

August 7, 2026

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

A Celebration of our Classified Professionals

Before the heat of the summer set in, we celebrated our Classified Professionals with a week of professional development programming. The week ended with an opportunity drawing and a catered lunch on the clock tower lawn. This event provided us with an opportunity to connect with colleagues while recognizing the important contributions to student success by our Classified Professionals and the impact they have on the short- and long-term goals of the district.



Division Administrative Assistant Monica Galindo, Interim Director of TRIO SSS Celina Mendoza, Interim Undocumented Resource Center Coordinator Marcela Gomez, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Division Administrative Assistant Amanda Richardson, and Instructional Support Assistant Judith Marquez

The Launch of Comet Central

As an integral part of our commitment to increasing enrollment and retention, we launched Comet Central, our new call center. Led by Call Center Supervisor Jena Kruhmin, our dedicated team seamlessly guides students to resources and services that support their continued success at Palomar College. The team also assists prospective students and community members interested in learning more about the College. As Comet Central continues to grow, we remain committed to refining our processes and technologies to provide exceptional service and strengthen student success.

PAA and CAST Summer Retreat

The Palomar Administrative Association (PAA) and the Confidential and Supervisory Team (CAST) summer retreat on July 23 provided a chance for our administrators and supervisors to engage in meaningful dialogue that was centered on the best practices of effective communication and leadership strategies. It was also a perfect time to connect with one another through active learning and enjoy team building activities. I am grateful I was able to join the event and gain insights from guest speaker Richard Marks, owner of RDM Management Group, an organization that excels in interpersonal skills training that focuses on emotional intelligence.

Congratulations to Paramedic Academy 66

Paramedic Academy 66 celebrated 22 graduates who completed their coursework and are moving on to a challenging and rewarding field. As they move forward from this milestone to the next step in their career, it is important to recognize our dedicated faculty and staff and our numerous community partners who make this program such a success. Our students benefit greatly from the collaborative environment both inside and outside of the classroom.



Paramedic Academy 66 students

Community Engagement

In early June, the Poway Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Business Star Awards and Board Installation event celebrating 76 years of business excellence and community leadership. Palomar College was named Large Business of the Year. The award recognizes a Chamber member that demonstrates exceptional business practices, leadership, and a strong commitment to community involvement. This award is testament to the meaningful work we have led in the southern part of our district.

During the annual Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, Palomar College was recognized for our 37-year commitment to the Chamber. It is so rewarding to see our college gain recognition as a dedicated community member. The luncheon also provided a perfect opportunity to inform community members and elected officials of the progress we



have made in building Fallbrook 40.

The college was well represented at the Celebration of Business – San Diego Business Chamber event at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park held in late June. I was joined by Governing Board Vice President Yvette Marie Acosta, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy. During the event Executive Director Rungaitis was installed as a board member for a second term. The event was well attended by the business community throughout the region, which provided an opportunity to connect with both large and small business owners.

External Engagement

In June, I attended the California Community College Association for Occupational Education (CCCCOE) Board Retreat in Redding, California, where we toured Shasta College. We explored how they partner with industry to meet workforce demands and discussed statewide advocacy strategies for enhancing Career Technical Education funding and data sharing of student employment outcomes. In July, I went to the Community College League of California (CCLC) New CEO Workshop and Leadership Institute. The sessions included the Unprecedented Challenges to Higher Education, the AI+ Opportunity for California's Community Colleges, High-Performing Executive Teams, Thinking Strategically about Budgets and Finance, and Strategies for Advancing Bachelor's Degree Attainment for California Community College Students. The retreat, workshop and leadership institute were perfect opportunities to connect with colleagues on advancing the success of community colleges and our students.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

Summer has been anything but quiet across the Office of Instruction. A team of Palomar College employees attended the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Curriculum Institute held July 15–18. The Institute is the statewide gathering for curriculum work in the California community colleges, bringing together faculty, curriculum specialists, and administrators to share practices in curriculum design, program development, and student success. Palomar was well represented not only in the audience but on the program itself: Professor Candace Rose, Curriculum Coordinator Cheryl Kears, Dean Dr. Nichol Roe, Professor Yvonne Hardy, and Professor Sara Krause each presented on topics ranging from curriculum systems and apprenticeship pathways to green and blue career technical education jobs and their role in advancing environmental justice. Having five colleagues invited to present at a statewide institute speaks to the depth of expertise at Palomar College, and the team returned with practical ideas to implement in the year ahead.

Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Smiley and the instructional deans also came together this month for a full-day workshop to prepare for the 2026-27 academic year. The day opened with a session on leadership styles using the DISC framework, giving the team a shared vocabulary for how each of us communicates, makes decisions, and works under pressure. From there the conversation turned to more practical work: staffing, budget, workload, and updates to scheduling and registration. The group closed by process mapping the points where Instruction and Student Services intersect, with the goal of tightening program alignment to improve student outcomes, increase completions, and ensure financial aid eligibility. It was a productive day, and the deans left with a shared set of priorities heading into fall.



Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

On July 21, the Palomar Career Center hosted Early Childhood Education apprentices for a career and educational planning workshop. Counselor and Interim Career Center Faculty Coordinator Letty Aguirre shared information about educational and career pathways in child development, while Job Developer Jeanette Meliska-Romero provided practical guidance on resume writing and interview preparation. The event was made possible through the collaboration of the Career Center and Child Development Department faculty members Heather Elliott-Pham and Gina Wilson. Apprentices received backpacks, lunch, resource materials, and valuable career development information to support their academic and professional goals. Participants expressed appreciation for the workshop, which helped strengthen their preparation for future educational and career opportunities.



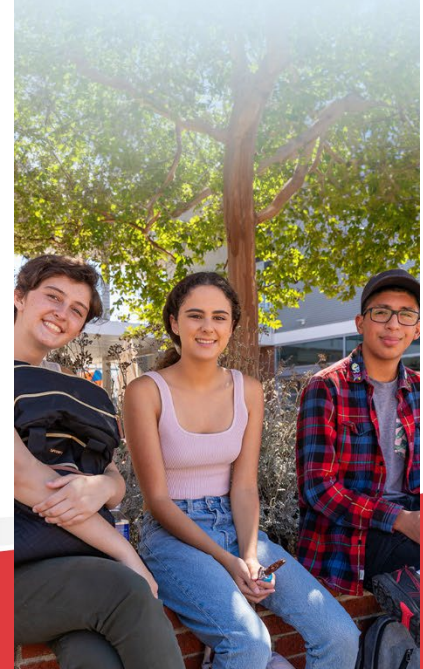
Career Center and Early Childhood Education educational planning workshop attendees

Math, Science and Engineering Division

The Palomar College Nursing program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN licensure examination for its most recent graduating class. Every student who sat for the exam passed on the first attempt. For context, the national first-time pass rate is near 88 percent, and a perfect result is a rare and demanding accomplishment that reflects the work by our nursing faculty, our clinical partners, and the students themselves. Each of these graduates is licensed and prepared to step directly into the healthcare workforce at a time when the demand for registered nurses continues to grow. Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students at the Palomar College Nursing program on a truly outstanding achievement.



Palomar College 2026 Nursing Program Graduates



STUDENT SERVICES

Office of Student Recruitment

As the school year ended for most partner high schools, the Office of Student Recruitment (OSR) staff concluded drop-in support services at school sites and focused on assisting students who still needed support completing the Palomar College admissions and enrollment process. To finish the academic year, OSR participated in outreach and tabling events at Vista Magnet Middle School and Temecula Valley High School. Recruitment Specialists also completed their final drop-in hours of the school year at Oak Glen High School and Escondido High School.

OSR continued its community outreach efforts through participation in the Vista Strawberry Festival, where staff connected with more than 500 community members, and the Oceanside Juneteenth Community Festival.

Throughout the month of June, OSR partnered with Palomar Promise to provide registration assistance to incoming students every Tuesday, helping students complete the steps needed to enroll for the summer and fall terms. In collaboration with the Marketing and Communications team, a direct mail campaign promoting the Ready, Set, Apply application assistance sessions held during July at the San Marcos campus was delivered to 17,550 households in San Marcos, Vista and Escondido.

Student Affairs – Basic Needs

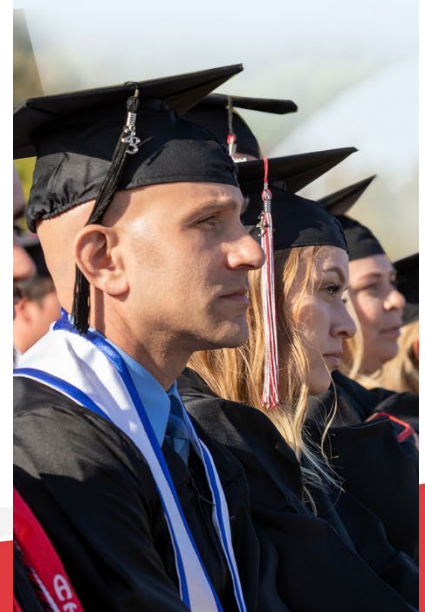
On June 23, the Basic Needs team partnered with the San Diego Food Bank to host a CalFresh outreach table on the San Marcos campus. Students had the opportunity to learn about CalFresh eligibility, ask questions about the application process, and connect with resources available through Palomar College and the community.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, Palomar College participated in the California Community Colleges Student Ambassador Program, a statewide initiative supported by the Chancellor's Office and Foundation for California Community Colleges. Through this program, four Palomar student ambassadors received training and stipends to conduct peer-to-peer outreach and raise awareness of basic needs resources, CalFresh, and other student support programs. This year, Basic Needs Manager Riham Shenouda was recognized as the 2025–2026 Student Ambassador Program Advisor of the Year for her leadership and commitment to student success.

The Anita and Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center continued to provide comprehensive food support to students and their families throughout the summer. During June, the center welcomed five new students and supported 47 students and their households through 105 pantry visits, distributing approximately 470 pounds of food. In addition to food assistance, students received hygiene products, professional clothing, diapers, period supplies, CalFresh application assistance, and referrals to emergency housing and community resources. To further strengthen food safety practices, all Basic Needs staff recently completed food handler certification training.

Student Services Call Center

The Comet Central call center is officially live and actively serving students, employees, and community members. The phone number is now prominently featured on the PalomarCollege.edu homepage, enrollment page, and financial aid page. Since launching, the team has been focused on expanding our knowledge of campus resources, departmental services, and best practices in customer service to ensure callers receive accurate information and a positive experience. We continue to strengthen referral pathways and



provide students with seamless connections to the appropriate departments. Looking ahead, we are excited to implement new phone system technology and expand our presence to support student success.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

The accounting department completed the mid-term audit and is focused on the closing of FY 2025-26, inclusive of travel reimbursements and processing final invoices. The budget office is working on the final FY 2026-27 budget, as the Chancellor's Office just released FY 2026-27 advanced apportionment and FY 2025-26 early recalculation. The 2026 Budget Act provides a 2.87% COLA and an additional 1.44% discretionary COLA, for a total SCFF COLA of 4.31%. In preparing our FY 2026-27 final budget, the budget office plans to reach out to departments for their expenditure needs beyond salaries and benefits in August. The payroll department welcomed a new team member, Nicole Bielasz. She is already contributing to the FY 2025-26 year-end processing goals.

Cashier's Office

With Fall semester fast approaching, we are looking forward to visits from students on August 13 during Welcome Day. Students will be able to learn about their student accounts, outstanding balances and paying fees. In addition, we are working closely with the Workforce, Community and Continuing Education department on the implementation of Modern Campus, as the college engages with more adult learners.

Business Services

On July 20, the purchasing team welcomed our new Buyer, Desiree Casillas, who comes to us from the private sector. The department is in the final stages of interviewing and selecting a replacement for the Mailroom Technician position. We are also in the recruiting stages to replace our Contracts Administrator position that was vacated after a February 2026 retirement. The business services team has had a busy summer between the many facilities-related projects that require contracts and purchase orders, and our simultaneous FY 2025-26 year end processing and the opening of FY 2026-27. Both the purchasing and contracts teams are working diligently to get new fiscal year purchase orders processed and the many contracts in place that are necessary for the start of the new academic year.

Facilities Operations

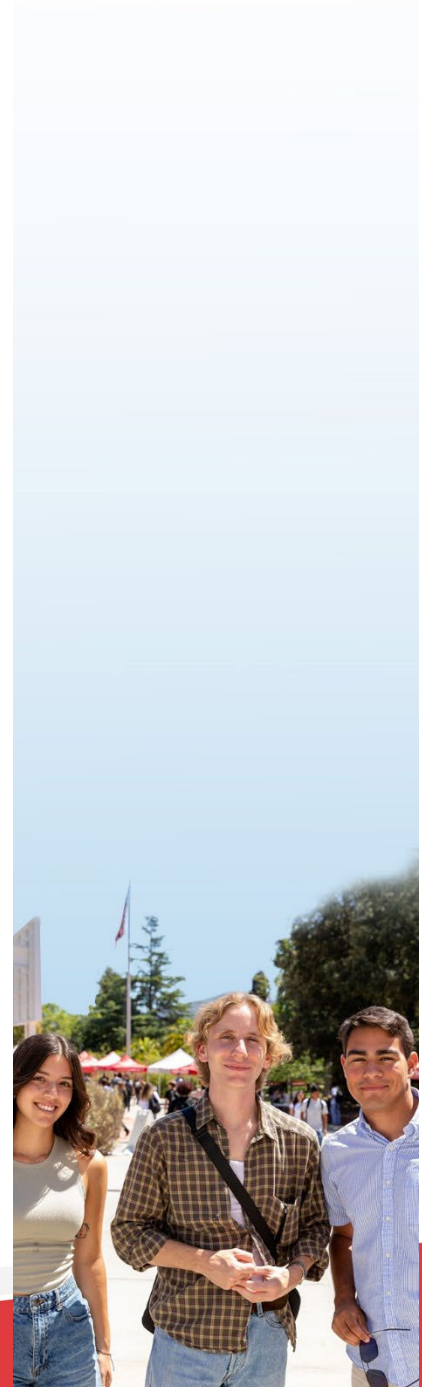
Construction & Facilities Planning

The Fallbrook 40 project remained active with interior finishes, paver decks, and exterior elevations. Exterior work advanced with east-elevation glazing, fiber-cement panel installation and plaster finishes, and south-elevation panel work. Landscaping is also taking shape with irrigation piping and wiring along with initial tree planting.

On the Athletics Phase 2 project, the grounds storage building doors and lighting have been completed, and interior plumbing is projected to be completed by mid-August. The exterior rock roadway and other surrounding site work improvements are underway. In addition, the installation of the new fieldhouse photovoltaic panels is complete with interior mechanical, electrical, and plumbing finish work on-going. The main electrical room has been energized, and mechanical equipment startup has begun.

Custodial Services

With reduced campus activity, custodial services have focused on deep cleaning and facility preservation projects across the district. Multiple hard-surface floors have been machine scrubbed, classrooms at all sites have received detailed cleaning, and districtwide restroom



deep-cleaning efforts have continued. Carpet extraction and shampooing projects have been completed in numerous buildings, while many sealed floors have been stripped and resealed to restore their condition and appearance. Custodial staff have also provided support for numerous campus events held at the stadium, baseball field, and student union. Finally, the custodial services department has initiated the process of replacing exterior waste receptacles throughout the district to improve recycling capabilities, sanitation, and the overall appearance of campus facilities.

Building and Ground Services

Building Services executed replacement of the entire roof at the Escondido Education Center and M building. This is in addition to remodeling room 208 in the HS building to support nursing lab instruction, sealing of the Dome main floor, and replacement lighting on the main sidewalk in front of the Welcome Center.

Grounds Services continued general cleaning and trimming of various planter beds throughout the campus and began irrigation retrofits in the Arboretum. In addition, new shrubs were planted in parking lot 12 and along West Mission Road. Finally, extensive turf repairs at the baseball field were completed.

Environmental Health & Safety / Risk Management

Risk Management successfully coordinated the receipt and processing of a \$265,443 Statewide Educational Wrap-Up Program equity distribution. The return of these funds reflects sound fiscal stewardship and effective administration of the district's insurance programs while maximizing the return of project-related insurance equity.

Additionally, the district's FY 2026-27 Property & Liability and Protected Insurance Program for Schools and Community Colleges was successfully negotiated and finalized, ensuring continued protection of district assets, operations, and liability exposures. Further, the FY 2026-27 Student and Student-Athlete Insurance renewal was completed, maintaining comprehensive accident and medical coverage for student programs and intercollegiate athletics.

Environmental Health & Safety conducted fourteen hazardous waste collections, inventories, and off-site shipments, and three ergonomics assessments. The replacement and installation of new fire extinguisher cabinets on the fifth level of the parking structure were also completed.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

As the College prepares for the start of the fall semester, Human Resource Services remains focused on ensuring the district is positioned to support students, employees, and operations through strategic workforce planning, employee support, and continuous process improvement. Throughout the summer months, Human Resources partnered closely with departments across the institution to advance recruitment efforts, onboard new employees, and prepare for a successful start to the academic year. Human Resources also continues to support institutional priorities through employee development initiatives, process enhancements, and collaborative efforts with campus partners.

Benefits

The annual open enrollment period for full-time, benefit-eligible employees will take place throughout August. During this period, employees can review and make changes to their medical, dental, vision, and voluntary benefit elections for the upcoming plan year.



To support employees during the enrollment process, the benefits office will offer a variety of resources, including in-person drop-in assistance, retirement planning workshops, and educational sessions with benefit providers at multiple campus locations. Information and enrollment materials will be distributed through district communications and remain accessible on the Human Resources website. Employees may also register for workshops through the Professional Development Portal. These outreach efforts are intended to promote employee engagement, increase understanding of available benefit options, and ensure employees have access to the resources needed to make informed benefits decisions.

Recruitment

Human Resources remains actively engaged in recruitment efforts across the district to support workforce needs and prepare for the upcoming academic year. Throughout the summer, Human Resources has partnered with departments to recruit and onboard new part-time faculty, classified professionals, and administrators, ensuring positions are filled to support student success and college operations. In preparation for the fall semester, Human Resources is also supporting the recruitment and hiring of student employees, providing valuable employment opportunities while helping departments meet operational needs.

A key focus during this reporting period has been the division's support of the Superintendent/President search. The recruitment opened on July 20, and Human Resources continues to provide administrative and logistical support for the search process in collaboration with the Governing Board and executive search consultants. Additional information regarding the search is available on the [Superintendent/President Search webpage](#).

Recruitment figures as of July 27, 2026:

- 41 permanent recruitments in progress
 - 10 – Admin/CAST
 - 20 – Classified
 - 11 – Faculty
- 69 part-time faculty recruitments in progress
 - 21 additional part-time faculty postings have closed, and departments are still hiring from those application pools

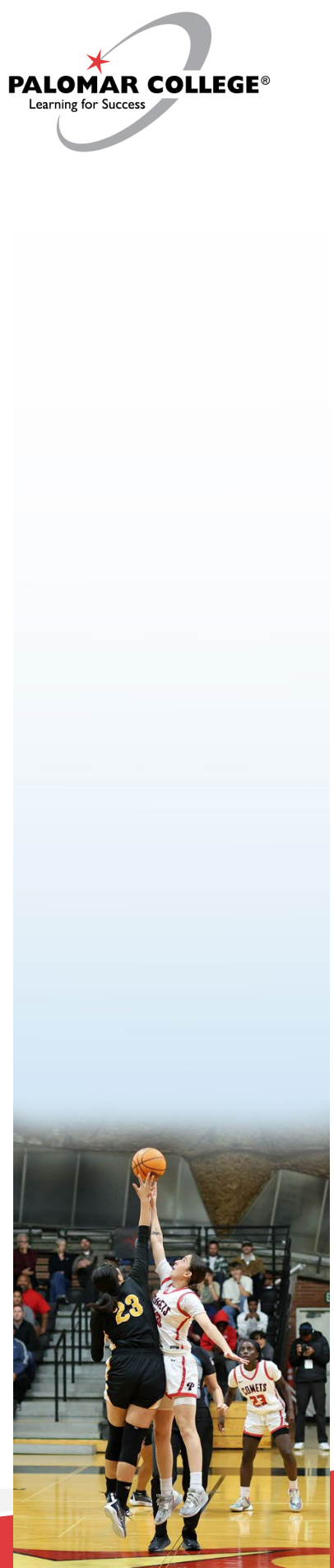
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) held summer meetings to organize and prepare for the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER). This work includes reviewing and updating the report development timeline, identifying standard review teams, completing review team assignments, and developing training. The ISER is due to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in August 2028. While that deadline may seem distant, the development process is extensive. It involves evaluating institutional practices and outcomes against accreditation standards, gathering and organizing supporting evidence, preparing multiple drafts, and completing governance review prior to submission. With that in mind, the AWLT is targeting completion of the report by the end of Fall 2027 so it can move through governance review and approval during Spring 2028.

Integrated Planning

The Student Equity Oversight Committee is holding a series of summer retreats to implement the Student Equity Plan. As part of that effort, the Senior Director Barton is working with committee chairs to map the Equity Strategies to the College's Vision Plan; the



first draft is complete and under review.

IRP&G is updating and finalizing the two-year Career Technology Education (CTE) Program Review spreadsheet ahead of release. The spreadsheet provides an overview of enrollment, completions, job demand, supply gaps, and projected growth for careers aligned with CTE programs.

Senior Director Barton is preparing an annual report on progress toward the strategic goals in Vision Plan 2035. She is also integrating the recommendations from the Governance Structure Task Force, endorsed by College Council in the Spring, into a second edition of the Governance Handbook. The Task Force will review the handbook in the fall before it moves forward for College Council review.

Institutional Research

Institutional research staff continue to monitor daily enrollment reports to verify that FTES calculations reflect the new standardized attendance accounting method. The team has also updated the student journey metrics and then aligned them with ACCJC institution-set standards and equity metrics. These metrics will be discussed as part of the College Council's retreat in August.

The research team is supporting development of a data dashboard focused on adult learners to help the College track and evaluate noncredit enrollment and retention by special noncredit category. A prototype has been developed and shared with the Office of Instruction. In addition, the team is preparing a report series summarizing results from the College's annual student survey.

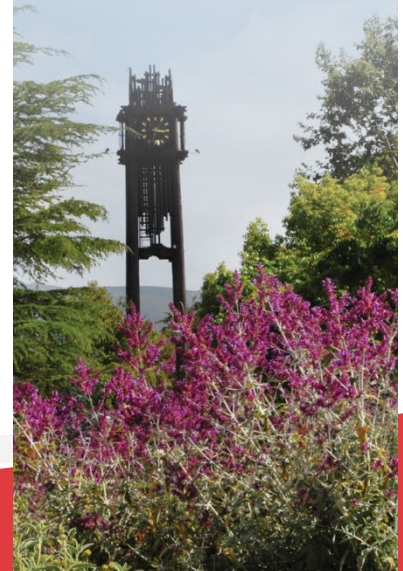
Grants

IRP&G welcomes Yesenia Lazcano as Interim Grants Manager. Yesenia will support proposal development, compliance tracking, reporting coordination, grant launch, and post-award administration for competitive grants across the College.

IRP&G partnered with Fiscal Services to develop SOP 102: Post-Award Fiscal Management for Competitive Grants, now approved and published. The new SOP establishes district-wide guidance for managing competitive grant funds after award, covering fiscal oversight, documentation, and compliance expectations.

IRP&G hosted three grant launch meetings for newly awarded projects: one California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) workforce award for Career Technical and Extended Education (CTEE) and two K-16 early college credit awards for the Office of Instruction. These meetings bring project teams together to review roles, timelines, sponsor requirements, fiscal expectations, and monitoring responsibilities so each project launches with a clear, well-supported implementation plan.

IRP&G is working with the Math, Science, and Engineering division on two potential federal grant proposals due this fall. The first, National Institutes of Health/National Institute of General Medical Sciences Institutional Biomedical Undergraduate Research Training Program, supports community college students in building research skills and preparing for transfer into bachelor's degree programs and biomedical research pathways. The second, National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education program, supports partnerships between community colleges, industry, and education partners to strengthen technician education in high-technology fields. IRP&G is supporting faculty and instructional leaders with proposal planning, budget development, compliance review, and alignment with sponsor requirements.



The District's Grants Manager has been invited to serve on the National Grants Management Association's (NGMA) Regulatory Comment Subcommittee, which reviews federal grants management matters that may warrant regulatory comment and develops recommendations for NGMA leadership. This service reflects continued engagement in the federal grants management field and supports awareness of emerging compliance and regulatory issues.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The integrated marketing campaign designed to support Summer and Fall enrollment goals and increase awareness among our target audiences will continue through mid-September. 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 740,000 impressions while remaining cost-efficient.

The comprehensive advertising campaign features a diverse mix of placements, a digital bulletin along Interstate 15 and a billboard on highway 78. We also placed digital advertising on indoor digital billboard screens at various retail establishments within the district, digital web banner ads in the *UT Community Press*, digital transit shelter ads in the southern portion of the district, and a billboard in Fallbrook. A full-page ad in the North County Informador, accompanied by a web banner, also ran. Additional placements included an email campaign to subscribers of Camp Pendleton news and a digital marquee display at the base. To support the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, a cinema advertisement continued to run. The web streaming campaign with iHeart Radio designed to support summer and fall enrollment goals continued. The campaign features 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 fall were posted at the San Marcos campus.

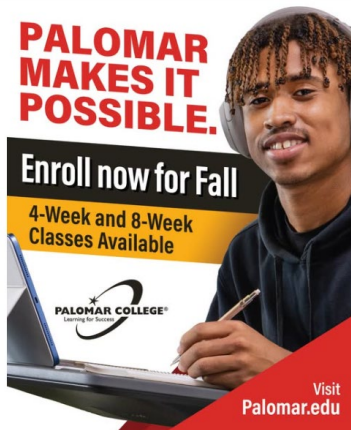
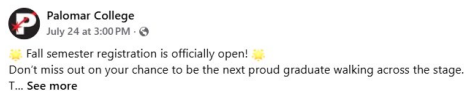
To further promote enrollment opportunities, a campaign designed to engage former students launched in late June and will continue through December. This digital marketing approach will utilize student data and social media platforms to re-connect with students. Students who engage in the campaign will be contacted through our new call center. In addition, the marketing and communications team collaborated with the Office of Student Recruitment to promote the Ready, Set, Apply application assistance events held during July at the San Marcos campus. This included a direct mail campaign to households in San Marcos, Vista and Escondido and banner placement on the Palomar.edu homepage.

Compared to July 2025, new user traffic to the palomar.edu website increased by 32%. These results are positively impacted by the comprehensive advertising strategy implemented in July. Display advertising was the fourth-ranked source of traffic generated to the website. Social media traffic was the fifth-ranked source of traffic. TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook generated most 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.

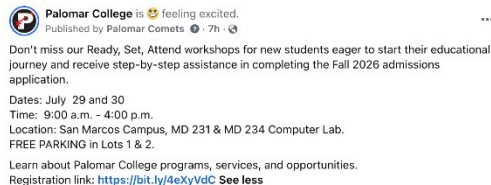
A year-over-year performance comparison of growth within each of our social media platforms shows continuous improvement. Facebook followers increased by 4% and X followers increased by 1% compared to last July. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to July 2025. Compared to the previous July, both Instagram and our TikTok channel grew 21% and 17%, respectively.



Throughout July, our social media posts focused on summer and fall enrollment, low enrolled courses, student support services, updated course numbers, workshops and activities designed to assist new and returning students, including the Ready, Set, Apply events hosted by the Office of Student Recruitment.



Sample Social Media Post



Sample Social Media Post

Community and Media Relations

Two press releases were issued in July. One covered the district's [expansion of the Promise Program](#) and a second publicized the recent [Emmy Award received by PCTV](#). The latter release generated media coverage from both television, print, and digital media organizations. The coverage includes a pending news story featuring an interview with Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde and a Promise program alumnus. Palomar News stories posted in the month of June include [retirement of Athletic Trainer Flecicia Heise](#) and the [Palomar College Woman of the Year Cynthia Anfinson](#). These stories are made available on the [Palomar News website](#). Palomar College received 250 media mentions in June and 312 mentions in July with an overall monthly publicity value of over \$1 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce executive committee and board of directors' meetings. PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the MiraCosta College – Coastal Celebration in honor of Superintendent/President Dr. Sunny Cooke and the San Diego Business Chamber's annual Celebration of Business.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the government affairs meetings hosted by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), California Community College Chancellor's Office, and Community College League of California (CCLC), the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA) monthly meeting and a meeting with regional public information officers.

The Creative Services team designed and delivered projects supporting the enrollment campaign, Career Center and Umoja branding, and interior displays for the Athletics Fieldhouse. Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the San Marcos emergency procedures guide and associated poster, inclusive of new evacuation maps. The team continues to collaborate with the environmental health and safety team to update the emergency procedures guide, and posters for the education centers.



FOUNDATION



Fundraising Activities

Scholarships

The Palomar College scholarship program application cycle is now officially open, and we are already seeing strong interest from students across campus. Early application activity indicates that we are on track to receive a significant number of submissions this year. This allows us to connect even more deserving students with donor-funded scholarship opportunities that support their educational goals and persistence at Palomar College.

We were honored to receive a generous \$57,500 gift from the Tri-City Auxiliary in support of the Palomar College Nursing program. Thanks to their continued generosity, 69 nursing students received scholarship funding to help them pursue their educational and career goals.

Annual President's Golf Classic Invitational

Preparations for the President's Invitational Golf Classic continue to move forward successfully. To date, the tournament has raised \$71,000 in sponsorships and player registrations. With the event scheduled for October 19, we remain focused on securing additional sponsors, golfers, and supporters to help maximize the impact of this important fundraising event. Proceeds from the tournament directly support Palomar College students through our core programs of scholarships, emergency grants, and textbook assistance.

Grant Program

The Foundation secured three new grant awards totaling \$23,844 while continuing to pursue additional funding opportunities that strengthen student success and institutional capacity. The HMC Designing Futures Foundation awarded \$10,000 to provide scholarships for Architecture and Design students. The County of San Diego Supervisor Jim Desmond District 5 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program awarded \$8,844 to replace the Palomar College Veterans Memorial, ensuring all Palomar College students and alumni who gave their lives in service to our country are permanently honored and remembered. Additionally, the Semptra Foundation awarded \$5,000 to purchase 20 forestry hoses for the Palomar College Fire Academy.

The Foundation also submitted a County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP) District 5 funding request to support 50% of the first-year salary for a new Administrative Specialist position and essential office furniture. This capacity-building investment will strengthen fundraising operations, expand donor engagement, and increase resources available to remove financial barriers and support Palomar College students.

President's Associates

The Foundation is pleased to share that three members from the Palomar College team, Stacy Rungaitis, Julie Lanthier Bandy, and Cathy Splett, are renewing their memberships. We are grateful for their continued support and commitment to the Foundation's mission.

Donor Development Activities

Warren Family Visit

The Foundation team was pleased to welcome Rechelle Mojica and daughter Christiana to campus in July. Rechelle and sister Renee Warren created a scholarship in honor of their father, Dick Warren, who was part of the KKSM radio station family. In addition, a naming plaque was placed on the KKSM radio studio to honor Dick's legacy. The family enjoyed viewing the plaque and catching up with Zeb Navarro, Manager of KKSM.





Christiana Mojica, Zeb Navarro, and Rechelle Mojica



Rechelle Mojica admiring the naming plaque

Nursing Alumni Visit

Beth Forbes and D'etta Aki, both nursing graduates who live in North County, returned to campus for a "magic" golf cart tour. They were amazed at the growth of the campus since their days on campus in the late 70's/early 80's. These two generous donors have created an annual scholarship for nursing students and intend to leave a legacy gift for the creation of an endowment that will live in perpetuity.



Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Development Officer Linda Moynan with donors Beth Forbes & D'Etta Aki

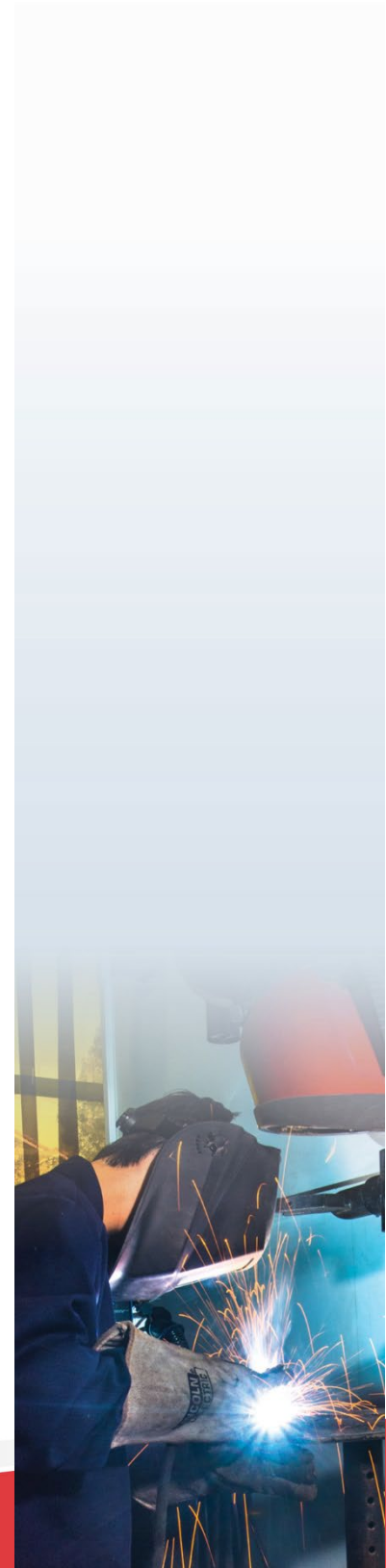
Foundation Board, Community & Donor Engagement

Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors

The Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors held a regular meeting on June 22. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board gathered for a summer social to build camaraderie. In addition, the committees of the board met earlier in the month including Finance & Investment and the Fund Development committee.

Chamber News

On June 18, the Poway Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Business Star Awards & Board Installation event, themed "The Spirit of 76," celebrating 76 years of business excellence and community leadership. The evening highlighted the strength and vitality of the Poway business community, recognizing the organizations and individuals whose innovation, dedication, and service continue to drive local economic success. Among the evening's honorees, Palomar College was named Large Business of the Year. The award recognizes a Chamber member that demonstrates exceptional business practices, leadership, and a strong commitment to community involvement. This recognition reflects our longstanding impact



on workforce development, education, and community engagement throughout Poway and the North County region. Rancho Bernardo Education Center Director, Dr. Andrew Mertig was in attendance to accept the award.

Palomar College was represented at the San Diego Business Chamber's annual Celebration of Business on June 24. This event was held at the new Elephant Valley at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Stacy Rungaitis, Executive Director was installed in her second year on the San Diego Business Chamber board of directors. Governing Board Vice President Yvette Marie Acosta, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy, also attended.

The Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon and board installation took place on June 24. Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde joined Fallbrook Education Center Director Ryan Williams and Senior Education Center Coordinator Yvette Williams at the event. Ryan Williams was installed for his second year on the Fallbrook Chamber Board of Directors.

MiraCosta College – Coastal Celebration

Palomar College was represented at the MiraCosta College Coastal Celebration on June 13. This event honored the leadership and legacy of Dr. Sunny Cooke in recognition of her pending retirement. The celebration honored her distinguished career, culminating in over a decade of visionary leadership and transformative impact as MiraCosta College's Superintendent/President. The event proceeds benefited the Sunny Futures Fund supporting student and campus success.



Governing Board President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley, Public Information Officer Julie Lanthier Bandy, Foundation Past Chair Will Rivera, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Carlos Recalde, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Human Resources Anna Pedroza, Herb Deluthe, and Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil

