

# 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

While federal actions, such as the government shutdown, create uncertainty, the immediate impact on higher education is expected to be limited; however, the longer-term effects remain to be seen. Campus departments, such as Veterans Services, are working to ensure that essential services continue without disruption. Still, these developments remind us how national decisions can affect stability, mental health, and access to resources for the communities we serve.

At Mesa, we remain rooted in purpose, grounded in equity, and growing together.

#### That means:

Holding steady in our commitment to care and belonging even in times of uncertainty Advocating for equitable policies that uplift our most vulnerable students and families Creating conditions where students can focus on their education without carrying the full weight of instability alone.

Let us continue to commit boldly and courageously to our work of equity and excellence....because the steadiness of our purpose is what creates lasting impact for our students and our community.

**Article: What the Government Shutdown Could Mean for Higher Ed** 

The 2022-2024 Annual Security Report: Safe and Sound, A Guide to Safety and Security is now available to view.

The Safe and Sound report contains the current security and safety-related policy statements, emergency preparedness and evacuation information, crime prevention and sexual assault prevention information, and information about drug and alcohol prevention programming.

Review the document here.

#### Real College California: Basic Needs Among California Community College Students In 2025

In Spring 2025, The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group) partnered with the Community College League of California's CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce to assess trends in food and housing security among California community college students. Nearly 77,000 students from 102 colleges, including San Diego Mesa College, responded to the 2025 Real College California survey, revealing that two-thirds of CCC students face at least one form of basic needs insecurity. Specifically, 46% reported being food insecure, 58% reported being housing insecure, and 20% reported experiencing homelessness. Read the full report on the Community College League of California's website.

On Thursday, **October 23, 2025, San Diego Mesa College will host the annual <u>Taste of Mesa</u>, the premier cooking-show style fundraiser benefiting the Culinary Arts Management Program. Taste of Mesa will feature internationally-inspired cuisine and two cook-off competitions between alumni, students and an advanced baking team. Alumni and current students compete against each other in either cooking or cake decorating.** 

Click here for more information and to purchase tickets for Taste of Mesa.



Mesa College at a glance: Learn more in our <u>2024–25 Fact Sheet</u>.

OFFICE OF Instruction

#### Fall 2025 Update

Compared to the same day last week, we have 27 more students who have enrolled into the fall 2025 semester, making our current headcount 21,533. A portion of our new enrollments are from the second eight-week session courses. FTEF remains the same at 385 to 375 from the last fall semester. FTES is 6,185 compared to 5,842 on the same day last fall, which continues to keep us on target for continual growth post the pandemic. Our FTES has not been this high since the fall of 2019. We know how hard everyone is working to support our students, and it shows.



Thurs 10/23 | 10am-2pm | Mesa Quad



Questions? Mesalmpactship@sdccd.edu



The Mesa Impactship Program (MIP) 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.

- IIII 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
- Students Register on Handshake Here (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 (PDF or PNG) 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 Mesa Impactship Program (MIP) 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

Thank you to our colleagues that encouraged their Project Assistants and Student Leaders to participate in the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention training session on Friday 9/26. We had over 40 participants! If you would like a special QPR Training for your department/ staff we are happy to coordinate. Please contact sdmesamentalhealth@sdccd.edu.

### 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



Our Pride Scholars Learning Cohort students recently participated in a guided tour hosted by the Lambda Archives of San Diego. The tour explored the rich LGBTQIA+ history of Hillcrest, highlighting key landmarks, community organizations, and pivotal moments in San Diego's queer history.

Through this experiential learning activity, students gained a deeper understanding of the historical struggles and triumphs that have shaped local LGBTQIA+ communities. The experience fostered a sense of belonging and cultural pride, while connecting classroom learning to real-world contexts of identity, activism, and community resilience.



Thank you all so much for your fantastic support in the Veterans' Emergency BBQ Fundraiser.

You've helped us to continue to serve our militaryconnected students in unique ways.

Thanks to all of you, we are pleased to announce that we have absolutely smashed our goal for the second year in a row. Raising a total of \$4,020 that will all go directly to supporting our students in need. We served around 200 BBQ plates and over 100 Gelato bowls!

We also recognize that we couldn't have hosted this event without the support of others. We want to take a moment to extend a huge thank you to Tonya Whitfield and the entire Culinary Department, as well as the students who helped prepare and serve a delicious meal. We would also like to thank our Office of Communications for helping us promote this event to the broader campus population and for capturing this moment. Finally, thank you to our Facilities team

In celebration of LGBTQIA+ History Month, the Pride Center is hosting a series of events throughout October honoring the histories, contributions, and resilience of LGBTQIA+ communities. October serves as a vital reminder of the ongoing struggle for visibility, equity, and justice, while celebrating the progress and leadership of LGBTQIA+ individuals across generations.

All events are open to the entire campus community, inviting students, faculty, and staff to learn, connect, and engage in dialogue that fosters inclusion and understanding. Flex credit will be available for events.



for helping set up and tear down all of the tables, chairs, and tents that we used to keep us out of the sun.

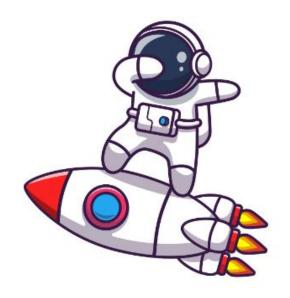
We are leaving the campaign open for a couple more days. So, if you weren't able to join us last week and would still like to donate, you can do so here: https://givebutter.com/kUb86z.



#### 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











- Wi-Fi & Access: Help connecting to SDCCD Wi-Fi.
   Canvas & Tools: Setup and troubleshooting for Canvas, Zoom Pronto and more
- · Accounts & Login Help: Password resets, Multi-Factor
- Authentication (MFA), SSO issues. Email: Microsoft Outlook.
- General IT Support: SDCCD devices, software, and digital

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### OFFICE OF Institutional Effectiveness

#### **Next Generation Dashboards Are Here!**

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is excited to announce the launch of new, redesigned Power BI dashboards that make data easier to explore and apply.

- Now available: the updated Student Characteristics and Course Outcomes Dashboard, offering clear, timely, and equity-focused insights.
- Coming soon: additional dashboards on Awards and Retention.

To help faculty and staff get the most out of these tools, the IE Office is offering **short, 15-minute training sessions** that can be added to department or school meetings.

To schedule a training session, please contact **Nancy Cortes**, <u>ncortes@sdccd.edu</u>. Visit our dashboards today and see how data can support your work!





Learn More

#### **Highlight Your Students and Activities!**

Next semester, we will be hosting our second ever Spirit of Mesa on Friday, October 10, 2025. This annual fundraiser will showcase the activities and students across Mesa College. Have information you'd like donors to know about? We need your input! Please give us ideas: <a href="https://bit.ly/SOM25Input">bit.ly/SOM25Input</a>

#### 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:

### 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



















