

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:38 AM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of March 23, 2026



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*



SDCCD Board of Trustees to Meet on April 6 to Discuss César E. Chávez Campus Name

The San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on Monday, April 6, from 4–7 p.m. at the César E. Chávez Campus (1901 Main Street, Barrio Logan) to receive public input and discuss the campus naming. Those unable to attend may email boardoffice@sdccd.edu for remote participation instructions. The meeting will also be livestreamed on the Board of Trustees' YouTube channel.

[Read the joint statement from the Chicano and Chicana Studies Departments at San Diego Mesa College and San Diego City College here.](#)



Mesa College proudly celebrates Dr. Edeama Onwuchekwa Jonah, Associate Professor, Equity and Engagement Librarian, LRAS Department Chair, and Mesa's DEIA Coordinator, as the recipient of the ASCCC Regina Stanback Stroud Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Antiracism, and Accessibility Award.

This prestigious statewide honor recognizes her exceptional commitment to advancing equity, expanding access, and improving student success. At Mesa, Dr. Onwuchekwa Jonah has transformed the library into an equity-centered learning space, strengthened support for Black student success, and improved accessibility for students with disabilities—driving meaningful, measurable gains in student achievement.

To read more, [click here for the Mesa College Newsroom](#).



**Spring Break is on Monday, March 30 - Thursday, April 2.
All campuses will be closed on Friday, April 3.**

Spring Break is next week! While classes will not be in session, this time can be used to catch up on tasks or take a moment to relax as we move through the semester



36-Hour Work Week Pilot Comes to a Close

The pilot, implemented January 5th, will end on April 3rd. Beginning Monday, April 6th, all full-time employees will return to standard 40-hour work weeks to support critical end-of-year activities that help students complete their programs, graduate, and transfer.

Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities

Please remember that our district has an official immigration policy, [AP 3415](#). This policy directs all inquiries regarding immigration enforcement to the District Chancellor and District General Counsel. If you receive a confirmed report of immigration enforcement on campus, please contact:

- SDCCD Chancellor's Office (Greg Smith): 619-388-6957 | chancellor@sdccd.edu
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | lkostic@sdccd.edu

You are not expected to engage with immigration enforcement or place yourself or others at risk. If approached by immigration officials, you may respond: "I am not authorized to speak with you, answer your questions, or provide access to any people or facilities per SDCCD policy. Only the District Chancellor and General Counsel have authority to assist you." To stay informed and prepared:

- Update your emergency contact information in the [MySDCCD portal](#)
- Download the [SDCCDsafe App](#)
- Refer to the [District's Immigration Resources page](#)

- Continue to read campus emails and official updates

San Diego Mesa College has a clear, coordinated Immigration Enforcement Response Plan centered on our Emergency Management Response Team, led by the President and including College Communications, Vice Presidents, Facilities and Operations, OEHS, and the Campus Community Emergency Response Team, in coordination with SDCCD Police. Recognizing that every incident is unique, this structure ensures we are prepared to act quickly and compassionately with clear communication, coordinated safety measures, and robust support for students and employees should an incident occur.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

Golf Tournament Basket Donations from Departments

The Athletics Department is seeking donations for the first Annual Olympian Open Golf Fundraiser. If you have any gift cards, season tickets, sports memorabilia, or other desirable donations, please drop them off with Ryan Shumaker in the Athletics Department (ES Building, 2nd Floor).

Thank you for supporting your Mesa College student-athletes.



ENROLLMENT
update

Student interest and enrollment into the second eight-week session continues to rise slowly. We have 10 new students who have enrolled into second eight-week classes since this time last week. In order to address potential bots, we continue to work through the fraudulent reports weekly. The district will also support additional adjustments up until April 6, once the second eight-week session starts. Our current headcount is 21,353 with an FTES of 6,009. We continue to feel positive about meeting Spring 2026 enrollment goals.



Fashion Redux 2026: Cocktail Hour

Thursday, April 9, 2026

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

[Purchase tickets here](#)

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the San Diego History Center and Mesa College Fashion Program present Fashion Redux 2026: Cocktail Hour. This collaboration brings together the evolution of the cocktail dress, pairing historical archives with the talent of San Diego's emerging fashion designers. The 2026 theme, cocktail hour, explores how social rebellion and Prohibition-era legislation influenced the American wardrobe. From Victorian roots to mid-century glamour, this exhibition features historic textiles owned or worn by women in San Diego, as well as the unique material culture and archives specific to our binational region. General: \$15 SDHC Members: \$10 Mesa Students (with discount code): \$10

Apply student discount code on payment page.



Save the Date!

Golden Scissors Fashion Show Friday, May 22 at 5:00 PM on campus

Tickets are **on sale now** with early bird pricing:

<https://sdmesafashion.ludus.com/>

Golden Scissors is our signature annual runway show and student showcase, featuring original student designer collections, a full-scale production, and an incredible collaboration across our Fashion, Culinary, Hospitality, and Music programs. It is always a highlight of the year and a truly special event for our campus community.

We would love to see you there and truly appreciate your support of our students!

New Issue Alert

[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

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Class of 2026

May 29th, 2026 2:40 p.m.
Mesa College, Merrill Douglas Stadium

The Commencement Ceremony is the culmination of a student's academic journey. It is a special day for students who have completed an earned degree or certificate.

What Can I Expect?

- Summer 2025 graduates
- Fall 2025 graduates
- Spring 2026 anticipated graduates
- Summer 2025 anticipated graduates

Students must Apply for Graduation in the Student Portal to receive the invitation. RSVP for the Commencement Ceremony.

For more information, contact Mesa College Registration Office:
619-388-2400 | mesacommencement@sdcccd.edu

LAVENDER CELEBRATION
HONORING MESA STUDENTS

Tuesday, May 19th, 2026
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
D-101

Join us for a celebration of diversity, resilience, and achievement of our LGBTQ+ students at the Lavender Celebration!

This event is a testament to the strength of our community and the importance of representation in academia. Let's commemorate this milestone with pride and solidarity, embracing the rich tapestry of identities that make our graduating class truly remarkable.

RSVP: <https://linktr.ee/2026LavenderCelebration>

Conscious Spending Clinic
A place where we casually and consciously chat about money. Share your knowledge and financial confidence exploring different money topics with faculty member Brian Lessor!

Location: BT 218
Time: 1-2pm
All Students Welcome!

Dates:
Thurs Feb 26, 2026 *Debit
Thurs March 26, 2026 *Budget
Thurs April 23, 2026 *Credit

Snacks and refreshments provided.

San Diego Mesa College
619-388-2704

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
CARE - CalWORKs - The Stand
Drop-in sessions for CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medical

Purpose
All students are welcome to ask general questions to a Health and Human Services Agency Representative.

SERVICES

- CalWORKs for students with children under 18 years of age
- CalFresh to supplement your food budget
- Medical for affordable health insurance

Spring 2026 2/2-6/1
Wednesdays 10am - 4pm
The Stand (K108)
Thursdays 11am - 12pm
825 0632 1495

Scan to visit the HHS website
LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO Community College District
City College - Mesa College - Miramar College - College of Continuing Education
bit.ly/HHSA_SD

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Planning on Graduating? You Must Apply!
2025 - 2026 GRADUATION DEADLINES

If you are completing a Degree and/or Certificate of Achievement, you must apply for graduation through your mySOCCD portal to obtain the award.

MYSOCCD PORTAL → MY ACADEMICS → APPLY FOR GRADUATION

ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER (ADT) DEADLINES	GENERAL DEADLINE	COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 1, 2025 January 15, 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 15, 2025 February 15, 2026 May 15, 2026 Summer 2026 Deadline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 15, 2025 February 15, 2026 May 15, 2026 Summer 2026 Deadline

For questions regarding graduation requirements, please contact a Counselor. www.sdcccd.edu/graduation | 1-800-397-7668 | 619-388-2807 | mesacommencement@sdcccd.edu

MONARCH Celebration

Join us as we honor our Borderless Scholars students whose courage, resilience, and dreams have carried them to achieve their accomplishments.

This celebration is for every Borderless Scholar, not just graduating students! We'll be recognizing all achievements, whether academic, personal, or beyond.

Come celebrate YOU!

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Scan the QR or visit: bit.ly/MonarchGrad2026 to RSVP
Contact Information: MesDreamers@sdcccd.edu

SAN DIEGO Community College District
City College - Mesa College - Miramar College - College of Continuing Education

BLACK GRADUATES & TRANSFER CEREMONY
Rite of Passage

Monday, May 11, 2026
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
San Diego City College

Celebrating Black Student graduates from Mesa, City, Miramar and CE

RSVP Link & QR Code
<https://linktr.ee/2026SDCCGRASP>

If you have any questions, please contact 619-388-2884.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Transfer Center

TRANSFER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

MAY 14TH
11 AM - 1 PM
MESA COLLEGE (M-21 A/B)

The Mesa College Transfer Center invites you to celebrate your transfer acceptance! Please tell us where you got in to be invited to the event! (spaces are limited)

619-388-2884 | 619-388-2872 | mesa.transfer@sdcccd.edu | 8:00 AM

APPLY TO BE MESA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT STUDENT SPEAKER

SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT bit.ly/commencementspeaker26

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29th AT 5:59 AM
AUDITIONS (IN PERSON): THURSDAY, APRIL 29th AT 10:00 AM

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

RUN FOR AN ASG POSITION! 2026-2027

Application Deadline: **APRIL 10TH**

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN:

- **Make an Impact** - Assist the students and help them discover their next career or training opportunities and interests.
- **Build Leadership Skills** - Gain real-world experience in working, communicating, and teamwork.
- **Boost Your Resume** - Stand out with hands-on experience, which is in high demand and in demand.
- **Connect & Get Involved** - Network with campus leaders, staff, and fellow students to make your difference.

www.sdcccd.edu/ASG

WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

Acting Director, College Facilities and Operations

Under the direction of the Acting Vice President of Administrative Services, the Director provides strategic leadership for campus facilities, operations, and event management, ensuring efficient, compliant, and equitable administrative services that support student success. Responsibilities include overseeing facilities planning, coordinating renovations and construction projects, managing space and event operations, supervising staff, and collaborating with campus and district partners.

Interested applicants should discuss their interest with their supervisor and submit a résumé and letter of interest to Jacqueline Collins by March 31, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Candidates must be current full-time SDCCD employees. Interviews will be held via Zoom the week of April 6, with an anticipated start date of April 20 for a six-month assignment.

Review the full [job description here](#)

RSVP TODAY FOR ALICE TRAINING Active Shooter Training & Preparedness



As part of our ongoing commitment to campus safety and preparedness, we have scheduled an ALICE Training for April 10th, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) provides civilians with the skills and strategies needed to survive an active threat situation in the critical moments before first responders arrive. Our College Police team of Certified ALICE Instructors provides these sessions year-round to ensure our community is well-prepared.

What to Expect: Each session focuses on situational awareness, practical response options, and strategies to increase both personal and collective safety on campus.

Registration Details: Please note that a minimum of 10 participants is required for this session. If we do not reach this threshold, the training will unfortunately be canceled.

[\[Link to Sign Up\]](#)

Deadline to Register: Please sign up by Tuesday, March 31st at 4:00 PM.

Thank you for your dedication to a safer campus environment.



Last week, the District experienced a temporary communication outage between SDCCD Police Dispatch and our campus. In the event you are unable to reach Dispatch by phone, please utilize the Message College Police text feature within the SDCCD Safe App. You can download the SDCCD Safe App [\[download here\]](#) to ensure you have a reliable secondary line of communication. For more information regarding SafeApp features, please visit the [SDCCD Safety Services](#) webpage.

Notice: Effective Monday, April 6, the Business Services Office will close at 12:00 PM daily for walk-up service to accommodate year-end processing. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this busy time.

Mesa Emergency Management Website



To help us maintain a safe, clean, and fully operational campus, please remember that all requests for Facilities support should be submitted through the [Facilities Work Order System](#). This system ensures your request is routed to the correct team and allows us to track progress and response times.

You may submit a work order for issues such as:

- Elevator outages
- Water leaks or plumbing concerns
- Broken glass or damaged fixtures
- Cleaning needs (urgent or routine)
- Heating/cooling concerns
- Lighting or electrical issues
- General repairs or maintenance

Thank you for helping us keep our campus environment safe and welcoming. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact the Facilities Services at 619.388.2814.

EVENTS AND OPERATIONS

When to Call Events/Operations vs Facilities

Events and Operations

- Event Requests
 - Room Reservations
 - Setups
 - Event Parking
- Parking
- Site Improvements
- Furniture Requests
- Office Relocations

Events & Ops: 619-388-5881

Facilities

- HVAC
- Leaks
- Restrooms and related supplies
- Landscaping
- Minor Repairs

Facilities: 619-388-2814

SAFETY

Workplace Campus Safety vs Public Safety

Workplace Safety

- Cal/OSHA
- Emergency Management
- C-CERT
- Facilities Inspections
- Permits
- Hazardous Waste
- Biohazardous Waste
- Training
- Ergonomics

Public Safety

- Public Disturbances
- Medical Emergencies
- Theft
- Threats
- Criminal Behavior
- Mental Health Issues
- Suspicious Circumstances
- Anything Requiring Immediate Response

Police Dispatch: 619-388-6405

[Click here](#) to learn which administrative areas are involved in managing our college operations.

New Resource: Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office has published a new [Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary](#) on our website to support a shared understanding of the terminology used across Mesa College. Whether you're reviewing reports, navigating dashboards, or interpreting campus communications, this resource is designed to clarify common data definitions and acronyms in one central place. You can find it on the [IE website](#) under the **Data Dictionary & Acronym Glossary** section. We invite you to explore it and reach out to the IE Office with suggestions for new additions, updates, or corrections as we continue to build and refine this tool together. For feedback, please contact **Adriana Caetano** at acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu.

IE Office Hours – A Dedicated Time to Think Through Your Data Together

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office is launching weekly Office Hours to serve as a partner for your data questions and ideas. Whether you're exploring data for program review or accreditation, thinking through how to use our dashboards, or simply trying to make sense of what the data is telling you, we welcome the opportunity to work alongside you. During the Spring semester, **from January 20 (Flex Week) through June 1**, we will pilot these new office hours. Join us **Tuesdays from 12:30–1:30 p.m.** in the IE Office (A-109). We have a conference room for collaborative conversations—and yes, there's coffee too!

We look forward to being your data thought partner.



FOUNDATION CORNER

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](#)



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](#)

