SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT'S

GOVERNING BOARD MONTHLY UPDATE

PALOMAR COLLEGE®
Learning for Success

November 6, 2026

INSIDE...

President's Office..... 1

Office of Instruction..... 3

Student Services 6

Finance & Administration 8

Human Resources 10

Chief Diversity Office ... 11

Institutional Research Planning & Grants 13

Public Affairs Office 14

Foundation..... 16

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

A Comet Win For All

Our "Pack the Stands" football game on October 17 was a win not just for our Palomar Comet Football team but also for our employees. The event brought us together for a fun evening with a win in overtime as a perfect end to the evening.

This past month, I also enjoyed catching the energy of the Palomar Women's volleyball team and our Men's soccer team. Our student athletes always amaze me as they passionately pursue their sports.



Top Row: Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Human Resources Anna Pedroza, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services Nick Mata, Nico Mata 2nd Row: Rich Studinka, Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, Professor Gina Wilson, 3rd row: PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy

Our Future Comets

We hosted the October gathering of the 2026-27 San Marcos Chamber of Commerce and San Marcos Unified School District's (SMUSD) Rising Stars on October 20. 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. One of the students already has Palomar College in his future educational plan. These students are the reason we do what we do each and every day. We were joined by San Marcos Mayor Rebecca



San Marcos Chamber CEO Rick Rungaitis, Rising Star Mayriani Rios, City of San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, Rising Star Jesus Perez Espinoza, Rising Star Olivia Heckathorne, and San Marcos City Council Member Ed Musgrove

Jones and Council Member Ed Musgrove, along with representatives from the offices of U.S. Congressman Scott Peters, State Senator Brian Jones, and County Supervisor Jim Desmond.

A Successful Day on the Golf Course

Congratulations to the Palomar College Foundation on an incredible golf tournament. The Palomar College Foundation's President's Invitational Golf Classic raised over $148,000 in support of our students and programs designed to reduce the financial obstacles students face when they pursue their educational goals. I am grateful to Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis and the entire Foundation team for their commitment to designing a successful event and bringing the community together to support our students.



Dr. Judy Patacsil, Linda Moynan, Tyler Steele, Members of the First-Place Golf Team, Dr. Tina Recalde, Roberto Rodriguez, and Dr. Holly Hamilton-Bleakley

Community Connections

I attended the San Marcos Boys & Girls Club Annual Gala on October 10 with Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, Dean of Enrollment Services Lisa Medina and Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis. The event featured performances by talented students and provided an opportunity to engage with community leaders and elected officials who are committed to the success of our younger generation of students.



Carlos Recalde, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Rick Rungaitis, Julio Medina Flores, Lisa Medina, Governing Board Secretary Dr. Judy Patacsil, and Herb Deluthe



As a member of the California Community College Association for Occupational Education (CCCAOE) Board of Directors, I had the pleasure of attending the fall conference. The conference brought together Career Technical Education administrators, educators, and industry partners. This year's theme, Stronger Together, highlighted the importance of connecting policy, practice, and people across our colleges and the California Community College system.

The monthly meeting of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA) is always beneficial as our region's educational leaders collaborate on how best to navigate today's limited resources while focusing on student success. We benefit from connecting with our CSU and UC colleagues as well as the Government Affairs team from the Community College League of California.

It was an honor to attend the retirement celebration of Dr. Wolde-Ab Isaac, the Chancellor of the Riverside Community College District (RCCD). Hundreds of people from throughout the state gathered to recognize him for an amazing career of 50 years and his dedication to student success, and leadership in education and administration.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

Languages and Literature Division

ESL Professors Heather Hosaka, Tracy Fung, and Nimoli Madan, along with Dean Leanne Maunu, attended the Strengthening Student Success Conference (SSSC) in Garden Grove. The annual conference focuses on advancing student success through equitable practices and fostering caring, supportive learning environments. The theme, "Re-Claiming Joy," highlighted strategies and best practices for uplifting and empowering students. Conference attendees returned with new insights to support student achievement and enhance the student experience at the college.



From L-R: Dany Mendoza, Ariana Ortiz Suarez, Taneisha Hellon, Lene Reynolds, Dr. Nancy Browne, Rosalinda Tovar, Wendy Fraga, Debra Avila, Dr. Leanne Maunu, Tracy Fung, Dr. Michael Large, Nimoli Madan, and Heather Hosaka

In September, the American Sign Language (ASL) program hosted an ASL movie night for students enrolled in ASL and interpreting courses. The event provided an opportunity for students to build community while engaging in meaningful discussion about a film highlighting



Deaf rights, culture, and representation. The gathering supported student connection, cultural awareness, and learning beyond the classroom.

English Professor Dr. Lisette Lasater, ESL Professor Gary Sosa, and Dean Dr. Leanne Maunu attended the Puente Equity Summit at UCLA's Lake Arrowhead Lodge. The theme, "Building Countercultures of Care," highlighted Puente's research-based, culturally affirming, and innovative scholarship and practices. Attendees engaged in professional learning focused on advancing equity, strengthening student support, and fostering inclusive educational environments that promote student success.



Puente Equity Summit attendees Dr. Lisette Lasater, Dr. Leanne Maunu, and Professor Gary Sosa

The Palomar Speech and Debate team competed at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association (PSCFA) Warm-Up tournament hosted by El Camino College. Several students earned recognition in their first collegiate speech and debate competition: Ari Stephens received an Excellent Certificate in Novice Impromptu; Aaliyah Soto earned an Excellent Certificate in Novice Extemporaneous; and Kaylana Paed was awarded a Superior Certificate in Novice Informative. These accomplishments reflect the students' dedication and the continued success of the Palomar College Speech and Debate program.



Palomar College Speech and Debate Team winners Ari Stephens, Kaylana Paed, and Aaliyah Soto

The World Languages program is preparing to host its fall Café International event on November 10 in the Student Union. The event brings together students, faculty, and staff to celebrate global cultures and languages through interactive activities, food, and community engagement, supporting the college's commitment to cultural awareness and inclusivity.

The ESL department continued to foster student success and community engagement through a variety of educational and cultural activities this fall. On October 22, the department hosted its first Immigrant Celebration in the Student Union, providing ESL students with an opportunity to showcase their work while celebrating the diverse cultures and experiences that enrich the college community. Students, faculty, staff, and community members enjoyed food, activities, and meaningful connection.

Through ongoing collaboration with campus partners, including ESL advising, the Dreamer Success program, Behavioral Health Counseling Services, and college leadership, the ESL department continues to enhance support services for students and families. The department is also establishing a new partnership with Orange Glen High School to strengthen community engagement and expand educational pathways for future students.



Throughout the semester, the ESL Tutoring Center has supported student learning through social cafés, workshops, conversation hours, and a Free Book Week, creating opportunities for students to strengthen language skills, build community, and engage with campus resources. In addition, noncredit ESL students participated in the San Marcos Library Scavenger Hunt, gaining valuable exposure to library services and resources that support their academic and personal success.



Palomar College ESL students enjoying the scavenger hunt at the LRC.

As part of an initiative to advance accessibility in library resources, the California Community Colleges Council of Chief Librarians recently joined the Library Accessibility Alliance, a national consortium focused on improving access to library materials and services for all users. Library Department Chair Marie Templo Capule has volunteered to serve on the Vendor Relations Committee of the Alliance, representing community college interests and supporting efforts to enhance accessibility across library systems.

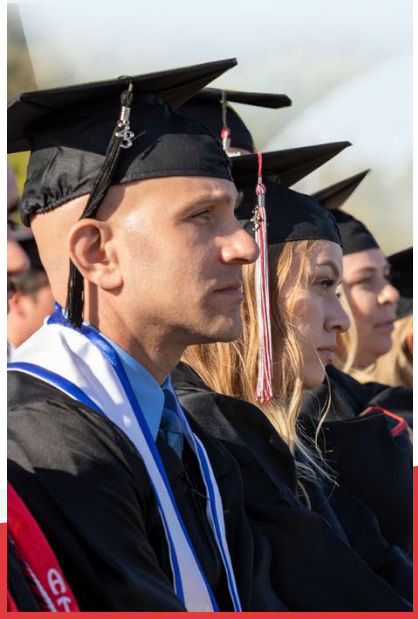
The Library and Information Technology (LIT) program recently hosted a virtual mock interview event, "Practice Your Interview Skills with People Who Are Rooting for Your Success." The session provided students with an opportunity to strengthen their interviewing skills, receive personalized feedback, and connect with library professionals from throughout the region. Participants completed mock interviews with experienced library workers and practiced for career pathways including public services technician, technical services technician, and school library media technician positions. The event helped prepare students for employment opportunities while strengthening professional connections within the library field.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

The Earth, Humanities, Political and Social Sciences department welcomed the return of Political Economy Days on October 20-21. Sponsored by the Palomar Faculty Federation with support from the North County Higher Education Alliance, the event continued a long-standing tradition of engaging academic discussions and distinguished speakers to the Palomar community. The two-day program also highlighted student involvement through opening and closing events focused on campus clubs and student engagement.

The Child Development and Education department recently partnered with the Career Center to host a Child Development and Education Career Mixer, providing students with direct access to employers in the field. The event featured an employer panel discussion followed by a speed-networking session, allowing students to build professional connections, explore career pathways, and learn about employment opportunities in child development and education. The mixer


Child Development and Education department students and employees at the Child Development and Education Career Mixer



offered valuable networking experience and strengthened connections between students and industry professionals.

Career Technical and Extended Education Division

In February 2026, California announced more than $22.3 million in Apprenticeship Innovation Funding (AIF) to expand nontraditional apprenticeships in high-demand sectors, including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and technology. AIF advances California's commitment to creating seamless, debt-free pathways from education to lifelong careers by reimbursing apprenticeship programs and training partners for operational and training expenses.

Palomar College's United States Marine Corps Apprenticeship Program ranked second among 61 statewide funding recipients in both the number of apprentices and AIF funds earned—for the second consecutive year. This sustained achievement reflects Palomar's leadership in scaling apprenticeship opportunities and delivering workforce training at a significant scale. These results demonstrate Palomar College's capacity to grow innovative workforce programs, strengthen employer partnerships, and advance California's vision of accessible, debt-free pathways to high-demand careers.

In early October, the Continuing Education department welcomed more than 90 adult education students and staff from K–12 adult schools to Palomar College for a day designed to spark curiosity, build connections, and open doors to new possibilities. Students explored college programs, connected with faculty and staff, heard firsthand from current Palomar students, and discovered resources to help them navigate their next steps toward college and career opportunities. Participants reported a stronger understanding of Palomar College programs and opportunities, and many expressed interest in continuing their education and learning more about enrollment, financial aid, and career planning. The experience helped students envision themselves at Palomar and see new possibilities for their futures.

STUDENT SERVICES

Veterans Resource Center

The Veterans Resource Center hosted its annual Veterans Day celebration on November 5, on the veteran's memorial lawn. The theme, Resilience, honors the strength, perseverance, and sacrifices of our nation's veterans and their families.

The celebration provided an opportunity to come together in gratitude, remembrance, and celebration of our veterans and their continued contributions. Attendees included students, employees, community members, and military-connected partners. The program included a presentation of the colors, the National Anthem, remarks from college leadership, and a special tribute to our veterans. A complimentary community lunch was generously provided by the Palomar College Foundation.

Rising Scholars

On October 15, Rising Scholars Coordinator Dr. Nora Kenney presented information about the program at the Western Region Reentry Summit, a national conference focused on pathways for currently and formerly incarcerated people. During this session, Dr. Kenney spoke to how higher education institutions can replicate the impactful support systems within the Palomar College Rising Scholars to positively affect student success.



On November 13, the Rising Scholars program will screen the Emmy award-winning *Almost Home: Life After Incarceration*, a Palomar College Television (PCTV) documentary that highlights formerly incarcerated college students. The screening will take place at the Brubeck Theatre with the 90-minute film starting at 5:30 p.m. and a 30-minute discussion panel following the movie.

Student Life & Leadership

The Associated Student Government (ASG) has had an active run for the fall and approved funding in support of two campus events held in October. In late September, the ASG supported Behavioral Health Services during Suicide Prevention Month Film Screening and Resource Fair, which connected students with mental health resources and support services available on campus and in the community. In October, the ASG supported the English as a Second Language (ESL) Together We Paint This Country event, which celebrated the diverse backgrounds and voices of our ESL students.

The ASG hosted a full-day retreat at the Lakehouse Resort in San Marcos. The retreat included team building, training on ASG roles and responsibilities, and instruction in parliamentary procedure, which prepares members to run effective and compliant meetings. The day built a strong foundation for a productive semester of student advocacy and service.

Five ASG members attended the California Community College Student Affairs Association Student Leadership conference. Students took part in workshops and networking sessions with student leaders from community colleges across the state, and brought back new ideas and leadership skills to share with the full ASG. The conference included 93 California Community Colleges in attendance with 600 student leaders from across the state.

ASG tabled at the Rainbow Dreamers event, connecting with students, promoting ASG involvement opportunities, and showing support for an inclusive campus community.

Basic Needs

In October, the Food & Nutrition Center welcomed 111 first-time students and supported 412 students and their households across 1,988 visits, distributing 8,203 pounds of food. An additional 2,076 pounds were distributed through the Grab-and-Go Snack Program, and 771 pounds were delivered to the education centers, bringing total food distribution to 11,050 pounds. The center also provided hygiene kits to 74 students, period products to 95 students, and diapers to 21 households. Student parents can receive up to 100 diapers per child each month, and faculty and staff are encouraged to refer students who may benefit. Basic Needs also fulfilled 31 Campus Care Locker orders, providing students with convenient access to essential supplies at the San Marcos campus and education centers. Additional support included Comet's Closet clothing appointments, CalFresh application assistance, and referrals to emergency housing and community resources. Basic Needs is grateful to Assisteens, the official youth auxiliary program of the Assistance League for their generous donation of 100 hygiene kits in October.

To improve accessibility at the Food & Nutrition Center in SU-40, work began on October 23 to install an automatic door opener, allowing students with mobility challenges to enter more easily. The center also replaced its chest freezer with an upright freezer, making frozen food items easier for students to access.

On October 19, Basic Needs partnered with the Pride Center to host Living Out Loud, a pop-up Comet's Closet event featuring free clothing, including gender-affirming options, and information about additional Basic Needs resources. The event welcomed 50 students. The team also participated in the 3rd Annual Rainbow Dreamers De-Stress Event and attended a



presentation by the North County LGBTQ Resource Center on its Unicorn Homes program, exploring potential referral pathways for students experiencing housing insecurity.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services
2025-26 Fiscal Year-end processing is anticipated to be complete in November or December. The CCFS-311 Annual Financial and Budget Report has been submitted to the California Community College Chancellor's Office and will be presented to the Governing Board on November 10. Fieldwork for the FY 2025-26 audit is ongoing, and the Measure M Bond Audits were completed with no reportable findings.

A new AI-enabled solution to improve operational efficiency and streamline accounts payable processes is in the implementation phase. In collaboration with Information Services, the implementation and testing of IRS 1098-T and 1099 A2A/API application processes is in progress. The team is also participating in PeopleSoft User Acceptance Testing (UAT) throughout October and November. The Program Review and Planning (PRP) one-time budget allocations were developed and finalized. In addition, funding for major Information Services, Facilities, and Enrollment Services enhancement projects was finalized. The department is also preparing the annual budget calendar and providing Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) revenue projections to evaluate potential summer FTES borrowing strategies.

Business Services
Contracts and Purchasing processed over 250 purchase orders and 48 contracts in October. Business Services remains focused on strengthening operational effectiveness, maintaining compliance, improving processes, and building strong partnerships across campus.

Facilities Operations
Custodial Services
Custodial staff have continued to work diligently to maintain daily cleaning and sanitation protocols across the district, including classrooms, restrooms, offices, and common areas, while maintaining floors, replenishing supplies, removing waste, and responding to service requests. In addition, staff supported major campus events by providing facility setups, event cleaning, and post-event cleanup for the College Fair, Paths to Palomar, CATEA Conference, theater performances, athletic games, All Majors Job Expo, Rainbow Dreamers De-Stress Event, Together We Paint This Country, and Trunk or Treat.

Building and Ground Services
Building Services installed flooring and additional HVAC in room A-1 and carpeting in room D-2. This is in addition to the replacement of roll-up doors at the warehouse and T building, and repair of the bi-fold doors at the ITC building. The indoor and outdoor furniture at the Student Union is being replaced. In November a sewer line in the bookstore will be repaired.

Grounds Services completed major renovations and clean-up in parking lot 8, around the HC building, the rose garden in parking lot 1, and the Welcome Center. In addition, repairs were conducted on the softball and baseball field pitching mounds and home plate areas. Notably, many volunteers helped with clean-up at the Arboretum on October 23.

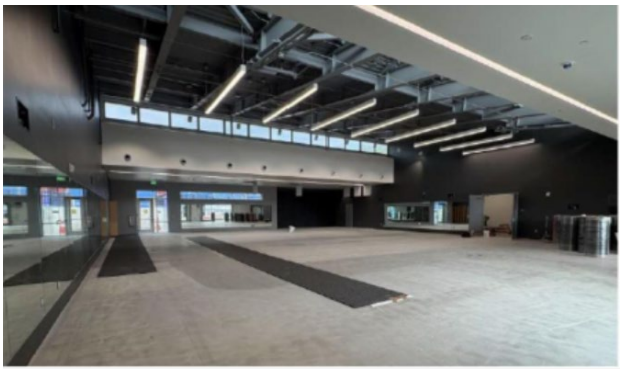


Construction & Facilities Planning
The Fallbrook 40 project progressed with work on interior finishes and the second level paver band edge installation. Interior activities included second-level low wall millwork and first-level countertop fixtures, decorative plastic glazing, and low wall installation. Exterior work included courtyard guardrail painting, fixture trim-out and east elevation fiber cement work.



The construction in progress for the permanent building at the Fallbrook Education Center

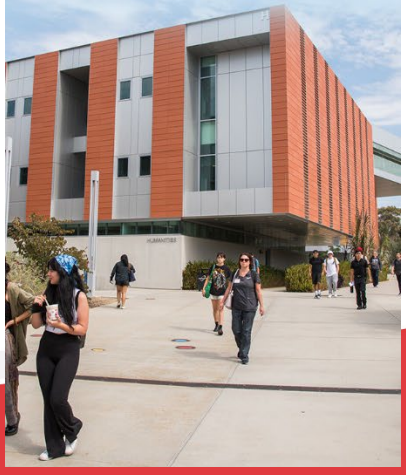
On the Athletics Phase 2 project, an architect punch walk for the western rooms was completed on October 19. The subcontractors are addressing items noted in the walk. On the eastern wing, all door frames and thresholds have been installed, with continuing work on wall coverings in the locker and training rooms. Fire alarm testing is ongoing, and the air conditioning is operational in the building. Final painting and electrical trim are in progress and flooring installation has begun in the weight room.



The construction in progress at the athletic fieldhouse

Environmental Health & Safety / Risk Management (EH&S/RM)
EH&S/RM participated in the FY 2026–27 Palomar Community College District Risk Improvement Action Plan (RIAP) planning meeting with Keenan, our insurance company. This session, workers' compensation loss trends, employee injury, and claims data associated with the District's participation in the Protected Insurance Program for Schools and Community Colleges (PIPS) Joint Powers Authority was reviewed. Discussions focused on assessing the data to identify injury trends, prioritize areas for improvement, and establish meaningful safety goals to reduce workplace injuries and future claims. This collaborative planning process supports the district's ongoing loss prevention efforts and continued participation in the PIPS member incentive program.

EH&S/RM also renewed the district's Professional Student Liability Insurance, which provides coverage for eligible students against covered claims arising from professional activities conducted as part of hands-on educational training, including clinical rotations, internships, and fieldwork. Maintaining this coverage helps manage potential liability exposures associated with student participation in practical learning experiences.



District emergency preparedness was exercised through the successful completion of the September 10 practice lockdown drill and Great California Shake-Out earthquake drill on October 15. Additionally, EH&S/Risk Management continued working with Rockeye Consultants to review and update the district's Emergency Operations Plan, strengthening emergency planning and preparedness across the district.

A pedestrian safety concern is being addressed along Comet Circle West by coordinating the repainting of crosswalk markings and the trimming of multiple trees that could obstruct visibility or create hazards for pedestrians. These corrective actions will support safer pedestrian movement and help reduce the risk of campus injuries.

Information Services (IS)
Information Services is continuing to advance strategic digital transformation, campus safety, and operational excellence across the district.

A redesign and modernization of the guest wireless network onboarding architecture, creating a seamless one-click access model and significantly improving the user experience for campus visitors, community members, and event attendees is scheduled for full district-wide enablement in late November. Significant progress was made to expand the reach of the campus-wide emergency notification with the deployment of the InformaCast application directly to district-provided employee laptops and workstations. This work will ensure rapid, synchronized audio and visual broadcast alerts across the district and is scheduled to be completed by November 15.

In addition, a successful pilot and validation of an enterprise secure browser solution designed to support secure remote work without requiring district-issued laptops or legacy Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is complete. A phased roll out of the solution is scheduled for the early part of November with full enablement at the start of the spring semester. This project will modernize workforce flexibility, reduce hardware and VDI licensing overhead, while maintaining rigorous security and data loss prevention standards across remote work environments.
Information Services has made substantial progress in filling critical leadership and engineering positions including the hire and onboarding of an Infrastructure Administrator. The hiring of a Manager of Systems & Programming is in process, and two other positions are targeted for hire in early to late December.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Human Resource Services continues to support the recruitment and selection process for the district's next Superintendent/President. Candidate forums were held on October 23, providing employees, students, and community members with an opportunity to hear from the finalists, learn about their experience, and gain insight into the vision and leadership they would bring to Palomar College if selected. Feedback was collected through an online survey and will be shared with the Governing Board as part of the next phase of the selection process.

Human Resources also continues to advance professional development opportunities with a focus on leadership and supervisory training, equipping managers and supervisors with the tools needed to foster employee engagement, support organizational effectiveness, and promote a positive workplace culture. These efforts reflect the district's ongoing commitment to developing leadership and supporting employee success.



Benefits
Forty-five full-time employees took advantage of the opportunity to update and enhance their insurance plan selections. Ninety employees participated in the CalPERS and CalSTRS workshops that took place in September. Fifty new part-time faculty enrolled in medical, dental, and vision benefits. There were 117 part-time faculty who re-enrolled in their existing benefits. The number of part-time faculty who qualify and participate in the medical benefits is 140.

Starting in January 2027, the Anthem Employee Assistance Program will include legal mediation services, an identity theft emergency response kit, fee-based attorney guided estate planning and money coaches with expertise across 20+ professional credential designations.

Title IX, EEO, and HR Compliance
In accordance with California Senate Bill 1343 (S.B. 1343) and Assembly Bill 1825 (A.B. 1825), all employees received training assignments for mandatory sexual harassment prevention training. All employees must complete this training based on their position and classification. Specifically, CAST and Palomar Administrative Association (PAA) members must take a two-hour training every two years and all other employee groups must take a one-hour training every two years.

In addition, all District employees are required to complete annual Title IX training to support an understanding of their responsibilities related to sex-based discrimination and sexual misconduct. Annually, CAST and PAA members must complete 51 minutes of training, and all other employees are required to complete 27 minutes.

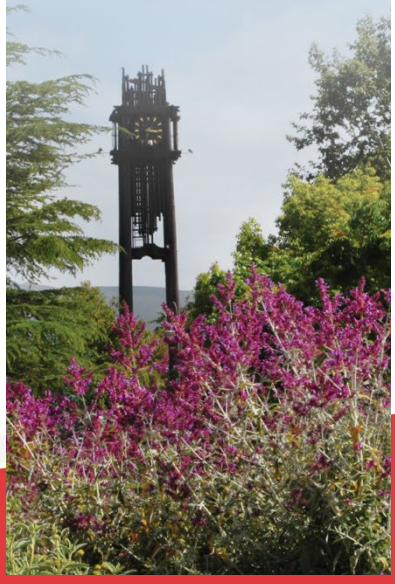
Recruitment
Human Resources attended the Building Bridges Career and Community Fair on October 7 and the Palomar College All Majors Job Fair on October 20. The goal of attending events like these is to engage diverse applicants.

Recruitment figures as of October 26, 2026:

- 41 permanent recruitments in progress
  - 10 – Admin/CAST
  - 20 – Classified
  - 11 – Faculty
- 76 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

Collective Equity Impact Institute
Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Nicole Belisle attended the California Community College Chancellor's Office Collective Equity Impact Institute. The conference was designed for employees to focus on leading with equity and inclusion, transforming student pathways, driving change through policy and leadership and innovating for a sustainable and health future. Dr. Belisle also presented with colleagues from Southern California on a session titled "Equity in Action: How DEIA Leadership Transforms Learning, Hiring, and Campus Culture." Engagement in this statewide institute provides opportunities to identify promising practices and strengthen regional partnerships that can inform ongoing efforts to integrate equity into Palomar College institutional planning, hiring practices, professional learning, and



student success initiatives.

CCPA – California College Personnel Association Fall Institute
The California Chapter of the American College Personnel Association held its annual fall institute at Fresno State University with the theme of Hope through Action: Cultivating Equity & Community in Higher Education. Dr. Belisle serves as the Director of Equity and Social Justice for CCPA supporting professional development across the state for student affairs professionals. This statewide leadership role provides opportunities to bring emerging practices, professional development resources, and cross-institutional perspectives to Palomar College, supporting efforts to strengthen inclusive student services, employee engagement, and a campus culture of belonging.

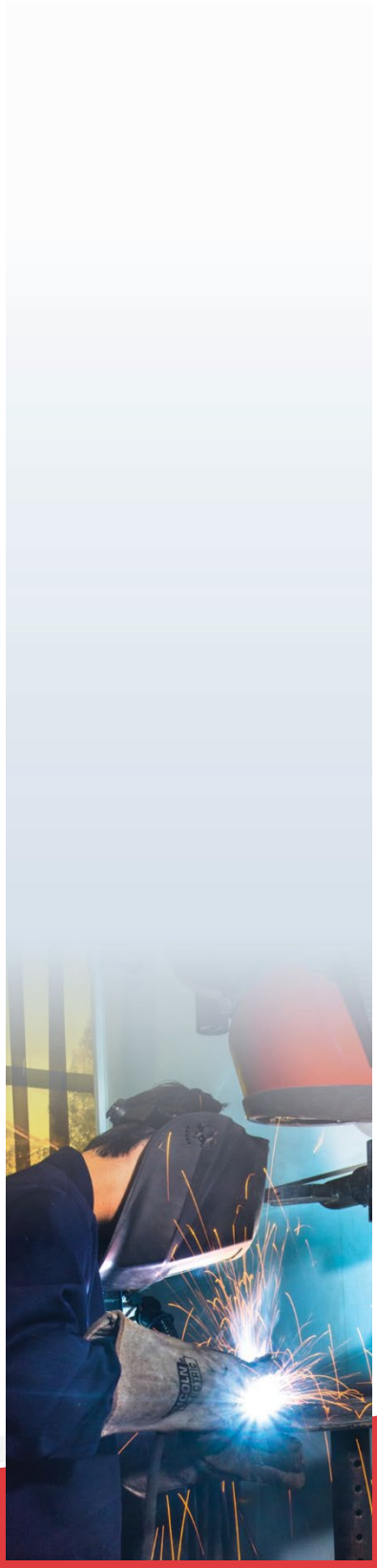
The Association of Chief Human Resource Officers (ACHRO)/EEO Conference
The Association of Chief Human Resource Officers is a non-profit organization assisting the Chief Human Resource Officers and staff in the California Community College system. The conference theme, Waves of Change: Navigating the Future of HR, reflects the constant movement and complexity inherent in day-to-day human resources work and the significant changes that are shaping the profession. Dr. Belisle attended and presented with colleagues on Equity-Minded Leadership. The conference workshops and discussions will directly support the development of the next Palomar College Equal Employment Opportunity Plan. Topics included strategies for equitable recruitment and hiring, strengthening collaboration with human resources, and identifying approaches to assess and improve institutional climate and employee engagement.

ESL Immigration Celebration - Together We Paint this Country
The Chief Diversity Office supported this collaborative evening event led by the ESL department that celebrated our immigrant communities at Palomar College. The event showcased student creativity and created opportunities for connection, reflection, and engagement across disciplines and communities. It also reinforces our institutional commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive campus by elevating immigrant student voices, fostering connections across the college community, and supporting student belonging and engagement.



Participants enjoying the ESL Immigration Celebration - Together We Paint this Country.

IDEAAs for all Flipped - Equity Series
IDEAAs for All Flipped is based on the Palomar College equity foundations training series where the original five modules explore the demographics of students and employees, common DEIAA language, microaggressions, race-lighting, cultural bias, institutional inequities, and culturally responsive practices. Dr. Belisle led the second session of the series on October 21. In this series, using a flipped classroom approach, participants will review selected materials before each session and then engage in a facilitated discussion, reflection, and practical application. The next workshop is on November 18, and registration is available in the PD Portal. This series builds employee capacity to translate equity concepts into everyday practices, encourages a greater awareness of the diverse student populations of Palomar College and supports the application of inclusive, culturally responsive approaches across instruction, student services, and administrative operations.



INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING & GRANTS (IRPG)

Accreditation
Fall work on the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) is underway. The All Standards Review Teams completed a training session in late September and early October and are now working on their fall assignments. As outlined in the timeline, each team will spend the fall semester describing how the college meets its assigned standards and identifying supporting evidence.

The Accreditation Writing Leadership Team (AWLT) has also launched an ISER 2029 webpage where the campus community can learn about the process and timeline, see who serves on each Standards Review Team, and read monthly progress updates. A brief progress report will also appear in an upcoming Comet Connect.

Integrated Planning
The College Council approved the priorities for the Palomar College Vision Plan 2035 at the end of September, and divisions are now developing an accompanying action plan.

A team from Student Services and Institutional Research, Planning, and Grants attended the regional Vision-Aligned Reporting (VAR) convening to learn about reporting updates, share what is working well, and identify opportunities for improvement. VAR is the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) reporting process for categorically funded programs, designed to align college reporting with the CCCCO systemwide Vision 2030 goals. Because the process is new and complex, with additional changes expected from the CCCCO, the team will continue meeting this semester to complete reporting requirements and refine Palomar's data collection and submission process.

Institutional Research
October is reporting month! The fall collection for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is underway and includes four survey components:

- Institutional Characteristics: Basic institutional information, including student charges, admission requirements, and services.
- Completions: Degrees, certificates, and other awards conferred during the prior academic year.
- 12-Month Enrollment: Total enrollment and instructional activity for the full year (July 1 through June 30).
- Cost I: Cost of attendance for full-time, first-time undergraduate students.

IRP&G staff are currently updating and validating survey data uploaded by the CCCCO ahead of the October 28 deadline. In addition, the District's Full-Time Faculty Obligation (FON) Compliance Report was due to the CCCCO on November 2. This annual report shows whether the district employs the number of full-time faculty required under Title 5, based on changes in funded credit FTES.

Grants
IRP&G is pleased to announce the renewal of the North County Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC) grant. Part of the federal TRIO programs, NCEOC helps adults in North County enter, re-enter, or continue in postsecondary education through academic, career, and financial aid guidance.



As noted in last month's update, IRP&G supported the preparation of two federal grant proposals, and both have now been successfully submitted: the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Institutional Biomedical Undergraduate Research Training (BURT) Program (T34) and the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) program. Our acting Grants Manager is now working with the Nursing Department to develop a Regional Network of Innovation (RNI-3) grant proposal focused on strengthening nursing education and workforce development.

Beyond grant development, IRP&G continues to support grant-funded programs with monitoring, fiscal oversight, reporting coordination, and closeout activities to ensure compliance with funder 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 October. 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 760,501 impressions in September 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 targeted community advertising with an indoor digital billboard vendor, while print advertising featured a full-paid ad in the North County Informador, which also includes a web banner ad. Additional awareness advertising included cinema advertisement at Angelika Carmel Mountain.

To further promote enrollment opportunities, a campaign designed to engage former students continued. This digital tactic utilizes student data and social media platforms to re-connect with students. Students who engage with the campaign are contacted through our new call center as engagement reports are received. 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 strategy launched during the last week of September and was expanded in October to include direct mail, Over The Top (OTT), display and print ad campaigns.

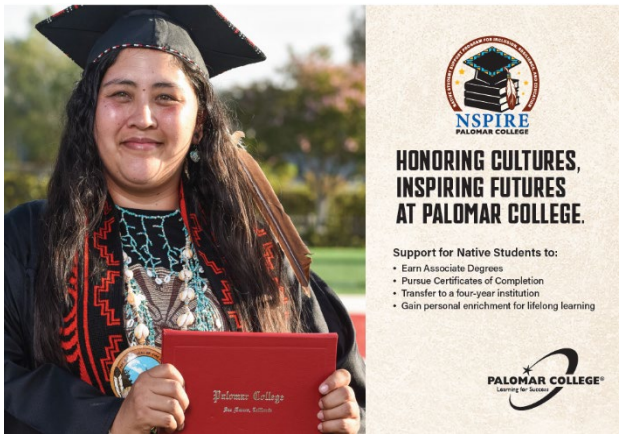
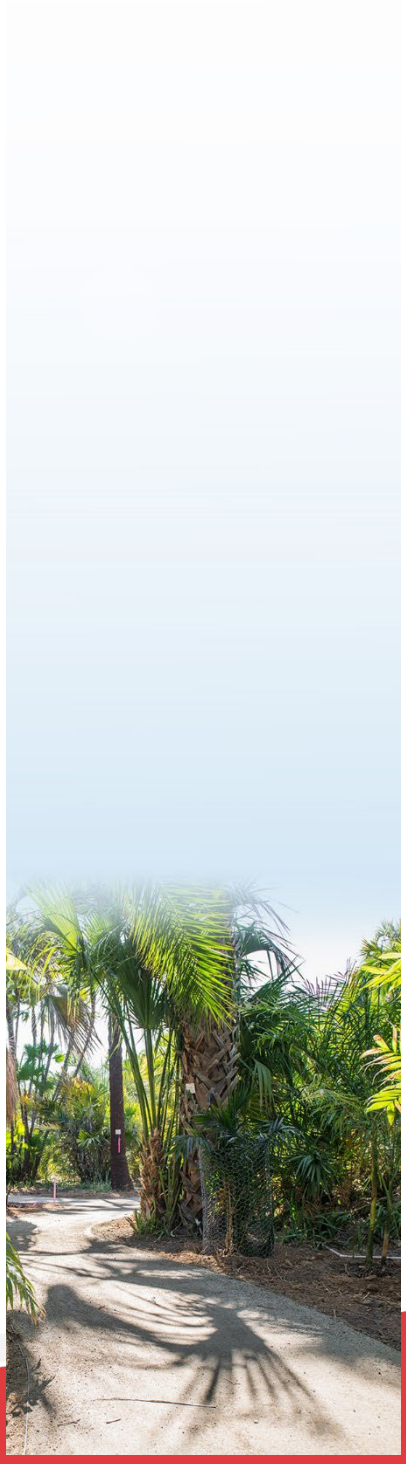


Image of the NSPIRE program direct mail campaign postcard

Compared to October 2025, new user traffic to the palomar.edu website increased by 115% and sessions on the website increased 73%. We are



also seeing increases in both direct and paid search on the website. These results are positively impacted by the comprehensive advertising strategy implemented in October. Social media traffic was largely generated from Facebook and Instagram.

A year-over-year performance comparison of growth within each of our social media platforms shows continuous improvement. Facebook followers increased by 6% and X followers increased by 1% compared to last October. Followers on LinkedIn grew 6% compared to October 2025. Compared to the previous October, both Instagram and our TikTok channel grew 24% and 18%, respectively. Throughout October, our social media posts focused on increasing awareness of fast-track classes, voter registration and voting, student support services, athletic and performing arts events.

Throughout October, the marketing and creative services teams centered their attention around finalizing the new and refreshed creative assets for the spring 2027 enrollment campaign. The placements designed to support the spring 2027 enrollment goals include a digital billboard on I-15, direct mail to 160,000 households, webstreaming inclusive of OTT ads, and education center and Camp Pendleton focused print, cinema and outdoor placements.



Image of Spring 2027 Enrollment Campaign Outdoor Ad

Community and Media Relations
In response to interest from the Coast News organization, PIO Lanthier Bandy worked with colleagues in the Basic Needs department to engage a reporter on the Anita and Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center and the services provided to students. The article was published on October 26.

A story on Football Head Coach Thom Kaumeyer was published to Palomar News. To continue to engage community members within the Palomar Community College District, a news release on the finalists for the Superintendent/President position was distributed. Two additional stories were posted to Palomar News, one featuring a fire academy alumnus, and one featuring the fashion design and merchandising program. These stories are made available on the Palomar News website.

PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce board of directors' meeting, Rising Stars Breakfast, and City Connect mixer. The City Connect event brought leaders from throughout the city to meet with the business community. She also attended the monthly meeting of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association, and the MiraCosta College Leadership Breakfast and Report to the Community.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs
In support of their desire to connect with federal legislators while attending a conference in Washington D.C. PIO Lanthier Bandy arranged for two water technology faculty members to meet with staff members of two congressional member offices and two U.S. Senate offices.



PIO Lanthier Bandy attended the government affairs meetings hosted in October by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and Community College League of California (CCLC) monthly meeting and an additional planning meeting with SDICCCA public information officers. She also attended the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce hosted debate for the Mayor's race and two city council seats.

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

Annual President's Golf Classic Invitational Golf Tournament

The Palomar College Foundation's President's Invitational Golf Classic was a wonderful success on October 19, raising over $148,000 in support of our students and programs. We welcomed 105 golfers for a fantastic day of golf, networking, and philanthropy. We are especially grateful to our generous sponsors, golfers,
and dedicated golf committee for making this event possible. Even more exciting, many of our sponsors have already committed to supporting next year's tournament, demonstrating strong partnerships and continued enthusiasm for the Foundation's mission.

Scholarship Program

The Palomar College Foundation is excited to announce that scholarship recipients have been selected for the 2026–2027 general scholarship cycle. This year, the Foundation awarded more than $547,000 in scholarships to help Palomar students achieve their educational goals. This impressive total excludes additional scholarships awarded through programs such as the fire academy, emergency medical education (EME) program, and other departments with separate awarding schedules. These awards reflect our donors' incredible generosity and the Foundation's continued commitment to removing financial barriers and supporting student success.

The Palomar College Foundation is thrilled to announce that a dedicated music faculty and passionate supporter of music education established a $50,000 endowed scholarship to support Palomar College music students. This generous gift will provide ongoing scholarship opportunities for aspiring musicians, helping them pursue their educational goals and passion for music. This endowment will leave a legacy, inspiring and supporting future generations of music students at Palomar College.

Grants Program

The Foundation was awarded two grants from the County Board of Supervisors District 5. These include a $15,600 from the Neighborhood Reinvestment program for office equipment and furniture, and $20,000 from the Community Enhancement program to help fund the new full-time Administrative Specialist position. This Foundation-funded position will strengthen fundraising efforts and expand our ability to serve students.

The Foundation submitted a $2,000 grant request to the San Marcos Community Foundation to support the Textbook Assistance Program. This funding will help students access essential course materials, reduce financial burdens, and ensure textbook costs do not become a barrier to their education.

Foundation Board, Community Engagement & Donor Development Activities

Community Events

The San Marcos Boys & Girls Club hosted their annual gala on October 10 with a nautical/resort theme. Palomar College attended to support the Club and the many students who may become future Comets.



Palomar College attended the MiraCosta College annual Community Leaders Breakfast on October 16. This event featured new Superintendent/President Dr. Lennor M. Johnson's initial report to the community.

Palomar College attended the Neighborhood Healthcare State of Community Health Forum on October 1. Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde served as part of a panel discussion on building community partnerships.



Basic Needs Manager Riham Shenouda, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, Center Director Tom Medel, Dean Dr. Diane Studinka, Behavioral Health Services Director Dr. Tim Leslie, Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services Nick Mata, Nursing Department Clinical Placement Coordinator Baruc Castillo, and PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis served on a panel for the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program with the topic focused on Building Trust. Additional panelists included Warren Gorowitz of Hunter Industries and Mel Russell of Palomar Health.

Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors
The Palomar College Foundation Board of Directors held a regular meeting on October 26. In addition, the committees of the board met earlier in the month including Finance & Investment, Grant Review, and the Fund Development committee. Also, this month Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis met individually with each board member to discuss their commitments and roles on the board for 2027.

Donor Meetings
Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Tina Recalde and Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis met with the Issa Family Foundation on October 2. The Foundation supports four key initiatives including the Rising Scholars, Former Foster Youth, Veterans, and serves as the matching donor for Giving Tuesday campaign. In addition, the Foundation team provided a golf cart tour of campus to the leadership team of Jerome's Furniture. Through a Foundation Board member, Jerome's hired Palomar College students for internships and is interested in exploring additional partnership opportunities.



Jerome Furniture leaders Tiffany Rosik, Dan Thorne, Marjorie Carlos, Foundation Development Manager Linda Moynan, Foundation Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, and Nick Foote from Jerome's Furniture visiting the Palomar College Cabinet & Furniture Technology program.

