

# 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

#### Celebrating a Statewide Win: AB 323 Signed into Law

I'm thrilled to share that the Governor has officially signed AB 323, a bill that began right here in our district and was shaped by our Mesa Impactship leaders (Pavel Consuegra, Shawn Fawcett) and regional partners. This new law allows colleges to directly fund paid, work-based learning experiences through Strong Workforce resources, expanding opportunities for students across California.

This is a proud moment for all of us. It shows what's possible when we lead with vision, collaboration, and persistence. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this happen...you've changed what's possible for our students and for our state.

Grateful to Associate Dean Berry, Dean Perman, Vice Chancellor Beresford, Chancellor Smith, Vice President O'Connor, Dean Romero and our partners at MiraCosta College for their leadership and collaboration, and to Senator Fong for championing this important legislation at the state level.

#### **SDCCD Federal Government Shutdown News**

CBS 8 interviewed Chancellor Smith where he explained how the federal shutdown could affect San Diego Community College District students in the short-term or potentially in the long-term, particularly regarding financial aid and processing new applications.

Click here to view the CBS 8 article and video.

Click here to view Chancellor Smith's message to the SDCCD Community.

### 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</u> 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 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.





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



### Fall 2025 Update

At this point in the semester, we expect to see small adjustments in individual enrollment as students continue to work through their schedules with the second eight-week session starting soon. We have 18 more students taking courses compared to the same time last week, with a headcount of 21,551. FTES is 6,188 compared to 5,841 on the same day last fall 2024 semester. FTEF adjusted slightly with 383 to 377 from last year's fall semester. We continue to monitor waitlists for our second week-week sessions as we take into consideration student demand, fall 2025 courses, and availability for spring 2026 courses.





Professor Uriel Ornelas has recently been appointed a Knight (Chevalier) of the Order of Academic Palms (l'Ordre des Palmes académiques). Adrien Frier, Consul General of France in Los Angeles, bestowed the honor at a Villa Albertine ceremony on September 12th. The order was created by Napoléon Bonaparte in 1808 to honor university professors and education leaders for their distinguished service to French language education.



Our Animal Health Technology Student Association invites you and your furry friends to our Fall Dog Wash! Come out, enjoy the fall weather, and help us support our future veterinary professionals! 💱 🏈



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
- **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 (<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, credit-earning internships through a one-time \$1,000 payment, along with mentorship and skill-building support.

OFFICE OF Student Services

### **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>



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! **k** 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— E 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! 💙 🤎



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE Evaluations

### 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





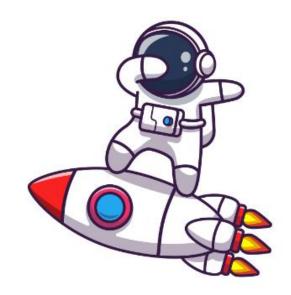






### Click here for the latest Mesa Journeys Newsletter!

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

Mental Health Services

### **Domestic Violence** Prevention & Awareness

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

### **EMPOWERMENT**

HOUR

10:30 - 11:30 am

Oct

**STUDENT** 23rd CIRCLE

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Oct Family Resource Center 16<sup>th</sup>

**RELATIONSHIPS** 

HEALTHY

**PARENT HEALING** 

**HEALING IN HARMONY** 

9:40 am - 10:40 am

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE CARE · CalWORKs · The Stand

Request for disability-related accommodations should be made no later than five working days prior to the event at sdmesamentalhealth@sdccd.edu or visit Mental Health Services in 14-209 or call 619-388-2774

### Reflect, Restore, & Unite Week

COMMUNITY BUILDING THROUGH RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

MEDITATION



LAB REGISTRATIO



APPLICATION OPE

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE Student Affairs







### 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 IThelp@sdccd.edu

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

### 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.



# 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





#### 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: <a href="https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26-StepbyStep">https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26-StepbyStep</a>

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 <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: <a href="https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26\_Application\_Questions">https://bit.ly/InnovationGrants26\_Application\_Questions</a> 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** 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!

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

This Friday, 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: bit.ly/SOM25Input

### 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























