

Hello Mesa College Community!

Weekly Update from Prez Hands provides a brief overview of the exciting efforts taking place within our community. The updates are also a great way to tell our collective story of success, and to document our journey of becoming the Leading College of Equity and Excellence. Enjoy!

OFFICE OF THE President



On Friday, October 10, the San Diego Mesa Community, joined by 21 community sponsors and over 200 guests, celebrated the Spirit of Mesa.

What an unforgettable evening we created together. The magic that filled the quad didn't happen by chance—it happened because of each and every one of you who poured your hearts into making this event extraordinary. Together, we raised over \$55,000--and counting!

We were able to showcase the impact of the World Art Collection, our affinity spaces, and our Mesa Impactship program, as told through Evie Maher, Jay Banda, Jaria Laurenvil, and Maria Teresa Rodriguez Rivera.

Special thanks to the Spirit of Mesa Committee, MCs Lorenze and Larry, Professor Lesson and his hospitality students, Mesa Ambassadors, and the Office of Resource Development team for making this evening so full of light and purpose.



Mesa Joins the Inaugural California President's Circle

Last week, I had the privilege of representing San Diego Mesa College at the first-ever *California President's Circle* convening, hosted by Generation Hope: FamilyU.

The gathering brought together higher ed leaders, advocates, and student parents to imagine what's possible when campuses truly include families. With 400,000 student parents across California, most of them first-generation students and students of color, this work is essential to creating policies and practices built with, not just for, families.

Thank you to the 20MM Foundation for supporting this vital initiative and to members of Student Parent Advocacy Alliance for ensuring student parent voices are at the center of.

Assemblymember Chris Ward visited Mesa College last week!

We had the opportunity to discuss important topics from Measure HH construction, participation in the Civic Center proposal, the SD Housing Finance Authority, and the new partnership with SDSU at the SDSU Mission Valley location. We also showcased our Pride Center and our World Art Collection on a tour led by Outreach Ambassador Roxanna!





Know Your Rights & Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Undocumented Families

Join us for a workshop facilitated by SDCCD and Higher Education Legal Services. Open to all allies, these sessions provide important information on immigrant rights and family safety planning.

Zoom: https://sdccdedu.zoom.us/j/85424752391 Did you know nearly 1 in 2 college students face food insecurity? We're on a mission to change that. Today marks the kickoff of the **7th Annual Pack the Pantry Food Drive!**

We've partnered with Cal Coast Credit Union and the San Diego Food Bank to provide healthy, nutritious meals to students who need them most.

Property \$1 donated = 2 meals for a student in need.

Let's come together to fight hunger and fuel futures. Donate <u>here</u>.



Know Your Rights & Emergency Preparedness
Workshops for Undocumented Families

Virtual Workshops

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS! EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Learn about immigrant rights and family safety planning. Facilitated by SDCCD and Higher Education Legal Services. This workshop is open to all allies.

Each workshop is from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Join Us on Zoom https://sdccd-edu.zoom.us/j/85424752391

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San Diego Colleg

Education

For more information, or to request disability services (at least five business days in advance), contact Dean Lillian A. Garcia at Igarcia002@sdccd.edu.

Oct. 15, 2025

Nov. 19, 2025

Dec. 10, 2025

All workshops will be in English with translation services in Spanish, and Haitian Creole





The new SDCCDsafe app is now available!

The San Diego Community College District is pleased to announce the launch of this new mobile device safety tool for <u>download in the Apple App or Google Play stores</u> by searching for "SDCCDsafe."

Features of the free SDCCDsafe app include: **Virtual Friend Walk:** Invite a trusted friend or family member to remotely monitor as you travel from point A to point B either on or off campus. If something goes wrong along the route, you or your safety monitor can alert emergency services.

Easy Emergency Communication: In an emergency, users can connect directly to College Police and their current location will be shared immediately.

Send Anonymous Tips: See something, say something. The app allows users to anonymously and discreetly report suspicious activity to College Police and include relevant photos or video.

Let Your Network Know You're OK: In the event of an emergency, users can mark themselves safe and share with their personal safety network.

Be proactive in adding the SDCCDsafe app to your smart device — don't wait until an emergent situation. For more information about the app and other District safety services, visit sdccd.edu/safety.

Please note: For employees and students of City College, the SDCCDsafe app will eventually replace the LiveSafe app, which has been available at the college for the past few years. Please make the switch as you are able in order to avoid a disruption in this safety service.

Take part in the great shake out!



October 16, at 10:16 am "Drop, Cover and Hold on"



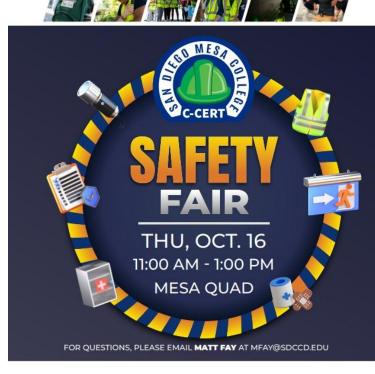
During the fair, you'll have the opportunity to: Meet local first responders, including our own **College Police**

Get hands-on training in **breathless CPR** and **First Aid**

Explore safety booths featuring resources on personal safety, emergency preparedness, evacuation, and **C-CERT.**

Explore the new SDCCDsafe App.

Join us to learn valuable skills and discover ways to create a safer environment at work and at home.



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Take part in the great shake out!



October 16, at 10:16 am "Drop, Cover and Hold on"



Led by you, in **your physical spaces**, participate in an earthquake drill. Please review the attached ShakeOut Earthquake Safety tips, and practice **drop**, **cover**, **and hold on** with your teams and students.

<u>Click here</u> to review the Earthquake Safety Accessibility Tips.



OFFICE OF Instruction

Fall 2025 Update

Our current headcount is 21,564 with an FTES of 6,192 which places us 3.7% over the FTES goal for this semester. FTEF took a slight adjustment upwards to 388 compared to 379 from the same time last year. Since last week's enrollment report, we have had 52 more students sign up for a course in the second eight-week session. With the second eight-week session courses starting this coming Monday, we are analyzing courses in demand and will explore any opportunities to maximize efficiency and support students' time to completion.



San Diego City Council Meeting - Filipino American History Month (FAHM) Proclamation Celebration In honor of our continued celebration of FAHM, here are some shots from the San Diego City Council's October 7 meeting, where the Council proudly recognized Filipino American History Month with an official proclamation honoring the Filipino community's deep-rooted contributions to both the city and the nation. Community leaders, students, and educators - including San Diego Mesa College's AANAPISI Director, Leland Simpliciano, joined the celebration at City Hall. The event highlighted the legacy of Filipino farmworkers, healthcare workers, and educators, emphasizing the importance of cultural pride, representation, and public service. This proclamation served as both a recognition of the community's past and an affirmation of its ongoing impact on San Diego's shared future!

For more local events click on the links below: FAHM Events on campus
FAHM Display at the LRC

SD Mesa Staff takes Intro to Improv for Educators!

Our AANAPISI AAPI Community of Practice Facilitators and other Mesa College educators recently participated in "Intro to Improv for Educators," a free professional development workshop hosted by Mockingbird Improv. The interactive session invited participants to explore how improvisation can enhance teaching, communication, and collaboration in educational spaces. Through laughter and creative exercises, faculty learned strategies to foster engagement, adaptability, and authentic connection with students—skills that reflect Mesa's ongoing commitment to innovation and inclusive learning.

To learn more check out their website (click here)



Legislatures Take the Lead: New Trends in Community College Governance



Congratulations to Dr. Austin Barraza!

San Diego Mesa College proudly congratulates our very own Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Austin Barraza, on successfully completing his Doctorate in Political Science from Northeastern University. His dissertation, "Legislatures Take the Lead: New Trends in Community College Governance," examines how state legislatures influence community college policy and governance across the nation. Dr. Barraza's work provides timely insights into equity, workforce development, and access in higher education—key values that align closely with Mesa's mission.





Questions? Mesalmpactship@sdccd.edu



The <u>Mesa Impactship Program (MIP)</u> is excited to host our upcoming **MIP Internship Expo** in a few weeks! We would greatly appreciate your support in promoting the event to students.

- m Thursday, October 23, 2025
- **10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.** (Employer set-up begins at 9:00 a.m.)
- Mesa Quad, San Diego Mesa College
- <u>for Students Register on Handshake Here</u> (Click Link) All students interested in completing internships & workforce training are encouraged to attend this event!

Network with 20+ employers to explore & interview for internships Connect with the MIP Program to get help with applying or recruiting for internships Resources, swag, resume tips, & interview support Live music by DJ Dante & FREE FOOD!

A few ways faculty/staff can help:

Announce & share the Expo flyer (<u>PDF</u> or <u>PNG</u>) in your classes or with students
Share the event details via email, as an announcement in Canvas, or post the flyer in your office
Offer extra credit for attending the Expo
Bring your class to the Expo

The <u>Mesa Impactship Program (MIP)</u> which supports underserved students with access to paid, creditearning internships through a one-time \$1,000 payment, along with mentorship and skill-building support.

OFFICE OF Student Services

Mesa International Students held a Pizza Mixer as a time to check-in with Mesa College International Student Team to see how their adjustment to Mesa is faring up to now. One of our International students, a commuter student from Tijuana, is excelling academically with a 4.0 GPA. She was recently hired as a tutor for BIOL 210A and also completed a summer internship at UCSD as a Bio Lab Assistant. She continues to excel and is passionate about helping others along the way.

Veterans Success Center sponsored SDSU Troops to Engineering Transfer and Career Seminar.

This is part of SDSU's commitment to support student veteran success. This seminar series is aimed at providing early career preparation at the community colleges making the transitions to four-year schools to include SDSU.



The October 10th SDCCD Student Leadership Conference, held this year at Miramar College, was a vibrant and inspiring event co-hosted by Mesa College, Miramar College, City College, and the College of Continuing Education. Student leaders from across the district came together to connect, collaborate, and deepen their understanding of shared governance and the Brown Act. The conference featured engaging discussions, college-wide updates, and a shared lunch that fostered a strong sense of community. Overall, the event strengthened connections and advanced leadership development across the SDCCD community.

The Financial Aid Office is excited to host the Financial Aid Information Fair for Fall 2025 on Tuesday, October 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Campus Quad!



For more information, contact Financial Aid office at mesaaid@sdccd.edu



Please join us on **October 22nd** for a day of excitement as we come together to show our Mesa College sports teams how loved they are! The Mesa College Associated Student Government have also arranged food and games on **the Mesa Quad starting at 12:00pm**, so come for the Pep Rally and stay for the party. Free food and carnival games will be available to all attendees.

Introducing the Just Report It Website

San Diego Mesa, City, Miramar, and the College of Continuing Education now have a quick and easy way to report concerns, complaints, or incidents online. The **Just Report It** website helps keep our campuses safe and supportive by connecting students, faculty, and staff with the right resources. Remember—if you see something, say something.

Report it here: https://www.sdccd.edu/students/complaint-process/index.aspx

Schedule a Presentation Today!

GRADUATION VS COMMENCEMENT



The Mesa Evaluations team is excited to offer a short, informative presentation to your classrooms, club meetings, team huddles, and student gatherings!

In just 10 minutes, we'll clarify the difference between graduation and commencement, guide students through the graduation application steps, and share helpful tips to avoid common mistakes.

To schedule a presentation please fill out the Mesa Evaluations Presentation Schedule

619-388-2680



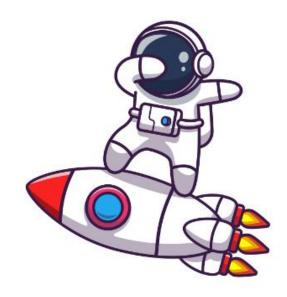


www.sdmesa.edu/evaluations mesaevaluations@sdccd.edu



Click here for the latest Mesa Journeys Newsletter!

The Mesa Journeys newsletter gives a more in-depth look at all the great things that are happening on our campus. We encourage all faculty and staff to pass this along to our students, and also to sign up to receive these newsletters straight to their inboxes! Click below to sign up and for more information about Mesa Journeys: https://linktr.ee/mesajourneys



Click on the flyer to enlarge



Domestic Violence Prevention & Awareness

You are not alone. We are here with you. You have the right to speak out.

HOUR

14th

23rd

Oct

STUDENT PARENT HEALING

CIRCLE 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

HEALING IN HARMONY 29th

9:40 am - 10:40 am Oct

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Rising Scholars CARE · CalWORKs · The Stand

Rising Scholars CARE - CalWORKs - The Stand NextUp
set for disability-related accommodations should be made no later than
working days prior to the event at samesamentalhealth@sdccd.edu
or visit Mental Health Services in 14-209 or call 619-388-2774

Reflect, Restore, & Unite Week

MUNITY BUILDING THROUGH RESTORATIVE PRACTICES
FROM OCTOBER 13TH TO OCTOBER 17TH

SDCCD POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 16TH 2025

11:00AM - 12:30PM

MESA COLLEGE Mesa Quad

COFFEE WITH A COP

Join College Police for free coffee, cookies & conversation!

Ask questions, voice concerns and get to know some of the officers working on your campus!







9th Oct.

23rd Oct.

30th Oct.















Movie Marathon

30th Oct.













Positivi-tea:

28th Oct. Costume Contest

15th Oct.

CESECE

UCSD

Mesa Faculty & Staff - Help Us Promote Transfer Student Success All Year Long

Schedule for a Fall Transfer Center Visit!

We would love to visit your classroom/department to provide Transfer Info Sessions and/or Application Workshop opportunities for your students!

October is National Transfer Month!

Wear any College/University gear **every Tuesday** in October! (10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28)

We LOVE Transfer Students!

If you transferred from a community college to a 4-year we want to highlight your story on our web page!

Submit your journey here

Important Transfer News!

- Application Workshops
 Transfer Day is Oct. 9th @ 10am-1pm
 New ADT Transfer Guarantee with SDSU
 Cal-GETC is the new UC & CSU GE pattern

mesatransfer@sdccd.edu 📞 (619) 388-2473 🎯 @sdmesacc





10AM-1PM FOR OUR: FALL DOG WASH

All proceeds benefit the Mesa College Animal Health Technology Student Association

your appointment. Small dogs (<20lbs): \$16 Medium dogs (20-40lbs): \$18



Large dogs (40-100+): \$22 free nail trim included!

Contact: Dana Mcnabb
Jeaneal Davis
dmcnabb@sdccd edu
Idavi:002@cdcd edu
Idavi:002@cdcd edu Jdavis003@sdccd.edu







OFFICE OF Administrative Services

Please submit your **Intersession/Spring 2026** classroom/laboratory computer (on-site and distance education) and other technology related equipment requests before **Monday, October 20, 2025**. Requests received after the posted deadline date may not be fulfilled in time for the beginning of the college term.

Software and hardware requests can be made by submitting an online Technology Request form (<u>Here</u>). These forms and other Technology related services information are located on our Homepage (<u>Here</u>).

Classroom technology support is managed by Mesa's College Technology Services while employee (Admin/Faculty/Staff) office technology support is managed by SDCCD's Information Technology Services.

Contact information for these two areas of support is as follows:

Classroom Technology Support

- Phone 619-388-2880 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-7pm & Friday 7:30am-4pm
- Email MesaCTS@sdccd.edu
- · Visit us at MC-215 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-7pm & Friday 7:30am-4pm

Employee Office Technology Support

- · Phone 619-388-7000 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
- Email <u>IThelp@sdccd.edu</u>

A detailed description of services such as audio visual, phone systems and related areas can be found on our website (Here).

It's time to bring out the *spooky vibes* or show off your *Mesa spirit*! ♥ ♥

The **Spook or Spirit Office Decorating Contest** is here, and we want YOUR office or department to join the fun. Whether you go all out with Halloween chills or dazzle with Mesa pride, this is your chance to get creative and show your team spirit! **Important Dates:**

- Enter by: Friday, October 17 Email Ayana Woods (awoods002@sdccd.edu) to sign up your office/department.
- Judging: Tuesday, October 21 between 9 AM
 11 AM.
- Winners Announced: Wednesday, October 22 at the Pep Rally in the Mesa Quad (starting at noon).

Prizes: Visa Gift Cards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners!
▶ Don't miss the chance to be crowned the spookiest OR most spirited office on campus. Rally your coworkers, get decorating, and let's make this Homecoming season unforgettable! And don't

forget— Cheer on our Olympians at the Homecoming Game on Saturday, October 25th at Merrill Douglas Stadium as Mesa takes on Mt. San Jacinto!

Go Mesa! 💙 🤎



OFFICE OF Institutional Effectiveness

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is excited to announce the launch of the redesigned **Awards Dashboard**, a new interactive tool that provides detailed insights into the awards earned by students at Mesa College.

This dashboard allows users to:

Explore award trends across programs and student groups.

Evaluate efficiency metrics, including time to completion and units earned.

Analyze equity gaps to determine whether awards are being earned proportionally across student populations.

These insights help track program effectiveness and inform strategies that guide students toward timely completion with fewer excess units.

You can access the Awards Dashboard here.

To schedule a demo, ask questions, or provide feedback, please contact acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu and ncortes@sdccd.edu.





A space to learn about our latest efforts to connect partners who share our passion for education with opportunities to give. See how fundraising can help you, our students, and Mesa's mission.

Learn More



Scholarship Cycle

For those of you who generously offer scholarships to our students, we have kicked off the cycle of renewal. Please take a moment to let us know if you will be offering your scholarship this year. All renewals, including funding, are due by **November 10th.**



What is an Innovation Grant?

Through a competitive process, the Foundation will award up to \$3,000 in grant funding to support projects, activities, and equipment that positively impact student success and drive innovation.

→ Access the official Request for Proposals here: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26 RFP

How can I apply for an Innovation Grant?

Submit a completed application form—<u>found here</u>—no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, November 7, 2025.

There are three steps to applying: 1) draft your content; 2) request letters of support from your Dean and VP; 3) submit your application for approval. For details...

→ Access a step-by-step guide and FAQs here: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26-StepbyStep

Pro Tip: Be sure to get an early start to allow time for gathering necessary approvals: the Dean and Vice President of your department must approve your application by the deadline. (Don't worry, this is explained in the application!)

How do I fill out my application?

Use our step-by-step guide to applying for an Innovation Grant—<u>found *here*</u>. Reach out to <u>MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu</u> if you have any additional questions!

Step 1: Download and fill out the application practice template—<u>found here</u>. Consult with your Dean and Vice President during this process.

Step 2: Request letters of support from your Dean and VP. You may use the letter templates available here: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26 VP Letter

Step 3: Fill out and submit the online application <u>here</u>. We ask that you do this in one sitting because you cannot save your work.

Step 4: Your application is completely submitted! Decisions will be announced in late December or early January.

Does my idea qualify?

The Mesa College Foundation focuses on projects that 1) positively impact student success, 2) align with Mesa's strategic goals, and 3) deliver innovation. Stipends/salary for staff are not eligible expenses.

I'm ready to apply!

Awesome! Because the online application does not allow you to save and edit your work, we've provided a "drafting playground" (Application Questions template) below.

Access an application drafting playground

here: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26 Application Questions

Access the official application here: https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26

For questions, or to schedule Office Hours with a Program Officer, contact MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu or book Office Hours here.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and facilitating the process of granting out funds! We will be helping out by sending reminders as we move through each step of the process. Be on the lookout for emails coming from me or Dr. Mike Lettieri.

Thank you for all your hard work for Mesa students!

Want to learn more about grant seeking?

View the flex workshop hosted by Dr. Michael Lettieri, who is leading grant writing efforts, and Krista Stellmacher, CFRE and Director in service to the Office of Resource Development and Foundation.

View Recording

Participatory Governance

To learn more about our Associated Students, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate, please visit the links below:

Associated Students

Academic Senate

Classified Senate

In The Know

For additional information on what is happening on campus and in our community - visit the links below:

Mesa College Newsroom

Mesa College Events Calendar

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.

President | San Diego Mesa College

Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed! 7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721 Mesa College | Student Support Services























