



## FIRST *Monday* ON THE *Mesa*

SAN DIEGO  
**MESA COLLEGE**  
Office of the President

May 2019

### Smile Season is Here!

#### 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony

This year, Mesa College awarded approximately \$175,000 in scholarships to nearly 200 hard-working students. In celebration of our students and their accomplishments, scholarship donors and awardees mingled at a meet-and-greet, showed their pearly whites—and certificates—at the photo booth, put in their bids for some fabulous opportunity drawing baskets, and enjoyed a delicious three-course meal at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Mission Valley. Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors for providing these opportunities for our students.



#### President's Cabinet Retreat

On Friday, April 5, nearly one hundred Mesa College administrators, faculty, staff, and students participated in the [Spring 2019 President's Cabinet Retreat](#). Our robust morning agenda included discussions about student success and equity, and assessing how we are meeting our own self-identified metrics. Additionally, we set goals for the CCCCO Vision for Success, that will be approved by our Board of Trustees this month. We were excited to see the impacts of our new assessment and placement methods, and shift in curriculum to address AB 705 in English and Math coursework completion. We heard from each of our Mesa Pathways inquiry teams regarding progress on our plan – and discussed progress to date and goals. Toni Parsons, Howard Eskew, and our Mesa Pathways leaders, Manuel Velez and Trina Larson, kicked off a break-



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out activity where we considered how students and our institution would thrive in a pathways environment. In the afternoon, we discussed our plans and progress for Education and Facilities Master Planning, along with components, timelines, and feedback. I would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the conversation.

### Mesa College is Embarking on Master Planning

The Mesa College Master Planning Taskforce reviewed its charge to guide the development, review, and perform a college-wide vetting of the plan, to include the analysis of data and discussion of key findings and recommendations. The timeline for these activities began in Fall 2018 with discussions at PIE Committee about the taskforce composition and charge. At the recent President's Cabinet Retreat, members of the taskforce presented responses to the Padlet exercise that was conducted at the 2018 Fall at Convocation, during which 4 planning questions were posed. These responses were supplemented by responses from the taskforce. Continuing through 2019, the taskforce will work with the District and a consultant to assist in planning and implementation, conduct surveys and environmental scans, and pull information from program review to inform planning. The Taskforce expects a vetting of the draft to occur in Spring 2020, with the final version going to the Board by May 2020.

### Mesa/Guided Pathways Update

Mesa Pathways Co-coordinators Howard Eskew and Toni Parsons are continuing their outreach to various constituency groups and sharing the great work occurring. The Mesa Pathways Committee is actively reviewing and reflecting on this year's accomplishments, and setting goals for 2019-2020. On May 9, our "Mapping the Mesa" event will give Deans and faculty the opportunity to share how some disciplines are using Mesa Pathways to do collaborative work that aids students in achieving their personal, educational, and professional goals. On June 3-5, the college will hold the Mesa Pathways Summer Institute. Participants will engage in further mapping activities and cross-discipline discussions. Finally, the Leading From the Middle (LFM) team continues its work related to Mesa Pathways and are preparing to reconvene at the LFM Academy at Cal Poly Pomona on June 6-8.

### Culminating Ceremonies

Mesa College held multiple special graduation and end-of-year recognition ceremonies to honor stu-

## Q2. What is your one facilities dream?

- More Parking Lots
- One Stop Center ( Career Services, Work Based Learning)
- Dedicated Diversity Centers ( Women's Center, EOPS, LGBTQ+, Cultural Center, ASL and Deaf Culture, Dreamer Center)
- Performing Arts Center ( dance, concerts)
- Aquatic Center and Exercise Facility
- More campus lighting for safety ( including dark conscious campus lighting)
- Maintenance of existing buildings and spaces



dents, faculty, and staff. This past month, Mesa celebrated student success with our Honors Program Completion and Transfer Recognition Ceremonies, the EOPS Achievement Ceremony, the Raza Grad, the Physical Therapist Assistant Pinning and Completion Ceremony, and the San Diego Promise Ceremony. For event photos, please see our [Photo Album](#).

### Faculty Recognition Reception

Every year, we honor faculty members who are being promoted or retiring. Several faculty members advanced to Associate Professor, including Tara Maciel in Accounting; Irena Stojimirovic in Astronomy; Candace Katungi in Black Studies; Ida Cross in Child Development; Amber Alatorre, Nicholas DeMeo, Ramiro Hernandez, and Raul Rodriguez in Counseling; Laura Collins in Dental Assisting, and Jill Chagnon in Radiologic Technology. Retiring from Mesa College is Elizabeth Chu, Professor of Nutrition; Joseph Safdie, Pianta, and John Gregg, Professors of English; Richard Chagnon, Professor of Music; Virginia Sánchez Bernardy, Professor of Spanish; and Janice Clymer, Professor of Biology. Thank you to all of our faculty and staff for your hard work and dedication to serving our students and Mesa College community.

### Canyon Day/Canyon Classroom

On Saturday, April 13, Mesa College hosted its 11th Annual Canyon Day. This event allows students, faculty, and staff from Mesa College to join with members of the community to clean a section of Tecolote Canyon and the nature trails adjacent to the college. This year, over 100 volunteers removed trash, debris, and non-native plants to improve the environment and quality of the trails. A new addition this year was Canyon Classroom which was a fun, interactive event that educated school children and their parents about the environmental and recreational resources in the canyon. Children had the opportunity to learn about local seeds and plants, native animals, composting, and got to interact with goats from Mesa College's Animal Health Department in the petting corral. Park Ranger E. Weikel educated the children about safety, trash removal, and invasive plant species. I appreciate all of the volunteers – students, staff, faculty, and community members alike - who attend year after year to help take care of our neighboring canyon.

### Cultural Unity Week

Last month, Mesa College celebrated Cultural Unity Week with the theme "How Cultures Converge." The week of events included films and discussions to challenge and reframe our thinking, immersion tents and fairs to educate and experience other cultures, and the popular Festi-



val of Colors to celebrate cultural unity and traditions through the arts. Special thanks go to the Committee for Diversity, Action, Inclusion & Equity, and all those who worked and participated in these important events.

### Grad Fest

Our soon-to-be graduates prepared for Commencement with Grad Fest on May 1 - 2, where students picked up tickets, received their caps and gowns, and had fun selecting additional memorabilia such as class rings, diploma frames, and stoles. Students were gathered outside of the Mesa College bookstore for an opportunity to personalize their mortar boards. I loved seeing their creativity, and I am looking forward to seeing our students walk across the stage on May 18.

### Golden Scissors Fashion Show: Forces of Fashion

On Friday, May 3, Mesa College hosted its 38th Annual Golden Scissors Awards and Fashion Show which was produced by, and featured designs and clothing created by, Mesa Fashion Design students. The theme for this year's show, which was held at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina, was Forces of Fashion. Students from the City College cosmetology department lent their talents to complete the vision of our students' innovative designs, and the entertainment was provided by music and dance students. The event allows our students to gain experience needed for their future careers. The event began with a silent auction, and VIP guests participated in a special reception. All proceeds from ticket sales and the silent auction went towards scholarships for Fashion students.

### Commencement

The 2019 San Diego Mesa College Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 3:00pm. Our yearly commencement with once again take place at the Jenny Craig Pavilion at the University of San Diego to celebrate our graduates. We will be graduating our second group of Bachelors students along with our second class of Promise students. San Diego State Professor Dr. George Dionisopoulos was chosen as our 2019 Distinguished Alumnus. We have a lot of amazing things planned, so please encourage your students to sign up to walk and celebrate with us!

### STAR Awards

On Tuesday, May 8, we will hold our annual STAR Awards. STAR Awards recognizes the academic achievements, community spirit, and athletic excellence of Mesa College student athletes. Awards are given in a variety of categories including highest individual and team GPA, individual



**2019 STAR AWARDS**  
STudent Athlete Recognition

**When:** May 7, 2019  
**Where:** Mesa College Gymnasium  
**Time:** 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM

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and team community spirit award, team attendance award and the Super STAR award.

### Mesa College Research Conference

You are all invited to the Mesa College Research Conference (MCRC) on Friday, May 10, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This is an annual opportunity for students from all disciplines to showcase and present their research in poster format to academics, professionals, students, and the community. Students will have the opportunity to explore the questions that they are passionate about researching. They gain a number of benefits, including academic and professional development (e.g. portfolio), research presentation experience, and potential academic distinction (e.g. awards). Please join me in supporting our students at this event. Thank you to the MCRC Planning Committee.

### ASHIE Conference

The Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) Conference provided an opportunity for a team from Mesa to engage in professional learning, collaboration, and networking with other HSI practitioners across the U.S. The national conference is a forum where “best practices” are shared for improving educational outcomes for our Latinx and low-income students. We attended workshops and events where we learned about professional development opportunities and technical assistance for the implementation of Title V, Title III STEM funding, and other capacity-building projects. Thank you to all who participated in this conference, and I look forward to seeing what we learned applied to the work we do every day as part of our commitment to equity and excellence.

### Summer is Coming

This summer, Mesa will be offering over 600 classes in various subjects and disciplines. Each class will only cost \$46 per unit, and there will be many online options available. This is a great time to get ahead or make up your credits, especially with small class sizes during the summer. To see the summer 2019 Class Schedule, please visit <http://www.sdmesa.edu/Summer/>.



**GET AHEAD THIS SUMMER AT SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**  
**\$46/Unit**  
**Online Options**  
**Small Classes**  
**Financial Aid**



[www.sdmesa.edu/summer](http://www.sdmesa.edu/summer)

# Mesa Upcoming Events

**Mesa College Student Art Exhibition:**

Thursday, May 9, Fine Arts Gallery Reception and Student Art Sale is from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Ceramics, glass, art, jewelry, art books and accessories by students will be for sale.  
Performance by the Mesa College Music Department students. Light refreshments.

**Stem Lecture Series - The Spinal Cord: From Injury to Recovery – A Rehabilitation Perspective**

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., G101  
This presentation by Dr. Manjiri Dahdul will review clinical manifestations of spinal cord injury.

**WEB Development Portfolio Show:** Friday, May 10, 1:00-5:00 p.m., Lobby of BT Bldg

This networking event is open to all students and faculty. Come meet employers in the digital industry and get a glimpse at their work and new curriculum.

**Mesa College Theatre Company Presents: The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui**

Friday, May 10 – Sunday, May 12 at 8:00 p.m. nightly, Apolliad Theatre  
An allegorical and comedic tale following the rise of a leader with questionable ideas and traits. This satire alludes to real events in history while warning us of the power we lose as a community when we don't use our voices. Tickets for SDCCD Students and Staff, and Mesa neighbors are \$10, and General Admission is \$20. Tickets are available at [www.sdmesa/drama](http://www.sdmesa/drama).

**Free Farmer's Market:** Thursday, May 16, Sunrise Plaza

Mesa College will host The Stand's Free Farmers Market at 12:00 p.m.

**HIM Student Poster Presentations:** Friday, May 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Allied Health Building – Room S-201

Health Information Management Bachelor's students will present their capstone projects to the community. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP, please contact Connie Renda at [crenda@sdccd.edu](mailto:crenda@sdccd.edu).

**Veterans Recognition Ceremony:** Friday, May 17, 11:00 a.m., MC 211

Come out and support our student veterans as we recognize them for all their hard work and academic achievements.

**End of Spring Semester:** Saturday, May 25 is the last day of classes for the Spring 2019 semester.

New Hires/Promotions at Mesa College	Congratulations!
Trevor Amery	ILT/Sculpture-3D Design
Karla Trutna	Outreach Coordinator



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Is the [President's](#) monthly newsletter, published by the President's Office and the [Office of Communications](#).

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