



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

SUCCEEDING TOGETHER: MARCH UPDATES

Happenings at Pacifica for March 2023

Greetings, Pacifica Community,

How time flies! It's hard to believe we are in the middle of March, and the first day of spring, widely known as the vernal equinox, will commence next Monday, March 20th. As nature pulls back deep into the earth to give way to a much-needed waterfall in our region this week, many welcome with gratitude a hopeful new beginning to our lands.

The 2023 rainfall is the 6th wettest year to date over the past 129 years in Santa Barbara County, with our area already exceeding 150-200% of our annual rainfall. Thankfully, reservoir levels are rising, and we are moving out of drought conditions – but let us use this as a reminder of our ecology's delicate and turbulent nature. We must demonstrate the value of this new life given to us by collectively practicing conservation, sustainability, and preparation for climate effects moving forward and fighting for systemic changes to address what we all face.

These past months of challenging and changing conditions have tested many of the members of the Pacifica community. I am pleased to report the safety of those on campus, and thanks to our facilities team's continued commitment, the grounds remain in good condition.

March 2023 Updates:

- As part of our commitment to building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture for everyone, on March 8, we hosted a panel of dynamic and influential women from the Pacifica and local communities at our International Women's Day event. This event aimed to expand efforts to welcome people to campus to experience high-quality cultural events, meaningful dialog, and educational opportunities while engaging learners, faculty, alumni, staff, and the Board with wider community constituencies in powerful and transformational collaborations. A note of gratitude and admiration to all those who organized and spoke at this event. We encourage all to view the recording from this powerful conversation here: [International Women's Day Event – March 8, 2023](#).
- This month (and into early April), cohorts of **third-year students in our Counseling Psychology MA and Integrative Therapy and Healing Practices Ph.D. programs** will be having their last coursework sessions on our campuses. Programs host closing, celebratory dinners and rituals to honor these students

and their transition. Pacifica sends its collective congratulations and support on achieving this important step toward degree completion.

- Recognizing the beauty of diversity and honoring women's contributions in US history. I reflect on Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March and how [Black History & Women's History Months Remind Us That Beauty Follows Burden.](#)
- As we continue to expand partnerships and deepen engagement with our community, I was grateful to be interviewed by the [Montecito Journal as part of their Women's History Month features.](#)

Looking Ahead:

- [Commencement 2023](#) will be hosted at the Hilton Santa Barbara on Saturday, May 27. A more detailed announcement is forthcoming, but we are pleased to have Pacifica Alum, the Hon. Dr. Diane Goodman, serve as our commencement speaker. The Counseling program will also host their thesis presentation on Friday, May 26 at the Ladera campus. We look forward to honoring our graduates and celebrating the Pacifica community that weekend!
- It is inspiring to see the number of engagements and achievements that our learners and faculty are doing out in the fields, including several upcoming student presentations at conferences. Too many **awards, recognitions, presentations, and publications** to list here! But we'll soon be sharing these out on a more regular basis so we can highlight all the great work out in the world our Pacifica community members are doing.
- In April, I will present the **Listening, Learning, and Connecting Tour report** that was the focus of the first few months of my term as President &CEO. Part of this is a collective renewal of our Mission, Vision, Values, and Commitment statements, which all will have a chance to provide feedback. We'll review findings together and discuss action steps, priorities, and timelines moving forward to continue our growth and impact as an institution.

Continue to stay safe, healthy, and motivated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Mathison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Lee
President & CEO

