

March 2016

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Colleagues:

Welcome to this month's First Monday on the Mesa. The College is humming along through an incredibly busy semester. We have lots of activities coming up, and in this issue we celebrate and thank those that helped make last month's events a roaring success.



JUMPSTART YOUR SUCCESS

Saturday on the Mesa

Congratulations to everyone who helped make our 2016 Jumpstart on the Mesa event such a great success. We had 300+ students and their families, 80 faculty and staff volunteers, and over 60 student performers come together to discover all that is Mesa College! We also appreciate our UCSD and SDSU partners helping to welcome our guests and talking about the success of Mesa students at their institutions.



Black History Month

The College celebrated Black History month with more activities than we could all attend! It was a wonderful opportunity to learn, listen and engage with our community. Thanks to Judy Sundayo, Thekima Mayasa, Candace Katungi and many others for working so hard to bring these rich experiences to our campus. For pictures and more on the many events, see the **February e-News** [here](#).

New Faces on campus

We have welcomed more new folks to Mesa College-they are:

Amy Bettinger (SSA-Testing/Assessment)

Amy has over 10 years of student service experience at the community college and high school level serving as a high school head counselor for 7 years and most recently as a student services assistant in the MESA Program at Ventura College for three years. While at Ventura College, she provided direct services to students and was instrumental in helping the program double in size during her tenure.

Nicholas David (Graphic Artist/Photographer – Office of Communications)

Nicholas “Neeko” David comes to Mesa College with five years of graphic design and photography experience, most recently at Balboa Manufacturing. He holds a BA in graphic design from SDSU, and is a former Mesa College student. He looks forward to working with faculty, staff and students to enhance the Mesa College brand. Look for the guy with the camera at upcoming events and introduce

yourself!

Helena Hubbard (Senior Student Services Assistant - Admissions and Records)

Helena has been employed at the Mesa College Admissions Office for 10 years as a Student Services Assistant. She has full command of Admissions and Registration policies and procedures and helps to meet the needs of the diverse student population at San Diego Mesa College.

Dulce Carolina Lopez (Senior Student Services Assistant – Admissions and Records)

Dulce has worked as a Site Coordinator at Lincoln High School for the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as Barrio Logan College Institute, Interface Children and Families Services, and CSU Channel Islands. Dulce is a respected, self-initiator who works well with others. She is excited to join the Mesa family.

Daniel Stromwall (College Technology Analyst – Student Services)

Daniel has over 12 years of service as a technology consultant, computer operations associate and help desk technician in private and academic settings. Daniel has supported the technology needs of a diverse clientele, established core business products and solutions and managed customer relations. He is skilled at research, product development, technical construction, software management and training for end users.

Pablo Vela, (Digital Color Technician – Printing and Mail Services)

Pablo was born in Jalisco, Mexico, but now lives in San Diego with his wife (they are expecting a new addition soon!). He has worked as a Graphic Designer since 2008 and has several years of experience in the printing industry. He earned an interactive media certificate from the SDCCD ECC program, which provided experience in graphics, web design, and audio/video editing.



Exercise Science Center is open!

Our beautiful new Exercise Science Center opened for business on February 29th. The official grand opening takes place April 13th at 10 am. Look for more information soon.

Accreditation 2017 - ***Telling Our Story***

We are well on our way to completing the first fully developed draft of our Institutional Self-Evaluation Report. We now have writing teams meeting every week to craft each section. As we get closer to finishing, we will be reaching out again to the college to review and give input to the report. We are also working with the district office to complete their sections of the report. If you would like to join any of the writing teams, look for email alerts from our ALO, Dr. Danene Brown.



Veterans go to Washington DC

Our Student Veteran Organization is fundraising to get to Washington, D.C. to lobby for stronger education support for veterans. They are hoping to garner support:

- The Veteran Education Empowerment Act, which would provide funding for 30 student veteran centers on campuses throughout the nation
- The Support for Student Veterans with Families Act, which would provide childcare while student veteran parents advance their educational goals
- The Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2015, which would cover application costs to higher education institutions
- The GI Bill STEM Extension Act of 2015, which would expand the GI Bill by nine months for student veterans pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics
- Strengthening our ties with the Student Veterans of America and Veterans of

Foreign Wars Headquarters located in Washington, D.C. to bring the most up-to-date resources back to our constituents here in San Diego

If you are interested in supporting their trip, here is the link to their [GoFundMe](#) site.

Searches Continue

We are in full swing with faculty, staff and administrative searches right now. We are in the midst of first level interviews for most, with final interviews beginning in late March, April, and into May. We are excited to welcome more new folks on board across the college. Stay tuned for more new names in next month's edition.

In closing, I am finishing this newsletter in Los Angeles during my accreditation visit to East Los Angeles College (ELAC). Danene Brown is our team assistant, and we have 12 people on our team, all from community colleges in California and Hawaii. For the first time, all nine LACCD colleges are being accredited at the same time. You can imagine the complex nature of the visit, and the many coordinative activities afoot. Also different is that a full team is at the LACCD offices, and we are collaborating on those sections that overlay with the college standards. It is a good learning experience, and Danene and I look forward to sharing our experience with our teams when we return.

Have a great March!


Pam

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