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June 9, 2023

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Palomar College Community Showcase

Our 2023 Community Showcase on May 3 was an outstanding opportunity to connect with the many communities we serve and recognize the heroes and scholars who reflect our incredible institution. I am grateful to the Palomar College Foundation led by Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis, the foundation team, and our sponsors who supported the event. It was an honor to bestow the 2023 Comet Award to Klaus Kirchhoff for his generous support of Palomar College. We were also able to feature the growth and success of the Rising Scholars program and the June 8 screening of the Palomar College Television (PCTV) documentary, *Almost Home – Life After Incarceration*.



Stacy Rungaitis, Will Rivera, Klaus Kirchhoff, Dr. Rivera-Lacey and 2019 Comet Award winner Brian Cahill.

Commencement 2023

More students crossed the stage at Commencement on May 26, than prior to the pandemic. The ceremony designed and led by our Student Life & Leadership team of Sherry Titus and Pippa Pierce and implemented by a cadre of staff volunteers was the perfect end to a fantastic academic year. Thanks to all of our student-first focused employees, over 4,000 degree and certificates were earned this year.

In addition to our commencement ceremony, we had many celebrations of student success during the month of May. These included



Palomar graduates and Dr. Rivera-Lacey

events for the Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS), Student Support Services and Promise program graduates, a Transfer recognition ceremony, the La Raza graduation ceremony for our Latinx students, the end of year celebration of Puente, the Fire Academy graduation, Phi Theta Kappa Induction ceremony, Umoja Rites of Passage ceremony, Nursing Pinning ceremony, the inaugural Asian Pacific Islander graduates celebration, the certificate ceremony for the first class of the Escondido Union School District/ Palomar College Paraeducator Partnership program, the Celebration of Black Graduates, and the Associated Student Government banquet.

Welcome to Nick Mata!

Pending Governing Board approval on June 13, Palomar College will welcome Nick Mata as our Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services. Nick will utilize his experience gained during 25 years of work in student services administration to contribute to our continued focus on enrollment recovery and lead the Student Services division to new heights.



New Palomar College VPSS, Nick Mata

As a former low-income, first-generation, Latino college student, Nick knows first-hand the transformative power of education. It is this lived experience and knowledge that guides his leadership and management style, focusing on relationship-building, collaboration, collegiality, equity and student success.

Nick currently serves as the Dean of Special Programs at Santa Monica College and has leadership experience in counseling, student affairs and student development. He received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration-Student Affairs from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

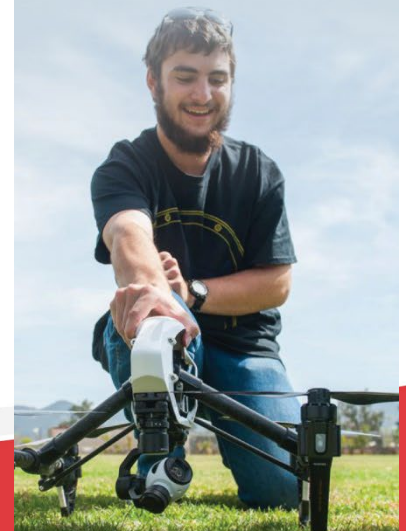
Nick is scheduled to start his new role on July 31, 2023. I am grateful to the screening committee, and the entire campus community, for being part of the selection process.

2035 Educational and Facilities Vision Plan Update

The Educational and Facilities Plan Task Force will continue to work this summer to define the Facilities portion of our plan. We will review our current programs, future programs and associated needs for facilities and improvements. I am grateful for the time and dedication of so many individuals who have participated in this process.

Faculty Hiring

The process of hiring our newest faculty members continued. It has been a great opportunity to connect with incredible scholars and experts in their fields. We are looking forward to welcoming them all during the fall plenary.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Focus

The month of May was a time to recognize the incredible diversity of our students and employees. The Palomar Asian Pacific Alliance in Higher Education (APAHE) led our celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage month with a full schedule of events and workshops. I attended the Asian American Pacific Islander Young Professionals Panel and a discussion of the film Chinatown Rising, and a workshop with San Diego Poet Laureate Dr. Jason Magabo Perez. All of these events were engaging and thought provoking.

I was grateful to share my thoughts on behalf of the Palomar College administration as the keynote speaker at the second annual Queer Pride event held on May 10. The day of celebration culminated with our first Queer Prom. Both events designed and led by our Pride Center, provided an important opportunity for faculty, staff, and administrators to demonstrate their support for our LGBTQ+ students and employees here on campus.

Palomar in the News

I joined MAAC Project CEO Arnulfo Manriquez for an interview with KPBS to discuss our partnership designed to educate future early childhood educators. We educate MAAC employees, and they earn an opportunity to positively impact children in north county. It is a perfect partnership. The MAAC Project is dedicated to transforming lives and strengthening communities through high-quality programs for children of all ages. You can view KPBS reporter Tania Thorne's story [on this webpage](#).



MAAC Project CEO, Arnulfo Manriquez and Dr. Rivera-Lacey

Campus Engagement

Throughout our institution we are focused on enrollment recovery. This is exemplified by several registration events called "Comets Launch into Registration". The energy at these events held at the main campus and education centers is contagious.

Speaking of high energy, the Annual Employee Recognition Extravaganza was amazing and a great opportunity to recognize our incredible employees. A special congratulations to Administrative Association Employee of the Year Adrienne Lee, CAST Employee of the Year Timothy Cross, Classified Employee of the Year Yvette Maynard, Distinguished Faculty full-time winner Elizabeth (Betsy) Pain, and Distinguished Faculty part-time winner Chase Way.

I had the opportunity to connect with our faculty and students in the classroom and at events throughout the month. I am grateful for the invitation for a first-hand experience of the incredible work done within our programs. I enjoyed the Research Methods in Psychology Spring Poster Fair, the Bravura Gala, the MODA Fashion Show, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Student Service-Learning student presentations, the screening of cinema student projects, and the Architecture and Interior Design Open House at the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.

Our Performing Arts department continued to impress me and our loyal guests with the "Current Waves" student composer concert, the "Defying Gravity" play, Faculty Dance Concert, and Palomar College Symphony Orchestra performances, including a performance by the Fortissimo Youth String Orchestra. Young musicians performed



side-by-side with members of our Palomar Symphony Orchestra. I am looking forward to what we will experience in the upcoming season.

Meetings held with faculty, classified and executive leadership were highly collaborative and our discussions regarding current and upcoming initiatives were informative and valuable. Sessions held with our budget committee were helpful as we continue to prepare the tentative FY 23-24 budget. The Governing Board will receive a presentation on the tentative budget at the June 13 meeting.

Community Engagement

The annual Trustee Conference hosted by the Community College League of California held in the early part of the month, was a great opportunity for me and Palomar College Trustees Jacqueline Kaiser, Dr. Judy Patacsil, Roberto Rodriguez, and Cassandra Schaege, to gain insight into best practices and connect with other trustees and CEOs. Having discussions with dedicated leaders throughout the state is always rewarding and valuable.

We hosted the final San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Rising Stars event on May 23 in the LRC Community Room. Ten students from San Marcos High School, Twin Oaks High School, and Mission Hills High School received scholarships from the Chamber. Rewarding these incredibly brave and committed students was heartwarming.



San Marcos Chamber of Commerce Rising Stars scholarship recipients and Mayor of San Marcos, Rebecca Jones.

I had the pleasure of attending the North County Higher Education Alliance (NCHEA) Board meeting. Our work with this amazing collaboration between California State University San Marcos, MiraCosta College, and Palomar College helps to identify challenges that we face, possible solutions, and how to best support our students. My work as a board member of A Step Beyond continued, and I enjoyed both the board meeting and networking event in May.

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

The month of May was extremely busy and filled with many ceremonies that celebrated the success of our students and culminated with the Commencement Ceremony. A special thank you to the faculty, classified staff, administrators, and Governing Board members that organized, supported, and attended the events. It is so wonderful to see the excitement and joy of the graduating students and their families.

Languages and Literature Division

To support the needs of our students taking classes this summer, library services will be available at all locations. Our literary magazine Bravura held their first in-person Gala since before the pandemic on May 18. Students read from their works and the 2023 edition of Bravura was unveiled. Physical copies of Bravura are available inside the



Department of English, Humanities, and Reading in the H building or around campus. The English as a Second Language (ESL) department continues to experience demand for in-person classes and has been adding classes for summer and fall to meet the growing needs of our students. Representatives of the ESL program have participated in over 15 outreach events over the past two months. These events were held at elementary, middle, high schools and adult schools, community events and registration events at the education centers.

Math, Science and Engineering Division

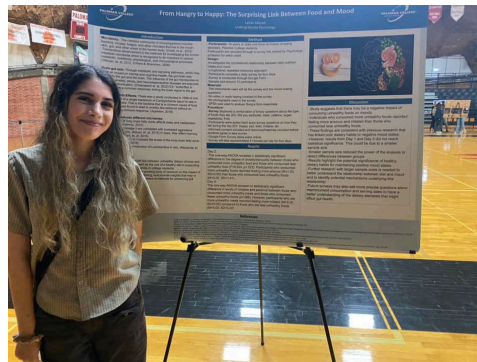
The Nursing program organized a wonderful pinning ceremony in which they celebrated 34 students completing the program requirements to become Registered Nurses. This program positively impacts the significant need for nurses in our region.



Palomar College nursing student and parent

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

On May 18 the Behavioral Sciences department hosted a Research Poster session. This event allows our research methods students to showcase their work and is an excellent opportunity for other students to see research in action. We celebrated the inaugural cohort of Escondido Unified School District paraprofessionals on May 25. These students completed the School Age Certificate program that was developed in response to the need for trained professionals in the classroom. This program was the brainchild of Professor Laurel Anderson and Dr. John Albert, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources of the Escondido Union School District. You can learn more about the program in this [Palomar News article](#).



Palomar College Research Methods student

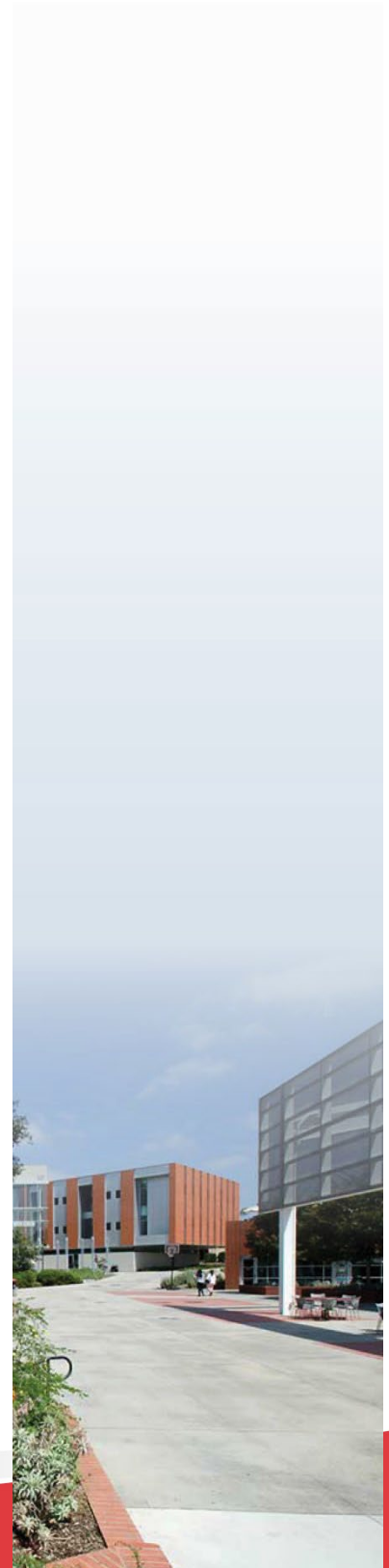
The Ethnic Studies program was integral to the planning and implementation for the Celebration of Black Students and La Raza graduation celebration. The American Indian Studies department is participating in a large initiative from the Chancellor's office, the Native American Student Success and Support Program (NASSSP) grant. This grant will support Native American students as they matriculate from Palomar College.

Escondido and Rancho Bernardo Education Centers

Employees at the Escondido and Rancho Bernardo Education Centers participated in a Narcan training session. The Escondido Center Director and Finance and Administrative Leadership team members met with the Escondido Arts Foundation to discuss a mural at the Escondido Center.

Professional Development

The Annual Employee Extravaganza had more than 170 employees in attendance in a HyFlex format. There was a wonderful reception in the LRC prior to the presentation of the awards that created our new "Come Together" emphasis for HyFlex events. During the event we honored colleagues with recognition for years of service, Employee



of the Year Awards for all groups (CAST, CCE, AA, and Faculty), and institutional awards. It was a fantastic gathering of truly wonderful Comets.

A new learning series, the IDEAA for All Course was launched during the early part of May. It is a comprehensive 22-hour course that focuses on Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, Accessibility, and Antiracism practices. This is a culmination of countless hours of work spearheaded by a Taskforce and Educators for Equity, Diversity, and Cultural Competency (EEDCC) committee.

STUDENT SERVICES

Enrollment Services and Counseling Services

Enrollment Services and Counseling departments have been extremely focused on outreach and recruitment of new Palomar College students. Many of the associated events were held during the evenings and weekends. Early enrollment reports indicate that these efforts have had a positive impact on our post-pandemic enrollment recovery.

GEAR UP, Veterans Services, Counseling and Enrollment Services have all held successful registration support events either on campus or at high schools within our District. In May, a “Palomar Information Night” was held at the Pauma Indian reservation, which included representatives from outreach, counseling, transfer services, Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS), TRIO/ North County Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC), admissions, financial aid, and the Promise program.

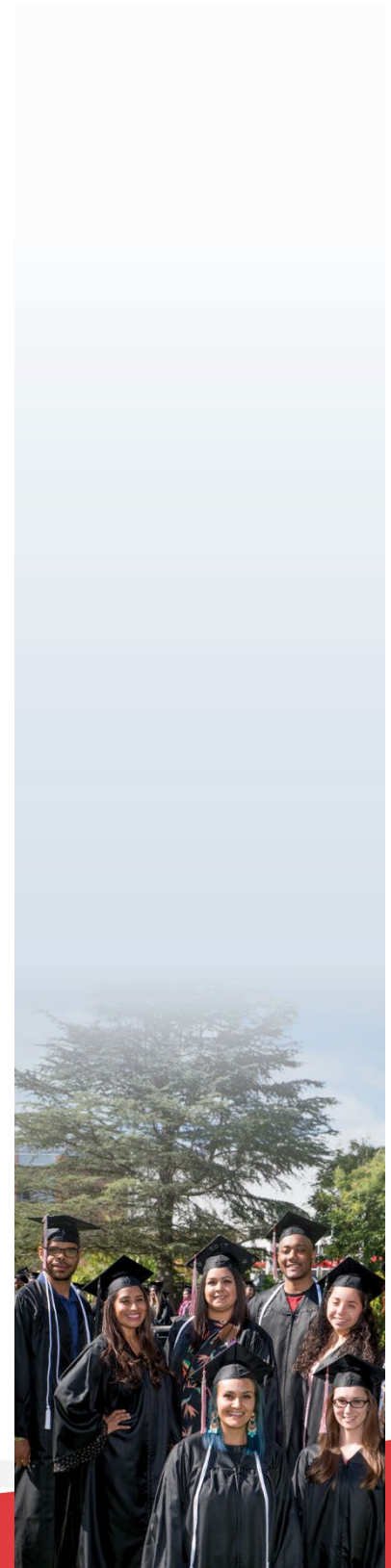
In addition, the TRIO/NCEOC hosted a 3-day “Back to College” event at the North Inland Regional Recovery Center and successfully collected a program application from 80% of the population interested in Palomar College. TRIO Educational Talent Search has been active during career days at middle schools and had a final presentation at Mission Middle School on May 26, exposing students to college access and program services.

The team participated in many additional targeted events throughout the month to increase awareness of Palomar College. These included the participation of the Veterans Services office in the Wounded Warrior Battalion Education Briefs on May 18. An exhibit at the Escondido Street Festival on May 21, educational materials distribution to high school students at the NAACP “We are the Light” event at UC San Diego on June 4, and support for the Vista Unified School District Career Superhighway Convening. The Outreach office continues to offer campus tours as well as off-campus presentations and application workshops.

During the month of June, Palomar College will be represented at the Latino Book Festival, the Camp Pendleton Juneteenth Education Fair, the Juneteenth Festival in Oceanside, and the Lake Dixon Clean Up.

Student Life & Leadership

To address the basic needs of our students, lockers that will be used as receptacles to hold the delivery of food and hygiene items are currently being installed at all Palomar College sites. In addition, farmer’s markets are regularly scheduled.



The Associated Student Government (ASG) election results are in and ASG President Christopher Garcia Mendez will again serve as ASG President. Grant Waas was elected as Student Trustee for FY23-24. During the week of final exams, the ASG distributed “Finals Jam” bags to students; each bag had a scantron, pencil, water, and snacks in it. ASG held their end of the year awards banquet on May 19 with President Rivera Lacey in attendance.

Student Life & Leadership along with campus partners designed and implemented a successful Commencement. Nearly 500 Palomar College students crossing the stage on May 26.

Student Health Services

During the month of May, Health Services promoted “Better Hearing and Speech” by providing hearing tests at a discounted rate of \$5.00 to enrolled students. In partnership with the American Red Cross, our May Blood Drive was held at the San Marcos campus May 9-11, resulting in a collection of 66 units of whole blood.

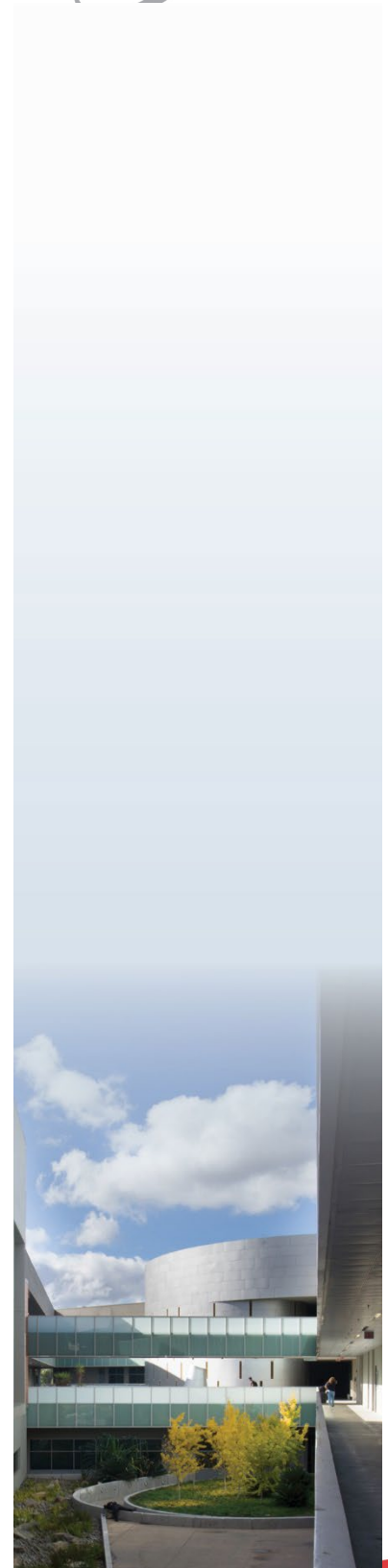
The Health Services team continues to work with campus partners to distribute free Narcan in key areas and train interested staff and key campus stakeholders on the use of Narcan as part of the ongoing Naloxone distribution project efforts.

For Mental Health Month, an on-campus event was held to raise awareness about mental health and provide resources to students. Students had an opportunity to visit with on and off campus resources on May 3 and to participate in stress reduction activities including Love on a Leash pet therapy, gratitude, and art therapy.

Support Groups for students are actively meeting and include the 12-step Support Meetings. This is a collaboration between Student Wellness Advocacy Group and the Alcohol and Other Drug Studies program. This important opportunity helps support the recovery of our students impacted by substance abuse and addiction. The Gender Exploration and Transitioning group launched in collaboration between Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS) and the Pride Center. This is a forum for students who are exploring their gender identity to build community and support one another. “Comets for Recovery” is facilitated by a BHCS therapist and gives students an opportunity to learn and discuss mental health and wellness topics through the lens of addiction. Latinx/a/o “Creating Space Support Group” is held on Tuesdays by our bilingual therapist. This is a weekly support group for students that offers a supportive environment to gather, learn and share common experiences.



Palomar College graduates at Commencement on May 26, 2023



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



Fiscal Services

In Fiscal Services, the budget and accounting teams have remained focused on completing the FY 23-24 tentative budget for review by the Governing Board on June 13.

All districts have a deadline of June 15, 2023, to approve a tentative budget in order to have authority to spend beginning July 1, 2023. Once a tentative budget is in place, work will begin to refine the budget for an adopted budget for approval in September. Preparation for this important work has included a thorough position review and reconciliation has taken place to ensure the District is creating a fiscal plan for all positions including those that are vacant and in recruitment. Detailed information will be provided as part of the tentative budget presentation.

At the end of May a small group from our Fiscal Services team met with the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Fiscal Services team to review the ERP system (PeopleSoft 9.2). This meeting provided an opportunity to see how some of the accounts payable functions are performed at SDCCD as well as to discuss processes and best practices. Both districts expressed a hope and desire to continue to collaborate to achieve common goals and discuss best practices.

Business Services

The Purchasing Supervisor position was posted on May 1, with the intended start date during the fall semester. PlanetBids training took place on April 25 and April 27. The system will be live starting the week of June 12. Staff are currently working in the test environment to become more familiar with the platform.

Campus Police

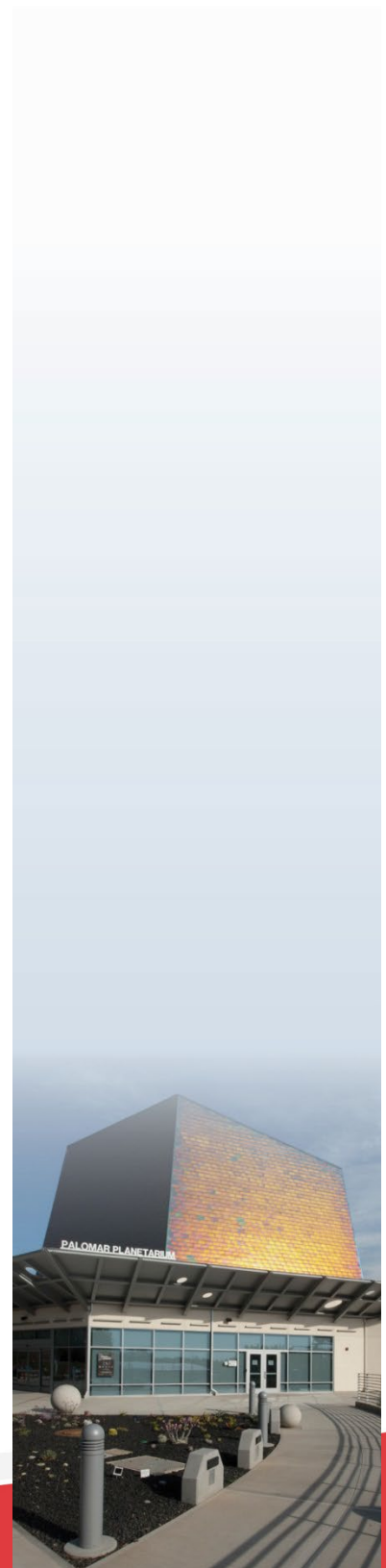
The campus police participated in a number of campus events in the month of May. These include the Palomar College Community Showcase, the music festival at the San Marcos campus, and the Queer Pride events. The department also provided support at the Commencement Ceremony.

In addition to the above events and support, the department hosted “Coffee with a Cop” in collaboration with the Teaching Learning Center, Outreach and the Promise program. Campus police also provided a safety/active shooter briefing for the facilities staff. Finally, Officer Montes and Dispatch Center Coordinator Suarez met with San Marcos Fire and other public safety partners regarding community notification systems.

Information Services (IS)

The Information Services Department continues to work on a high priority to improve our cybersecurity posture. Progress in this area includes the replacement or upgrade of nearly all servers and workstations that were deemed vulnerable due to running on old, unsupported operating systems or applications. We are on track to have this initiative 100% complete by June 30. Additionally, work continues in expanding and improving network, system, and workstation vulnerability scans and remediation.

The systems and programming team remains busy working on technical tasks in support of our Commitment Accounting Phase II project and our HighPoint implementation, with planned go-live dates of late July and early October, respectively. Additionally, we have successfully completed our migration to the latest version and enhanced technical infrastructure of CCC Apply, called “Superglue”. This has allowed us to improve the processing and load time of student applications to every 30 minutes, as well as capture



additional student biographic and demographic data for research, planning and reporting purposes.

The technical services and Audio-Visual visual teams remained busy supporting numerous academic year-end activities and events, including a successful Commencement ceremony. A lot of behind the scenes, technical work went into this event, ensuring the performance of audio, video, and live-stream services, and wireless internet connectivity for all participants and spectators.

IS continues to work closely with facilities and district architects on the final design and procurement of technical infrastructure and equipment needed to support all systems and technology in the new athletics stadiums. Most equipment has been ordered and we are still on schedule for receipt and installation by construction completion in October. And finally, we have recently started the installations for our large wireless network upgrade project at the San Marcos campus and Escondido Education Center, with project completion still expected by the start of the fall semester.

Facilities

We want to recognize the entire Facilities team who worked to prepare the San Marcos campus for the Commencement ceremony. This work included setup, and cleanup afterwards.

Prop M Projects

Progress on the athletics facility project continued at a brisk pace. Several portions of the project are complete, including the softball field dugout masonry walls, the roof steel for the softball press box and football storage buildings, underground utilities to the football press box area, and the electric and data utilities for the softball fieldhouse building. Work has also started on the modifications to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) route of travel to the stadium venues. The project is now approximately 40 % complete. There are two change orders requiring Governing Board approval on the June 13 agenda.

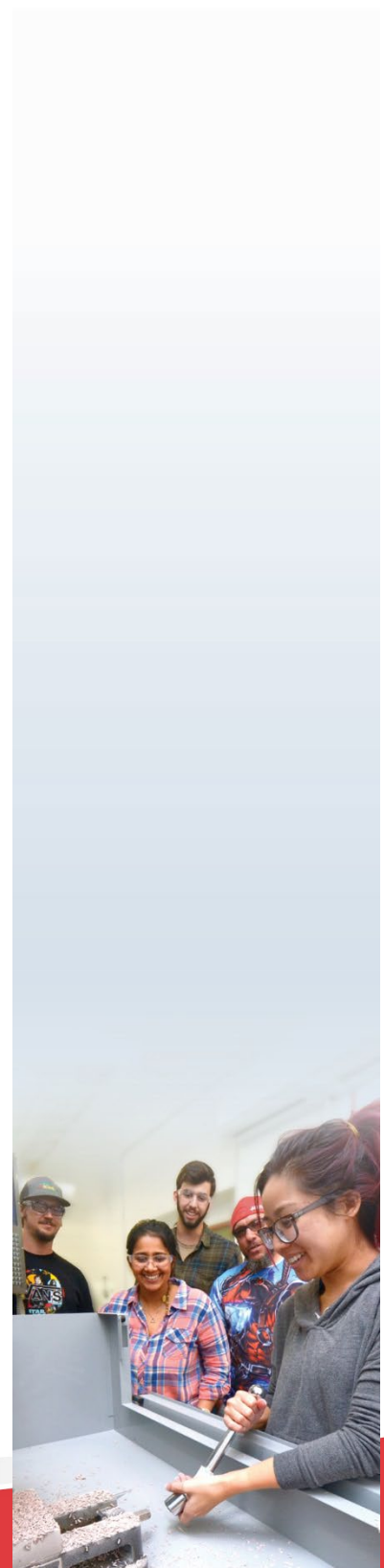
The plans for the athletics fieldhouse project remain with the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for approval. The project plans for Fallbrook 40, a 40,000 square foot building at the Fallbrook Education Center, are in review at the DSA, with an expected response by June 2023. This project is expected to go to bid in Fall 2023.

The District is working on receiving a proposal from Cumming Management Group, Inc. to prepare the irrigation well project at the Fallbrook Education Center to go out to bid and act as the owner agent on the project during construction. In addition, 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 bid process for the Escondido Education Center Safety/Security Fencing project is complete and a recommendation to the Governing Board is set for the meeting in June.

The San Marcos campus HVAC, roof replacement and state scheduled maintenance project remains 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.

Progress has continued in the work to create a progressive “defensible space” concept to protect the Early Childhood Education and Lab School and Arboretum. This project is funded through a grant from the County Board of Supervisors.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Employee Recognition

The annual employee recognition event was held on May 12. The District celebrated the many milestones of our employees during this annual celebration to include those retiring, earning service pins, and the employee of the year nominees and winners. This event displayed the amount of dedicated work of our employees and the great achievements over this past year. It was a wonderful time to come together and celebrate.

AP 7127

AP 7127 is scheduled for ratification by the Governing Board on June 13. The updates to this Administrative Procedure (AP) reflect our focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, antiracism and accessibility, and contains more inclusive hiring practices and broadened employment opportunities, including those for our undocumented students and rising scholars.

Hiring and Staffing

Human Resources continues to work within divisions to discuss their staffing needs and strategize ways to align and optimize staffing to meet the current and future needs of the College. Positions are posted for qualified candidates to fill classified, administrative, CAST and faculty positions. Due to these efforts and thanks to the dedicated hiring committees, there are 27 permanent hires on the June 13 Governing Board agenda.

Recruitment

The Recruitment team continues to work very hard at filling critical vacancies across the campus. Below are the recruitment figures as of 6/8/2023.

62 permanent recruitments are in progress including,

13 – Admin/CAST

41 – Classified

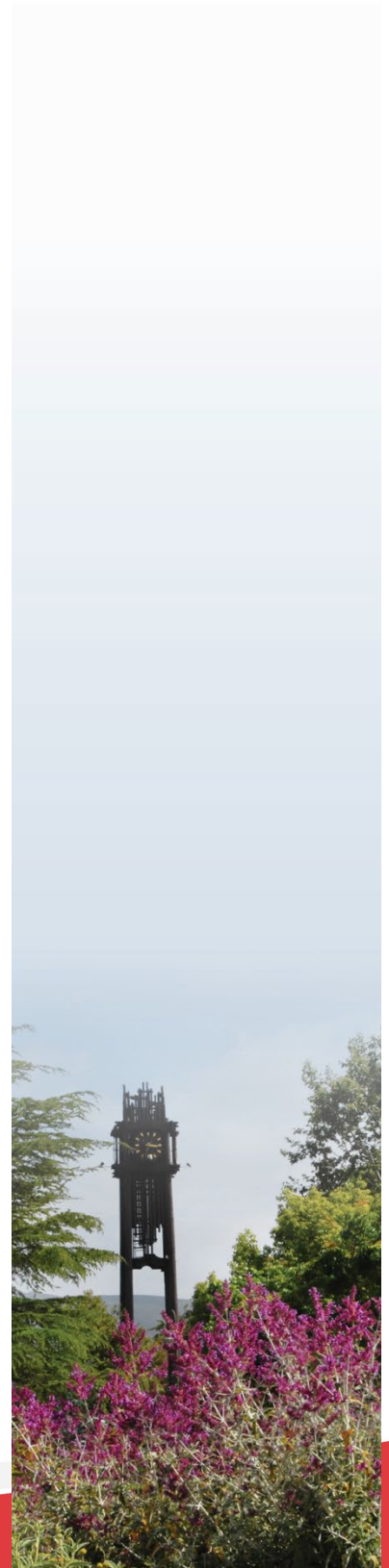
8 – Faculty

8 – Part-time faculty recruitments are in progress

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING (IR&P)

Accreditation

The draft Follow-Up report required by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is complete and includes documentation of initial evidence. The Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) has met with representatives from Fiscal and Administrative Services and Human Resource Services, and both are working on the projects summarized in the report. The ALO will revise the report based on continued progress and changing tasks. The draft will be ready in August for campus review.



Integrated Planning

The Education and Facilities Planning Task Force met on May 18 to continue its work on the Facilities Vision Plan. During the meeting the Task Force confirmed linkages between the Educational Vision Plan's goals and our facility needs. The Task Force also discussed their observations of each College site and offered considerations for the Facilities Vision Plan. In June, the Task Force will meet twice to discuss possible projects for the plan.

Institutional Research

The research team wrapped up its tutoring survey and launched a registration survey to capture student understanding of the math placement recommendations. The team is also completing the Dental Assisting Exit survey and a report summarizing the impact of service learning on student outcomes among other projects.

Grants

The College continues to prepare a Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institution's grant proposal. The focus of the proposal is to support outreach and onboarding and to provide intentional academic support for students completing their math requirements. Recent grant awards from the California Community College Chancellor's office include the following:

- Two-Year Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices (CRPP) Innovation Best Practices Grant
- Five-Year Native American Student Support and Success Program (NASSSP) (non-competitive award based on student headcount)
- Three-Year California Apprenticeship Initiative New and Innovative Grant Program.
- Five-Year Distance Education Captioning and Transcription Grant (non-competitive award to Palomar's California Community College's Tech Connect grant to expand their current services).

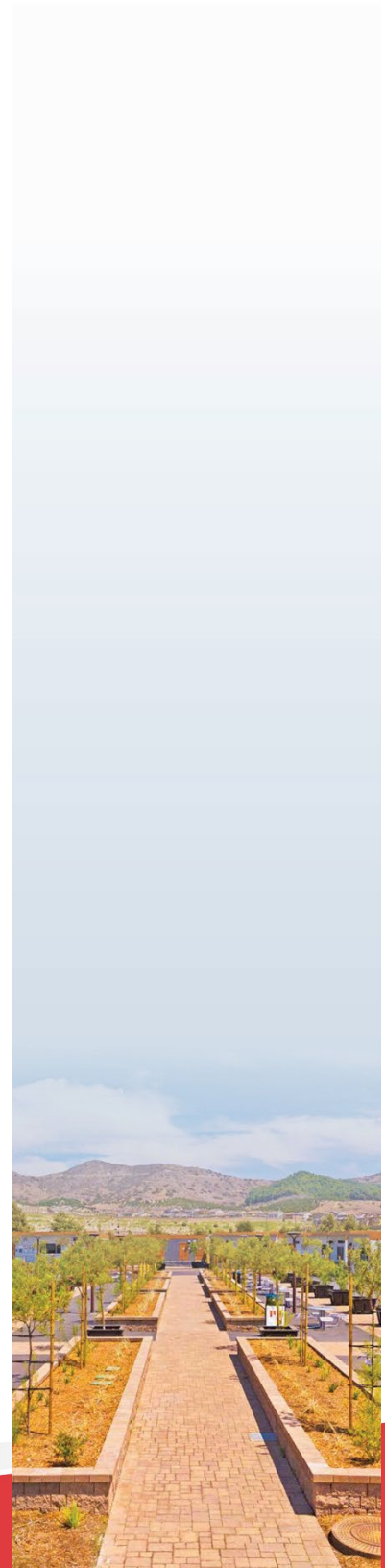
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marketing/Advertising/Promotion

The Palomar Makes It Possible digital advertising strategy inclusive of programmatic advertising as well as brand related enrollment-focused ads continued. The pilot campaign to target students who were previously enrolled at Palomar will become a segment of the FY 23-24 digital strategy. This campaign delivers active leads to the Student Success team in Student Services for follow-up and conversion to an enrollment. The integrated digital advertising strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and palomar.edu website. In the month of April, the campaign generated over 868,000 impressions, while remaining cost efficient.

The refreshed web streaming campaign to support summer and fall enrollment goals launched on May 15 and will continue through June 25. 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 May we experienced a 59% 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

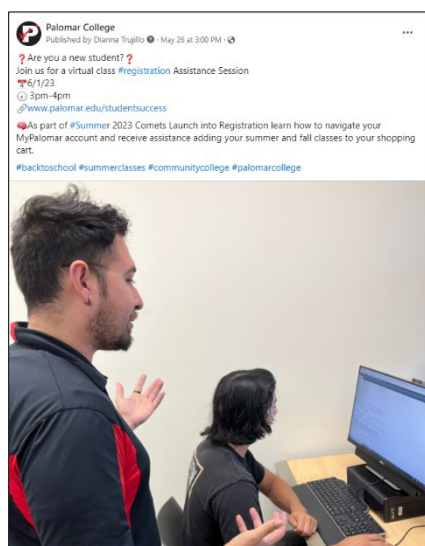


standard, and is evident that the marketing campaigns are delivering quality traffic to the website.

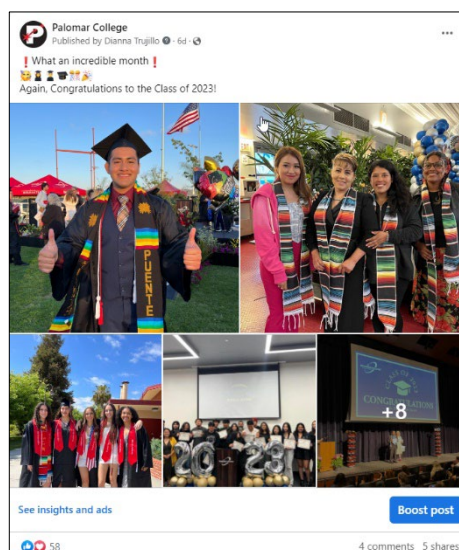
Social media remains the 4th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram generated the majority of the social media traffic to Palomar.edu. The other overall top channels of traffic to the website are direct traffic, organic search, and referral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

A year-over-year performance comparison of our social media platforms shows steady growth for all channels. Our growth in Facebook “Likes” increased 5%, and followers on Twitter grew 5% compared to May 2022. Instagram is continuing to show the largest year-over-year increase at 16%. LinkedIn followers increased 6%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew over 3% in May compared to the previous month and 136% compared to May 2022.

Throughout the month of May, our social media posts included support for summer and fall enrollment, awareness of commencement, and coverage of end-of-year celebrations, as well as performing arts and basic needs. We also conducted a paid advertising campaign to promote our education centers in Fallbrook, Escondido and Rancho Bernardo. This campaign performed within industry standards.



Sample Social Media Post

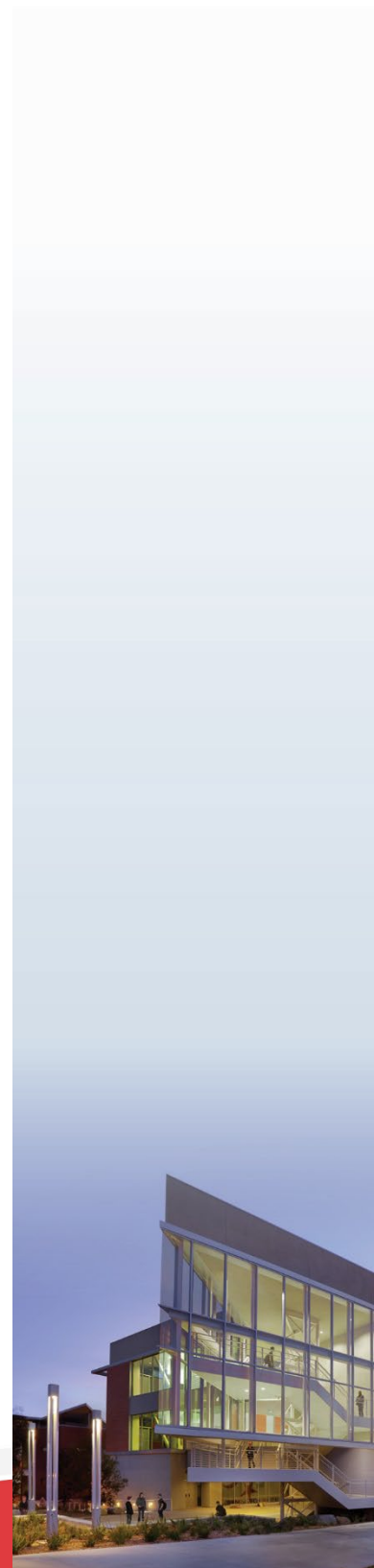


Sample Social Media Post

Community and Media Relations

On May 4, we issued a press release on the selection of [Palomar College as 1 of 17 institutions in the U.S.](#) to participate in a program to develop strategies that offer equitable employment opportunities for all its students. This press release led to the development of a half-page story featured in the [San Diego Business Journal](#).

On May 8, while the San Marcos campus was placed on lockdown due to law enforcement activity nearby, the Public Affairs Office worked with Coast News, the San Diego Union Tribune, NBC/KNSD TV, FOX5 TV News, and the Los Angeles Times, to provide official statements and clarify news stories related to this health and safety



measure. Following the lockdown, communications were developed and delivered to all employees and all students to provide an explanation of activities and self-care guidance.

Further, the Public Affairs Office collaborated with the other community colleges in the region to issue a [news release](#) on the many commencement ceremonies held throughout the month. Later in May, we distributed a [press release on the Emmy nominations and film festival acceptance](#) of the Palomar College Television Almost Home - Life After Incarceration documentary film. Upon the completion of the Palomar College Commencement ceremony, we issued a [news release inclusive of a summary of the celebration](#). These press releases garnered placement in regional and community publications.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

During the past month, our creative services team supported the collateral and signage needs for the Commencement ceremony and the numerous celebration events. These projects were in addition to design and production of performing arts programs and materials. Pending Governing Board approval, the recruitment to fill a vacancy on the Creative Services team will be finalized and our new team member will start on June 14.

In May, we posted a story on the [Palomar College and Escondido Union School District partnership](#) and its impact on the shortage of qualified paraprofessionals within our region. We also featured a [story on our 2023 Valedictorian](#) Gabby Le . These stories and our press releases can be found on the [Palomar News website](#).

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

Community Showcase 2023

The Foundation proudly hosted the 2023 Palomar College Community Showcase at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido on May 3. Over 300 community members, educational partners and elected officials attended. Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey provided a report to the community, Klaus Kirchhoff received the 2023 Comet Award for his philanthropic commitment to the College, and the Rising Scholars program was featured. Over \$30,000 was raised through sponsorships to support this event.



Stacy Rungaitis, Klaus Kirchhoff, Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey, and Will Rivera at the Community Showcase.

Scholarships

The scholarship season was in full bloom during the month of May, with the Foundation receiving over \$60,500 in scholarship donations. It has been a busy time as the scholarship process commenced with hundreds of individual awards given to students. Awarding is finalized for Spring 2023 and Fall 2023 with over \$304,000 disbursed.

Grants

The Palomar College Foundation received confirmation of our \$10,000 request to Nordson to assist with the technology needs of our Rising Scholars/Transitions program



summer cohort. The Foundation was thrilled to receive \$15,000 from the City of Escondido non-profit relief fund to support our mission. The Foundation submitted the final grant report to the County of San Diego for District 5 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program. The \$85,000 grant awarded in 2022 was expended on the creation of a firebreak including brush thinning, purchasing medical equipment and supplies, and purchasing a golf cart for ease of mobility on campus.

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. We are excited to welcome our newest member Trennis Wright from Raymond James & Associates to this elite group of community members.

Commencement

The Foundation is proud to welcome our 2023 graduates to the Alumni Association. Each graduate received a gift of a logo picnic/beach blanket at their seat during Commencement on May 26.

Stewardship

The Palomar College Foundation team was bursting with appreciation for the many Palomar College staff who participated in our employee giving C.I.R.C.L.E. (Comets Investing in Really Changing Lives through Education) through payroll deduction! The Foundation staff hand-delivered a thank you (Starbursts) to every employee that participates through payroll deductions! Because of this effort, three additional staff joined the C.I.R.C.L.E.



Foundation CIRCLE members Linda Morrow and Marlene Forney,

Marketing, Community & Infrastructure Activities

San Marcos State of the City

Palomar College was proud to attend the annual San Marcos Chamber of Commerce event on May 31 featuring the State of the City address by Mayor Rebecca Jones.



Richard Marks, Linda Moynan, Trustee Jacqueline Kaiser, Dr. Tina Recalde, Stacy Rungaitis, Katie Johanski, and Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez

June 21 Naming Celebration

The Palomar College Foundation will host a naming celebration in honor of the Tri-City Medical Center and Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary on June 21 at 3:00 pm. The event will celebrate the facility naming at the Health Science Building at the San Marcos Campus as well as a naming at the Escondido Education Center in honor of the exceptional generosity of Tri-City Medical Center and the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary in support of Palomar College paramedics and nursing students.

