

# Classified Senate Holiday Newsletter

December 2025



*Classified Senate and CSEA members at the BOT meeting on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>*

## Season Greetings!

Dear Classified Professionals,

Thank you for your continued interest, involvement, and support of Classified Senate work this year. Whether you served as an area senator, joined a committee, attended open meetings, or simply stayed informed, your engagement has made a real difference. I am especially grateful to our senators and executive board members who dedicated countless volunteer hours to ensure classified voices were taken seriously and backed by a shared expectation of fairness and respect across the district.

This year, Classified Senate members took an increasing number of leadership roles. We now have chairs and campus leaders in several key district committees, including the Shared Governance Council, Project Advancement Teams, Accreditation, PAC-B, and many more.

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## Exciting News!

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- Holiday Party & Toy Drive (pg. 7)



**Candy Grams are  
BACK with a new  
premium option!**

### Deadline for order:

Friday, December 5 by 1:00pm  
(No late exceptions)

Order your Candy Gram (\$5.00)  
here:

[Candy Grams Order Form](#)

Purchase includes a  
SEE'S Candy Gram Card & Candy Bar  
Any questions email Joanna Kelly  
at [Joanna.kelly@canyons.edu](mailto:Joanna.kelly@canyons.edu)



In addition, our subcommittee, Canyons Cares, led by Vice President Joanna Kelly, continues to thrive in classified efforts to directly support students. I am confident that our coalition of classified employees is stronger and more united than ever.

The shifts we have seen this year at the college have been unmistakably significant, with more potential changes ahead with the CEO, CIO, CBO, and CHRO permanent position hirings still to come. The college is evolving quickly, but I am glad to be in this with all of you together. I also want to acknowledge that many of us are aware to varying degrees of the external actions taking place with the district attorney's office and other legal matters impacting the College. These developments raise important questions about the values that guide our institution. I will continue to speak plainly and push without hesitation for greater transparency and accountability than ever before. With that in mind, I encourage more of you to get involved and participate with your colleagues in building a better future for us all. Consider becoming a Classified Senator or joining a committee. And, if your schedule does not allow for that level of engagement, reach out and have a one-on-one conversation with me or a senate board member to share your thoughts or ideas or opinions.

In closing, thank you for all you do, for the care and compassion you show, and for the ways you lift each other up. May the coming weeks bring rest, joy, and a well-earned recharge. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support, feedback and friendship.

Warm wishes for the season,

Michael Monsour  
Classified Senate President

*Michael Monsour*

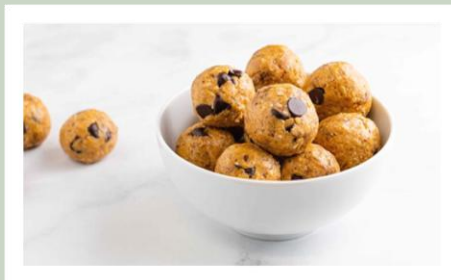


### **Holiday Recipe: No Bake Protein Balls!**

If you are looking for a healthy and nutritious snack for the holidays! The No Bake Protein Balls are great. The recipe calls for unsweetened peanut butter, vanilla protein powder, chai seeds, and flaxseeds to give you the protein source you need.

#### **Step-By-Step Instructions:**

1. Spread oats onto a small baking sheet and toast them at 350 degrees F for 10 minutes.
2. In a microwave-safe bowl, add peanut butter and warm it for 20 seconds.
3. Stir in sweetener and salt. Add toasted oats, protein powder, chia seeds, flaxseed, and coconut flakes. Let mixture cool completely. Stir in chocolate chips. Refrigerate the mixture if needed before rolling into balls.
4. Roll mixture into balls about 2 tablespoons in size. Place no-bake protein balls in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator. Enjoy it within a week.



*Photo of No Bake Protein Balls*



Last year's Joint CSEA and Classified Seante Holliday Party Planning Crew- 2024!



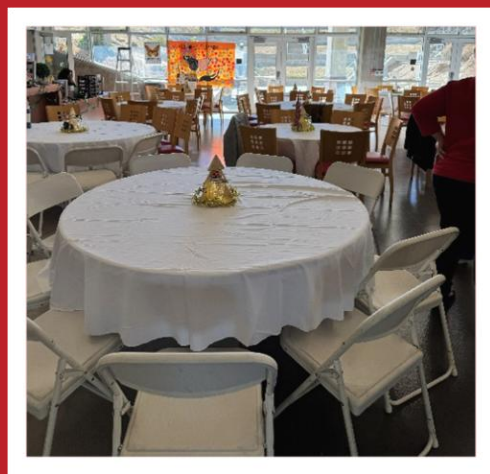
Last year's classified staff volunteer servers



Lots of yummy food!



Classified Staff assembling  
Candy Grams



Center Pieces for the Joint Holiday party





Group photo with CSEA and Classified Senate Staff with BOT Member, Dr. Edel Alonso on Snow Cone Day!



Christine Lopez and Sandra Esquivel on Snow Cone Day!



Marilyn Jimenez and Nick Schutz help with candy grams!



Classified Staff relaxing in the NEW! Classified Break Room!

## Classified Senate's Holiday Gift Idea Box

Each year our Senate asks around for practical, fun, and reliable gift ideas that work for a wide range of people (kids, adults, coworkers, and families). Below is this year's collection of staff-approved picks across different price ranges and interests. These are items that are easy to wrap, surprisingly useful, and already enjoyed by many of us on campus. All can be found on Amazon:

### Stocking Stuffers and Under \$25



#### **Bone Suckin' Seasoning & Rub – \$6.95**

A versatile and flavorful seasoning that works for grilling, roasting, or adding a little personality to weekday meals. A simple and affordable stocking stuffer for the BBQ lover. Tip: put mustard on the meat first as a binder and sprinkle this on. It is a Senate favorite.



#### **DEWALT Anti-Fog Safety Goggles – \$9.99**

Comfortable, durable, and surprisingly appreciated by spouses of DIYers who need safety protection. A practical gift that actually gets used. Pair it with ear protection to help keep your loved one safe when using saws or other tools.



#### **Hover Soccer Ball 2-Pack with LED Lights – \$20.99**

A fun indoor activity for kids. The soft foam bumpers protect furniture, and the LED glow makes it especially appealing on winter evenings.



#### **CH Hanson Magnetic Stud Finder – \$16.00**

No batteries required and consistently reliable. A great small gift for new homeowners or anyone hanging decor. It is a simple magnet that finds either metal studs or nail heads in wood studs. Drag it across the drywall until you feel it pull and you have found your stud.

### Gifts Under \$50



**Rceico Rocket Launcher – \$29.99** A high flying outdoor toy that launches foam rockets up to two hundred feet. Popular with kids and fun for adults too. This one is rechargeable and goes way higher than expected. Avoid windy days or you may lose it and use it in a park or open space, so you do not end up on the roof.



#### **iHaHa 299-Piece Construction Racetrack Set – \$39.99**

A flexible and customizable racetrack system that keeps kids engaged for long stretches. The cars are AA battery operated, so they run on the track but do not draw power from it. Great for little ones who enjoy designing their own layouts. Only two cars are powered. Other themes such as dinosaurs are also available.



#### **K-Brands Auger Drill Bit Set – \$23.99**

A helpful gardening tool that makes planting faster and easier. Fits standard drills and is well reviewed. This loosens soil for easy planting. Go slow because if you hit a root or rock, it can bind and kick a little.



## Gifts Under \$150



### Yamaha GL1 Guitalele – \$108.89

A compact hybrid of guitar and ukulele that is easy for beginners and portable. A unique gift for anyone interested in learning music. Think of it as a small guitar with a softer island style sound. Many people do not even know this category of instrument exists.



### YOWHICK Smart Home Projector (1080P) –

**\$109.99** A budget friendly projector for occasional movie nights or gaming sessions. While high end laser projectors cost much more, this unit and many others offer Wi-Fi and Bluetooth and provide a simple and affordable theater experience. For a few more dollars you can find a 4K version too. Read reviews and watch YouTube videos before you purchase.



### Snowie Little / Snowie Max Snow Cone Machine - \$194.35

Classified Senate uses this exact machine for snow cone events. It makes incredibly fluffy snow, even in winter. It includes sample syrups and cups and uses regular ice cubes. Smart and Final carries additional syrup options.



### Govee Permanent Outdoor Lights Pro (100 ft)

– **\$279.99** These are expensive, yes, but fanatic led color adjustable lighting. When it's not the holidays you can change it from multicolor to a warm white mode to make your home more welcoming and safer. If you want to make it look even better, you can get cable covers and cut them to the length between the lights like this example from lowes.



Once installed, no more ladder climbs for holiday lights, and colors for every holiday.

## Holiday Splurge Picks



### BeaverBot Cardboard Cutting Tool – \$208.99

A safe kid friendly cardboard cutting tool that opens up a wide range of craft projects. It is essentially a mini scroll saw designed so you cannot cut yourself. Works best with thin cardboard such as shoe box material.

*Disclaimer, the Classified Senate is not responsible for any defective products, returns, or price changes. Please do your own research before purchase and use all gifts as directed by manufacturer.*



## Annual Toy Drive!



To benefit Children and Youth in Foster Care!

*Donations Accepted through  
Thursday, December 4th*

### Donation box Locations:

Valencia  
EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs  
office at the Student Support  
Center (SSC) 117

Canyon Country  
Student Services & Learning  
Resources Center (CCSS) 111  
or the Mail Room

## Joint Annual Holiday Party!



**Location:** Intercultural  
Center (ICC), Bonelli Hall  
**Date:** December 16, 2025  
**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:30pm



## Understanding Classified Senate, CSEA & Canyons Cares

The **Classified Senate** acts as a representative body for the classified employees, ensuring that their voices are heard and valued. We focus on improving the College from the perspective of the classified workforce, advocating for their interests, and collaborating with the administration to create positive work environment for all.

The **CSEA Union** plays a vital role in safeguarding the working conditions and contractual rights of classified employees. They advocate for fair treatment, equitable compensation, and a supportive work environment. They are there to represent your interests and address any concerns you may have related to your contract or working conditions. We highly recommend you join our local union chapter to benefit from representation.

**Canyons Cares**, a subcommittee of Classified Senate, is dedicated to fostering meaningful engagement between students and staff. We believe that strong student-staff relationships contribute to a supportive and thriving academic environment, and we want students to know that staff truly care about their success.

### Do you want to get involved?

**SENATE:**  
[CLASSIFIEDSENATE@CANYONS.EDU](mailto:CLASSIFIEDSENATE@CANYONS.EDU)  
**CSEA:**  
[LISETTE.GODINEZ@CANYONS.EDU](mailto:LISETTE.GODINEZ@CANYONS.EDU)  
**CANYONS CARES:**  
[JOANNA.KELLY@CANYONS.EDU](mailto:JOANNA.KELLY@CANYONS.EDU)  
**SENATE**  
[WWW.CANYONS.EDU/CLASSIFIEDCONNECT](http://WWW.CANYONS.EDU/CLASSIFIEDCONNECT)

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