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September 1, 2023

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Welcome to the Fall Semester!
Despite having to endure tropical storm Hilary and the impacts to our San Marcos campus, it was all hands on deck in welcoming our students, and new faculty and staff to Palomar College on August 22. I am grateful to all of our essential employees who spent countless hours preparing all of our locations and effectively addressing safety concerns as they were identified.

The first day of the semester could not have been possible without everyone who volunteered at Welcome Day, the Ask Me tents, and who made themselves available to guide our students during the first and second week of the semester.



Students finding their way on the first day of the semester

Flex Week and Fall Plenary
The Professional Development Committee and team did an outstanding job in organizing and managing a full calendar of workshops and meetings for Flex Week and Plenary. The schedule included an orientation for new faculty. I had the pleasure of officially welcoming them to Palomar College. In addition, I was able to enjoy many sessions, including one which featured Dr. Frank Harris III.



Fall '23 Plenary Opening Session

Dr. Harris shared his wisdom and passion for increasing educational equity, access, and accountability at Palomar College. Our opening Plenary Session on August 18 was the first in-person event of its size since prior to the pandemic. The gathering enabled us to set the foundation for a successful start to the new academic year.

Campus Engagement

In the early part of August, campus leaders met to discuss our campuswide focus on enrollment management, the 2035 Education and Facilities Vision Plan, accreditation, and our commitment to a culture of care, respect, and accountability. It was a great way to set the path to success for the academic year.

I had the pleasure of attending the New Student Transfer Orientation event. I enjoyed connecting with our students who have indicated their desire to transfer to a 4-year institution once they complete their coursework at Palomar. Our transfer center team did a wonderful job sharing with our students the details on making a smooth transition to a CSU or UC.

Our Business Administration department set the perfect tone for the start of the semester by hosting a “Social.” The event was attended by both students and employees and provided a warm and friendly welcome to the start of the academic year.

It would not be the start of a new academic year without an exhibition at the Boehm Gallery. “RIPE,” the annual faculty and staff exhibition, was intriguing and full of inspirational and beautiful artwork. Our students are very fortunate to have such talented faculty leading them in their craft.

The Service Learning Fair was a success. Our students were able to engage with more than a dozen non-profit organizations that have opportunities for them to learn while volunteering. It is a terrific way for our students to give back to the community, and possibly determine their career path too.

Community Engagement

The partnership we have with MiraCosta College and CSU San Marcos is one that we are most proud of as it benefits our students and our region. Our collective commitment to our students and mutual understanding of the meaningful transformation that occurs through education is unmistakable. We recently held a strategic planning session with our academic and student services leadership from all three institutions. The results of our discussion will be evident throughout the academic year and beyond.

I had the pleasure of participating in the 2nd Annual Mana De North County San Diego “The Future is Latina” conference. The event was hosted in the Student Union and was well attended by leaders in the region. The presentations were engaging and inspirational.



Dr. Rivera-Lacey and Palomar College transfer students



Business Administration department event attendees



At the end of the month, I joined community college leaders from throughout the state in Sacramento to engage with our new dynamic State Chancellor, Dr. Sonya Christian. Our active discussions centered on exploring the expansion of apprenticeships at not only Palomar College but at all community colleges. I really appreciated the dialogue and learning from colleagues.

I had the opportunity to join Vista Chamber of Commerce CEO and Velocity podcast host Rachel Beld for an interview. It is always a pleasure to discuss my own path that started at a community college and talk about all of the student centered initiatives at Palomar College, as well as our programs, and services.



State Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian and Dr. Rivera-Lacey

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

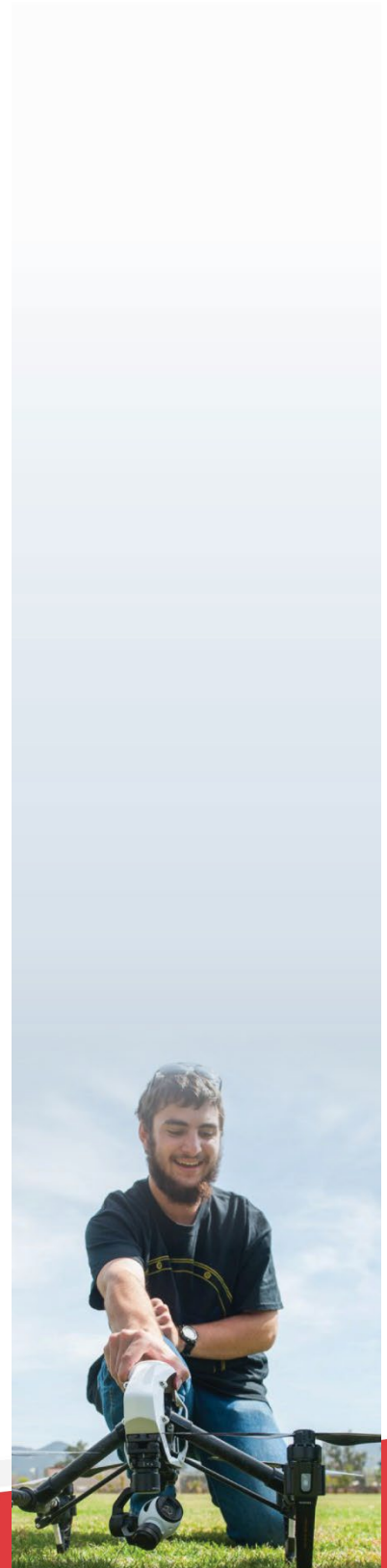
The Fall 2023 semester is officially underway, and a growing number of students are back on campus. In alignment with the Plenary theme Forward Together: Building a Stronger Future, Instructional Services is developing a strategic plan for enrollment management with the following priorities for 2023-2024: (a) Enrollment Analysis and Goals; (b) Program Planning; (c) Student-Centered Scheduling; and (d) Communication Plan. Aspects of each of these priorities will be incorporated in meetings across campus throughout the academic year as everyone has a role in enrollment management. Instructional Services will also provide opportunities for the campus to engage in conversations around “Reimagining Instruction” and community college baccalaureate degrees. We encourage everyone to participate in these conversations.

Languages and Literature Division

Since fall 2022, the English as a Second Language (ESL) department has processed 36 INEA (Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos) certificates. This semester, there are embedded tutors in 21 ESL classes. Professor Nimoli Madan led a faculty training session on how to use embedded tutors effectively. Faculty from English, math and counseling co-presented at the session. ESL faculty have also presented the following workshops:

- Professor Tina Parker led an ESL faculty workshop on ChatGPT and use of AI in ESL classes.
- Professors Nicole Siminski, Vickie Mellos, and Tina Parker also offered a plenary session on Supporting ESL Students Across the Curriculum.

ESL continues to experience increasing student demand and has been actively developing programs and partnerships that support our students and the community. The department has a new ESL reading class and noncredit reading certificate, a new



Memorandum of Understanding with the San Diego County Library to offer a class at the San Marcos Public Library, and a new partnership with the child development and education department for their apprenticeship program with MAAC.

Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) Division

The semester began with an unexpected power outage affecting the Natural Sciences building and Planetarium. Through the exceptional leadership from administrators, instructional deans, facilities, and IS teams, and the dedicated teamwork of faculty and staff from MSE and the Office of Instruction, we successfully managed to relocate classes and guide new students to their respective classrooms throughout the first week. The amazing facilities team worked diligently throughout the week and weekend to restore power to the NS building by the second week of classes, allowing employees and classes to seamlessly return to a regular routine.

The Match Science Learning Center (MSLC) has successfully relocated to the third floor of the LRC. This expansion has provided the additional space required to accommodate all students seeking support in STEM subjects. The improved environment has garnered positive feedback from students, providing them with a conducive space for studying and accessing the necessary resources. Within the first week of classes, MSLC welcomed over 250 students. This number reflects the combined attendance of students seeking tutoring and participating in hybrid classes at MSLC. This number, while impressive, will increase over the course of the semester.

The Math Department participated in a workshop entitled Every Flower has a STEM: Pedagogy of Carino and Equity Minded Practices in Mathematics presented by Dr. Rob Rubalcaba. The department will also be leading math review workshops throughout the semester in the MSLC.

The Nursing Department successfully submitted the Nursing Accreditation Self-study to the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Governing Board President Roberto Rodriguez and Superintendent/President Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey have generously offered to contribute their time as volunteers in the nursing department. Their aim is to assist the first-semester nursing students in mastering their assessments before they embark on real patient interactions at the hospital. A heartfelt appreciation goes out to President Rodriguez and Dr. Rivera-Lacey!

Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Division

The SBS division is looking forward to a great fall semester and will share all the great work faculty and staff are doing once the semester is fully underway.

Professional Development

The Professional Development team, with the collaboration of our fantastic colleagues, facilitated over 100+ training sessions and meetings throughout Flex Week, August 14-18. This included the All-College Opening Session on August 18 attended by over 400 employees in the student union. The session included college updates, a training on the use of Artificial Intelligence, personal stories from our Rising Scholars students, and a specialized safety training. The in-person session also included a networking breakfast and a luncheon that preceded afternoon meetings. It was a fantastic gathering that provided a great start to the fall semester.

In support of DEIAA efforts, Palomar College welcomed Dr. Frank Harris to present the following two workshops:



- Race lighting in the Community College: Implications for All Educators for over 100 attendees in the Brubeck Theater and via Zoom.
- Employing Culturally Affirming and Equity-Minded Teaching and Learning Practices to Advance Institutional Equity for over 75 attendees in the Brubeck Theater and via Zoom.

STUDENT SERVICES

From August 22 to August 25 from early morning to early evening, five “Ask Me” stations were set up across the San Marcos campus to assist students as they started the fall semester. Approximately 150 Palomar College employees volunteered to work at the tables. Student engagement included answering general questions, giving directions, and handing out maps, bottles of water and snacks. Students impacted by the power outage in the NS Building were also given guidance to their temporary classrooms.

Enrollment Services

Dual Enrollment

We have forty-five courses running this semester at the three education centers, individual high schools, and online. Programs include the Bonsall Early College, Middle College of Orange Glen, and the Poway to Palomar Middle College. It is projected that 1,340 students will enroll in dual enrollment this fall semester.

Financial Aid

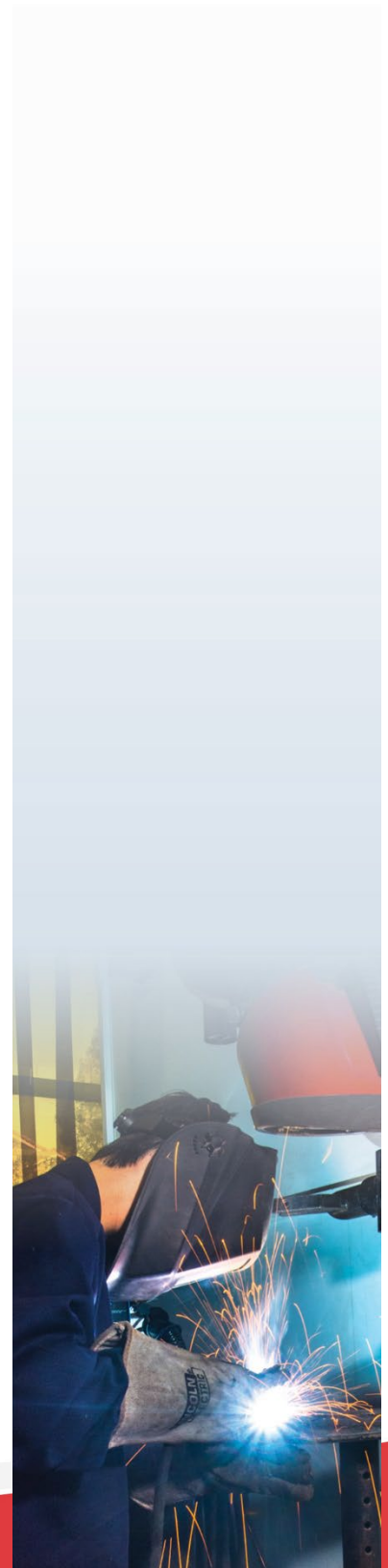
For the first week of the fall semester 2,099 Pell awards were distributed totaling \$2,108,074. This is in addition to 241 students receiving scholarships amounting to \$198,430, and 6,084 students were awarded the California College Promise Grant, formerly known as Board of Governors Fee Waiver.

Promise

A total of 2,736 students have been confirmed for Promise Year 1 and Year 2 cohorts, making this cohort the largest since the inception of Palomar Promise. A larger number of students were accepted for Year 1, resulting in an increase to the Fall 2023 Year 1 Promise cohort by 13.6% compared to Fall 2022. The process of reviewing eligibility for Year 2 is continuing, and final cohort numbers will be available after the fall census.

In collaboration with Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) and TRIO Student Support Services, Palomar Promise hosted an in-person Welcome Day on August 9. Over two hundred students participated in the event which is designed to warmly welcome and support our incoming students as they embark on their academic journey at Palomar College. Based on survey results, 96% of participants "strongly agreed" or "agreed" attending Welcome Day helped them feel better prepared for the start of school, while 99% of participants "strongly agreed" or "agreed" the event was an enjoyable experience.

In addition, we hosted Virtual Welcome Days during a 3-week period prior to the start of the fall semester. Workshops covered a range of topics focused on student support programs, campus resources, financial aid, and successful tips on how to prepare for your first semester. We had over 700* attendees participate in the virtual Welcome Day workshops (*may include duplicates).



Veterans Services

Veterans Services hosted Welcome Back Days in the Veterans' Resource Center on August 21 and 22. For the fall semester, 517 VA benefit users have been certified with 138 more certifications pending.

Outreach and Onboarding Services

During the month of August, we hosted twenty-two tours, provided support at the Promise Welcome Day on August 9, and at the Ask Me Booths during the first week of school. Six new student ambassadors were recently hired, and two additional ambassadors are taking part in the onboarding process. In total, there will be fourteen student ambassadors this semester.

Counseling Services

EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs and Foster Youth

Our programs are once again partnering with Brother Benno of Oceanside to award twenty scholarships of \$500 each. The application deadline is September 15 and winners will be awarded their scholarships by the end of the month.

Undocumented Resource Center

Cariño Dream Village is now open. This space is shared by Umoja, Puente and the program that supports undocumented, DACA and mixed status students. Students have access to computers, laptops, printing, and study areas.

GEAR UP

GEAR UP hosted Summer Leadership workshops on August 1 and 2 for first year incoming students presented by Seeds Training, a company that designs and delivers educational programs that build life, leadership, and learning skills in students, teachers, and professionals around the world. A one year no cost extension was received from the Department of Education for the August 29, 2023 – August 28, 2024, grant year, to continue serving first year college students. GEAR UP staff are engaging students to ensure smooth transitions between high school and college.

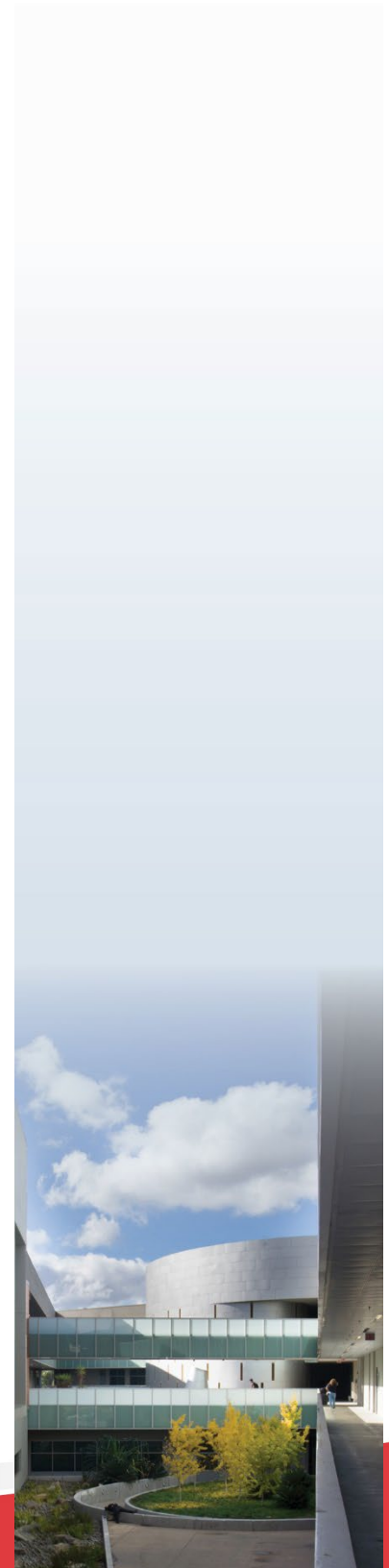
Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC hosted its annual College Success Day on August 16, for new, incoming students. The day included a presentation, student panel, campus tour, resource fair, and an Access Technology Center tour and tech support and assistance. Approximately forty students participated. DRC student ambassadors participated on the student panel, campus tour, and resource fair.

DRC had its annual professional Team Retreat on August 14. This year, DRC student ambassadors also joined in the activities and executive leadership stopped in for a meet and greet. DRC's Access Technology Center has been holding assistive technology workshops and training courses for students. DRC's Test Proctoring Center had an Open House for students from August 21-24. DRC Counselors have been busy supporting students during drop-in counseling sessions. DRC's Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program has reported a significant increase in students this semester.

TRiO

TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) is closing out the 22-23 fiscal year reporting and gearing up to serve 1,000 students in the Escondido and Vista school districts. To close the summer, ETS held four half day summer melt sessions for graduated seniors. The summer melt workshops are a result of a partnership with CHASE Bank. Workshop topics included financial values, understanding your credit, debt and loans, and financial planning for a successful college career.



During the first week of August, TRIO North County Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC) offered group enrollment, financial aid, and admissions appointments at the San Marcos campus and at the Escondido and Fallbrook Education Centers.

TRIO Upward Bound successfully organized a summer program from June 12 - July 20 at the San Marcos campus. A total of 65 students participated. The program featured STEM courses like robotics, engineering, math, and oceanography. At the end of the summer program, students were given the chance to participate in an overnight college tour to explore various colleges, museums, and cultural experiences in northern California.

Student Life & Leadership

Associated Student Government (ASG) and Student Clubs

ASG President Christopher Garcia Mendez swore in eight new senators and two delegates at the first ASG meeting of the semester on August 25. Club Rush is scheduled for September 12 and 13 in the Student Union Quad.

Anita & Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center

Every Tuesday morning, Grab n' Go food pick up and deliveries to all education centers continue. The Food & Nutrition Center registered fifty-seven new clients (students) for services in the month of August. The Farmer's Markets restarted on August 29 at the Fallbrook Education Center. The markets will be held every Tuesday and CalFresh Ambassadors will be in attendance.

Student Health Services and Behavioral Health Counseling Services (BHCS)

The Student Health Centers have supported our colleagues by providing their TB Risk Assessments to help ensure our employees are in compliance with California Education Code § 87408.6. The medical team continues to support the district's response to COVID-19 as there has been a slight up-tick in student cases as of late. Monthly Naloxone training courses are being held for students and employees. Free units of this life-saving overdose reversal medication are provided to attendees.

In collaboration with the health promotion team, BHCS therapists are offering several group sessions, workshops, and community forums to support students throughout the fall semester. These include group sessions that provide dedicated support for students in recovery, LGBTQ+ students, and Latinx/a/o students.

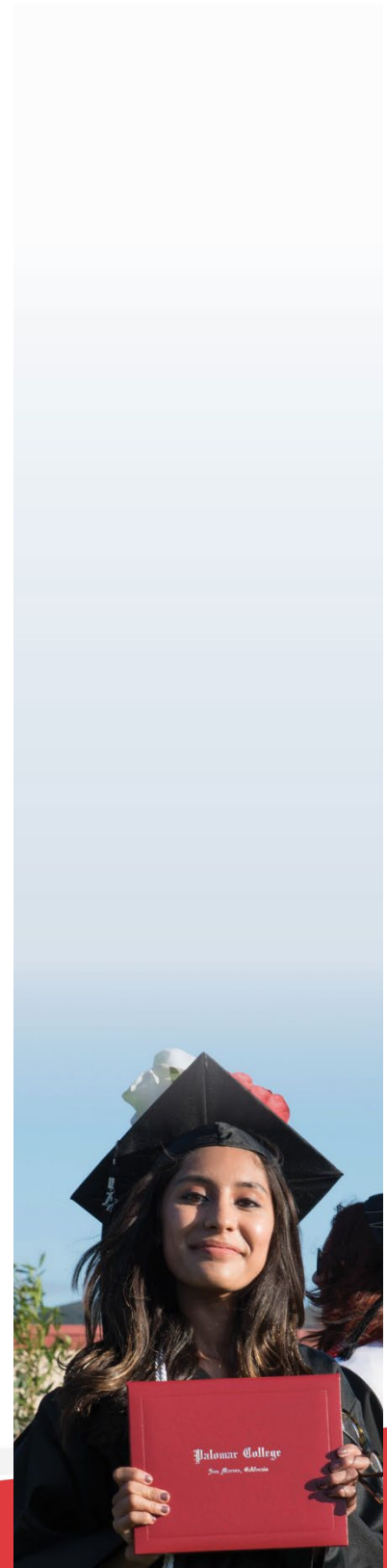
Student Services Communications, Systems, and Technology

The student MyPalomar Campus Experience (formerly known as Highpoint) and Schedule Builder modules are scheduled to go live on October 1. [Frequently Asked Questions](#) have been developed and [Live Zoom and Computer Lab Sessions are scheduled](#) through October 1.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Services

The Fiscal Services team is working intently on closing the books for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and preparing for our upcoming annual audit, while also preparing the 2023-24 Adopted Budget for approval at the September 12 Governing Board meeting.



Campus Police (PCPD)

At the invitation of PCPD, CSU San Marcos K-9 handler Sgt. Angulo and his explosive detection dog visited the San Marcos campus on August 1. They engaged with Student Services Center employees on the topic of suspicious packages and bags, and PCPD addressed questions.

Chief Moore met with the Escondido Chief of Police Edward Varso to discuss the upcoming installation of the fencing project at the Escondido Education Center and other Center related topics. The Escondido Police Department is a collaborative and reliable partner in the safety and protection of the Center. Later in the month, Chief Moore attended the first anniversary celebration of One Safe Place hosted by the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

Along with facilities and information services colleagues, Campus Police responded to and supported the needs of the College during the closure on August 21. Officers were responsive to issues at the education centers and the San Marcos campus. Campus Police supported Ask me Booths and Welcome Week activities. Over three thousand student parking passes were sold, and enforcement will begin the week of September 5.

Construction & Facilities Planning Update

Prop M Projects

Athletics Stadiums Project: Masonry work is continuing on the softball fieldhouse building and football press box. The bleacher contractor is now onsite and starting the foundations for the bleachers on the visitor's side. Installation of the new sewer main line and maintenance hole was completed. The project is now approximately 58% complete. There is one Change Order on the September Governing Board agenda for this project in the amount of \$653,940 which increases the total change order rate to 3.19% for the project. A Topping Out Ceremony is currently scheduled to take place in the afternoon on September 20.

Athletics Fieldhouse Project: We have received our second round of comments from the Division of the State Architect (DSA) and project that a building permit will be issued by the end of September.

Fallbrook 40 building and Irrigation Well: The Fallbrook 40 project plans are in DSA plan review with initial comments pending. The bidding for this project is projected to occur in the beginning of 2024. DSA has issued the building permit for the irrigation well at the Fallbrook Education Center. The District is processing a contract with Cumming Management Group, Inc. to prepare the project to go out to bid and function as the Owner Agent on the project during construction.

Replacement of the Dome Roof: All of the plexiglass panels have been replaced with metal panels. The contractor will complete the roof membrane over the new metal panels by September 15. This will mark the completion of the project and a 20-year roof warranty on the Dome will be obtained. This is the first warranty since the Dome was built in 1958.

Student Housing Grant

The September 12 Governing Board agenda will include an item to award a contract to Brailsford & Dunlavey as the District Advisor to assist with the feasibility review and planning process for potential student housing. Next steps will be to create a user group and oversight group to collaborate with the consultant on the study.



Additional Projects

Escondido Fencing Project: The Escondido Education Center safety and security fencing project is projected to begin on September 5.

Wildfire Defensible Space Project: The District was awarded a grant by the County Board of Supervisors which will allow the District to design and implement a progressive “Defensible Space” concept to protect the Early Childhood Education Lab School and Arboretum areas of the San Marcos campus. Irrigation work has been installed and most plants have been planted.

Parking Lots 1, 2, and 12 Pedestrian Safety Improvements project: A notice to proceed with preliminary design efforts to develop a solution to pedestrian safety concerns in both parking lots has been signed. Design work is continuing, and a draft plan is due in mid-September.

Swimming Building (SW) Locker Replacement Project: The District is getting quotes from two contractors to remove all of the existing men’s and women’s lockers in the building and replace them with new lockers using State Scheduled Maintenance funds.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Human Resource Services has been actively engaged in updating part-time faculty degree placement to align with the new salary schedule language in the Palomar Faculty Federation (PFF)/District Successor Agreement. This is a large undertaking, yet the outcome will be a positive step towards part-time faculty parity. We will be working with PFF to share the contractual updates with colleagues to ensure that all employees and administrators are aware of and can implement any changes.

Human Resource Services continues to work with divisions on their staffing needs and updates to classifications. This work is critical to ensure that positions are reflective of the duties assigned and that we recruit and engage the most qualified candidate. Additionally, we continue to look at future staffing priorities for the education centers and to fill vacancies.

Benefits

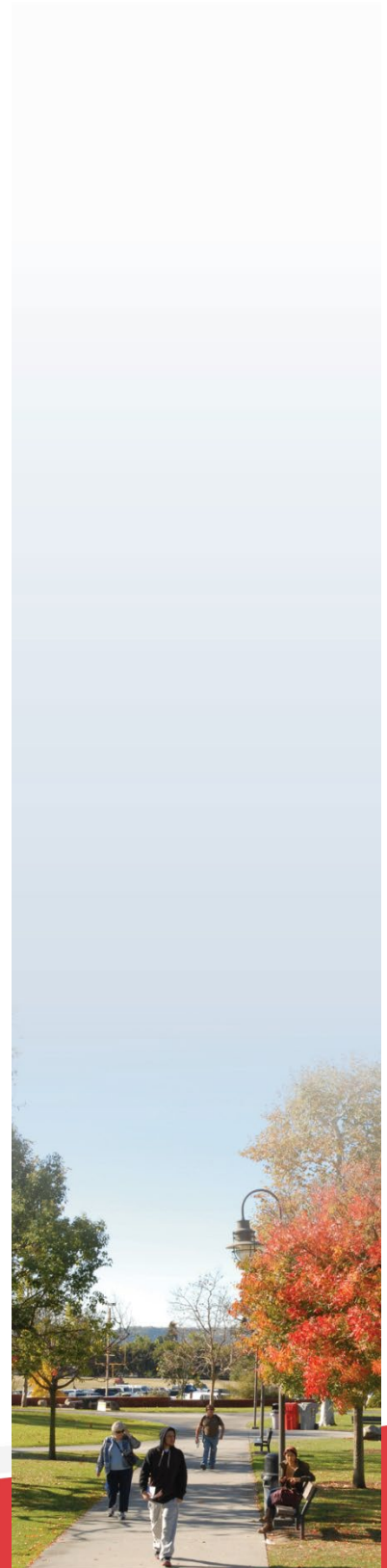
Human Resource Services now has an UbiDuo communication device available to enable effective communication with our deaf and hard of hearing colleagues and community members. HRS team members participated in an in-service training on the features and proper utilization of the device. It can be used onsite and also in remote locations such as workshops and job fairs.

Open Enrollment ends on August 31. We are not expecting a large volume of plan changes. The part-time faculty open enrollment period will begin the day after the fall census. We expect the part-time faculty open enrollment to generate increased interest due to the new medical benefit structure which provides employer fully paid medical.

Recruitment

Recruitment figures as of August 28, 2023:

- 69 permanent recruitments in progress
- 10 – Admin/CAST
- 46 – Classified
- 13 – Faculty



- 67 part-time faculty recruitments are in progress.
 - Eleven additional part-time faculty postings have closed, and departments are still hiring from those application pools.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING (IR&P)

Accreditation

The final draft of the Accreditation Follow-up report is complete. The draft report was sent to the Accreditation Steering Committee and the Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Fiscal Stability Council. The Committee and Council will review the report at their first meeting on September 1. The Governing Board will receive an overview of the report at the September 12 meeting.

Integrated Planning

A joint meeting of the College Council and Educational and Facilities Vision Plan Task Force was held on August 15 to review the Vision Plan 2035 highlights. The group discussed the Educational Vision Plan, specifically the enrollment targets, vision for the education centers, and goals and objectives. In addition, they reviewed and discussed the Facilities Vision plan with a focus on the facilities list and location site maps. HMC Architects is preparing the final draft that will go to the College Council for the first reading and feedback on September 8. A Governing Board workshop is scheduled for September 5. During the workshop, the Board will review and discuss highlights from the plan.

Institutional Research

The research team is preparing for the fall submission of the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) surveys. The fall surveys include the following: institutional characteristics, completions, and 12-month enrollment. The completion of the IPEDS surveys is mandatory for all institutions that participate in any Federal financial assistance program (i.e., Federal Financial Aid programs) authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

Grants

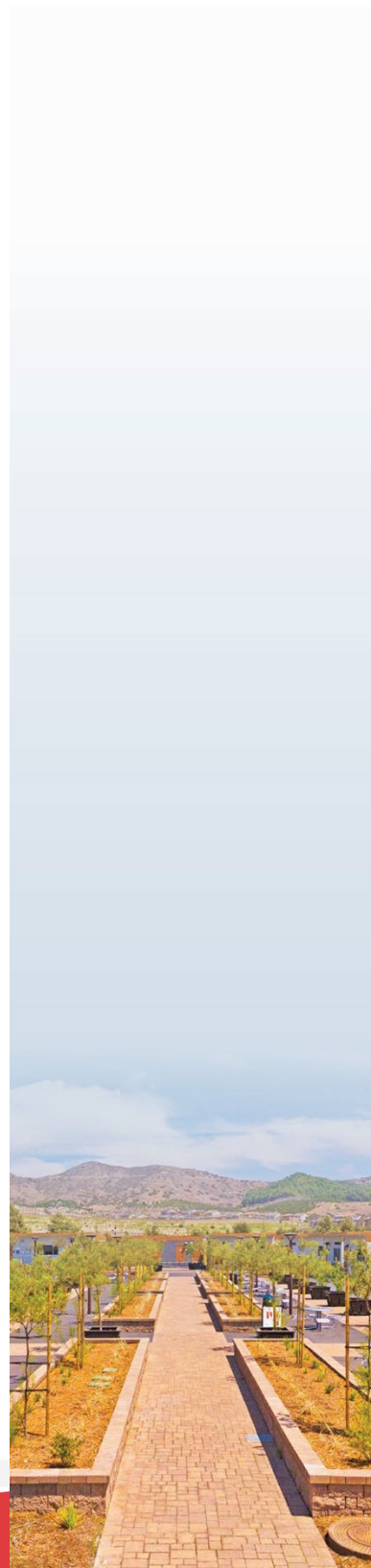
The grants manager has completed a final draft of the inaugural Palomar College annual grant report. Once reviewed by fiscal services, the report will be distributed and posted on the IR&P webpage.

The College received notification from CSU San Marcos (CSUSM) that their 2023 Bridges to the Baccalaureate (B2B) Training Program grant was approved. As a sub-awardee along with MiraCosta College, the B2B program focuses on the academic and career development, and seamless transfer of underrepresented students from Palomar College and MiraCosta College to CSUSM with anticipation that the scholars will earn a bachelor's degree related to biomedical sciences. In result, increasing the number of underrepresented biomedical scientists in the workforce. The grant will be on a future Governing Board agenda for acceptance and approval.

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. This integrated



digital advertising strategy generates qualified traffic to the associated landing pages and palomar.edu website. In the month of July, the campaign generated over 875,800 impressions, while remaining cost efficient.

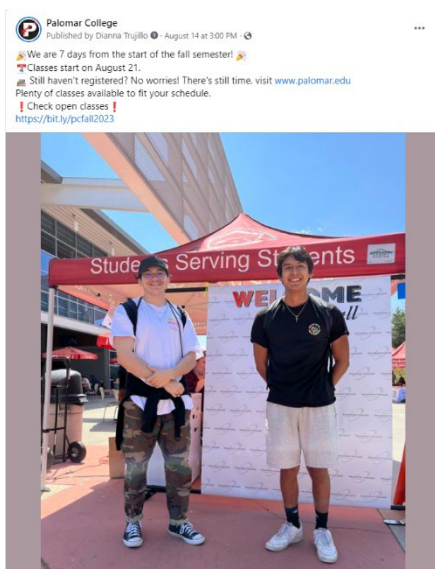
The web streaming campaign that launched on July 17 and is designed to engage our target audiences for fall classes, has resulted in nearly 1.6 million impressions and an above industry standard click-thru-rate. The video portion of the campaign generated a video completion rate of 98%, also above industry standard. The campaign will end on September 3 and includes endorsement ads featuring alum 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 August we experienced an 18% increase in users and a 21% increase in new users on the palomar.edu website. These statistics are indicative of the effectiveness of paid and earned media campaigns.

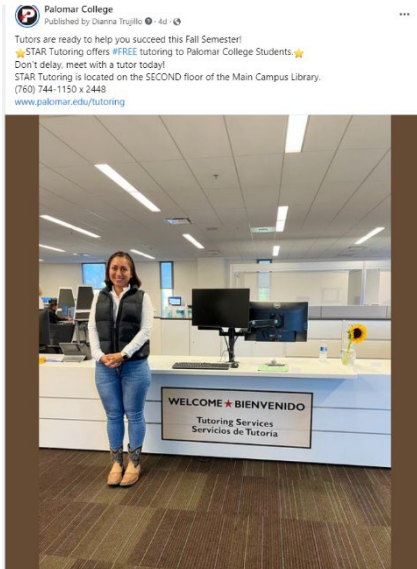
Social media remains the 5th ranked source of all traffic generated to the Palomar.edu website. Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram generated the majority of the social media traffic to Palomar.edu. The other overall top channels of traffic to the website are direct traffic, organic search, referral traffic, and display.

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 August 2022. Instagram is continuing to show the largest year-over-year increase at 18%. LinkedIn followers increased 7%. Followers on our TikTok channel grew over 4% in August compared to the previous month and 96% compared to August 2022.

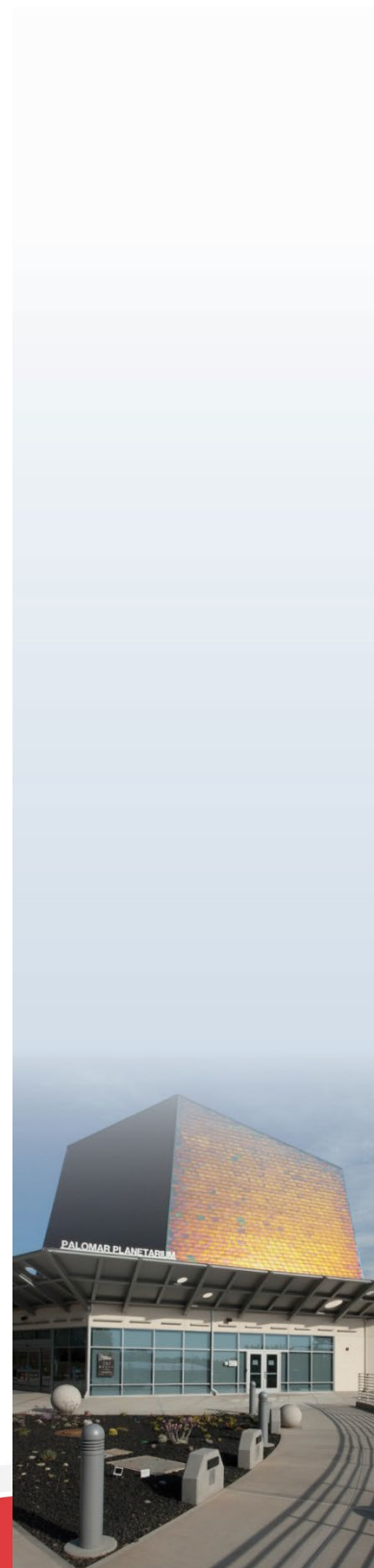
Throughout the month of August, our social media posts included support for fall enrollment, financial aid, performing arts, student services programs, and a specific paid campaign to support enrollment at the Education Centers.



Sample Social Media Post



Sample Social Media Post



Community and Media Relations

On August 3, we issued a [press release](#) on the hire of our new Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services, Nick Mata. In the middle of the month we distributed a press release announcing the implementation of the [Palomar College Pathway to Law School grant](#). As Governor Gavin Newsom issued a state of emergency in response to tropical storm Hilary, information was distributed to all media outlets regarding [our decision to close on August 21](#). Thankfully, we were able to open on August 22, and we issued a [press release on the start of the fall semester](#), inclusive of the new programs that launched. All of the press releases garnered the attention of local and regional print, digital, and broadcast media partners.

On August 30, faculty and leaders of the Veterans Resource Center, Military Leadership (MIL) and Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) programs met with a writer for an article in a special Veterans 2023 edition of USA Today magazine. Participants included Vice President Nick Mata, Associate Dean Nichol Roe, Associate Professor and CPL Coordinator Candace Rose, Assistant Professor Yvonne Hardy, Assistant Professor Daniel Balaszek, Associate Professor/Counselor Tina Barlolong, Acting Supervisor of Veterans Services Adam Pipitone, and PIO Julie Lanthier Bandy. The writer is developing a story on community approaches to assist student-veterans prepare for and transition to the workforce. We are looking forward to being featured in the article which will be published in early November.

Internal/External Communications and Public Affairs

In addition to the media relations efforts, we developed and posted a [feature story](#) on a former Palomar College student who was honored with a top award from the Marine Corps Association. These stories and our press releases can be found on the [Palomar News website](#).

To prepare our students and employees for the closure of the San Marcos campus on August 21, initial communication and frequent updates were distributed via email, on social media networks and on our Palomar.edu homepage. The communication efforts started on August 19 and continued steadily through August 27.

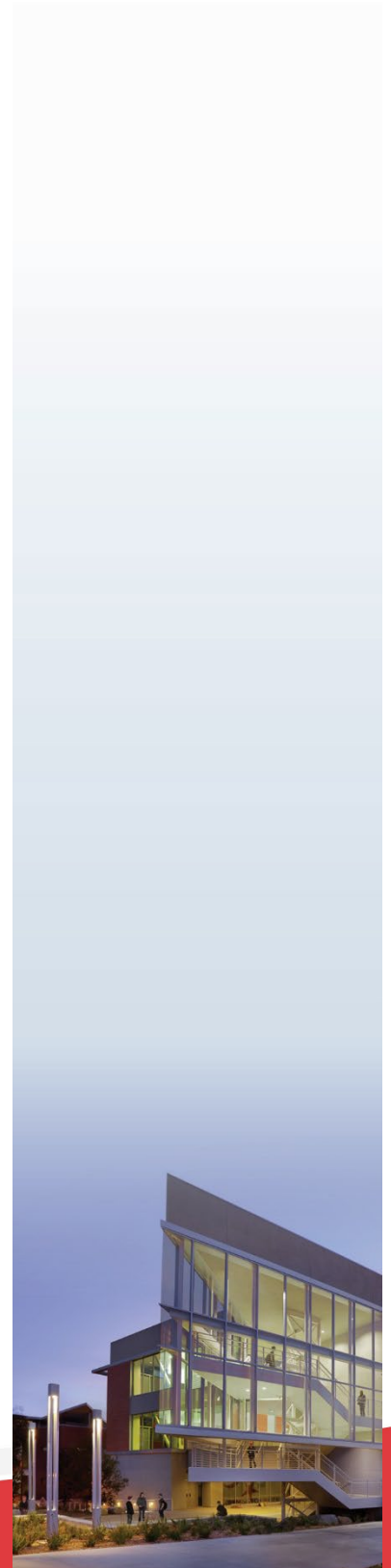
During the past month, our creative services team supported the development of the tutoring signage program for the new tutoring offices, welcome week signage, and performing arts collateral, among a myriad of other design and printing projects.

FOUNDATION

Fundraising Activities

Scholarship Program

The Foundation received \$32,625 from the Bernard Osher Foundation/Foundation for California Community Colleges to support numerous Palomar College scholarships awarded in the Fall 2023 semester. This is a matching scholarship program established in 2009, generating annual scholarship revenue between \$60,000-\$80,000. The Foundation also received \$5,000 for the Susan Griffin nursing scholarship, \$3,000 from the Women's Club of Carlsbad for their scholarships and \$750 from Haydn Davis for the Davis/Milstein AODS scholarship. Fall scholarships totaling over \$150,000 were disbursed to Palomar College students during the first week of the semester.



Grant Program

HMC Designing Futures Foundation approved a \$5,000 grant to support students and program needs for architecture and design. Funds are available to be used for programs or scholarship support.

Golf Classic

The President's Invitational Golf Classic golf committee met this week to continue to work sponsorship revenue for the event. Revenue to date has exceeded \$100,500 with six weeks leading up to the tournament. The golf classic will take place on October 9 at Maderas Golf Club and is the largest fundraising event for the Foundation.

Donor Stewardship

The Foundation participated in Fall Plenary on August 18 to welcome back faculty and staff. We hosted a table to engage all with the monthly payroll deduction campaign. Our team gave all C.I.R.C.L.E. (Comets Investing in Really Changing Lives through Education) members a special gift to help RISE and SHINE for a new semester! During Plenary, nine new staff members joined the C.I.R.C.L.E.



Foundation Team Members Roma Ferriter and Kayla Kelsey at Plenary

Community & Donor Engagement

Executive Director Stacy Rungaitis hosted several donor development meetings in August. These included campus tours with Rachel Ford Hutman of Hutman Media who will be joining the Foundation Board of Directors in 2024 as well as the new CEO of the North San Diego Business Chamber, Chris Thorne. In addition, Stacy met with PNC Bank Senior Vice President Rick Martinez to explore potential partnership opportunities as PNC expands operations in San Diego County. Stacy also hosted Greg Snaer, an active member of the Palomar College Black/African American Community Advisory Council to discuss the impact of the Community Advisory Council as well as arrange for a meeting with Greg's colleague who is interested in supporting the Rising Scholars program at Palomar College.

The Foundation Board Finance and Investment Committee met on August 14. This group reviewed and approved the recommendation of the Audit Committee to accept the outstanding 2022 Foundation audit conducted by Wilkinson, Hadley and King.

