

October 9, 2026

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

80 years of Serving Students

We celebrated our official 80th anniversary on September 23, with a cake-cutting in front of the Student Union. Over 200 pieces of cake were served to excited students and employees. The event was especially significant for Emeritus faculty member Anthony Guerra, who was celebrating his 80th birthday on September 23.

Pack the Stands on October 17

In recognition of our 80th anniversary, we are hosting a "Pack the Stands" football game on October 17. Join us as the Palomar Comets play the El Camino College Warriors. All employees are eligible for one free ticket by registering at the [Pack the Stands webpage](#). Additional tickets are available before the game for those who are five years and older for \$8 each.

Celebrating Our Camp Pendleton Students

Since 1972, Palomar College has been helping thousands of active-duty military and their family members achieve their educational goals at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. On September 11, we celebrated the achievements of 15 students who earned their degrees or certificates. During the ceremony, we were inspired by keynote speaker Colonel David J. Hart, Marine Corps Installations West, of Camp Pendleton. Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, Trustee Roberto Rodriguez,



Dean Leanne Maunu, Dean Diane Studinka, PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy, Interim Superintendent/President Recalde, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Dean Fariheh Towfiq, and Vice President Nick Mata celebrating the 80th anniversary



Class of 2026 Camp Pendleton Graduates with Center Director Ryan Williams, faculty members Dr. Anastasia Zavodny and Dr. Erin Feld, Camp Pendleton Site Manager Dr. Mandi Horn, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Justin Smiley, and Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde

and I attended the ceremony with Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction Justin Smiley, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services Nick Mata, Dean Dr. Jenny Fererro, Dean Dr. Leslie Salas, Center Director Ryan Williams, Camp Pendleton Site Manager Dr. Mandi Horn, and faculty members Dr. Anastasia Zavodny, Dr. Erin Feld, Jason Jarvinen, and Dan Balaszek.

Welcome Fred Williams

Fred Williams joined the Palomar College team on September 10 as our Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services. Fred brings a wealth of experience to our district, including 21 years of serving in various fiscal management positions at the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD). Before retiring in January 2026, he served as the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities at NOCCCD. We are looking forward to working with Fred as we continue to focus on the long-term fiscal stability of the district.



Fred Williams, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

Chambers Come Together at Palomar College

On September 29, we hosted over 200 business and community leaders at our Industrial Technology Center at the San Marcos campus. The event included members from four chambers of commerce within our district – San Marcos, Poway, Escondido and Vista. A special note of thanks to Governing Board President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil for attending the event and to the Palomar College Foundation for their sponsorship of food and beverage. It was a great opportunity to discuss the high-quality programs offered here at Palomar College and the future partnership opportunities that may benefit our students and local businesses.



Escondido Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Yessenia Mendoza, Poway Chamber of Commerce CEO Mike Leland, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Governing Board President Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, San Marcos Chamber of Commerce CEO Rick Rungaitis, Vista Chamber of Commerce CEO Rachel Beld and County Supervisor Jim Desmond



Community Connections

Throughout the month of September, I have had the pleasure of connecting with colleagues, students and community leaders. In addition to several Palomar Comet athletic games, on September 10, Patriceann Mead and I attended a benefit for A Step Beyond, a local youth development organization. We had the opportunity to interact with A Step Beyond CEO James Wright and members of their board of directors. A Step Beyond serves youth and their families living at or below the poverty line with free after-school dance classes, academic support, and social services. In the coming weeks, we plan to tour their facility, learn more about the program, and gain insight into potential partnership opportunities.

We hosted the first gathering of the 2026-27 San Marcos Chamber of Commerce and San Marcos Unified School District's (SMUSD) Rising Stars program. The program celebrates three high school seniors, one from each of the SMUSD high schools, who have overcome obstacles while continuing to achieve their academic aspirations. The monthly event brings together elected officials and their representatives, educators, community leaders, and law enforcement to recognize these young inspirational leaders.



September 2026 Rising Stars River Muzquiz, Eduardo Alarcon Solis, and Sady Ortiz

Speaking of inspiration, I had the privilege of welcoming the newest Palomar College Puente students and their families at the Puente Noche de Familia event on September 17. The mission of the Puente program is to increase the number of students who enroll in 4-year institutions, earn college degrees, and return to the community as mentors and leaders to future generations. The 2026-27 Puente program is off to a great start with a completely full cohort of students.

On September 20, I attended the North County African American Women's Association Gentlemen's Gourmet event with Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patascil, Director of Behavioral Health Services Dr. Tim Leslie, Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle, Black Student Success/Umoja Counselor Dr. Taniesha Hellon, Associate Professor/Behavioral Health Counselor Mercedes Tiggs, Umoja Student Support Program Coordinator Adrienne Fleming, and Palomar students, Andrey Madyun, Janelle Harvey, and Elena Harvey. The event features local chefs and generates funds to support scholarships for students in north county. We all enjoyed connecting with colleagues and community leaders to support educational opportunities for students in our region.



Student Support Program Coordinator Adrienne Fleming, Palomar College student Andrey Madyun, Black Student Success/Umoja Counselor Dr. Taniesha Hellon, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Director of Behavioral Health Services Dr. Tim Leslie, Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patascil, Palomar College Student Janelle Harvey, Palomar College Student Elena Harvey, and Associate Professor/Behavioral Health Counselor Mercedes Tiggs

Earlier this summer, I was asked to serve as the CEO representative on the Executive Council of the Southern California Football Association (SCFA). The SCFA is a college athletic conference affiliated with the California Community College Athletic Association (3C2A). I attended my first Executive Council meeting on September 28.



The CSU San Marcos Report to the Community event was a great opportunity to engage with our colleagues in higher education, as well as elected officials, and business and community leaders from throughout our region. CSU San Marcos President Dr. Ellen Neufeldt celebrated student success and expanding access to higher education during her remarks. She recognized Palomar College for our ongoing partnership to support the educational pathways of our students.



Community Health and Education

On October 1, I participated in a panel discussion during the Neighborhood Healthcare State of Community Health Forum in Escondido. The event was designed to bring public health organizations together with community leaders to establish collaborative partnerships and discuss innovative ways we can work together to improve access to health, wellness and educational resources in our region. Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel provided a keynote address that emphasized the importance of working together as a region to initiate meaningful changes in north county and at the state level.

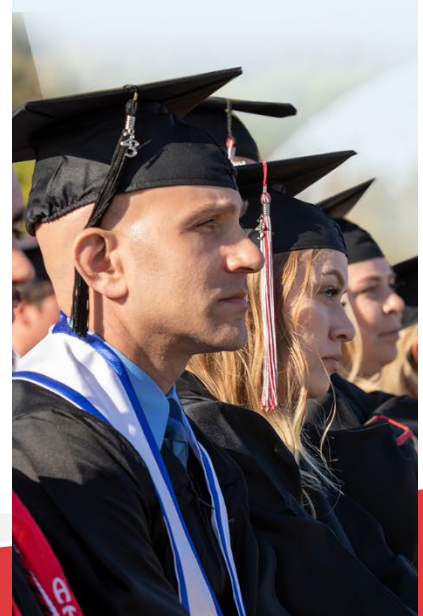
Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, CSUSM President Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, and Mira Costa Superintendent/President Dr. Lennor Johnson



Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde joined by panelists featured at the Neighborhood Healthcare State of Community Health Forum

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

The Fall semester is well underway. Utilizing enrollment data, we have continued to add course sections to the fast-track class schedule which starts on October 19. We continue to monitor enrollment and are adding sections to meet student needs. These accelerated classes serve students who want to finish a degree or certificate sooner, as well as those who can fit in a few more units before the year ends. In addition, we're updating the enrollment system so that students can build a semester-long schedule of fast track courses at one time. Specifically, students will be able to enroll in both the first and second fast track sessions instead of having to wait to complete the first fast track course before being able to



enroll in the second fast track course. This system upgrade simplifies the registration process for fast track students.

Languages and Literature Division

The on-campus and off-campus English as a Second Language (ESL) classes continue to thrive. The department welcomed eight new part-time faculty members this semester, bringing fresh energy and diverse perspectives to ESL classrooms and programs.

The ESL Tutoring Center has remained especially active, providing students with opportunities to build community and access academic support. Conversation Hour, which offers students a welcoming space to practice their language skills, is being held weekly through December 12. Additional activities included a Student Resources on Campus workshop on September 17 and a Social Café on September 22 where students can connect with peers while enjoying complimentary refreshments. The Center is also hosting a Take Home a Free Book Week to encourage literacy and student engagement.

The department is planning an immigration celebration on October 22 in the Student Union to recognize and celebrate our immigrant communities. The event will feature catered food, informational resource tables, and cultural performances that reflect the diversity and richness of the communities served by Palomar College. The celebration is being developed in collaboration with departments across campus to encourage broad student participation and representation.

In addition, the ESL department and Behavioral Health Services department are partnering to offer a professional development workshop focused on supporting students who may be experiencing immigration-related trauma. Scheduled for October 1, the workshop will provide faculty and staff with practical strategies and resources to help better support student well-being and success.

Math, Science & Engineering Division

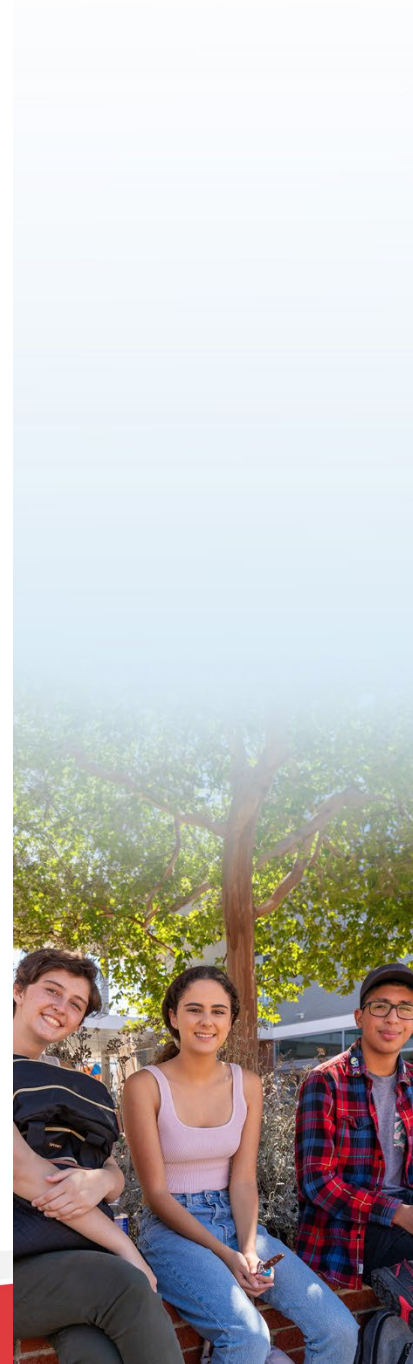
The Nursing program opened a new skills lab at the start of the semester, giving students a dedicated space to practice and refine clinical skills before and after classes. Available to all nursing students, the lab has been met with enthusiastic feedback and is helping support student success.



Palomar College nursing students engaging in the new skills lab

Arts, Media, and Business Administration Division

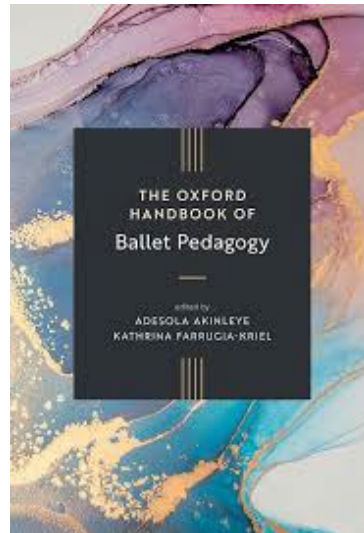
Faculty member Ingram Ober, in collaboration with his wife, Marisol Rendon, has developed a public art installation at Beyer Park in San Ysidro. Years in the planning, the project reached a significant milestone on September 9 with the installation of its first elements. The work features a living tree enclosed within a sculptural wireframe structure of their design. A surrounding system of atomized water mist, released at intervals that correspond to a tree's respiration cycle, is intended to make visible the "breath" of a tree and encourage reflection on humanity's relationship with the natural environment.



Faculty member Molly Faulkner recently published *Dancing in the Limen: Art and Play, and Ballet Pedagogy*, which is now available through Oxford University Press as part of the *Oxford Handbook of Ballet Pedagogy*. Professor is also the third author of *Finding Their Groove: How Neurodivergent Children Apply Creative Movement Skills Beyond the Studio*, which has been accepted for publication in *The Journal of Dance Therapy*.

Faculty member Briana Miyoko Stanley will showcase new work in *Resonance: A Fluid Dimension* at the Southwestern College Gallery from October 8 through November 3.

Faculty member Bo Kim recently completed a Spring 2026 sabbatical that included international travel, the creation of new artwork, and exploration of new materials and artistic processes. Professor Kim's work will be featured in *Tending* at SIP Art Space in San Marcos.



An image of the cover of the Oxford Handbook of Ballet Pedagogy

Career Technical and Extended Education Division

The Service Learning Fair brought together 13 local nonprofit organizations and more than 100 students. Attendees learned about service learning and volunteer opportunities while discovering ways to connect classroom learning with meaningful community engagement.

Fallbrook and Camp Pendleton Centers

Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde and Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President Justin Smiley represented Palomar College and conferred degrees and certificates during the annual Camp Pendleton commencement ceremony held on September 11. Surrounded by family, friends, military leadership, and college representatives, 15 Palomar College graduates crossed the stage in recognition of their hard work, perseverance, and academic success. The annual ceremony brings together graduates from colleges and universities serving Camp Pendleton, including both on-base institutions and students who completed their studies through off-base colleges and universities.

Escondido Education Center

The Escondido Education Center hosted a successful resource fair on September 2, bringing together representatives from numerous Palomar College departments and community organizations. Organized by the Student Life and Leadership Office, the event connected students with valuable campus and community resources to support their academic and personal success.



Image of Palomar College students enjoying the resource fair at the Escondido Education Center



Center Director Tom Medel, along with representatives from the Instruction and Student Services divisions, attended the grand opening of The Nest, a new partnership between National University and the Escondido YMCA. The community hub is designed to expand educational access, foster a sense of belonging, and strengthen support services for individuals and families throughout the Escondido community.



Dean Dr. Leslie Salas, Center Director Tom Medel, Interim Manager of Student Recruitment Nelida Martinez, Dean Dr. Jenny Ferrero, Dean Dr. Nichol Roe, National University Colleagues, National University Mascot, Professor/Counselor Patrick O'Brien, Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, Transfer Center Coordinator Brittany Wong

STUDENT SERVICES

Rising Scholars

The California Community College Chancellors Office presented "Almost Home: Life After Incarceration," the Emmy-award winning PCTV documentary that highlights formerly incarcerated students' stories, at the 2026 Collective Equity Impact Institute on September 22. After the screening of the film, five Palomar College Rising Scholars students participated in a panel discussion with Rising Scholars program coordinator Dr. Nora Kinney and Student Support Specialist Joe Romero.

Student Health Center

In September, the Student Health Center served 158 students for various health concerns. The center is providing free Covid tests to students as a way of preventing the spread of the virus. Students are encouraged to test before coming to campus. In addition, the center collaborated with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive and with the health promotion team to provide Narcan training at the San Marcos campus.

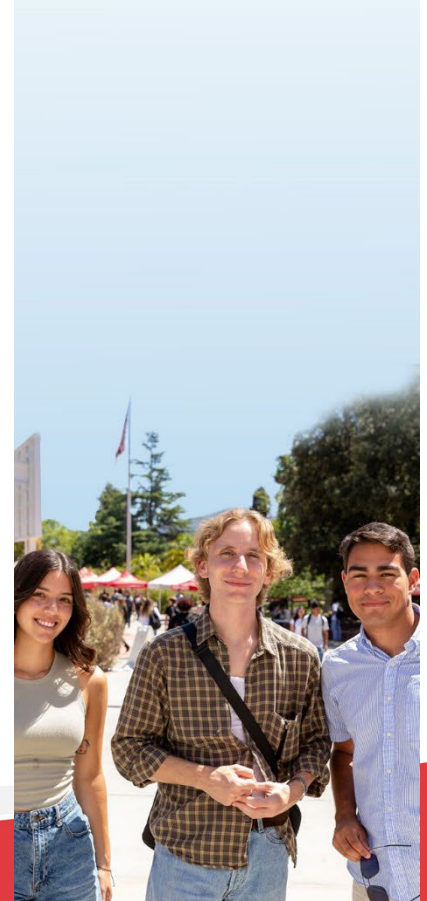
Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS) and Health Promotion

The BHCS and Health Promotion team attended eight student-focused events at the San Marcos campus and the education centers in Rancho Bernardo and Escondido. The Health Promotion team added a new Student Wellness Advocacy Group (SWAG) student who has helped to support the busy event schedule. The Active Minds club has also met and began planning activities for the semester.

The BHCS therapists have provided a total of 144 individual sessions to students and will continue to promote their services to students. BHCS is also collaborating with the Native American Resource Center to provide mental health support for students attending the People of the West film screenings.

Basic Needs

This fall, Basic Needs expanded access to food resources through two new initiatives. As part of the food security pilot program for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 academic years, all Palomar College employees may now access the Anita and Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center at the San Marcos campus on Thursdays with no appointment required. The Basic Needs team also expanded diaper support for eligible student parents through a partnership with Jewish Family Service of San Diego and the San Diego Food Bank. Eligible students may receive up to 100 diapers per child, per month through the Food & Nutrition Center.



In September, the Food & Nutrition Center welcomed 142 new students and supported 397 students and their households across 1,835 visits, distributing 7,066 pounds of food. Students also received hygiene kits, clothing, diapers, period products, CalFresh application assistance, and connections to emergency housing and other community resources. Basic Needs is grateful to Dr. Bronner's for its generous donation of personnel care products, which will be distributed to students as part of the hygiene kits.

Resource fairs were held at the Escondido Education Center on September 2 and the Rancho Bernardo Education Center on September 16, connecting students with a variety of campus and community resources. Participating partners included Student Life & Leadership, Student Health Services, Behavioral Health Counseling Services, the Pride Center, Early Childhood Education Lab School, Center for Community Solutions, Escondido Family Health Center, League of Women Voters, San Diego Food Bank, and Vista Community Clinic. A Farmers' Market also provided students with free fresh produce, while Student Life & Leadership assisted students with obtaining student activity cards.

To make services easier to access, a new [Basic Needs website](#) was launched. The site provides a centralized location for information about food, housing, clothing, financial assistance, CalFresh, and other resources. Students seeking individualized assistance can also submit an online resource request to connect with staff for case management, resource navigation, and referrals.

The program is also strengthening its case management capacity this fall with two Master of Social Work interns, one from San Diego State University and one from CSU San Marcos. To further assist our students, BHCS therapists are now providing case management, resource referrals, and coordination of emergency assistance.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

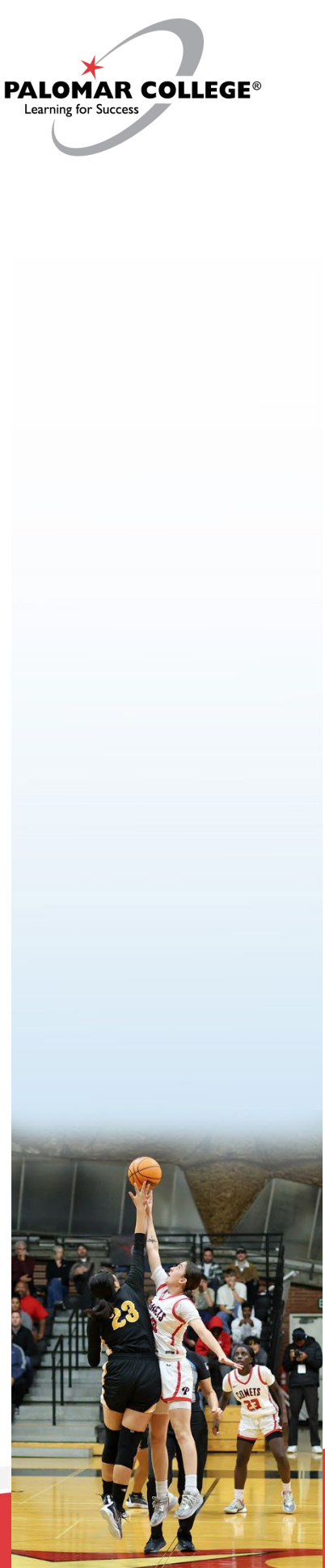
The FY 25-26 year-end budget analysis indicates a \$47.9 million balance in general funds while carrying nearly a \$4 million deficit with a healthy reserve in FY 25-26. The FY 26-27 budget was adopted at the September 8 Governing Board meeting. With the state-mandated 14-week paid pregnancy disability leave, Palomar College will receive \$2 million more of hold harmless funding in FY 26-27. While we continue to focus on enrollment growth in FY 26-27, Fiscal Services is monitoring state funding carefully as the state budget failed to fund growth in FY 25-26. For FY 26-27, the district will continue to utilize redevelopment agency funds of \$5.6 million, which includes \$622,501 to support the enrollment growth goal of 1,000 FTES at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.

The accounting team continues to work on the FY 25-26 final audit and mandated state reports such as the 311 Annual Report. Our audit firm CWDL was on campus during the week of September 28 for our final FY 25-26 audit.

Payroll initiated the processes necessary to adjust for the new benefit rates starting on October 1 and working with departments accordingly. Payroll also rolled out new Student and Short-Term timesheets to include auto-calculation of hours paid to improve accuracy and efficiency.

Business Services

With the retirement of Director Ann Jensen effective September 10, Amber Cross is currently serving out of class as the Director of Business Services. The recruitment to fill the vacant Contracts Administrator position is currently in process.



Facilities Operations

Construction & Facilities Planning

The Fallbrook 40 project continued as scheduled with the installation of ceiling tile, paint and floor finishes on the interior and guardrails and wall finishes on the exterior. This work is in addition to the completion of the north slope erosion control and progress on exterior underground utilities in the landscaped area between the new building and the existing modulars, with additions of irrigation, plants, and pavers.

On the Athletics Phase 2 project, the football field home side restrooms are complete and usable for games. Flooring is in progress with the concessions and ticket office complete. The interior ceiling grid installation is complete and painting is in progress. Roofing is now complete except for trim pieces, and the exterior metal and terra cotta siding is in progress. Installation of exterior trench drains in the flatwork is complete, and exterior concrete paving is in progress with work expected to be completed in early October.

Custodial Services

With the semester in full swing, Custodial Services has continued daily district-wide work to maintain clean, safe, and functional facilities. In addition to these ongoing responsibilities, staff provided setup, servicing, and cleanup support for Club Rush, the EOPS Welcome Back event, the Service-Learning Fair, football games, and the Native American Day celebration.

Building and Ground Services

Building Services executed installation of new counters in the food service area, flooring repairs in room C-9, replacement of the gutters on the Q building, repair of the lighting controls at the Escondido Education Center, and repair of the third-floor HVAC at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.

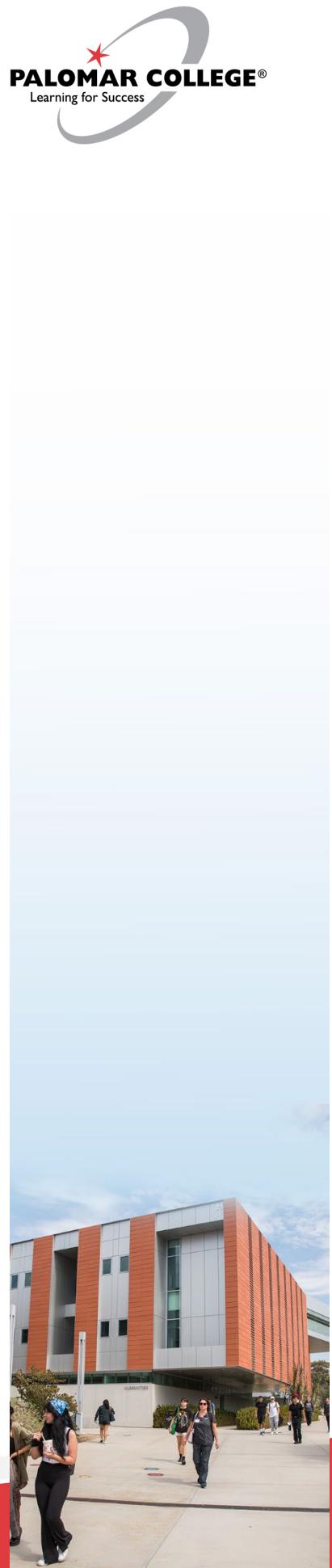
Grounds Services upgraded irrigation controls at the football practice field and in the arboretum. This work is in addition to tagging plants in landscape areas and the relocation of various plants to the nursery. Routine maintenance duties continued for trees, shrubs, and planters.

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

EH&S/RM, in partnership with our liability insurance carrier, conducted an online safety training session attended by district employees covering campus safety, the Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP), Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP), and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The session reinforced district safety expectations, workplace violence prevention requirements, emergency preparedness, and available risk management resources.

A proactive environmental and safety assessment of the proposed archaeology practice dig site north of the Learning Resource Center (LRC) was completed. Working with facilities and instructional leadership, EH&S/RM engaged a team of geologists to conduct soil sampling and evaluate the area for potentially hazardous contaminants associated with the planned digging activities. Laboratory results confirmed that contaminant concentrations were below the most stringent applicable screening levels. Based on the assessment, EH&S/RM approved the designated area for use as an instructional practice dig site for archaeology classes.

In-person safety training was conducted for Instructional Support Specialists supporting Auto Technology, Cabinet & Furniture Technology, and Welding. The training covered required safety documentation and processes, chemical hygiene plans and safety data sheets, hazardous materials storage and handling, required laboratory safety equipment, safety inspections and corrective actions, emergency and evacuation procedures, equipment and



vehicle safety, injury response, and incident reporting. The training provided a clear understanding of where to access safety resources, basic safety expectations, appropriate response to injuries, and when to engage EH&S/RM and instructional leadership.

Information Services (IS)

Information Services is dedicated to keeping Palomar's technology secure, reliable, and user-friendly. Below is an overview of our recent accomplishments and key initiatives on the horizon.

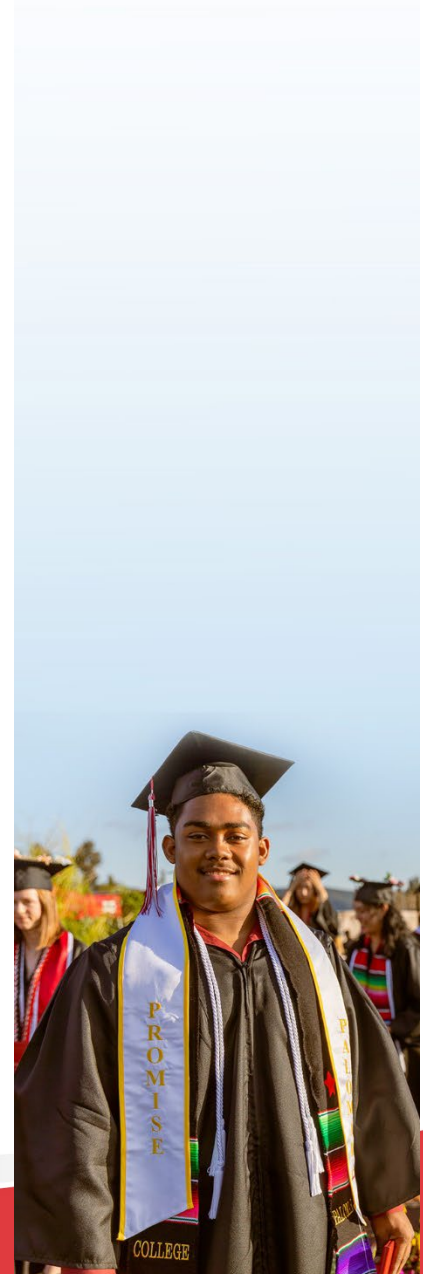
Recent accomplishments include the resolution of a high volume of service requests to assist students and employees with access and to maintain connectivity to all required resources. In addition, Roger 360, a modern contact center solution that consolidates incoming technical support into a single, centralized queue was implemented. This platform ensures callers reach the appropriate technician faster, reduces hold times, and improves visibility across call volumes. Improvements to cybersecurity were made through the revisions of Administrative Procedure 3721 (AP 3721 - Information Security) and the finalization of a formal Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan. This work is in addition to the launch of a pilot for 24/7 managed security monitoring, along with an ongoing early adopter piloting initiative of the Island Enterprise Browser to enhance web application and institutional data security. To modernize and improve student and financial aid systems, PeopleSoft Campus Solutions Image 38 (PUM 38) was successfully applied. This work improves system capabilities for students, alongside critical financial aid updates ensuring full compliance with federal FISAP reporting requirements.

To improve system reliability and efficiency, Information Services is preparing to migrate core Student, Finance, and HR systems to Amazon Web Services (AWS) alongside a PeopleTools 8.62 platform upgrade. This architectural modernization will deliver superior system reliability, disaster recovery resilience, performance, and security. To improve telephone communications, the Teams Direct Routing platform will be launched. This platform will enable employees to place and receive standard external phone calls seamlessly inside Microsoft Teams, whether working on campus or remotely. Finally, an update to the IS orientation module for new employee onboarding to ensure rapid system access on day one is in progress and the refinement of Help Desk workflows to drive down resolution times across the district is underway.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Human Resource Services continues to support a safe, equitable, and inclusive work and learning environment through ongoing policy review, employee training, and compliance initiatives. This fall, HRS is leading updates to key district policies and administrative procedures related to Title IX, unlawful discrimination, and sexual harassment to ensure alignment with current legal requirements and best practices. These updates will help strengthen the district's commitment to maintaining an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

In addition, HRS continues to enhance employee training programs and processes to ensure all mandated training is completed, tracked, and monitored in a timely manner. The division is working closely with other stakeholders to increase awareness of compliance requirements and provide employees with accessible resources and support. Human Resource Services is continuing to evaluate onboarding and professional development opportunities to reinforce a culture of belonging, respect, and continuous learning.



Looking ahead, HRS will continue working with the EEO Advisory Committee to develop the district's updated Equal Employment Opportunity Plan while supporting recruitment initiatives and enhancing hiring processes.

Benefits

Full-time employee open enrollment concluded on August 29, with forty-one employees taking advantage of the opportunity to update and enhance their insurance plan selections. Employee engagement remained strong throughout the enrollment period. Eighty employees participated in the CalPERS and CalSTRS workshops offered during Flex Week, and more than one hundred employees met with our voluntary insurance providers to explore additional benefit options. The part-time faculty open enrollment period will conclude on September 30.

Recruitment

Human Resources remains actively engaged in recruitment efforts across the district to attract and hire the most qualified candidates to support our students.

Recruitment figures as of September 21, 2026:

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

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICE

CSU San Marcos HSI Summit

Colleagues from across Palomar attended the 5th Annual HSI Summit at Cal State University San Marcos, with the theme, "Seeds of Servingness: Growing Together," on September 14. The renowned scholar and educator Dr. Daniel G. Solórzano served as the keynote speaker.

Hispanic Heritage Month Resource Fair

Palomar kicked off the start of Hispanic Heritage month with a resource fair in the student union quad on September 15. This year's theme "Raíces, Voces, Futuro: Roots, Voices, Future," honors heritage, center lived experiences, and points toward students shaping what comes next. The Palomar College [Hispanic Serving Institution webpage](#) is updated regularly with new engagement opportunities to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.



Part-time Faculty/Counselor Dr. Anthony Villarreal, Student Success Initiatives Coordinator Ariana Ortiz Suarez, Student Success Manager Dr. Nancy Browne, Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle, Associate Professor/Counselor Daniel (Dany) Mendoza, Recruitment Specialist Kayla Mere, and Recruitment Specialist Christina Gaspar



IDEAAS for all Flipped - Equity Series

IDEAAs for All Flipped is based on the Palomar College equity foundations training series designed to strengthen employees' ability to create inclusive, equitable, accessible, and anti-racist learning and working environments. The original five modules explore Palomar's student and employee demographics, common DEIAA language, microaggressions, race-lighting, cultural bias, institutional inequities, and culturally responsive practices. Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Belisle led the first session of the series on September 16. In this series, using a flipped classroom approach, participants will review selected materials before each session and then engage in facilitated discussion, reflection, and practical application. The next workshop is on October 21. Registration is available in the PD Portal.

Immigration Guidance

On September 22, in partnership with the Dreamer Success Program and Higher Education Legal Services (HELS), Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Belisle reviewed AP 3415 focused on immigration enforcement activities. The District is committed to the safety and privacy of our students, staff, faculty, and administrators. In addition to providing guidance on how to respond to immigration enforcement on campus, HELS shared Know Your Rights resources and bystander strategies.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation

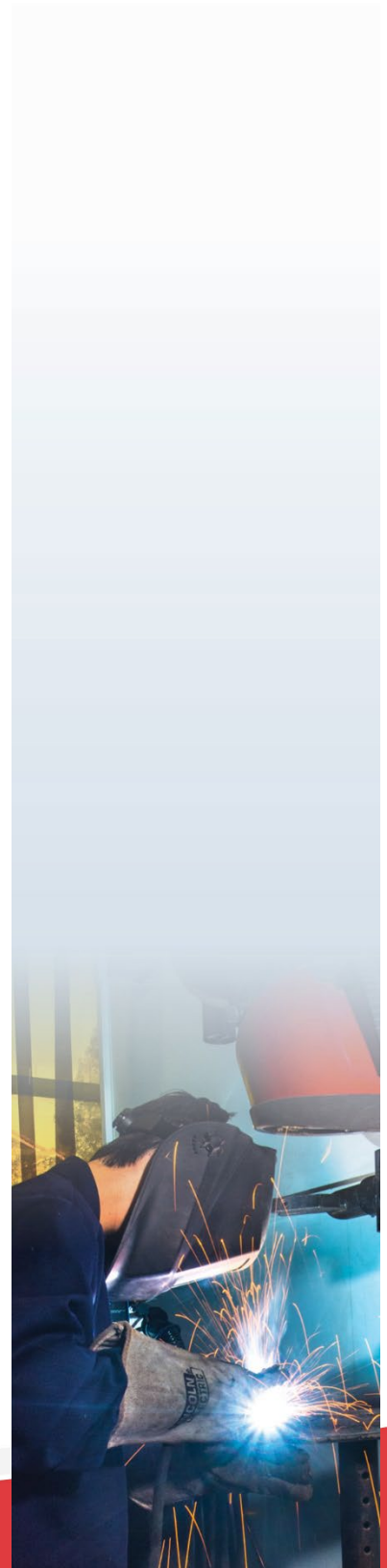
The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) has attended participatory governance council and committee meetings to launch the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) writing process. As part of the process, AWLT has assembled six review teams consisting of governance members and content experts. During the fall term, these review teams will work through their assigned standards to outline how the college meets them. They will also identify and provide supporting evidence. Once complete, AWLT will prepare our initial ISER draft in spring 2027.

Integrated Planning

At its first meeting in September, the College Council reviewed suggested institutional priorities/Vision Plan 2035 objectives for the 2026-27 academic year. These priorities were established based on the Council's prioritization of Vision Plan 2035 objectives completed at its retreat, feedback provided during All College Day, and the Student Equity Plan. The Council reviewed them for a final recommendation on September 24. The College Council is also finalizing its goals for the year. Included in the goals are a review of the integrated planning model for the college and refinement of the 2035 Vision Plan.

Institutional Research

The student progress and completion dashboard is close to launch. It tracks cohorts from entry through completion and transfer, and users can filter by student group (e.g., first-generation, full-time, part-time, EOP&S) to see how students move through key milestones. The team is also updating its transfer rate calculation to reflect the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) new methodology and continues to work on a practice for matching student records with Employment Development Department (EDD) data to track post-education outcomes.



Alongside Faculty Senate President Professor Shmorhun, IRP&G researcher Jennifer Brich presented at the Collective Equity Institute held in September. Their presentation will focus on the Palomar College Faculty Cultural Curriculum Teaching Institute (FCCTI), which was developed and delivered as part of the 2023-26 Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices (CRPP) Innovative Best Practices (IBP) grant from the CCCCO. Led by Professor Shmorhun, the institute engaged 200 faculty in inclusive teaching practices and strategies to improve retention and completion for disproportionately impacted students. Jennifer built the student data dashboard used in the institute and facilitated sessions where faculty learned best practices for reviewing data and examined data on their own students. Drawing on both the institute's inclusive teaching content and their own student data, faculty developed strategies and work products to support disproportionately impacted students in their classes.

Grants

IRP&G has worked with the Math, Science, and Engineering Division to complete two federal grant proposals, and both are being prepared for submission by the end of the month. The first, developed in partnership with CSU San Marcos, is for the National Institute of Health/ National Institute of General Medical Sciences Institutional Biomedical Undergraduate Research Training (BURT) Program (T34), which supports community college students in building research skills as they prepare to transfer into bachelor's degree programs and biomedical research pathways. If awarded, it will continue the Palomar College/CSU San Marcos 20-year partnership on NIH-funded research training for community college students. The second is for the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) program, which supports partnerships among community colleges, industry, and other education partners to strengthen technician education in high-technology fields. IRP&G supported faculty and instructional leaders with proposal planning, budget development, compliance review, and alignment with sponsor requirements.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The integrated marketing campaign designed to support enrollment goals and increase awareness among our target audiences continued through 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 602,035 impressions in August while remaining cost-efficient.

The comprehensive advertising campaign features a diverse mix of placements. Outdoor efforts designed to increase awareness and keep Palomar College "top of mind" included a digital bulletin along Interstate 15, and a billboard in downtown Fallbrook. We also placed digital advertising in the Union-Tribune Community Press and a full-page ad in Hidden Meadow News. Additional placements included an email campaign to subscribers of Camp Pendleton news. To support the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, a cinema advertisement continued to run.

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 NSPIRE program to design the creative assets for implementation within a media plan designed to reach Native American students throughout the district. This campaign launched during the last week of



September and will continue until the end of the fiscal year and includes direct mail, outdoor advertising, as well as online display and print.

Compared to September 2025, new user traffic to the palomar.edu website increased by 176% and sessions on the website increased 97%. These results are positively impacted by the comprehensive advertising strategy implemented in September. We are also seeing increases in AI Assisted searches on our website. Social media traffic was the fifth-ranked source of traffic. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn 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 5% and X followers increased by 1% compared to last September. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to September 2025. Compared to the previous September, both Instagram and our TikTok channel grew 13% and 19%, respectively.

Throughout September, our social media posts celebrated our 80th anniversary and focused on increasing awareness of fast-track classes, National Voter Registration Day and voter registration, student support services, athletic and performing arts events.



Sample Social Media Post

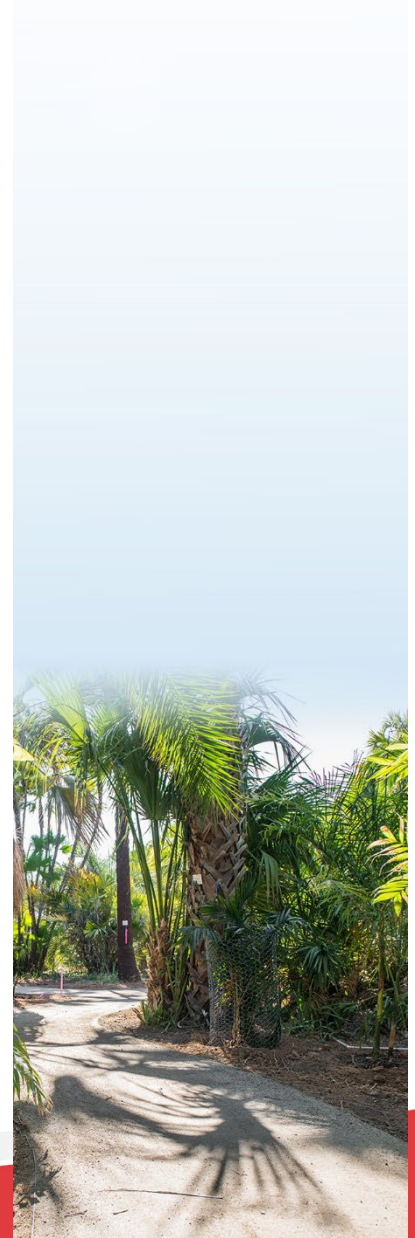


Sample Social Media Post

Community and Media Relations

To increase awareness of our newly remodeled UMOJA center, a [press release](#) was distributed. The release generated media coverage from regional print and digital media organizations. A [story on a family of sisters](#) all attending Palomar College was also published. These stories are made available on the [Palomar News website](#). In addition, PIO Lanthier Bandy facilitated a request from Coast News to interview our lead faculty of the Bachelor's of Science in Building Performance and Environmental Design. The story was published in the [Coast News](#) on September 28. Palomar College received 214 media mentions in September with an overall monthly publicity value of over \$114,545.

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce executive committee and board of directors' meetings. She also attended the monthly meeting of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association, the CSU San Marcos Report to the Community, Neighborhood Healthcare State of Community Health Forum, and the Multi-Chamber of Commerce meeting held at Palomar College.



Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the government affairs meetings hosted in September by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and Community College League of California (CCLC) monthly meeting and two planning meetings with SDICCCA public information officers. She also attended the business roundtable hosted by Assemblymember Dr. Darshana Patel.



PIO Lanthier Bandy and Assemblymember Dr. Darshan Patel with business roundtable attendees

The Creative Services team designed and produced an 80th event backdrop for use throughout the academic year, and the 2026 Annual Security Report. The team continued to deliver projects supporting academic and student support programs. Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Fallbrook Education Center emergency procedures guide and associated poster, inclusive of new evacuation maps.

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

Annual President's Golf Classic Invitational

The President's Invitational Golf Classic has raised \$119,550 to date! This year's opportunity drawing will feature an exciting selection of prizes, including a two-night stay at the Alila Marea Beach Resort, Bose products, a television, and much more. We are grateful to our sponsors and donors for helping make this year's tournament a success while supporting Palomar College students.

Grants Program

The Foundation submitted a \$30,000 grant request to the Scott and Elizabeth Christensen Charitable Foundation, with \$20,000 designated for the Rising Scholars Program to provide student stipends and essential classroom supplies, and \$10,000 for the Foundation's Emergency Grant Program to help students facing unexpected financial hardships stay enrolled and continue their education.

Foundation Board, Community Engagement & Donor Development Activities

Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary Foundation

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and Development Manager Linda Moynan met with the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary leaders in September. This volunteer organization has been a long-time



Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary Leaders with Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and Development Manager Linda Moynan



donor of the Foundation, offering nursing students annual scholarships. The auxiliary will be recognized at the 2027 Palomar College Community Showcase with the Comet Award.

CSUSM Report to the Community

Palomar College was proud to sponsor and attend the 2026 CSU San Marcos Report to the Community featuring President Dr. Ellen Neufeld. The event held on September 17 focused on the impact CSU San Marcos has on our region.



PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy, Dean Lisa Medina, Dean Dr. Nichol Roe, Governing Board President Dr. Holly Hamilton Bleakley, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Director Adam Kasarda, Governing Board Trustee Roberto Rodriguez, and Center Director Ryan Williams

North County LGBTQ Resource Center Lavender Gala
Palomar College was well represented at the North County LGBTQ Resource Center Lavender Gala. The Center plays an essential role in creating a safer, healthier, and more inclusive community by providing advocacy, education, support, resources, and services for LGBTQ+ individuals and families throughout North County San Diego.

NCAAWA Gentlemen's Gourmet

Palomar College also attended the annual North County African American Women's Association Gentlemen's Gourmet on September 20. The event features local chefs and provides funds to support north county scholarships for students. NCAAWA provides a support network through education, health awareness, and life skills programs for women and girls in San Diego North County to increase their self-sufficiency.



Pride Center Coordinator Lene Reynolds, Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle, Dean Dr. Jenny Ferrero, Palomar College students Bishop Garcia, Nina Burg, Max Quimby, Career Technical Program Specialist Cristian "Tony" Quiros, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, and Articulation Officer/ Associate Professor/ Dr. Ben Mudgett

Campus Tour with the Assistance League of Inland North County (ALINC)

Development Manager Linda Moynan hosted a campus tour for ALINC, a longtime supporter and donor of the Palomar College Foundation and Palomar College. During the tour, we highlighted the meaningful impact



their generosity has on student success and educational opportunities. ALINC supports several of Palomar College career and technical education programs, including the HVAC program. Their contributions help provide students with the resources, training, and hands-on experience needed to prepare for successful careers in the skilled trades.

Scholarship Activities

The Palomar College Scholarship application period closed in early September, with more than 1,000 students submitting applications. The

Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing applications and carefully evaluating each submission. This year, approximately \$600,000 in scholarship funding is available to award. These scholarships play a vital role in helping students overcome financial barriers that can hinder their academic progress. For many students, scholarship support helps cover essential expenses such as tuition, books, transportation, technology, childcare, and basic living costs. During times of financial hardship, these awards can make the difference between a student having to delay their education and being able to stay enrolled, persist toward completion, and achieve their educational and career goals. By investing in student success, scholarship funding helps create greater access, equity, and opportunity for our Palomar College students and their families.



Leaders of the Assistance League of Inland North County (ALINC), Development Manager Linda Moynan, and Rising Scholar students

