

Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 11:51 AM



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*



Two San Diego colleges named Black-Serving Institutions

January 12, 2026 at 12:37 PM PST



By [Jade Hindmon](#) / KPBS Midday Edition Host, [Ashley Rusch](#) / Producer

Mesa College Earns Recognition as a Black-Serving Institution

I recently had the opportunity to join Ricky Shabazz, President of San Diego City College, for a KPBS interview highlighting the designation of both City College and Mesa College as Black-Serving Institutions. The conversation centered on what this recognition means, not just as a designation, but as a responsibility to intentionally serve, support, and advance Black student success across our campuses and our region.

[Click here](#) to listen the interview with KPBS.

As the Region X representative to the 3C2A Board, I am pleased to share the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) Fall Sport Report.

The report highlights a strong season across the conference, with championship performances, postseason appearances in every sponsored sport, and outstanding achievements by student-athletes and coaches. I am especially proud of **San Diego Mesa College**, whose teams, coaches, and student-athletes demonstrated exceptional excellence and leadership throughout the fall season.

[Click here](#) to see the 2025 PCAC Fall Sport Report.



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

**ROOTED in Purpose.
GROUNDED in Equity.
GROWING Together.**

Convocation / SPRING 2026

Thursday, January 29, 2026

8:00 am • Mesa College Gym

San Diego Mesa College | 7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego, California, 92111-4998

Save the Date: Convocation Spring 2026

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Coffee and Pastries in Mesa Gym

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Program with Campus Highlights, Updates and Olympian Spirit awards

10:00 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. | Dr. Gina Garcia, Keynote Speaker, Servingness 2.0: An Updated Approach to HSIs

10:35 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. | Breakout Instruction and Transition Time

10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. | Breakout Sessions I (45 mins)

11:25 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Transition

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Breakout Sessions II *(45 mins)

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch in the Mesa Quad

NEW CAMPUS HOURS

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Spring 2026 Pilot: 36-Hour Workweek

Beginning January 5 through April 3, the District will implement a pilot 36-hour workweek. Most campus and student service areas will follow a Monday to Thursday schedule, with offices closing at 1 p.m. on Fridays. Spring 2026 classes will meet as scheduled. This pilot is an opportunity to support employee well-being, strengthen service to students, and better understand how to align staffing with peak periods of need.

A dedicated webpage with details and a short survey will be available for employees to review information and share feedback throughout the pilot. [36-Hour Work Week webpage](#).

Hours:

Student Services:

Fridays: Close at 1:00 p.m.

LRC Hours

January 2026 Intersession (Jan 5–Jan 30):

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Spring 2026:

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Administrative Offices:

Fridays: Close at 12:00 noon



Mesa Student Affairs is excited to invite you to participate in the **44th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade**, a powerful community celebration honoring the Dream of equality, justice, and unity.

We are looking for **marching volunteers** and **sign holders** to help represent Mesa College and the SDCCD in this year's parade! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our district and campus community, celebrate Dr. King's legacy, and be part of something truly meaningful.

Why Join Us?

- Be part of a historic San Diego tradition
- Meet new people and show your school spirit
- **Free T-shirts** for participants (while supplies last!)
- Enjoy a morning full of community, pride, and fun!

Parade Details

Date: Sunday, January 18

Location: Harbor Drive (between Grape & Ash)

Arrival Window for Marchers: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Parade Start Time: 11:00 AM

If you'd like to join us, [please RSVP using this link or the URL below to secure your volunteer spot!](https://tinyurl.com/mj2y3jrp)

<https://tinyurl.com/mj2y3jrp>

Mesa College Accreditation Update: ACCJC Commission Meeting in January

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges will convene its January Commission meeting on January 14–15, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawai'i. During this meeting cycle, the Commission will review San Diego Mesa College's 2025 Peer Review Team Report and take accreditation action in accordance with ACCJC policies and procedures. Following the Commission meeting and upon receipt of formal notification from ACCJC, I will share relevant outcomes and any next steps with the campus community, college constituencies, and governing board, as appropriate.



Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose

Danielle Seipel
Mesa College San Diego

[Meet the winner](#)

We are thrilled to give a grand round of applause to our grand prize winner, **Danielle Seipel**, in the Upcycling University Program Fall 2025 Student Design Competition. Danielle is one of three outstanding students to earn the grand prize, recognized for an inspired design theme drawn from *Carnation, Lily, Lily Rose* by John Singer Sargent. Soft blush hues, deep nocturne blues, and warm neutrals—paired with luminous finishes—evoke the painting's ephemeral light, while biophilic tones, sculptural forms, and layered lighting create a space that is poetically soft with a contemporary edge.

[Click here](#) to view Danielle's winning portfolio.

Intersession and Spring 2026

With the first week of Intersession completed, we do anticipate intersession 2026 enrollment to stabilize as FTES is now 314.6 with a headcount of 2,505. Compared to the same time last year for Intersession 2025, our FTES was 310.1 with a headcount of 2,531. The difference of 4 FTES is overall not a significant change when comparing year to year, and this is expected when comparing previous years' Intersession enrollment numbers. While the district did run the drop for non-payment process over the weekend, we are pleased to see a very quick rebound in our headcount and FTES numbers. Spring 2026 FTES is currently 5,379 and our headcount is 18,496. This is a very small increase of headcount by 70 students and 15 FTES compared to last week's enrollment. We welcome this positive news as this brings us 92.9% of the way to meeting our Spring 2026 enrollment goals.



We are pleased to announce that Leland Simpliciano will serve as Acting Title III HSI STEM Program Activity Manager while continuing his role as AANAPISI Program Activity Manager and Grant Director at San Diego Mesa College.

Leland brings extensive experience leading Title III MSI grants, with expertise in federal compliance, cross-campus collaboration, and equity-centered program development. Through his AANAPISI leadership, he has advanced student success initiatives, faculty engagement, and institutional capacity-building, while supporting regional collaboration and community partnerships that serve historically marginalized and underrepresented students.

In this role, Leland will provide leadership and oversight for the Title III HSI STEM grant, working closely with campus partners to support student success and ensure alignment and sustainability across Mesa College's MSI initiatives.

Please join us in welcoming Leland Simpliciano in his new role.

Catalyst Registration Reminder

Catalyst 2026 will be our 8th annual Catalyst event. This space was co-created with Mesa colleagues to support our faculty at the start of Spring Flex Week. [Click here](#) to sign up for a class.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

The image is a digital newsletter for the Puente Project at San Diego Mesa College. The layout is divided into several sections: 'PUENTE NEWSLETTER' at the top left, 'PUENTE FACULTY 2025-2026' with a photo of faculty, 'PUENTE PROJECT MISSION' with a mission statement, 'HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SECOND 8 WEEKS OF FALL 2025' with photos of students at a mixer and a hike, 'ABOUT PUENTE' with a history of the project, and 'PUENTE HISTORY' with a timeline. The right side features 'HIGHLIGHTS FROM FALL 2025 SEMESTER' with photos of various events like 'Noche De Familia', 'Las Cafeteras @ UCSD', a poetry workshop, and student work. The bottom features a quote from Valerie Arce Cruz and a photo of a student.

Puente is excited to share their first newsletter of the semester! [Click here](#) to read the full issue.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Over 115 Scholarships

Awards from \$250-\$2000

sdmesa.edu/scholarships

FREE to apply

Open to all enrolled Mesa College students

All GPAs encouraged to apply

December 5, 2025
Applications open

February 17, 2026
Last day to apply

Apply Now!

sdmesa.edu/scholarships

Over 115 Scholarships

Awards from \$250-\$2000

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FREE to apply

Open to all enrolled Mesa College students

All GPAs encouraged to apply

December 5, 2025
Applications open

February 17, 2026
Last day to apply

Apply Now!

Don't miss out! Financial support to help you reach your goals.

For more information or additional questions, please contact mesascholarship@sdccd.edu.

Scholarship applications are now available! Please encourage your students to apply to the Mesa College Foundation Scholarships. [Our Scholarships webpage has all the information you might need!](#)

The final deadline to apply is **Thursday, February 17th, at 11:59pm!**

You may also direct students to [the Apply for Mesa Scholarships video](#), and [a brief video tutorial we created on how to get started with applying](#).

Scholarship Application Workshops for Mesa College Scholarships are now available! [Follow this link for more information about the workshops](#). 25 students who attend a workshop session and apply for at least 3 scholarships will be randomly chosen to receive a \$50 gift card!

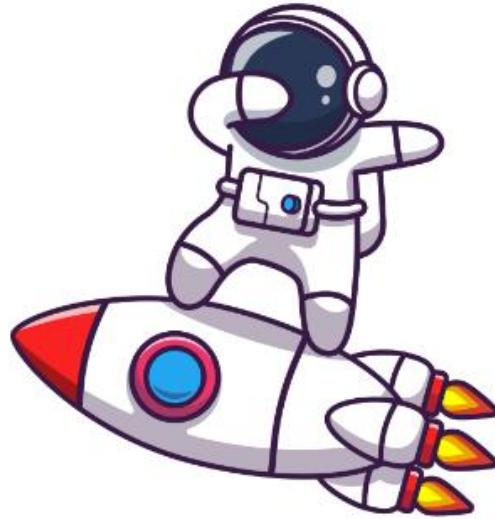
If you would like a classroom presentation about our scholarships, then please contact Zulma Heraldez (zheraldez@sdccd.edu).

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>

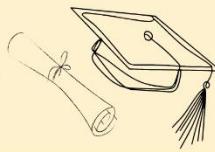


Click on the flyer to enlarge

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION TO MESA COLLEGE:

EXPLORE YOUR PATH TO A DEGREE OR
TRANSFERRING TO A UNIVERSITY



Join us to...

- Apply to Mesa College
- Meet with an academic Counselor
- Tour Mesa College Campus
- Learn about Financial Aid options & Student Support Programs and Services

Food will be provided

This event is **FREE**

REGISTER HERE



THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

8:30AM - 12:00PM

BUILDING I400 ROOM 202

For questions or accommodations, please contact Ldiaz@sdccd.edu.

<https://bit.ly/FromCetoMesaCollege>

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

The Black Faculty Counselor Collaborative

Spring 2026

Counseling Drop-In Appointments

Take the opportunity to meet with a Counselor for...

- Educational/Class Planning
- Transfer to a university
- Exploring Majors/Careers
- Petitions/Appeals/Academic Renewal



Kimberly Williams-Kee
Tuesdays
11:00AM-12:00PM



Terrence Hale
Wednesdays
1:00PM-2:00PM



Jordan Nash
Fridays
10:00AM-11:00AM

Sign-up for a 30-min session by visiting:
bit.ly/BFCCCounselingSignUp
or using the QR code.

*Counselor availability may change without notice

For questions or more information, please contact
sdmesafollowup@gmail.com or 619-388-2672.

2026 WINTER CRUISE

New Students – CRUISE into Mesa!

Creating Rich Unique Intellectual Student Experiences

Become confident and prepared for your first semester at Mesa College

It's FUN!
It's FREE!
And it's open
to all new
college students!

- Connect with a Peer Navigator who will serve as your mentor
- Receive support for CRUISE and the spring semester
- Build community and meet other incoming students
- Learn about campus resources and student life
- Participate in workshops aimed at your transition to Mesa College

- For more information and to register for Winter CRUISE, visit us at www.sdmesa.academicworks.com

WINTER CRUISE SESSION

All New, Incoming Students

January 13th-14th

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch provided!

Deadline to register: January 5th, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Room: 14-203 | 619-388-2571 | www.sdmesa.edu/cruise

Request for disability related accommodations should be made no later than eight (8) working days prior to event.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INFO SESSION & WRITING WORKSHOP

START YOUR
APPLICATION TODAY!

<https://sdmesa.academicworks.com>

CLICK TO REGISTER

Zoom Session

Zoom ID: 97943255785

- Tue. 1/13 @3pm
- Thurs. 1/15 @10am
- Wed. 1/21 @3pm
- Thu. 1/22 @4pm
- Mon. 1/26 @10am
- Fri. 1/30 @10am
- Wed. 2/11 @3:45pm
- Tues. 2/17 @3pm

Get 1 on 1 Support!

1PM - 2PM EVERY MONDAY

In-Person:

Visit the Student Affairs Office @ I4-408

For Zoom:

Please email: [Adrian Balingit](mailto:abalingit@sdccd.edu)

at abalingit@sdccd.edu

For accommodations, please email at least 5 business days prior to the event.

[Contact Us](mailto:disability@sdccd.edu)

disability.sdmesa.edu

Sponsored by [Student Affairs](#) and [MT2C](#)

- Get an overview of Mesa scholarships
- Get a guided tour of the online application
- Brainstorm and work on your essays with Writing Tutors
- Ask questions. Get answers.

DEADLINE TO APPLY 2/17/26

In-Person Session

LRC Writing Center (2nd floor)

- Tues. 2/10 @11:10am
- Thurs. 2/12 @11:10am
- Tues. 2/17 @11:10am

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Looking to boost your personal statement? Mesa Tutoring & Computing Center (MT2C) has drop-ins and appointments available with writing tutors!

EXCITING NEWS!

25 students who attend a workshop session and apply for 3 scholarships will be randomly chosen to receive a \$50!

BILINGUAL COLLEGE FAIR

January 24, 2026

LMEC

2875 Ocean View Blvd
San Diego, CA. 92113

9:00am - 3:00pm

- Community Colleges
- Universities
- Financial Aid Assistance
- Workshops
- And More

Representatives from local & international colleges & universities

Register here

For more information please contact the Community Affairs Department of the Mexican Consulate:

+619-308-9930

comunidadadesdi@sre.gob.mx

México

Consulado General de México
en San Diego

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE

LOGAN MEMORIAL
EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS

Ventanilla de
Orientación Educativa

LMEC
LOGAN MEMORIAL
EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS

SAN DIEGO
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
AND
IMPERIAL COUNTIES
CONSORTIUM

CSAC
CALSOAP
AND
IMPERIAL
COUNTRIES
CONSORTIUM

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

The Accounts Payable team at the District Office is excited to share that the District is implementing new invoice-processing software to improve efficiency, accuracy, and document security.

Beginning January 12, 2026, Accounts Payable will use a technology, Brainware OCR and Perceptive Content, to electronically capture invoice data and manage supporting documents. This change will significantly reduce manual data entry and streamline invoice processing.

What You Need To Know

- All invoices must be submitted to APinvoice@sdccd.edu, which is stated on all purchase orders
- Invoices must follow the new submission requirements outlined in the attached Accounts Payable Invoice Submission Guidelines
- Only invoices should be sent to this inbox
 - Questions and inquiries should be directed to APinquiry@sdccd.edu
- This process **does not apply** to Payment Requests, Travel, or interface files (e.g., Payroll, Financial Aid, Bookstore)

[Please review the attached guidelines carefully](#), as invoices that do not meet the requirements may be delayed.

Thank you for reviewing this information so you are aware of the new process and can help direct suppliers if questions arise during the District's rollout.

Adobe Post Migration Email

District Information Technology Services has announced the successful migration of your employee Adobe account to the district's new Adobe platform.

What do I need to do?

- To activate your new license, please **log out** of any open Adobe applications.
- **Restart** your computer and log back into Adobe by relaunching an Adobe application or the Creative Cloud Manager icon on your desktop.
- **Your district email address** and **password** will be used for this login. If presented with the choice of "personal" or "company or school,"
- Please choose "**company or school**."

Important Additional Information

If your job function requires additional Adobe Software that you do not have access to on this new platform:

A Service Desk request with your supervisor's approval will be necessary: [Request Additional Adobe Software](#).

Once approved, you will be able to install your approved software from the Adobe Creative Cloud icon on your desktop.

If you have any issues or questions, please feel free to contact the service desk by email at itservicedesk@sdccd.edu or 619-388-7000.

**RSVP TODAY FOR
C-CERT TRAINING
CAMPUS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**



We are excited to invite you to our upcoming C-CERT Training taking place January 26-28th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This training will equip you with essential skills and knowledge to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters on campus. As a member of C-CERT, your role is crucial in preparing, organizing, and collaborating as a team during and after emergencies. C-CERT members strengthen campus resiliency and play a vital role in emergency response efforts. Review flyer for all the details of this training.

Join us in enhancing campus safety and preparedness by registering for this important training. Your commitment to the C-CERT is invaluable, and we look forward to having you on the team.

For this Academy there will be a limit of approximately 15 people. You will receive a confirmation email from Matt Fay that you have been added to the training list. **You must be available for all three days of training.**

To register, please click [here](#).

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.

RSVP TODAY FOR **ALICE TRAINING** Active Shooter Training & Preparedness



As part of our ongoing commitment to campus safety and preparedness, we have scheduled a series of safety trainings and events for 2026. All employees are encouraged to attend at least one ALICE training during the year. Each ALICE session will focus on situational awareness, response options in an active threat situation, and practical strategies to increase personal and community safety on campus.

Personalized ALICE Trainings for Buildings

Building Managers may also request a customized, building-specific ALICE training for their area. To schedule a session tailored to your building's layout and needs, please contact: Sgt. Mark Green (mgreen@sdccd.edu)

Schedule:

[Friday, January 30, 2026; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm](#)

[Friday, April 10, 2026; 8:00 am - 12:00 pm](#)

[Friday, August 21, 2026; 8:00 am - 12:00 pm](#)

[Friday, October 16, 2026; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm](#)

EVENTS AND OPERATIONS

SAFETY

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



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.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*



We are pleased to announce that Adriana Caetano Fournier will serve as Acting Associate Dean of Institutional Research at San Diego Mesa College while Nancy Cortes is on maternity leave.

Adriana's journey at Mesa began as a student, where she discovered her passion for supporting student success. She later earned an M.S. in Computer Science from CSU San Marcos and currently serves as Computer Science faculty at MiraCosta College. Since returning to Mesa College in 2023 as a Research Assistant and later as a Research and Planning Analyst, Adriana has supported key HSI and AANAPISI initiatives and led the transition to equity-centered data dashboards that expand campus access to information.

Adriana looks forward to supporting the Institutional Effectiveness Office during this time. Please join us in welcoming her to this new role.

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.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is excited to announce the launch of the redesigned [Transfer Volume Dashboard](#), an interactive tool that provides a comprehensive view of Mesa College students who successfully transferred to four-year universities using the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) methodology.

This dashboard allows users to:

Explore annual transfer trends, top university destinations, and common majors pursued by Mesa transfer students.

Examine efficiency metrics, including time to transfer and units earned.

Analyze equity gaps to understand whether transfer outcomes are proportional across student populations.

These insights support institutional planning, illuminate key student pathways, and help the college strengthen strategies that promote equitable and timely transfer for all students.

You can access the Transfer Volume Dashboard [here](#)

. Note: Access requires SDCCD Single-Sign-On credentials. If you are logged in and cannot access the dashboard, please follow this [instructions](#).

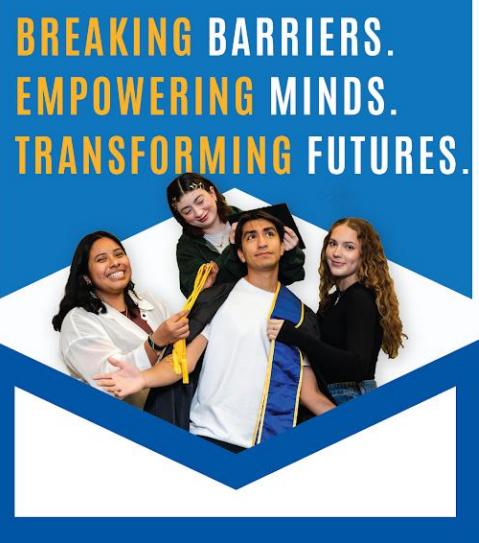
To schedule a demo, ask questions, or provide feedback, please contact acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu and ncortes@sdccd.edu.



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**](#)



Co-Creating Possibilities

GIVE YOUR INPUT, SHAPE MESA'S FUNDRAISING GOALS

Mesa is taking part in a district-wide fundraising campaign to raise more philanthropic dollars. We will be making a set of brochures to share fundraising priorities & campus needs.

We need your help defining what will be "on the menu" for donors to give to!

Please take a moment to complete the "Mesa Dreams" survey, which:

- Takes 10-15 minutes
- Has 14-16 questions
- Aims to capture your needs, as well as your boldest wish list
- Will shape fundraising goals
- Asks you to dream big!

SCAN HERE:



bit.ly/MesaDreams25

Please take a moment to complete the "Mesa Dreams" survey. Your feedback helps us better serve you and guide our future fundraising goals.

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](#)

