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May 5, 2023

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Black Student Success Week

During the last week of April, we hosted watch parties for students and employees to view and discuss the Black Student Success week webinar series supported by the California Community College Chancellor's Office. These daily webinars focused on the theme "Vision to Action: Building Systems and Structures for Black Student Success" and featured insights and panel discussions on how to best support the success of Black students. Our discussions included how we can best use the information to close the racial equity gap and contribute to the success of our students. We also hosted a variety of Skillsshops and information sessions throughout the week, to discuss transferring and mental health wellness.

Educational and Facilities Vision Plan 2035 Update

The Educational and Facilities Plan Task Force continues to work diligently to identify linkages between the goals and objectives of the educational portion of the plan and facility needs and impacts on future facility use. The task force will continue to work throughout the summer in order to complete the Vision Plan in the fall.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Focus

Our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Speaker Series featuring presentations by Paul Grossman, a retired civil rights attorney and Jamie Axelrod, the Disability Resources Director at Northern Arizona University. They provided an outstanding summary of the evolution of the Disability Rights Movement. Our discussion included how to be a disability ally on campus and clarified the rights and responsibilities under disability laws for professors. This event was followed by the annual Disabled Student Experience Panel hosted by Disability Resource Center colleagues. It is rewarding to be a part of this important dialogue as we learned first-hand of the disabled student experience and how we can improve to contribute to their success.



Palomar College employees with guest speakers at Disability, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility event.

Faculty Hiring

I am grateful for the work conducted by the hiring committees to hire our new faculty members. Participating in this process provides me with the valuable

opportunity to meet the many talented individuals who want to be a part of the future successes of Palomar College

In Your Neighborhood – Palomar College

I had the pleasure of being interviewed by Dana Williams, of NBC News/Telemundo. Palomar College was featured in the In Your Neighborhood feature on San Marcos. You can view the interview at the [NBC San Diego webpage](#).

Campus Engagement

Throughout the month of April, we hosted several my favorite events. These included Political Economy Days, Tarde de Familia, and Latin Nights. Political Economy Days is centered around political, economic, and historical topics, and gives our students increased knowledge in these areas of study and the global impacts of each. The event this year was the result of significant collaborations and featured lectures by professors from Palomar College, Mesa College, CSU San Marcos, UC San Diego, and others. Held on the same evening, Tarde de Familia in the Quad and Student Union, and Latin Nights at the Howard Brubeck Theater patio, were both well done and exemplified our commitment to the diversity of our students and the welcoming environment we display for all students.

During this last month, I attended the VetNet Ally Training, designed to introduce participants to military and veteran culture to be the best veteran student ally possible. This training was valuable and important as Palomar College serves one of the largest populations of military affiliated students.

I had the honor of speaking at the annual Palomar College Retiree's Association (PACRA) Luncheon. It is always great to connect with this group of dedicated retired employees who continue to support our institution in a variety of ways.

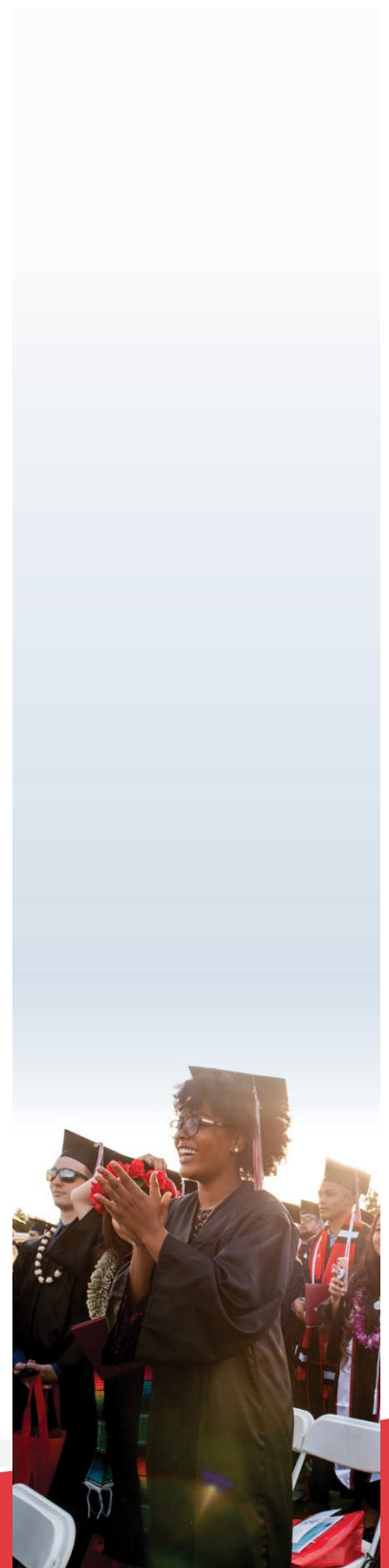
I attended the open houses held by the Art department and our Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS) at the San Marcos campus. These events provide a valuable glimpse of the amazing programs at Palomar College and the talented students and faculty committed to their fields. I also enjoyed the "Fresh" exhibition at the Boehm Gallery, which was full of incredible and memorable pieces of work.



Dr. Rivera-Lacey, Dana Williams, and Julie Lanthier Bandy



Gina Wilson, Heather Elliott Pham, Jenny Fererro, Dr. Rivera-Lacey, Teresa Laughlin, Tamara Holthaus, Diane Studinka, and Rene Robelin.



In addition to attending meetings with the Community Advisory Council for the Fallbrook Education Center, and our Black/African American Community Advisory Council, I held monthly open office hours, and hosted my regular meetings with the Council of Classified Employees (CCE), Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF), Administrative Association (AA), Confidential and Supervisory Team (CAST) and Faculty Senate leadership. These discussions provide insights and valuable information on how Palomar can best serve the region, employees, and students.

Community Engagement

At the “Meet the Leaders” event hosted by the Vista Chamber of Commerce, I gained insights from our local elected officials and identified potential opportunities for Palomar College. The event featured Congressman Mike Levin, State Senator Catherine Blakespear, Assembly Member Laurie Davies, County Supervisor Jim Desmond, and Vista Mayor John Franklin.

At the San Marcos campus, we hosted the San Diego North Economic Development Council Board of Directors meeting. Meeting attendees enjoyed a tour of our beautiful campus after they concluded their agenda. It was a fantastic opportunity to feature how Palomar College supports the workforce needs within the region.

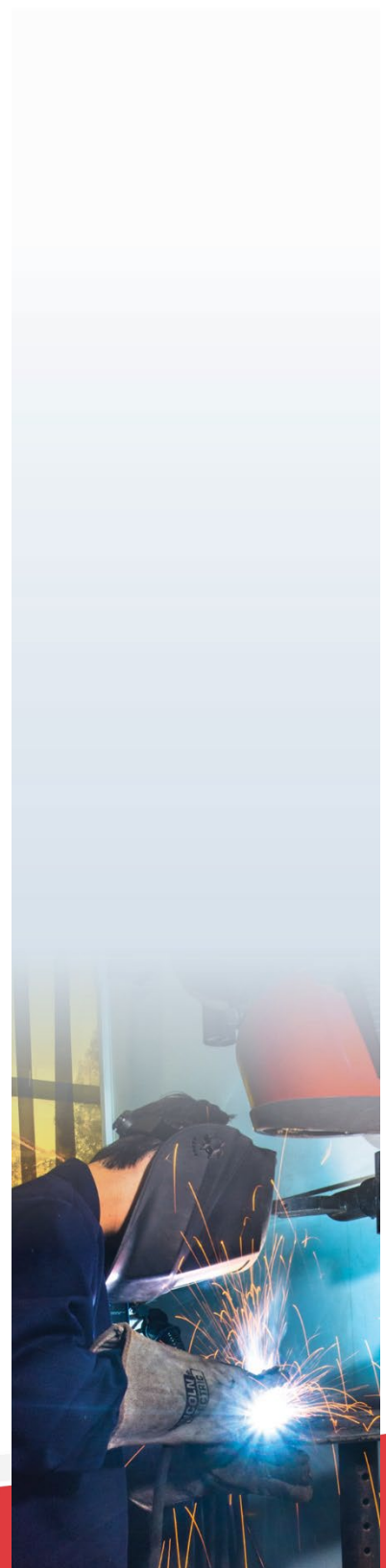
COLEGAS, an organization committed to leading national, statewide, and local efforts to ensure an equitable experience for Latina/o/x students and professionals, so they can thrive and accomplish their academic and professional goals in the California Community College system, hosted a webinar titled, “DSPS through a Racialized Lens: Clearing El Camino for Students with Disabilities.” During the webinar, we discussed and debunked what disability is and stressed the importance of accessibility whether one identifies as having a disability or not. These conversations are so important as we continue to serve all students and help them plan for success.

The Fallbrook Avocado Festival never disappoints and neither do our dedicated employees who spent part of their weekend at the Palomar College booth. Our booth was very popular and provided us the chance to engage with people in the northern region of our District. It was nice to connect with students, families, and our employees.



April 2023 Rising Stars Students

We hosted the monthly San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Rising Stars event on April 25 in the LRC Community Room. Students from San Marcos High School, Twin Oaks High School, and Mission Hills High School were recognized for their outstanding leadership and achievement. The event was attended by City of San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, City Councilmember Ed Musgrove, and Kristal Jabara from County Supervisor Jim Desmond’s Office.



OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

Throughout the month of April, students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators participated in outreach events both on campus and within the community. These efforts have been rewarding and productive.

Instructional Programs

Library

To kick off National Library Week on April 24, the Library gave away promotional items and bags of popcorn. The San Marcos and Education Center libraries celebrated throughout the week with activities and displays highlighting our collections. On April 28, the annual fieldtrip of the Palomar College Library & Information Technology (LIT) program took place at the San Diego Natural History Museum. LIT students received a tour of the San Marcos library from Library Director and former Palomar LIT Program graduate, Ariel Hammond.

Tutoring

In April, several staff and tutors attended the virtual conference of the Association of Colleges for Tutoring and Learning Assistance. Since the conference was virtual, more individuals were able to attend, and the staff are looking forward to discussing ways to continue to improve services for students. A plan is moving forward to combine most tutoring services for students into one location based on the recommendations set forth in the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER), Student Equity Plan 2022-25, and upcoming Education and Facility Vision Plan 2035.

California Community Colleges (CCC) TechConnect

CCC TechConnect is wrapping up its current grant cycle, while recently approved for an additional 5 years. With this exciting news, we have also secured a budget increase, nearly doubling our traditional amount (5-year award increases from \$18,750,000 to \$31,735,000). We are proud to announce that we have secured the systemwide DECT (Distance Education Captioning & Transcription) grant, with a corresponding budget of \$600,000 for 5 years. This funding allows CCC TechConnect to continue to provide tools and support to the Community College System at large and the opportunity to redesign the corresponding website and create and release new and improved features to our TechConnect Cloud product. These features include screen-casting and improved infrastructure leading to an improved user experience. Currently, there is a continued increase in colleges and districts implementing and using these products, including Zoom, 3C Media, PlayPosit (video interactivity), and Student Connect (online meeting booking) both inside and outside of Canvas.

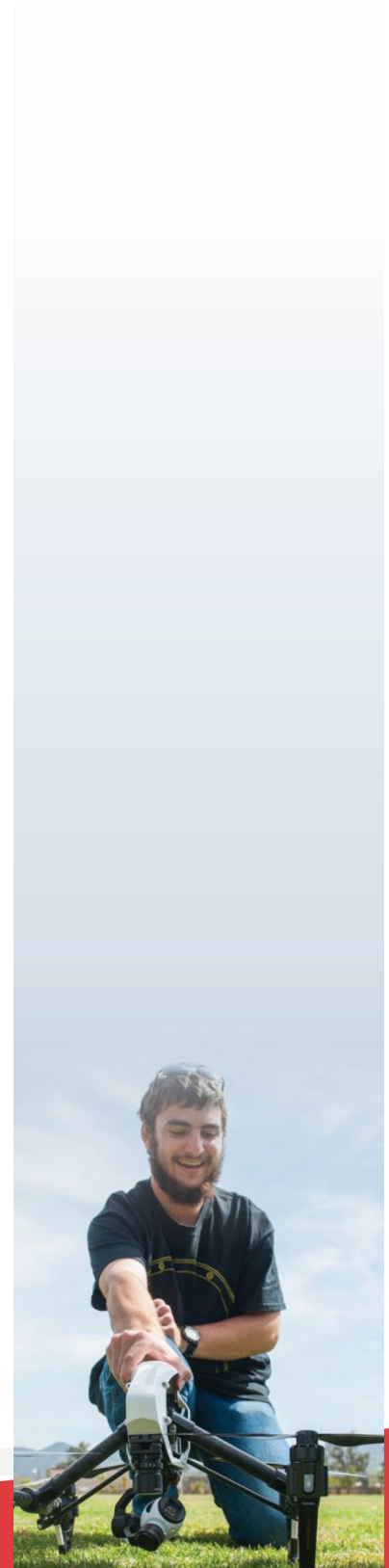
Languages and Literature Division

World Languages

On April 18, the World Languages department held Café International – a cultural celebration of the languages that we offer. 185 students participated as well as some faculty and staff. The theme for the semester was international women, present and historical. It was a great success and concluded with a raffle of several items that faculty and staff donated to the event.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

ESL held a successful ESL Cultural Swap, a service-learning on-campus event, planned by the ESL Career Track class. Two successful Community of Practice/AB-705 Workshops were held last month. One workshop focusing on struggling students or fostering a growth mindset, was held in collaboration with math and English departments. The second workshop focused on Open Education Resources (OER) materials for specific



ESL classes. ESL participated in the Fallbrook Avocado Festival, the Migrant Educations Regional Parent Conference hosted by MiraCosta College, and Tarde de Familia. Upcoming events include the Escondido Education Center ESL Open House and the Cinco de Mayo ESL event on May 5.

Math, Science and Engineering Division

Earth Sciences - Geography

Faculty members Steve Crook and Catherine Jain are leading an 8-week field course to certify the latest cohort of California Naturalists through the UC Agricultural and Natural Resources (UCANR) program. On April 22, they led an informative 10-hour desert excursion through Anza-Borrego and Salton Sea, focusing on geological history, native plants, groundwater sustainability, and avian habitat restoration.

Computer Science and Math

The computer science and information technology and math departments have been working collaboratively to build a Data Science AS/Transfer degree. They have completed research statewide and developed a set of classes appropriate for the degree. The goal is to launch the curriculum in Fall 2023. This will be a strong interdisciplinary degree with great growth, transfer, and career opportunities for our students.

Biology

Professors Gene Gushansky and Parag Chowdhury hosted visits to the cadaver lab and adjacent biology laboratories for local high school students. Each visit entails demonstrations including cadaver demos, dissected anatomy specimen, and comparative zoology demonstrations. The students are hosted by former and current BIO 295 Advanced Anatomy students who get to share their work and expertise. Students are provided with examples of opportunities available at Palomar College. On April 28, several alumni of the advanced anatomy program returned to help advise the visiting students. At the Rancho Bernardo Education Center, two opportunities were hosted for the Poway to Palomar Middle College students to observe student research in microbiology. This was a great opportunity to give high school students the chance to see people near their own age in class.

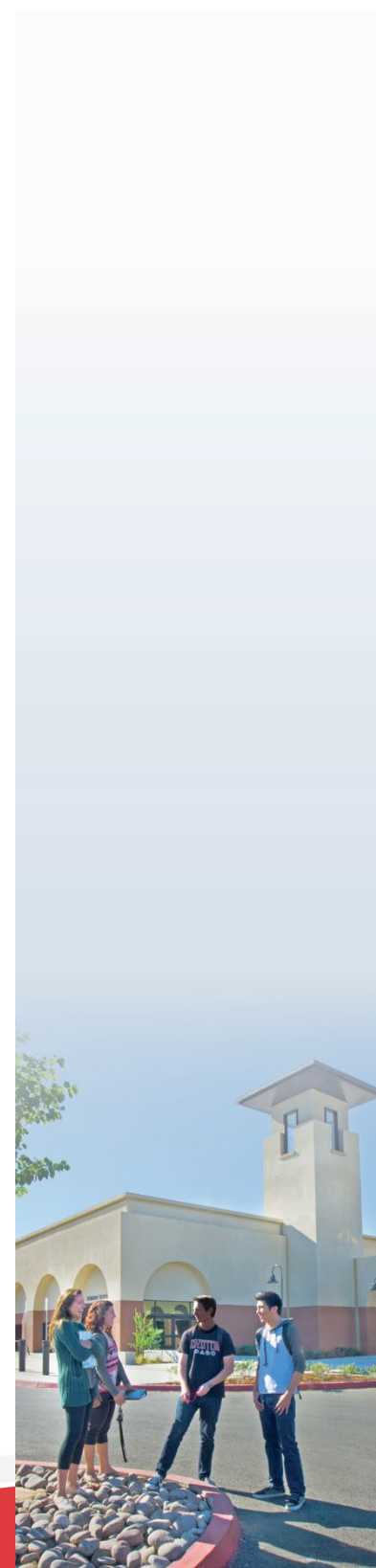
Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS)

The Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS) continues to be a model of the best Early Childhood Education practices for our students and community. Both our Escondido and San Marcos ECELS have robust enrollment and serve a wide diversity of children (ages 6 months to 5 years) of students, faculty, staff, and community members, while providing excellent mentorship and lab placement for our Palomar students studying child development. The ECELS teachers have been engaging in regular Community of Practice with MiraCosta College lab school teachers and north county community partners. During the spring semester, the ECELS hosted well attended open house events at both the San Marcos and Escondido campuses and offered a 3-week series of parenting classes through Jewish Family Services at both the Escondido (in Spanish) and San Marcos sites. Other upcoming family events include continuations of our Family Fun Nights, Teacher Appreciation Week in May, and Family Appreciation Events in May/June.

Archaeology

Three students presented posters on original research at the Society for California Archaeology Conference in Oakland, CA. Two of the students won best student poster awards. They were acknowledged at the conference banquet, given certificates, and awarded \$250 each. This is the second year students from the Palomar Archaeology



program have been recognized. Our students are competing with undergraduate and graduate students from CSU and UC universities. Betsy Pain's historical archaeology class is excavating the remains of an old adobe in Elfin Forest. The adobe was once owned by a prominent California family in the late 1800s, Elena and Parker Deer. The students have had the opportunity to work with a retired state parks historian and were able to tour the San Diego historic archives located in Balboa Park. Jim Eighmey's archaeology survey class will be applying their skills in the Cleveland Forest. Because the site is remote, the class will be camping out in the forest for two consecutive weekends.

Fallbrook Education Center and Camp Pendleton Education Site

The Fallbrook Education Center coordinated a cross departmental effort to conduct a large outreach initiative at the Fallbrook Avocado Festival. This is the largest annual community event in Fallbrook with approximately 120,000 attendees. The Palomar College Foundation provided funding for the District's Gold level sponsorship at the Festival, resulting in a premier booth location and a variety of advertising displayed on the event marketing materials prior to and at the event. In collaboration with GearUp, EOPS, ESL, enrollment services, the Veteran Resource Center, Camp Pendleton Education Site, and the athletics departments, thousands of giveaways and promotional materials were distributed, and staffing was sufficient at the event. The Palomar booth featured games that engaged prospective students and families, as well as current students and alumni.

STUDENT SERVICES

Outreach Services

Palomar College was represented at college and education resource events including those held with Migrant Education, Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Network, and Vista Unified School District. The team also participated in the Foothill Oak Elementary Educational Resource Day and at 17 college or career focused events throughout the District. In addition, presentations and application workshops were held at several high schools and two Information Nights on campus for prospective students and families. Group tours were held for 14 high schools and 20 individual tours for prospective students and families were held during the last month.

Veterans Services

A VetNet Ally Training seminar for faculty and staff was hosted on April 28 to assist our employees on best practices in working with military affiliated students. There are two priority registration events scheduled on May 8 and 9 for military affiliated students including registration support, drop-in counseling, free school supplies, and camaraderie and connection brought to us by the Student Veteran Organization. A Memorial Day observation is scheduled for May 26. The display will stay up all day to allow the community to pay their respects throughout the day. In addition, we have hosted community engagement and outreach events in Poway, Escondido, Fallbrook, and San Marcos. Many of these events are in partnership with local high schools.

Student Services Communications, Systems, and Technology

Incremental progress is ongoing for the integration of High Point and related Palomar customizations. Text and email communication systems were used throughout the month to inform students of AB 2881 and parent priority registration, campus events, and other priority registration notifications. To centralize and unify outreach and community engagement efforts throughout student services and other departments in



the college, an Outlook calendar was generated. To support the campus-wide aggregated calendar initiative, all student services teams were trained on this tool. An audit is being conducted of all student services websites, to resolve broken links and outdated materials.

Student Health Services

The Health Services team continues to work with campus partners to distribute free Narcan in key areas and provide training and education on this lifesaving medication for both employees and students in the coming months.

The last vaccination event of the spring semester for Palomar College students, employees, and family members with our community partner Champions for Health is set for May 11. Monthly promotions are taking place to increase awareness of the free and low-cost services available to students. These are in addition to a variety of skill shops and workshops on topics including healthy relationships, understanding depression and suicide, self-compassion, and coping with anxiety.

The 12-Step Support meetings for students conducted by the Behavioral Health and Counseling Services (BHCS) team continue to help support the recovery of our students impacted by substance abuse and addiction. In addition, the "Comets for Recovery" support group has continued and provides space for students to learn and discuss mental health and wellness topics through the lens of addiction.

The Gender Exploration and Transitioning group, a collaboration between BHCS and the Pride Center, offers a forum for students who are exploring their gender identity to build community and support one another. The weekly Latinx/a/o Creating Space Support Group facilitated by our bilingual therapist offers students a supportive space to gather, learn and share common experiences.

Counseling Services

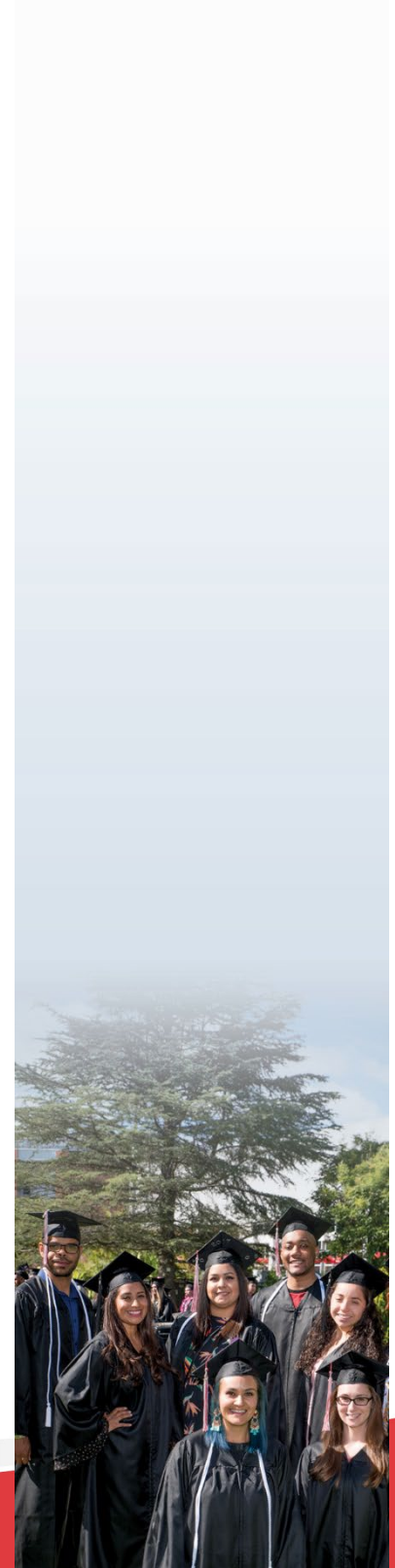
Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The paid and/or volunteer DRC Student Ambassador program features students in an active advisory and student support capacity. They facilitate monthly Coffee Tuesdays and Inclusion Tuesdays; both are social opportunities in the campus food court.

The DRC department has purchased Aria's institutional membership. Low vision or blind students can download the app and turn on their camera phone when using it. A *live person* then guides them to whatever and wherever interests them on campus. Users can request assistance with anything from, "Guide me to somewhere I can get a bagel," to "Guide me to room 123". This will be a great service for students on the autism spectrum and those with anxiety who do not necessarily want to approach staff or students for help finding something, or just experiencing anxiety adjusting to a large college campus.

Braille signs and labels are being added in areas where they were lacking. For example, there are now braille menus in the food court, braille labels on the beverage dispensing machines, etc. In addition, more push panels have been added around campus to access restrooms, departments, facilities, etc.

For those who don't already know about the [JAWS](#) software and/or have low vision or blind students, the Palomar College DRC department has added JAWS training for students wishing to utilize this software. JAWS enables people with vision loss to independently use a computer with a keyboard, speech, or Braille display. It enables



students to navigate the Internet, write documents, create spreadsheets and presentations, email correspondence, etc.

In reviewing the 2020 statistics for the percentage of students using the Palomar College DRC, there has been a significant increase in students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is now almost equal to those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (4th and 3rd respectively), after learning disabled and psychological disability.

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)

On April 14, the EOPS/CARE team hosted Region X's annual faculty and staff convening. More than 70 attendees from across the region visited the Rancho Bernardo Education Center and attended workshops focused on self-care and resiliency. Two team members attended a technical training highlighting best practices for program operations in EOPS, CARE and NextUp (Foster Youth). Attendees received an overview of MIS Reporting, the state's fiscal cycle and implementation guidelines for all three programs, and best practice across the state.

Members of our CalWORKs team attended the annual CalWORKs Association Training. This annual training institute featured workshops focused on personal journeys and the support that CalWORKs provides in addressing both educational and personal needs. Our CalWORKs participants are some of our most vulnerable students and their personal stories were emotional, powerful, and full of gratitude.

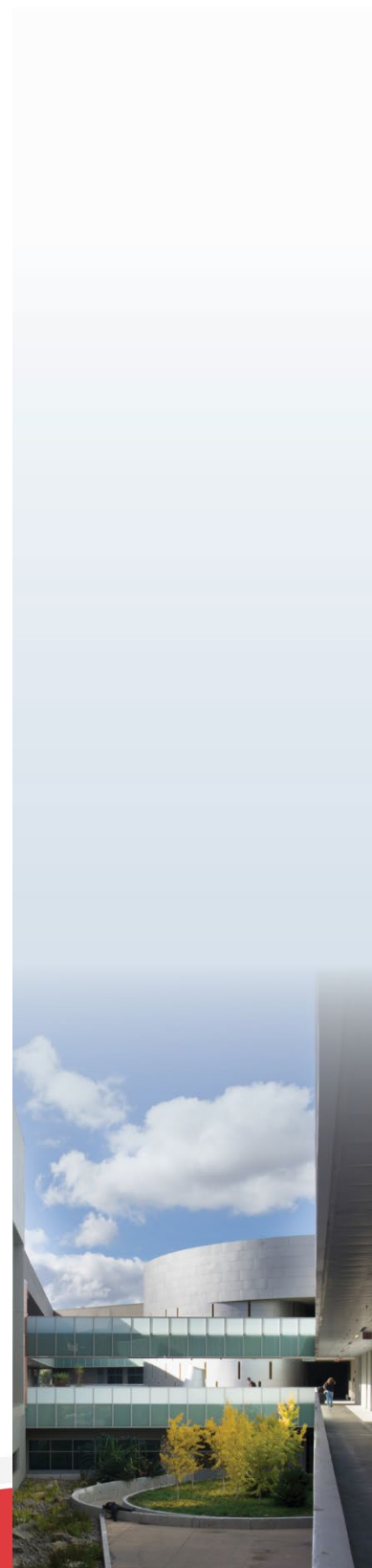
The FYRST (Foster Youth Retention Success and Transition) program is beginning our transition to becoming FYRST/NextUp, and eventually, just NextUp. In December of 2022, Palomar College EOPS was informed of an opportunity to receive NextUp funds to support qualified current and former foster youth as a sub program of EOPS. With our commitment, we received \$1.083 million as our 2022/23 allocation, disbursement beginning with the PI distribution of funding. The team initiated the development of the foundation for NextUp and held our Foster Youth Advisory meeting on April 25. Participants were informed of this exciting news, and we worked with our Advisory Committee to brainstorm ideas about expanding student support moving forward. In April, our career focused workshop series continued. Workshop topics included cover letter development, elevator pitch, and confident communication. The workshops culminated with our first annual etiquette dinner, at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, on April 27. Approximately 40 students attended.

TRiO

TRiO has been focused on outreach events and enrollment and submitting three annual performance reports for the 21-22 academic year. All three grants successfully met all program objectives.

TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) has been focused on outreach and working with the 2023 graduating senior class on college admissions, finalizing financial aid paperwork, and enrollment to different institutions. All ETS students were invited to participate in a financial literacy workshop offered by CHASE Bank. We are happy to announce that we recently accepted nearly 40 low income and first-generation high school/middle school students to be a part of the TRiO ETS program. ETS has also been working closely with high school career center technicians to create stronger partnerships and have a Palomar College TRiO ETS liaison at each target school.

The North County Education Opportunity Center (NCEOC) has provided presentations in collaboration with Rising Scholars to North Inland Regional Recovery Center (NIRRC) to offer access to post-secondary education to adults completing their



program. NCEOC offered two workshops during the College Is For Me conference at CSU San Marcos, collaborated with Rising Scholars and many other community organizations during the Resource Fair partnership between Palomar College, MiraCosta College, and CSU San Marcos Project Rebound. NCEOC was also present at the Migrant Educational Regional Parent Conference and supported the Tarde de Familia event.

Student Life & Leadership

In collaboration with bookstore and campus partners another successful Grad Fest was held on April 18 and 19. Students who purchased regalia entered an opportunity drawing to receive a zipper pull/medallion (30 students received these Commencement zipper pulls). More than 100 students participated in the opportunity.

An Environmental Day was hosted with campus partners on April 24. Students learned about the environment and decorated and painted reusable tote bags.

The Food and Nutrition Center has seen an increase in cases and food distribution this semester. As of April 28, we have had an increase of 809% in new cases and 489% in food distribution compared to this time last year.

Associated Student Government (ASG) President Garcia Mendez and VP of Communications De La Cruz attended and worked alongside the Student Senate for the California Community Colleges (SSCCC) to advocate for student housing and Cal Grant reform at the "Advocacy in April" event in Sacramento. The ASG hosted U.S. Congressman Scott Peters on May 2 in the Student Union for a Student-Centered Q & A Session. It was very well attended, and the students and the Congressman enjoyed engaging with one another. Associated Student Government elections for FY2023-24 are currently underway. Voting opened on May 1 and closed on May 5.

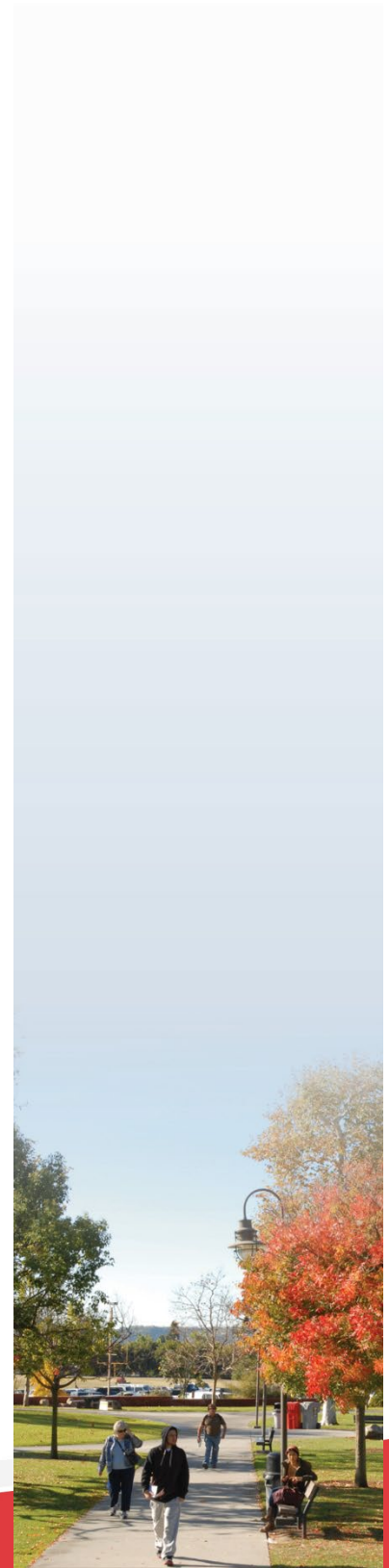
Athletics

The men's swim team won the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Championship with a dominating performance. With just 11 swimmers, the Comets were able to outpace their closest rival by over 115 points. Six swimmers won a total of nine individual titles with Sophomore Jacob Rochman leading the way with three 1st place finishes. Next up for the team are the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) State Championships where the team will look to improve on their 7th place finish last year.

Baseball just wrapped up their regular season with an impressive 33-6 record. They won the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) title dropping only one game to a conference rival posting a 24-1 record. The Comet baseball team will enter the post season as the #1 ranked team in Southern California. They will start their quest for a state title on May 5, taking on East Los Angeles College at 2:00pm at Palomar's ballpark.

Despite having to train and play off-campus for over a year, the softball team finished their regular season with the highest winning percentage in program history. The team posted a 36-1 overall record and went undefeated in conference play to capture their 40th PCAC Championship. The softball team is ranked #1 in the state and will begin their playoff run on May 5 at Bradley Park. The first pitch is at 2:00pm.

Athletics is proud to announce that we have a State Champion, Women's Wrestler, Sierra Medford. Sierra led a strong contingent of Comet women's wrestlers that saw podium finishes in three weight classes at the inaugural CCAA Women's State Wrestling Championships. Sierra dominated her competition by pinning every opponent leading up to the finals, and then getting the technical fall in the 2nd period of



the championship match. In so doing, Sierra becomes Palomar's first Women's Wrestling State Champion and first All-American.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

In April, Fiscal Services began in earnest to work on the development of the Tentative Budget, including FY 2023-24 revenue projections and calculating step increases, projected COLA, and benefits for filled and vacant positions. In addition, we initiated preparation for our interim audit which begins in June. The commitment accounting project is ongoing and on track for completion by July 2023. The development phase 50-60% complete with regard to design and configuration. The next step in the process will begin in May with user acceptance testing in a test environment of the PeopleSoft ERP system.

Fiscal Services is pleased to welcome our new Accounting Manager, Patrice Nya, who comes to us from Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Palomar. Please join us in welcoming him to the District!

Business Services

The recruitment of a Purchasing Supervisor is in process, with the goal of being hired by the beginning of the fall semester. Training for the PlanetBids system took place on April 25 and 27. The system will be live in the first weeks of May.

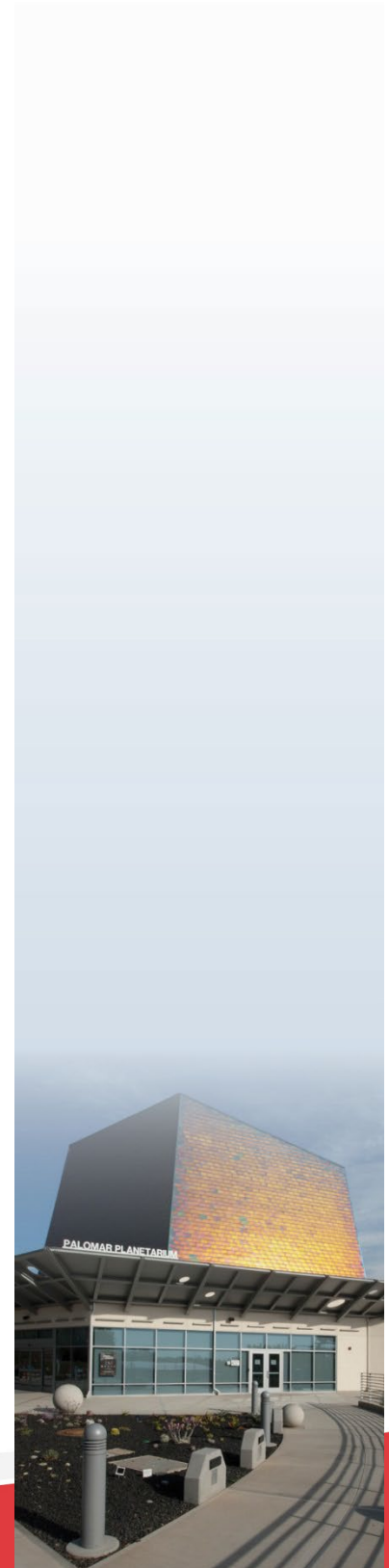
Campus Police

On March 25 Campus Police participated with the San Diego County Sheriff's Office and North County agencies on a gun buyback event. Over 100 weapons were turned in. In April, Campus Police hosted two safety awareness training sessions for employees. Per the request of the Campus Police Committee, the membership received the Department of Homeland Security one day threat assessment training. On April 26, Coffee with a Cop collaborative was hosted by the learning center, outreach, and promise on April 26. Over 50 students participated in the event and engaged with our Police department. Campus Police attended both the Tarde de Familia and Latin Nights events.

Information Services (IS)

The Information Services department continues to place a high priority on improving our cybersecurity posture. Projects and tasks recently completed in this area include the replacement or upgrade of dozens of servers and workstations that were deemed vulnerable due to running on old, unsupported operating systems or applications. The majority of these upgrades and replacements were funded through an additional \$100,000 allocation of a cybersecurity grant awarded by the California Community Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). Cybersecurity work also continues in expanding network, system and workstation vulnerability scans and remediation. Additionally, Information Services staff worked over spring break to apply new security patches and recommended updates to our network and systems, resulting in a reduction of vulnerability of our network and systems.

The systems and programming team worked on technical tasks in support of our HighPoint implementation, annual CCCCCO MIS and CCC Apply updates as required by new mandates and legislation. Additionally, the team continues to make enhancements to Employee Self Service (ESS), including the completion and rollout of self-service



updates to employee diversity and preferred names. The recruitment process for two new programmers was initiated.

Working closely with facilities and District architects, the network and technical services teams are completing the final selection and procurement of technical infrastructure and equipment needed to support all systems and technology in the new athletics facility. We are still on track for the order, receipt, and installation by October. The majority of equipment has arrived for the planned upgrade and enhancement to our wireless networks at the San Marcos campus and Escondido Education Center. We are still on schedule and plan to start on this large and necessary project at the beginning of the summer.

Facilities

Prop M Projects

In April, progress on the athletics facility project accelerated. The foundation for the football press box building was completed as well as the slab for the softball dugouts and storage rooms, and the football storage building. Masonry has been completed for the softball press box and football storage buildings as well as the side wall of the football field. The project is now approximately 30 % complete.

The plans for the athletics fieldhouse project have been submitted to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for approval. The project plans for Fallbrook 40, a 40,000 square foot building at the Fallbrook Education Center, are in review at the DSA, with an expected response by June 2023. DSA has issued the building permit for Fallbrook Irrigation Well. The District is working on getting a proposal from Cumming Management Group, Inc. to prepare the project to go out to bid and act as the owner agent on the project during construction.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a district environmental consultant needed for updating the Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) at all sites is in progress. A recommendation for approval is on the Governing Board agenda in May.

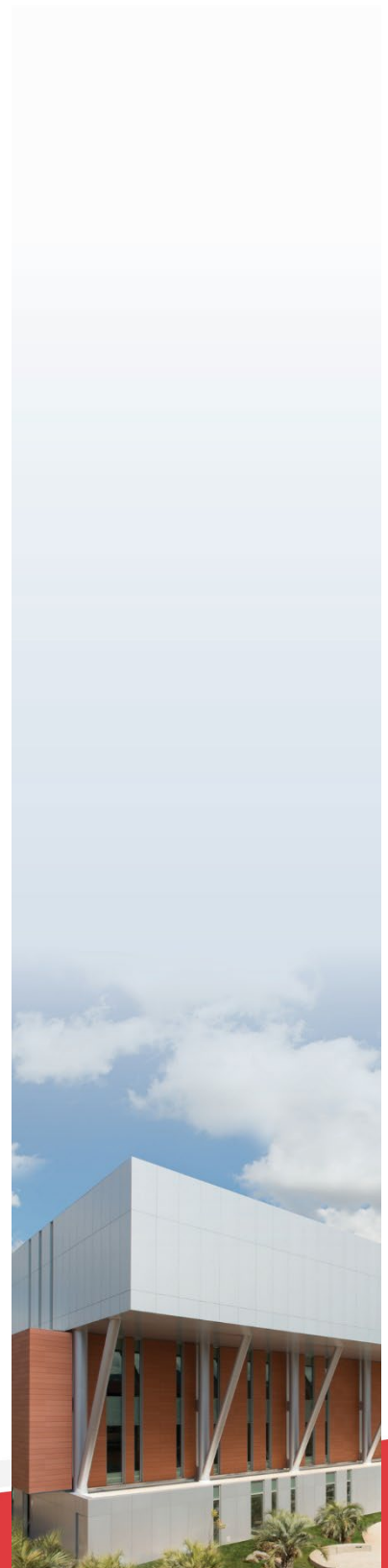
Work on replacing the plexiglass panels with metal panels on the Dome roof is in progress and is expected to be complete by the end of summer.

Other Projects

The Escondido Education Center Safety/Security Fencing project is progressing. The District has received a permit for the project and bidding is in progress. A recommendation to the Governing Board is planned for June.

The San Marcos campus HVAC, roof replacement and state scheduled maintenance project is in the early stages of analysis. The goal of the project is to replace old and failing HVAC units and roofing on various buildings throughout the San Marcos campus. Acoustic studies are taking place and remedies are being evaluated for the LRC and T building.

The work to create a progressive “defensible space” concept to protect the Early Childhood Education and Lab School and Arboretum is in progress. This project is funded through a grant from the County Board of Supervisors. Work to mitigate erosion at Minkoff Field has started and the project to replace the turf will begin in mid-May. A notice to proceed with preliminary design efforts to develop a solution to pedestrian safety concerns in parking lots 1, 2 and 12 has been signed and the contract process has been initiated.



HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Human Resources has been busy with the hiring of faculty positions and administrative positions scheduled for a start date in the fall. The department has also been working with divisions to support their staffing and strategic planning through restructuring. The most recent being that of Student Services. Additionally, we worked with instruction to identify a need for two new faculty positions to support instructional design to meet student and faculty needs in this area.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Plan

The District submitted its preliminary draft report for the EEO Plan to the Chancellor's office for initial review. This three-year plan will address measurable goals and objectives as it relates to pre-hiring, hiring, and post hiring. It includes updating employee demographic data, mandatory DEIAA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Antiracism) training, building comprehensive onboarding throughout the first year of employment, and a campus climate survey. The intent is that all components of the plan have a timeline and effectiveness matrices and systematic review.

Benefits

Human Resources received the benefit rates from Self-Insured Schools of California (SISC) for the upcoming plan year beginning October 1, 2023. The rates will go up between 9.4% - 9.8% for our District sponsored medical plans. We have not received the new rates for dental and vision plans yet.

Recruitment

Here are the recruitment figures as of 5/1/23:

There are 72 permanent recruitments in progress.

14 – Admin/CAST

4 – Certificated/ECE Lab School

24 – Classified

30 – Faculty

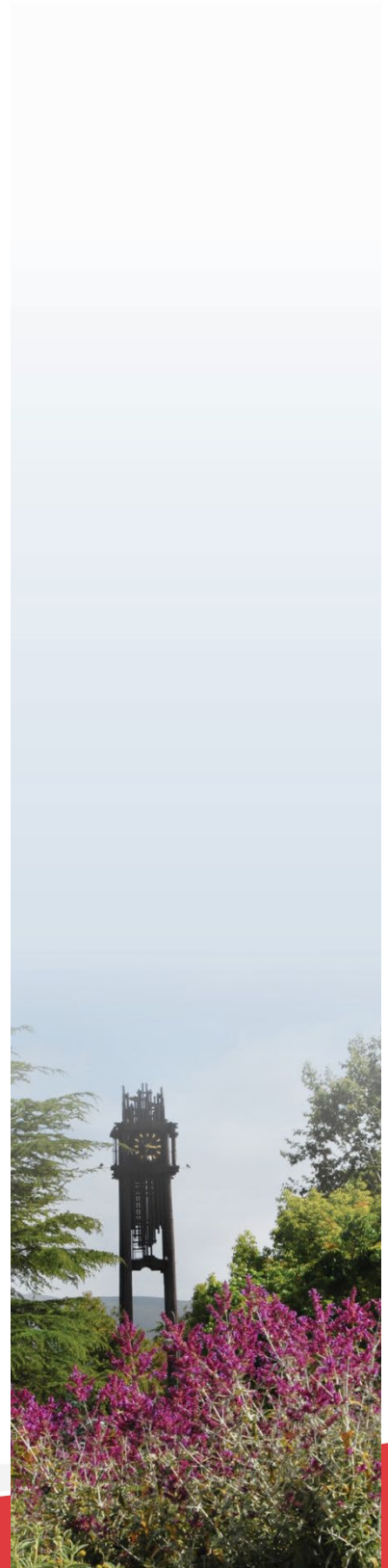
64 part-time faculty recruitments are in progress.

6 additional part-time faculty postings have closed, and departments are still hiring from those application pools.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING (IR&P)

Accreditation

The College submitted its two annual accreditation reports in April. Per the reporting templates, the first report provides a set of fiscal metrics used by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) to assess the fiscal health of the District. The second report provides data regarding enrollment, distance education, and student outcomes. These two reports will be provided to the Governing Board as information items at the May meeting. The Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) met at the end of April. During the meeting, the committee received an update on the status of the follow-up report and discussed progress on the projects included in the College's Quality Focus Essay (QFE). The QFE is a required component of a college's Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER). The Palomar College QFE addresses three projects designed to directly impact student outcomes. The College will report on these projects as part of its mid-term report. While that report is not due for several years, the ASC is monitoring and tracking progress on the projects and will develop annual summaries to facilitate incorporation into the mid-term report when the time comes.



Integrated Planning

The Education and Facilities Planning Task Force met on April 20. The Task Force confirmed the Educational Vision Plan's goals and objectives and began discussing the linkages between the educational plan and the facilities plan. The Task Force has agreed to work over the summer to complete the facilities plan.

Institutional Research

The research team continues to work on many projects, including the launch of a tutoring survey and data submission for the system's annual career and technology student outcomes survey. Further, the team prepared the institutional effectiveness data for the Governing Board special meeting in April. The team is supporting the development of the College's updated Guided Pathways plan and facilitated a session on our Black or African American students as part of Black Student Success Week.

Grants

Palomar College is preparing a Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institution grant. This federal grant program supports institutions to build capacity to serve Hispanic and other low-income students through expanded and enhanced academic offerings, program quality, professional development, and institutional stability. The application is due on June 13. Further, the College has partnered with North County Transit District (NCTD) to submit a U.S. Department of Transportation grant. If awarded, Palomar College as a sub awardee will work with NCTD to address their needs related to clean energy technologies such as hybrid, electric, and hydrogen-based systems.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

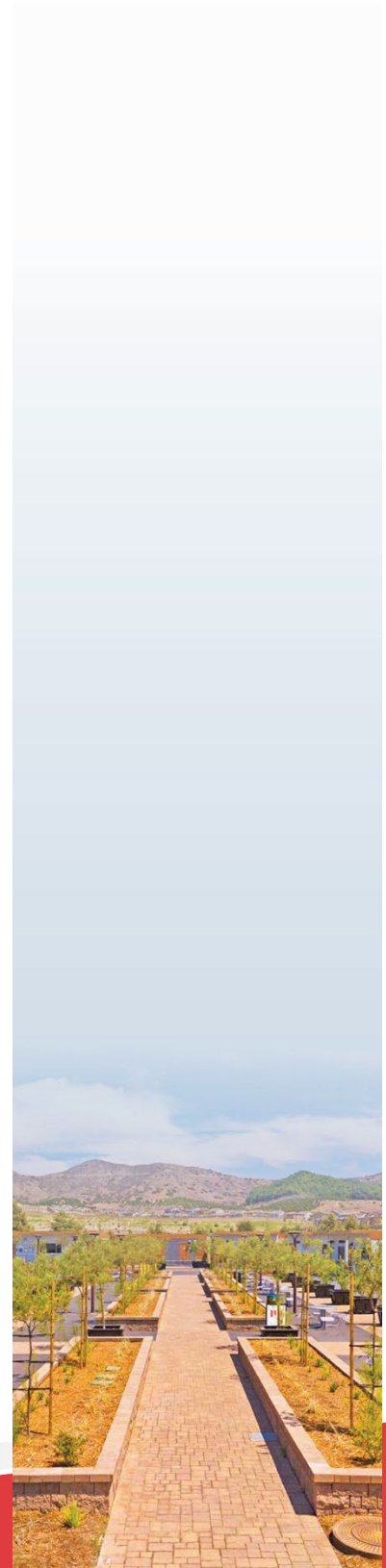
Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy inclusive of programmatic advertising as well as brand related enrollment-focused ads continued. Within the strategy is a pilot campaign to target students who were previously enrolled at Palomar. This campaign is delivering active leads to the Student Success team in Student Services for follow-up and conversion to an enrollment. The comprehensive strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and palomar.edu website. In the month of February, the campaign generated over 875,000 impressions, while remaining cost efficient.

We are set to launch the newly refreshed web streaming campaign to support summer and fall enrollment goals. The campaign is scheduled to launch when open enrollment begins on May 15. The campaign includes endorsement ads featuring alumnus and radio personality Jesse Lozano and Over-the-Top (OTT) video advertising. The OTT ads are targeted to platforms and programming that are aligned with our student demographics.

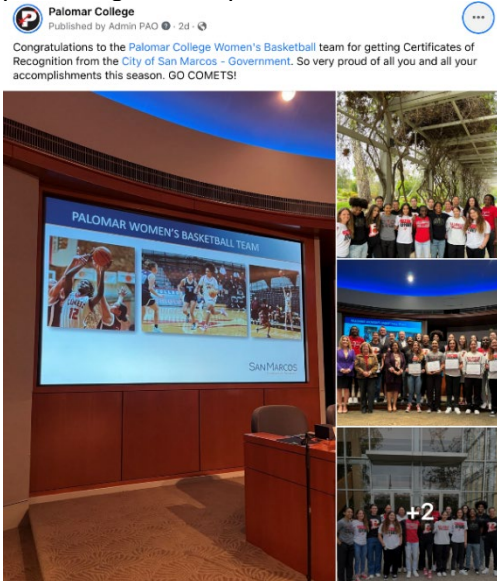
The palomar.edu website continues to perform well. Compared to the previous March, we experienced a 43% increase in users on the palomar.edu website and 58% of this traffic were new users. The increase in overall users is a significant result, well above industry standard, and is evident that the marketing campaigns are delivering quality traffic to the website.

Social media remains the 4th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram generated the majority of the social media traffic to Palomar.edu. The other overall top channels of traffic to the website are direct traffic, organic search, and referral traffic.



A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms shows steady growth for all channels. Our growth in Facebook “Likes” increased 4%, and followers on Twitter grew 4% compared to April 2022. Instagram is continuing to show the largest year-over-year increase at 16%. LinkedIn followers increased 7%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew over 3% in March compared to the previous month and 169% compared to April 2022.

Throughout the month of April, our social media posts included support for 4-week and 8-week session enrollment goals, student service programs, basic needs support, performing arts, campus events and student recognition.



Sample Social Media Post



Sample Social Media Post

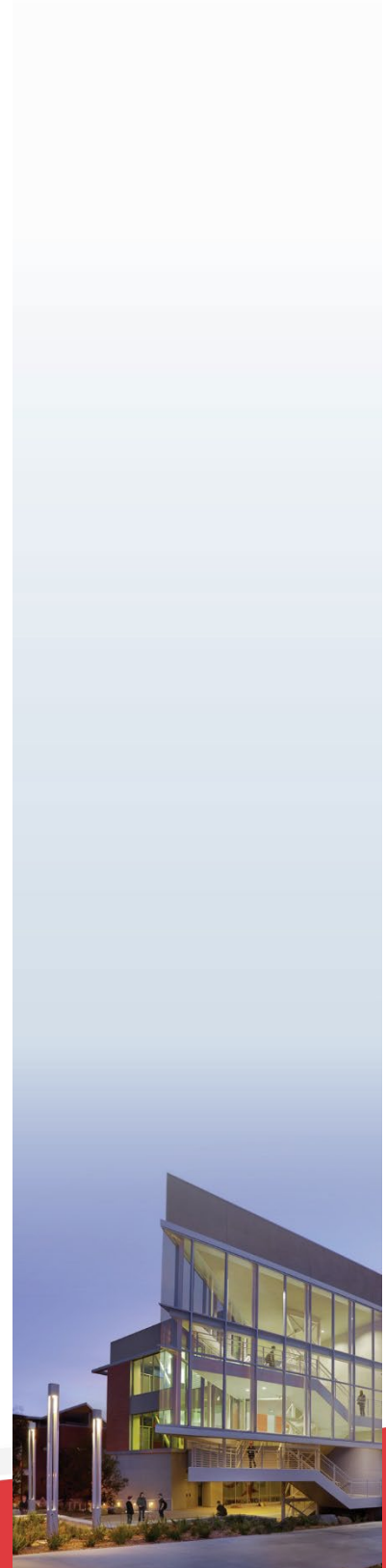
Community and Media Relations

On March 12, we issued a press release on [the Governing Board's election of officers](#). Further, the Public Affairs Office collaborated with the MAAC Project and Palomar colleagues to issue [a press release](#) on a new partnership to serve underserved populations within our District. We also issued a media advisory on April 28 to provide advanced notice of the Palomar College Community Showcase to our media colleagues. These press releases and the media advisory garnered placement in regional and community publications. In addition, PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy worked with Dana Williams of NBC News/Telemundo to secure a feature spot in the In Your Neighborhood segment on three newscasts on Tuesday, April 25. The story is available on the [NBC San Diego webpage](#).

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

During the past month, our creative services team supported the performing arts department, special events on campus, improved signage, and worked with colleagues in facilities on image and logo placements for the new football and softball stadiums.

In April, we posted a story on the [Palomar College Woman of the Year](#), Dr. Nora Kenney. This story and our press releases can be found on the [Palomar News website](#). The Public Affairs Office worked with the Associated Student Government and U.S. Congressman Scott Peters office to secure a student-focused Q & A session at the main



campus. The event took place on May 2 and over 50 students attended the session to engage with their Congressman.



ASG President Garcia Mendez and U.S. Congressman Scott Peters



U.S. Congressman Scott Peters

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

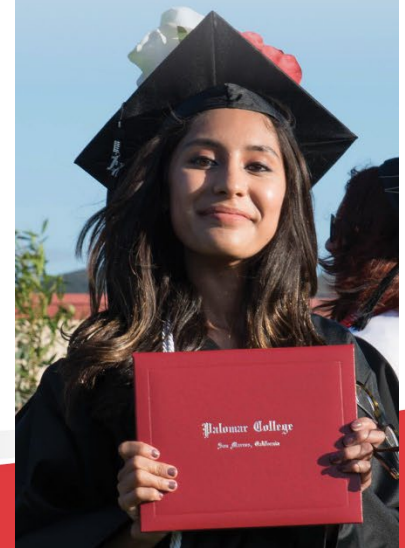
The Palomar College foundation hosted a naming celebration in honor of the Assistance League of Inland North County on April 26. The event celebrated the facility naming at the Escondido Education Center (as well as one in the nursing classroom on the San Marcos campus) in honor of the exceptional generosity from the Assistance League in support of Palomar College paramedic and nursing students. The Assistance League certainly felt the love of our Palomar College EME students as not one, but the entire class came in to thank them for their generosity. At the end of the program, the Assistance League presented the foundation with a check for \$40,000 to support scholarships in 2023!



Assistance League of Inland North County, Foundation Board of Directors, and Foundation Staff

Grants: The Palomar College Foundation received confirmation of our grant request to Hunter Industries for \$10,000. The funds will support membership of the President's Associates and provide unrestricted support to the Foundation.

President's Associates: The President's Associates are a group of committed community members who support the Foundation by donating at least \$1,000 annually. In addition to Hunter Industries as noted, two additional organizations renewed their membership this month including EDCO Waste & Recycling and Guajome Park Academy.



Community Showcase: 300 community members attended the 2023 Palomar College Community Showcase on May 3 at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. Dr. Rivera-Lacey presented her “Report to the Community,” as well as the Comet Award presentation to Klaus Kirchhoff. The Rising Scholars/Transitions program was also featured. Sixteen organizations have proudly stepped up to sponsor this event.

Marketing, Community & Infrastructure Activities

Foundation Board of Directors: The Foundation Board of Directors regular meeting was held on April 24. Special guest Dr. Todd McDonald, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Fiscal and Administrative Services was in attendance. In addition, the Finance & Investment committee of the Foundation Board met on April 10 and the Grant Review Committee met on April 11. The Foundation Board approved four exciting faculty innovation grants to be implemented in the spring and fall.

Community Engagement: Executive Director, Stacy Rungaitis attended the North San Diego Business Chamber Regional Connect event on April 12. Over 125 local business partners were in attendance. Executive Director Rungaitis serves on the Board of Directors of this regional organization.

Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey and Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis attended the Palomar College Retiree’s Association (PACRA) meeting and luncheon on April 20. This group of dedicated former employees was thrilled to receive an update from Dr. Rivera-Lacey and learn more about the work of the Foundation.



Executive Director Rungaitis presenting to PACRA



Dr. Rivera-Lacey presenting to PACRA

