April, including mentions from local, regional, and online media organizations, with an overall publicity value of \$2,552,000.

The PIO facilitated an interview of Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde for a feature story on Palomar College that will appear in Vista Magazine in mid-May. This is in addition to a collaboration with the Balfour Beatty media relations department to invite reporters to cover work zone safety at the Fallbrook Education Center.

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce executive committee, board of directors meeting, and the Chamber's San Marcos Forward event.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

At the invitation of faculty member Kellie Davis, PIO Lanthier Bandy provided a lecture to marketing internship students regarding the importance of consistent branding, messaging and the media strategy set forth for Palomar College. As follow up, she is working with the



students on their group projects providing guidance on design and content. In preparation for year-end celebrations and commencement, she developed a comprehensive schedule for contracted photographers to provide significant coverage of each event.



PIO Lanthier Bandy 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) and the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA) monthly meeting. She also represented Palomar College at the Avocado Festival in Fallbrook.

The Creative Services team designed and delivered projects to support a variety of initiatives and student support programs, including Career Center branding, the Foundation, creative strategy for the apprenticeship program and most significantly year-end student success celebrations and commencement. The team continues to collaborate with the environmental health and safety team to update the district's emergency procedures guide, and posters for all locations.

FOUNDATION

PACRA Annual Meeting

The Foundation was delighted to host the annual meeting of the Palomar College Retirees Association in the LRC on April 16. The group of 40 attendees enjoyed lunch, comradery, and speakers. In addition to hearing a benefits update, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde provided an update on Palomar College and Stacy Rungaitis provided a summary of Foundation highlights. Campus tours were offered via the magic golf cart.



Ann and Dr. George Boggs at the PACRA annual meeting

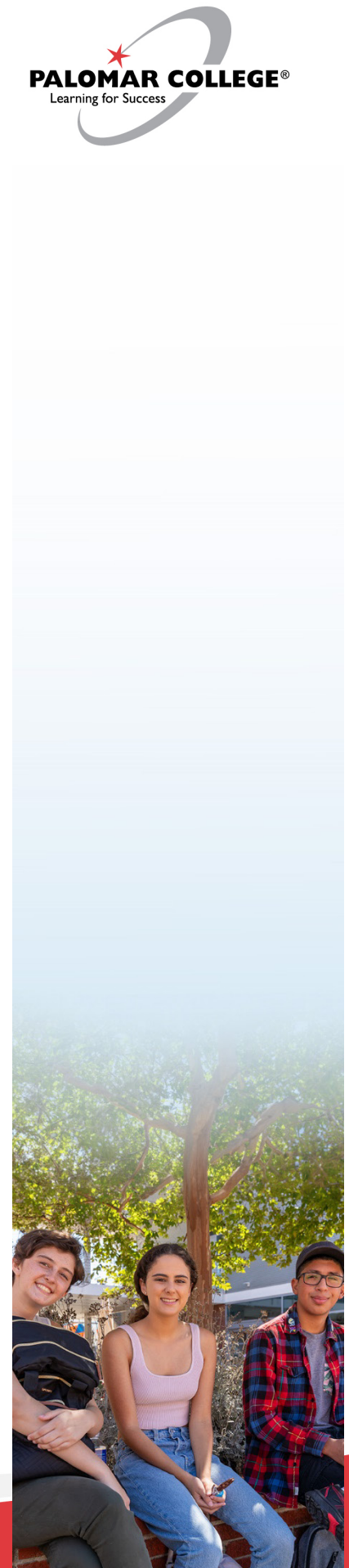
Fundraising Activities

Scholarships

The Palomar College Foundation is grateful to share several recent gifts that will directly support student success. We received \$1,500 from the Poway Veterans Organization to assist students utilizing the Veteran Resource Center, helping those who have served our country continue their educational journey. In addition, a generous \$15,000 contribution to the Lorraine Pagni-Kiefer Scholarship and \$8,000 to the Dr. Daniel Pratola Scholarship will provide meaningful support to students pursuing careers in nursing, helping to strengthen the future of healthcare in our community.

Grant Program

The Foundation was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Hunter Industries Community Grant program to advance student success, workforce development, and sustainability initiatives at Palomar College Foundation. Funding includes \$12,000 to remove financial barriers for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Building Performance Environmental Design program by covering required material fees. An additional \$8,000 will support an irrigation infrastructure upgrade at the Palomar College Arboretum focused on responsible water management and hands-on learning opportunities. The remaining \$5,000 will strengthen the Emergency Grant Program, helping students remain enrolled when unexpected financial hardships arise.



In addition, the Foundation was approved for funding from The Allstate Foundation College Service Grant to support youth-led, youth-driven community service initiatives at Palomar College. Additional details will be shared as the program develops.



Stewardship

The Foundation proudly recognized 107 members of the C.I.R.C.L.E. Program, Comets Investing in Really Changing Lives through Education, our employee payroll deduction giving initiative. Last year, these dedicated supporters contributed more than \$38,000 to help Palomar College students overcome financial barriers and stay on track toward their educational goals. To show our appreciation, the Foundation team delivered each donor a special treat and message reminding them that they make our hearts pop, and that every “kernel” of support helps create meaningful impact for students.

The President’s Associates, a community of dedicated donors contributing \$1,000 annually, continues to play a vital role in advancing the mission of Palomar College Foundation. We are grateful for Robert Larson’s renewed support and continued investment in student success.

Pride Center Endowment Fund Launch

The Palomar College Foundation was proud to support the grand opening of the Pride Center on April 2. At the event, Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis announced the launch of a new endowment fund to support the needs of the Pride Center in perpetuity. The fund has been established with donations from several individuals with the goal of reaching \$10,000.

Foundation Board, Community & Donor Engagement

Foundation Board of Directors and Foundation Annual Audit

The Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors held a regular meeting on April 27. The committees of the board met earlier in the month including Finance and Investment, Grant Review, and the Fund Development committee. The annual audit committee met with auditor Kyle Holtz from CWDL on April 14. The Foundation audit received an unmodified opinion (best possible) and the Foundation Board approved acceptance of the audit at their meeting on April 27.

San Marcos Forward

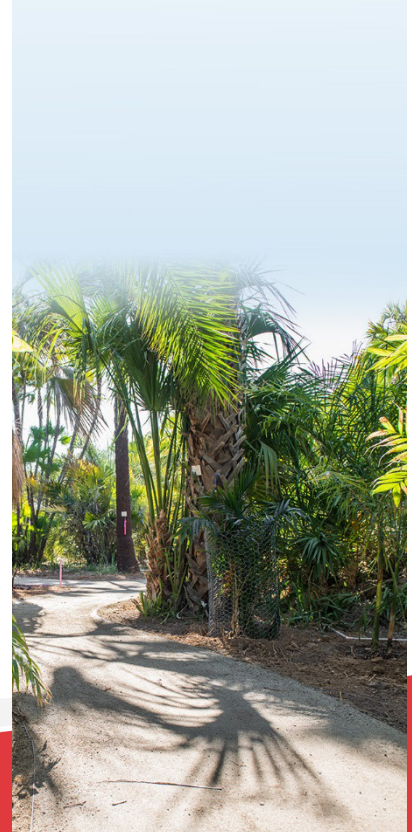
The San Marcos Chamber of Commerce hosted San Marcos Forward on April 22. Featured speakers included San Marcos Unified Superintendent Dr. Andy Johnsen, TrueCare President/CEO Michelle Gonzalez, President/CEO of Scripps Health Chris Van Gorder, and City of San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones. It was a great opportunity to connect with our community and hear about the developments within the City.

TrueCare Gala

Palomar College attended the TrueCare gala in mid-April. TrueCare is a San Marcos-based



Front Row: Foundation Board Member Dr. Lola Adeyemo, PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Human Resource Services Anna Pedroza, Governing Board Vice President Yvette Marie Acosta and Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences Back Row: Foundation Development Officer Cathy Splett, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and Development Officer Linda Moynan



healthcare provider and partners with Palomar College for many services to students. Dean Amrik Johal serves on the Board of Directors at TrueCare.



USD Nonprofit Leadership & Governance Symposium

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the University of San Diego Nonprofit Leadership & Governance Symposium on April 1. Two critical sessions to note included key strategies on financial oversight and balanced portfolio management along with tools to freshen the development plan. In addition, Executive Director Rungaitis and Foundation Board Member Veneeta Eason attended the Palomar College TV documentary film screening, *My Wild Life*, on April 15.

