

That's Classified!

Classified Senate Newsletter | February 2024 | No. 2



"Other Duties As Assigned"
By M. Monsour and Adobe AI



Message from the President

I am deeply honored to serve another term as your Classified Senate President. I recognize that my effectiveness as a leader hinges on your support, trust, collaboration, and active participation. With over 300 classified professionals at our College, our collective strength is an unshakeable force when united in our efforts to improve our institution.

My aim is to accurately represent our shared thoughts, ambitions, and vision, and to create new opportunities for the Classified professionals. As we move forward together, I am committed to dedicating my time and energy to this cause on your behalf. In return, I ask that you actively engage and think critically about how you can make a difference this year. You don't need to hold a position on the Classified Senate Board to contribute to our efforts; what's crucial is that you continue to voice your perspectives.

Let's make this year representative of our shared determination to build a better future for ourselves, our students, and the community. My door is always open to your ideas, concerns, feedback, and discussions. I look forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime, I hope you'll find value in our latest newsletter. It's part of our ongoing commitment to stay connected and keep you informed. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Senate Secretary, Marilyn Jimenez, and to the entire Classified Senate Board for their dedication and hard work volunteering to assemble this newsletter for the betterment of others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Monsour". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Monsour

Classified Senate President

MEET YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024-2026

The Call for Officer Nominations was announced at the Dec. 12th joint holiday meeting between the Classified Senate and CSEA. Joanna Kelly, Vice President & Elections Committee Chair, confirmed nominations for the 2024-2026 term at the open meeting held on January 23, 2024, no further nominations were made from the floor. A special call for Senator positions was also made at that time. As a reminder, if any Classified Professional is working in an area not currently represented by a Classified Senate Senator and is interested in serving as a senator for their respective area, they can contact Joanna Kelly at Joanna.kelly@canyons.edu. The officers listed below represent the current approved Classified Senate board officers as of the time of this newsletter's release for the 2024-2026 term.



*Michael Monsour
President*



*Joanna Kelly
Vice President*



*Lisette Godinez
Treasurer*



*Marilyn Jimenez
Secretary*



*Melody Klingenfuss,
Public Information
Officer*

Non-Executive Officers



*Fred Bobola,
TLC Senator*



*Justin Bradshaw,
Custodial/M&O
Senator*



*Gina Thompson,
CARE Program
Senator/Outreach*



*Hiba Edgheim,
Career Services
Senator*



*Nick Schutz,
Library Senator*



*Norberto "Lalo"
Soto, Information
Technology
Senator*



*Souhaila Elmoukari,
Empowerment
Program Senator*



*Juan Renteria
Photography/Media
Senator*





A Soggy Start to Spring:

Crews Confront Downpours as Facilities Leadership Redefines Response

By **Michael Monsour**, *President*
and **Justin Bradshaw**,
Custodial/M&O Senator

In the wake of historic rainfall levels in the Santa Clarita Valley, our campus buildings have taken a significant hit. Persistent leaks have affected both campuses, impacting buildings both new and old, and signaling a pressing need for action and a change in past practices. Thanks in part to the innovative leadership approach of our new Vice President of Facilities, Erin Tague, there is hope that our lingering leak issues are on the path to mitigation.

She is fostering a new culture across the Facilities division, one that aims to embrace the insights of our frontline classified professionals. In conversations with Ms. Tague, she has expressed a commitment to more organized and strategic preventative measures for our buildings, while also acknowledging the inherited and long-standing issues with water abatement, which will take time to resolve through her newfound attention. These efforts include revising our routine roof maintenance processes prior to inclement weather and ensuring that each new construction project is properly inspected and tested for leak prevention standards before project completion.

In the meantime, classified leadership is gaining deeper insights into the root causes of these issues and the efforts already underway to repair them. For instance, Associate Vice President Jason Munoz invited CSEA and Senate Leadership to join a walkthrough of the ICC and Bonelli Hall leak sites alongside the roofing contractor, offering a firsthand look at the challenges they face. Following the meeting, classified leadership suggested that Facilities take additional steps by conducting regular mold testing, especially in areas impacted by significant water infiltration and areas prone to mold growth, and to post water/mold progress updates on a facilities website for transparency.

On this note, Classified member Justin Bradshaw has already been tasked with helping to maintain and organize a list of leak sites and repair statuses within a newly established incident database. He is now actively seeking input from those affected by leaks or related issues to report them ASAP.

Justin emphasized the importance of community feedback in identifying and tracking problem areas. "We need to know where the problems are and rely on those impacted to alert us to these issues," he stated. If you've encountered any facilities issues, we encourage our readers to reach out—regardless of past experiences or if you think it's probably a known issue. With the new leadership in place and a reinforced commitment to resolution, this era marks a reset in how we address our facilities' challenges.

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Lastly, we want to acknowledge the extraordinary teamwork and dedication of the Custodial, Grounds, and Maintenance Teams, who have tirelessly worked to combat the water incursions and protect our campus. Their unwavering commitment ensured the start of the Spring term. With crews operating until 2 AM on Monday and resuming at 5 AM the same day, they deserve special recognition and appreciation for their effort to save the start of Spring classes. If you see a member of one of these teams, consider offering them your support and gratitude in helping make our college operate every day, rain or shine.



Unsettling: Keenan & Associates Security Breach

By: The Classified Senate Editorial Board

The recent security breach at Keenan & Associates has sparked a wave of concern within the College of the Canyons employee community. The exposure of private information is unsettling, especially when its impact extends beyond employees to their families as well. In response to this incident, representatives from the CSEA, COCFA, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate leadership will meet with district representatives to address the community's concerns, ask questions, clarify policy, and better understand the path forward.

Should you have further concerns or questions, please feel free to reach out to your corresponding representatives. In the meantime, we encourage you to review the information and resources provided by the District and by Keenan. Specifically, we urge our readers to directly review the information on the [District site here](#) and to review the recent follow-up email from Dr. Temple, as these are the official sources of information. Here is some of the information provided at a glance:

Who is Keenan and Associates? "Keenan is one of our key vendors responsible for managing our insurance coverages for property, liability, benefits, and workers' compensation." As such, they had access to a range of personal information for our employees, including Social Security numbers, names, and addresses.

Notification Letters: Impacted individuals are receiving letters with more information. "You will receive a letter in the mail from Keenan with more details about the incident," notes Dr. Temple, VP of Information Technology. Formal notices began being sent out on January 26, 2024, as per the timeline provided.

Credit Monitoring: A 24-month complimentary service is being provided to affected parties.

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"Keenan will be offering you a free 24-month membership in Experian® IdentityWorksSM." Please note that the mail from Keenan includes a unique activation code, so be careful not to discard this letter upon receipt.

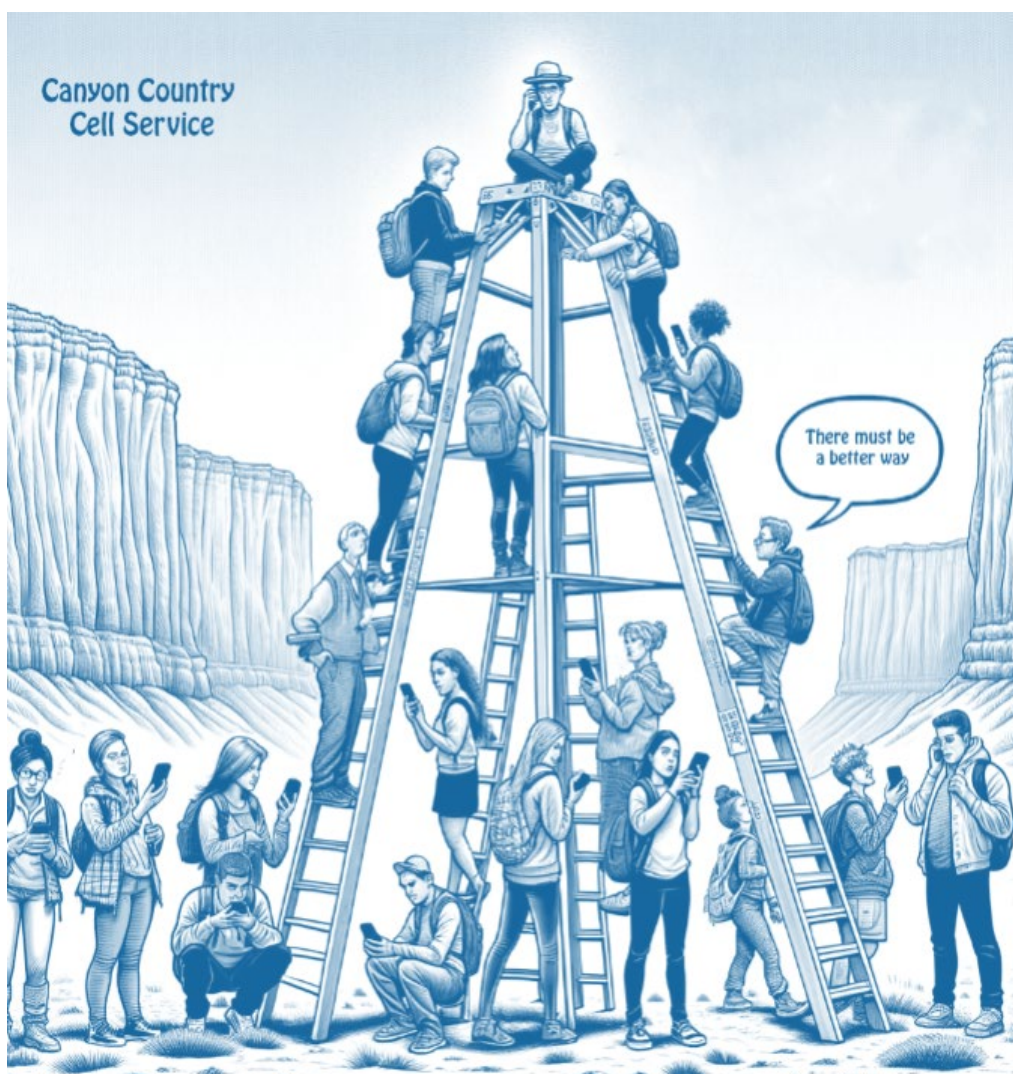
FAQ Website: The college has made this resource available for employees at: <https://intranet.canyons.edu/departments/it/iis/keenana.php>.

This is a developing story, but please know we are actively listening to your concerns and are committed to providing updates and support to our members.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Canyon Country Campus Cell Service

By: **Michael Monsour**, President



During our January Classified Senate Open Meeting, a recurring topic surfaced – the issue of spotty cell phone service at Canyon Country Campus. This challenge is as old as the campus itself. Situated amidst canyons that, while picturesque, disrupt cellular connectivity, the lack of service is an on-going complaint. Our cell phones rely on signals from nearby towers, and these signals can be weakened or blocked by physical barriers like the hilly terrain surrounding the campus. In response to these concerns, I reached out to Dr. Jim Temple, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Information Technology, who provided some insights. Dr. Temple stated, "Cell coverage at the Canyon Country Campus has come a long way since the campus first opened in 2007 with limited cell provider coverage and Wi-Fi technology-

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that didn't yet support Wi-Fi calling." He emphasized the improvements made over the years, particularly the expansion of a high-speed mesh network of wireless access points, enhancing the campus's Wi-Fi capabilities to support Wi-Fi calling.

While this development has been beneficial for those familiar with the internet-based calling workaround, it raises questions about its accessibility to all. For example, new students and staff might learn about this option during orientations or through word of mouth, but for visitors, this solution might not be as obvious. Classified members at the Senate meeting expressed their concern that this issue is being treated as a luxury request when, in their opinion, it has greater safety implications. For instance, they noted that in scenarios where power outages coincide with emergencies, the absence of cellular service as a backup to Wi-Fi could be significant.

I asked Dr. Temple about this concern, and he noted, "The campus is not solely dependent on internet and cell service for communication. There are several other communication mediums available. Short of a campus-wide power outage, both Valencia and CCC have redundant pathways to the Internet, so a true outage would be rare."

Dr. Temple also shared some hopeful news about external developments: "The city is working to expand cell tower locations with a new tower recently erected on Sierra Highway near Sand Canyon and an AT&T tower that is in the planning process almost directly across the street from the Honey House."

He also spoke about plans to install a DAS (Distributed Antenna System) at the campus, which helps distribute incoming cell phone signals. A DAS differs from a cell phone tower in that it is reliant on the existing signal strength from local providers; if the original signal is weak or disrupted, the DAS's effectiveness might be limited. In short, this option is not a standalone solution and works best in conjunction with other measures, such as Wi-Fi calling and improved signal strength from locally constructed cell towers.

When discussing the possibility of a dedicated cell tower on campus, the challenges became apparent. Dr. Temple recounted a past instance where the city's requirements for aesthetic integration (a requirement to hide it inside a bell tower facade) derailed the project due to cost barriers that no party wanted to pay for.

This situation reflects a broader dilemma: balancing the need for improved cellular connectivity with the practical limitations and priorities facing the campus. While the advancement of Wi-Fi calling and the forthcoming DAS antenna are steps in the right direction, achieving comprehensive cellular coverage remains a complex issue, mired in logistical, financial, and regulatory challenges.

As we continue to navigate these hurdles, it's important to acknowledge the advancements made while also recognizing the ongoing frustration faced by Canyon Country students and employees awaiting better service from the District and the city. Ultimately, the journey toward a future where seamless connectivity is a given on any modern campus still has a considerable distance to cover. In the meantime, please hold.

A More Perfect Student Union

By: The Classified Senate
Editorial Board

The Student Center on the Valencia Campus is set for a comprehensive makeover. Soon to be known as "The Student Union," the renovation aims to enhance and centralize student services.

The revamped space will include:

- *A contemporary Bookstore*
- *A redesigned Cafeteria*
- *Campus Life and Student Engagement offices*
- *Associated Student Government (ASG) headquarters*
- *ASG Computer Lab*
- *Student Health Center*
- *A Wellness Center*
- *Basic Needs Center*
- *International Services and Programs office*
- *Empowerment Programs*
- *A Lounge/Game Space for relaxation and socializing*

With DSA approval, the District will seek construction bids, targeting the start of construction by Summer 2024, depending on adherence to the outlined timelines. To minimize the impact on students, the relocation of offices within the Student Center is tentatively planned for the upcoming Winter or Spring terms, avoiding major transitions during the Fall or Spring semesters.



Relocation Plans During Construction

Dr. Ruys, Vice President of Student Services, discussed the strategy for temporarily relocating affected offices. "We are in the process of finding appropriate temporary locations to support the operational needs of each service, maintaining accessibility for students and staff. Consideration is being given to using classroom spaces in Hasley Hall for services such as the bookstore and Basic Needs Center. We will announce the finalized relocation plans to the campus community."

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Maintaining Food Services

Dr. Ruys has also responded to concerns regarding the availability of food services during construction, ensuring continued operations. "We plan to keep food services available on campus. The Coffee Kiosk near the amphitheater is set to reopen, the UCEN Café will continue to operate, and in collaboration with ISSI, food services will be introduced on the north side of the campus. We will provide updates once these plans are finalized." For those interested in this developing story and project, we are including some of the architectural plans. For additional questions or concerns, please reach out to Dr. Jasmine Ruys (VP Student Services) and/or Ms. Erin Tague (VP Facilities).

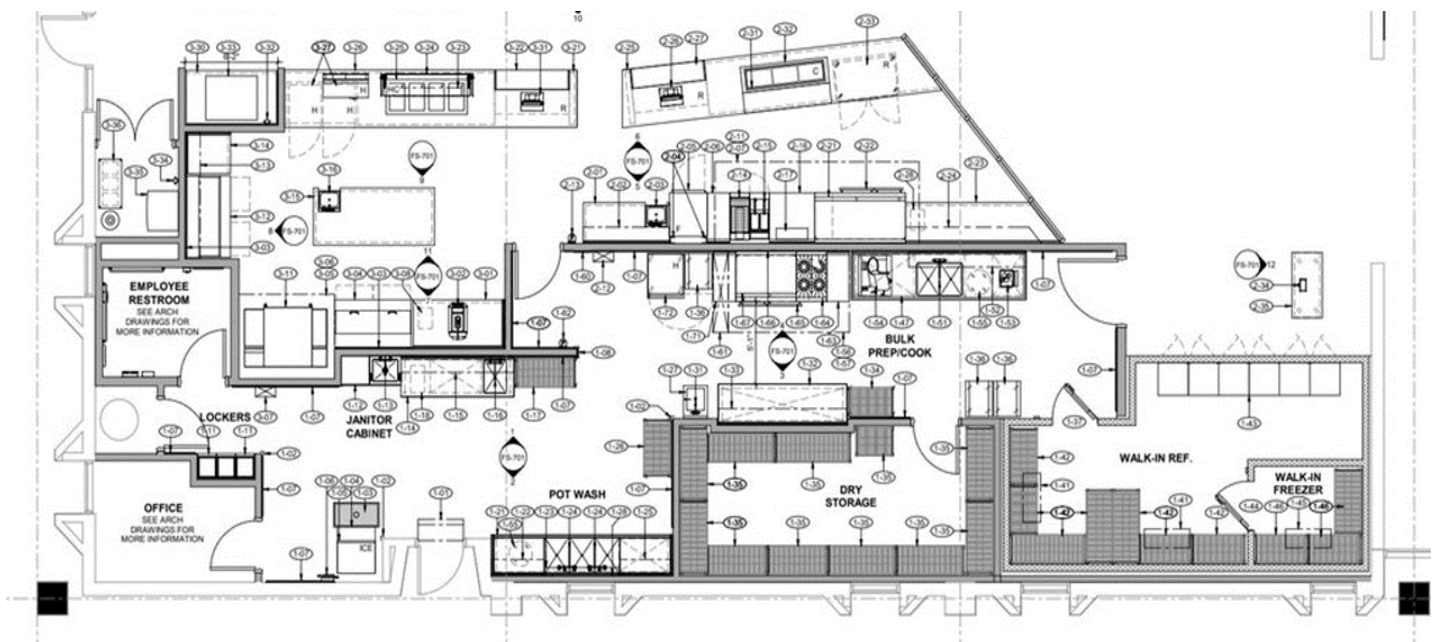
Student Center Modernization Project



First Entry Lounge Student Artwork Integration



*Second rendering Entry Lounge
Student Artwork Integration*



Cafeteria Rendering

For additional rendering layouts [Click Here!](#)



What's New with Canyons Cares?

By Joanna Kelly, Classified Senate, Vice President



Canyons Cares is a Classified Professional-led program (subcommittee of Classified Senate) that seeks to improve the student experience through bridging the gap between students and staff, inviting students to provide feedback monthly and invest in innovative projects that fulfill the high priority needs of our district. Originally derived from the Institute for Evidence Based Change "Caring Campus" movement, Canyons Cares strives to establish a local culture of caring and empathy while imparting a sense of belongingness on our students and visitors.

With the tagline "It's what we do!", it aims to improve student satisfaction, connectedness, College pride, engagement, and retention. Most recently, the group is planning to have a friendship bench at both campuses in an effort to encourage students to engage with one another and to connect them to student organizations they can get involved in. Although the primary emphasis is on students, it also provides a network of collegial support and fellowship to rely on in times of difficulty and challenges. Canyons Cares aims to ingrain the principle that *every* employee plays a meaningful role in student success regardless of position.

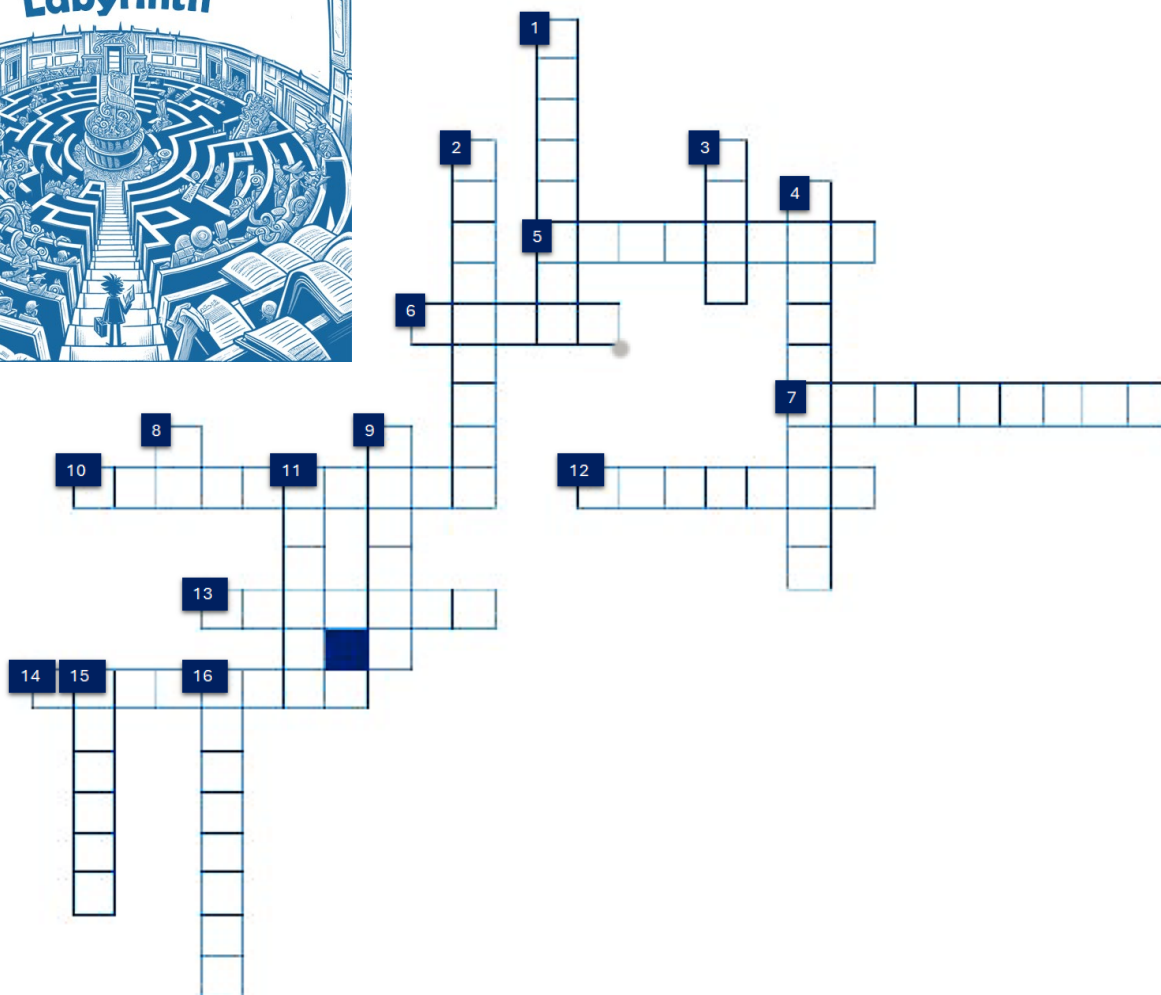
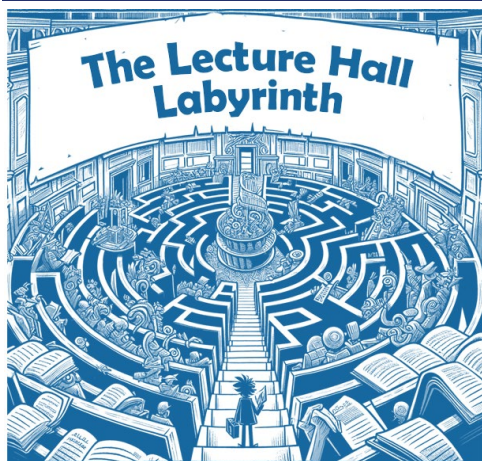


Picture on left: Joanna Kelley & Lisette Godinez with our COC Mascot; Picture on right: Canyons Cares Members

Friendship Bench Coming Soon!



Exciting news for the Canyon Country Campus community! A brand new "Friendship Bench" is coming soon, as part of the Canyon Cares Initiative. This beautifully designed bench, strategically placed within our campus, is more than just a place to sit; it's a bridge to new connections. Crafted with the aim of fostering socialization and encouraging open conversations, the Friendship Bench invites everyone who sits to possibly meet someone new and share a moment of togetherness. Whether you're seeking a new friend, need a listening ear, or just want to enjoy a peaceful moment in good company, the Friendship Bench is going to be a go-to spot. Stay tuned for its unveiling and get ready to connect with someone new.



DOWN:

1. Anxiety maker at half-way
2. East or West PE
3. A graduation garment
4. Miniature cheat sheets
8. A Professor's apprentice
9. The most dreaded week
11. A retired COC counselor, she is now doing something new
15. Academic Fuel
16. The ancient artifact OER replaced

ACROSS:

5. A "Canyon" Road
6. Annual ritual of financial hope
7. Mystery meat's locale
10. It's my favorite "ism" | NO, that's my favorite "ism"
12. A Quiet Place
13. The Deanery's Den
14. You'd better use a #2 pencil

How to Support the Senate?

[Make a Donation](#)

Follow Us on Social Media!

[@COCClassifiedSenate](#)


Classified Senate Meetings are typically held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:00am—12:00pm

For upcoming meeting dates visit: www.canyons.edu/ClassifiedSenate