

# 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

#### ACCJC Site Visit: We're in the final stretch!

Next week, on October 27, the ACCJC team will be at Mesa for the site visit. Their focus will be on how Mesa has addressed the two requirements identified in their earlier report. A Mesa team has been assembled to share our story with clear actions and strong results.

This moment represents 1.5 years of hard work, reflection, and collaboration across our entire community. We're ready and excited to showcase the progress we've made — not just to meet compliance, but to strengthen our culture of continuous improvement for our students.

Thank you to many of us who have contributed along the way — your dedication got us here. **Let's make this final stretch our best yet and finish strong** for a positive outcome for all of us!





On Thursday, October 23, 2025, the Culinary Arts Management Program will host the annual "Taste of Mesa", the premier cooking-show style fundraiser. 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. All proceeds would used to purchase ingredients that will help train students in a variety of culinary settings.

For more information, click here. Purchase your tickets here.



One Week to Go!
Keeping the Promise Giving Day is almost here — happening Tuesday, October 28!
This year's theme: The Power of Us Together, we make college possible.

Since 2016, the San Diego Promise has helped more than 8,500 students access two years of free tuition — removing financial barriers and opening doors to brighter futures.

Next week, we celebrate the collective strength of our students, employees, alumni, and community supporters. Your gift — big or small — helps students stay in school, graduate, and thrive. Be part of the movement. Fuel dreams.

Transform lives.

Can't wait for Giving Day? Donate at sdccd.edu/giving-day

<u>Click here</u> to see the video of Chancellor Smith and the college Presidents give a statement of the Promise Giving Day.

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.

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

Let's come together to fight hunger and fuel futures. Donate here.





#### 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</u> Play stores 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 <a href="mailto:sdccd.edu/safety">sdccd.edu/safety</a>.

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.



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

OFFICE OF Instruction

Join us for the **Districtwide Work-Based Learning Summit** on **Thursday, October 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Miramar College (L105)**. This summit offers an opportunity to celebrate, advocate for, and strengthen work-based learning (WBL) across the district. Following a keynote address by Chancellor Smith, attendees will hear directly from students and employers on the impact of WBL, with faculty presentations highlighting promising classroom practices throughout the day. The event will spotlight how educators are elevating student learning and success through WBL. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Flex IDs: 30442 (City, Mesa, Miramar) | 38109 (CE).

**REGISTER HERE** 



Mesa will also host the Final CTE Networking Event featuring Student
Services on Wednesday, October 29, from
12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Avanza Center, with a guided tour beginning at 12:30 p.m.

This event celebrates the partnerships between Student Services and CTE faculty that enhance the student experience. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and connect with representatives from Mesa's Student Services, Student Development, and Student Success & Equity Schools as we continue to strengthen our campus connections. A lunch buffet will be provided.

#### Fall 2025 Update

Compared to the same day last fall semester, we have 1,260 more students learning with us with a headcount of 21,574. As anticipated, we saw a small increase in student registration in the second eight-week session, which started yesterday. This increase brings our FTES to 6,196 and FTEF to 389. 44% of our fall 2025 current waitlist is comprised of students waiting for a second eight-week fully online course. We are monitoring opportunities and are accounting for these high course demands as we look towards January 2026 intersession and Spring 2026.

OFFICE OF Student Services

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!



Request for disability related accommodations should be made no later than 10 working days prior to the event. Please call (619) 388-2817.

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

#### **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: <a href="https://www.sdccd.edu/students/complaint-process/index.aspx">https://www.sdccd.edu/students/complaint-process/index.aspx</a>

### 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

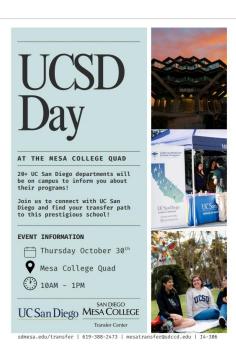


#### Click here for the latest Mesa Journeys Newsletter!

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

















## 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** <u>here</u>. 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—found here—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: <a href="https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26">https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26</a> VP Letter

**Step 3:** Fill out and submit the online application <a href="here">here</a>. 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: <a href="https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26">https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26</a> Application Questions

Access the official application here: <a href="https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26">https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26</a>

For questions, or to schedule Office Hours with a Program Officer, contact <a href="MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu">MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu</a> or book Office Hours <a href="MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu">MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu</a> or book Office <a href="MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu">MesaGrantAdmin@sdccd.edu</a> or book Office <a href="MesaGrantAdmin@sdcc

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



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





















