

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 1:56 PM

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



WEEKLY UPDATES FROM

Prez Hands

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*

 SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

ANOTHER DOOR OPENED!

Mesa's Second Baccalaureate Degree Is Approved



Dear Mesa Community,

I am thrilled to share wonderful news with you.

San Diego Mesa College has received **full approval** to move forward with our **Physical Therapy Assistant Baccalaureate Degree**. On February 6, 2026, our provisionally approved program was formally approved, clearing the way for us to launch this new four-year degree.

Our Physical Therapy Assistant four-year degree expands an affordable, place-based pathway closely aligned with regional workforce needs. It allows students to pursue high-demand careers without leaving their community or taking on unsustainable debt. In doing so, we advance social mobility, strengthen our local health workforce, and live into our equity-centered mission in a very tangible way.

This achievement reflects the very best of Mesa College: faculty expertise, staff dedication, administrative leadership, and a shared commitment to creating opportunities that change lives.

I also want to extend special thanks to Vice President Isabel O'Connor, Deans Cassandra Storey, Shelly Hess, and Hai Hoang, and Professors Gail Bachman and Amanda Johnston for their incredible vision, steadfast dedication, and deeply collaborative, behind-the-scenes leadership that delivers lasting impact. I am also grateful to Chancellor Gregory Smith for his leadership and advocacy, and to our state legislators, whose partnership and letter writing were instrumental in championing this program as we launch our second baccalaureate degree.

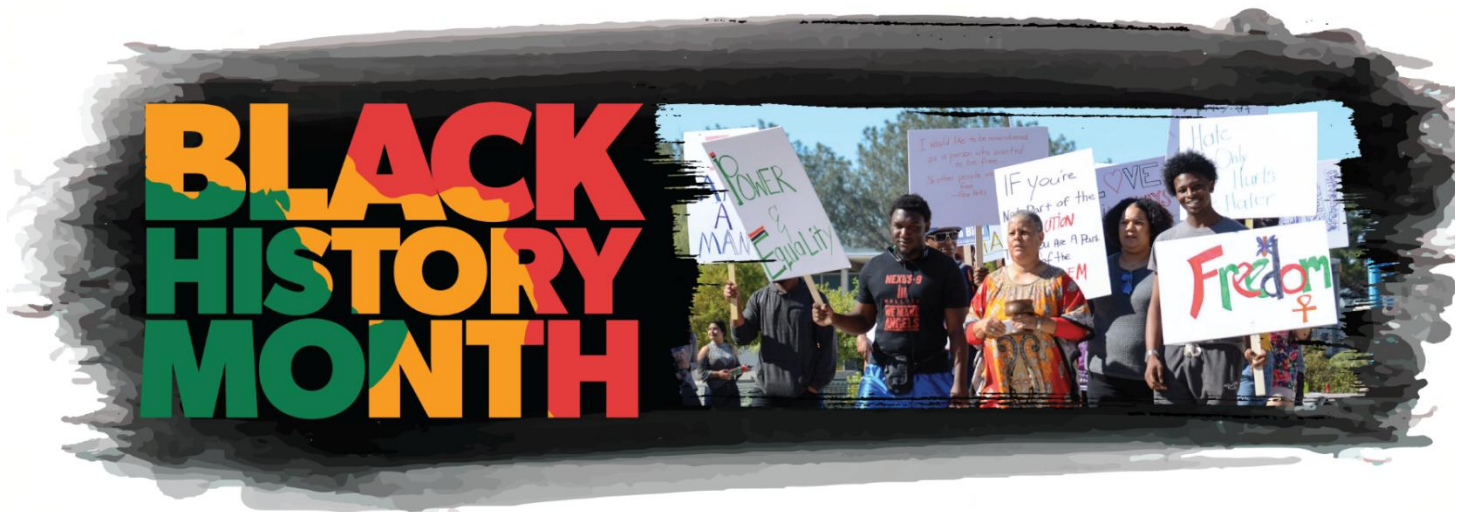
And to the many faculty, staff, administrators, and partners who contributed time, insight, and heart to this effort: thank you. This milestone belongs to all of us.

We look forward to stewarding this program with the same integrity, equity, excellence, and student-centered purpose that brought it to life, and to seeing the impact it will have for generations of Mesa students.

With deep gratitude, joy, and hope,

Ashanti Hands

President



Black History Month at San Diego Mesa College

Join us as we honor, celebrate, and reflect on Black history, culture, and legacy through art, storytelling, and community. Click here for more information -

<https://www.sdmesa.edu/academics/v2/programs/black-studies/black-history-month.shtml>



SDCCD TOWN HALL

with Chancellor Gregory Smith



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



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.



Miramar College - L-105

THE EVENT WILL FEATURE PANELS FOCUSED ON:

- Programs & Support Services that uplift Black students
- Black Serving Institution (BSI) state designation for City and Mesa colleges

And a short video on the All-African Diaspora Education Summit (ADES) Conference in Ghana

College Flex #31489

Questions for Chancellor Smith or the panelists can be submitted in advance at bit.ly/town-hall-qs-sp26

Live questions also will be taken during the event for those attending in person and on Zoom.



OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

If you are unable to attend the live event, the Town Hall can be viewed at:
bit.ly/town-hall-zoom-sp26



Accommodation requests can be sent to chancellor@sdccd.edu
Monday, February 9, 20



Leading Beyond Our Campus: Mesa's Fingerprint on Statewide Research

Shaping how California understands bachelor's degree growth, satisfaction, and equity outcomes.

The recent **Wheelhouse Research Brief, *Smoothing the Path to the Bachelor's Degree: Exploring Growth, Student Satisfaction, and Racial Equity in California's Community College Baccalaureate Programs***, is grounded in years of statewide data collection led by our own Hai Hoang, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness.

Hai's leadership helped shape research that now informs how California understands growth, student experience, and racial equity in community college bachelor's programs. This is the kind of steady, behind-the-scenes work that strengthens not only Mesa, but the entire system.

Please join me in celebrating Wheelhouse for an excellent Brief and Hai for this meaningful contribution. We see you, and we are proud.

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.



SAN DIEGO
Community College District

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II updates apply to all public colleges and universities and requires equal access to programs, services, and activities including online courses, websites, videos, digital tools and and digital marketing materials such as flyers and emails used to promote events and services.

Accessibility is a shared, institutional responsibility and applies regardless of whether a student with a disability is currently enrolled.

With the April 2026 ADA Title II compliance deadline on the horizon, the California Community College Chancellor's Office is visiting SDCCD to help us build our accessibility roadmap using the [Accessibility Capability Maturity Model \(ACMM\)](#).

- **Who needs to attend?** This invitation goes to executive leadership, deans, directors, and functional managers across IT, Procurement, Web, Instruction,

The Schedule

Zoom ACMM Kickoff Training and Orientation (All Colleges and District Office) The virtual kickoff will provide context and baseline information for the training and assessment and sets the stage/logistics for the campus visits.

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: [ACCM Zoom Room](#)

Open to everyone that would like to attend.

Districtwide Executive Level In-Person Training (All Colleges and District Office) This morning session is the foundation of the process. It will establish the standards, legal requirements, and strategic framework that we will use during the site-specific assessments later that afternoon and the following day.

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Time: 8:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: San Diego Mesa College- [Mesa Commons-Conference Room MC211 A/B](#)

Invitation only, attendance for in-person events will vary by session. Respective individuals will receive a

and Student Services. As key stakeholders, your input is vital to establishing our district's baseline.

- Aside from the virtual kickoff, **attendance for in-person events will vary by session.** You'll receive a separate Outlook invitation for each session you're required to attend.

Proxy Requirement: If you are unable to attend, please designate a proxy to attend in your place. This designee should have decision-making authority or deep knowledge of your department's current workflows. We need representation from every area to ensure our plan is achievable.

separate Outlook invitation for each session you're required to attend.

Site-Specific Assessments:

Mesa College: Feb 24 (1:00 PM – 2:30 PM)

Invitation only, attendance for in-person events will vary by session. Respective individuals will receive a separate Outlook invitation for each session you're required to attend.

If you have any questions about the California Community College Chancellor's Office visit to help us build our accessibility roadmap using the [Accessibility Capability Maturity Model \(ACMM\)](#), please contact Leticia Diaz at Ldiaz@sdccd.edu.

Accessibility workshops are provided to promote inclusive design and support ongoing accessibility efforts, to learn more visit the [Accessibility Resource Hub](#).



YOUR INPUT NEEDED!
FOCUS GROUPS
HELP SHAPE MESA'S FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

Topic:
Mesa Dreams

San Diego Mesa College is working alongside CCS Fundraising to support a comprehensive fundraising campaign. We will be seeking transformational gifts. In preparation, we need your input to identify fundraising priorities.

Why Participate?
This is your opportunity to help shape fundraising goals. Join to weigh in on the activities and initiatives we seek support for.

What to Expect
If selected, you will:

- Receive an email asking for your schedule/availability
- Attend one in-person focus group session (1 hour)
- Take part in a generative dialogue to shape fundraising priorities and goals
- Enjoy food/refreshments

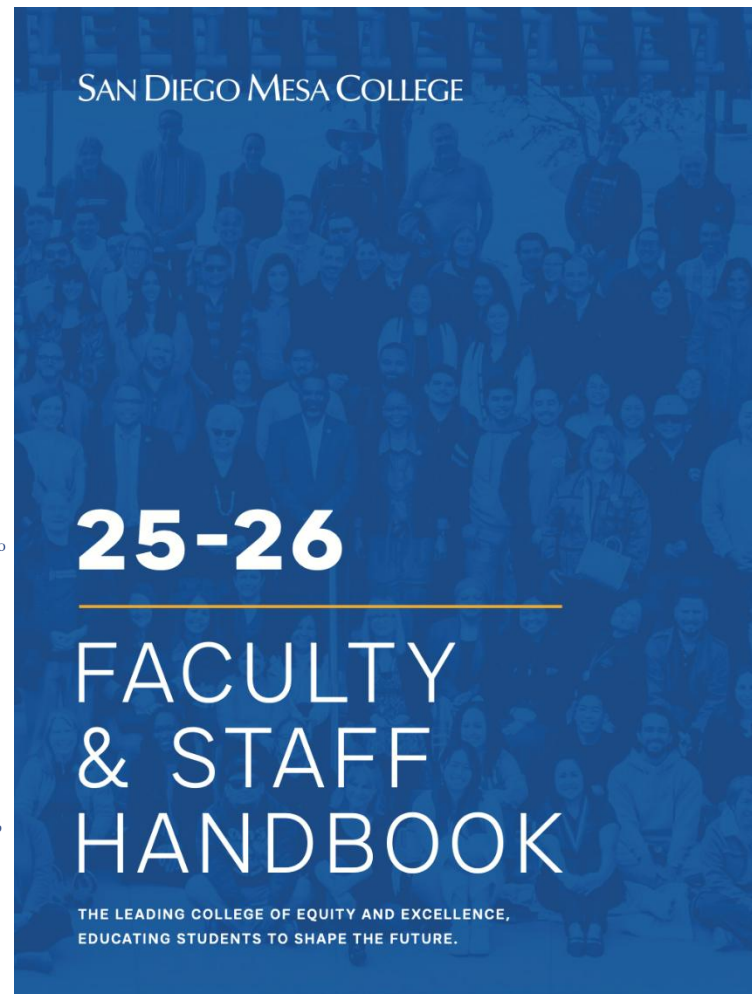
Sessions will **take place in March**, with a few scheduling options.

Complete the Interest Form by
Monday, February 16, 2026
bit.ly/FundraisingFocusGroup26

Who We're Looking for
We're recruiting participants from across our Mesa College community:

- Faculty members
- Students
- Classified professional staff
- Administrators
- NANCE employees
- Supporters

Let your voice be heard



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

25-26

FACULTY & STAFF HANDBOOK

THE LEADING COLLEGE OF EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE,
EDUCATING STUDENTS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE.

Help shape our fundraising priorities and goals!

Thank you to all of you who completed our #MesaDreams Survey. We will share a summary of the results shortly. In the meantime, we have another invitation for you to help

2025-26 Faculty and Staff Handbook

Check our 2025-26

[Faculty and Staff Handbook](#)

shape the fundraising priorities for our comprehensive fundraising campaign.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

The partnership between Mesa College's Mesa Impactship Program (MIP) and the nonprofit Advancing Science, Technology and Art continues to create meaningful opportunities for our students. Through this collaboration, Mesa student Parsa Sedighi gained hands-on experience in autonomous vehicle development while building both technical expertise and essential professional skills. Last week, he received a verbal offer from General Atomics and is also a strong candidate for a 2026 Summer Internship with Qualcomm. We are proud of Parsa's success and grateful for the transformative impact the Mesa Impactship Program has on our students' futures.

[Read more about Parsa's amazing story here.](#)



Enrollment Update

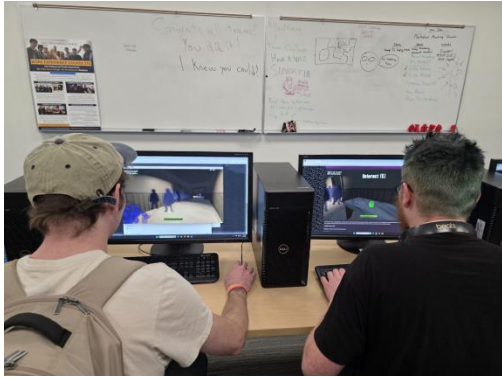
As we enter the second week of the Spring 2026 semester, we continue to remain ahead of our enrollment goals. Our current headcount is 21,400 which is an additional 103 new students enrolling into a course/s. Last year at the same point of the Spring 2025 semester, our headcount was 21,317, so we are continuing to see a slight increase in the number of students. Our FTES is 6,058 with a productivity of 15.40. As students may be adjusting schedules and we explore second 8-week course opportunities, FTES will continue to toggle slightly in the coming weeks up to Census.



Global Game Jam

Mesa College successfully hosted its fourth annual Global Game Jam from January 30–February 1 in the Business and Technology Building, bringing together more than 50 students, alumni, and local developers for an intensive 48-hour game-development experience. This year's global theme, **"MASK,"** inspired teams to explore new creative directions in storytelling, design, and rapid prototyping.

The event continues to strengthen Mesa College's role as a hub for innovation in San Diego's growing game-development community. Students gained hands-on experience completing fully scoped, portfolio-ready game projects while learning essential lessons in managing project scope within a 48-hour development cycle. They also benefited from meaningful networking opportunities with professionals, hobbyists, and peers from other institutions. For the broader community, the Jam served as a unifying milestone event that brings together students, industry professionals, and enthusiasts, establishing Mesa College as a



gathering place that supports future activities such as lectures, demo days, and portfolio reviews. Mesa also benefits from increased visibility among hobbyists and professionals who gain awareness of the value of our academic and continuing education offerings.

Mesa's partnership with the **International Game Developers Association – San Diego (IGDA-SD)** remains central to the Jam's success. As a volunteer-run organization committed to supporting aspiring and professional developers, IGDA-SD helps foster a safe, inclusive, and diverse creative environment. Their collaboration with Mesa amplifies the college's mission by expanding professional networks, promoting educational pathways, and elevating Mesa as a community meeting ground for events such as lectures, demo days, and portfolio reviews.

Across its years at Mesa, the Global Game Jam and the Fall San Diego Game Jam have become signature events that deepens community engagement, supports workforce-aligned learning, and showcases the creativity and ambition of Mesa students. Games produced during the event can be viewed through the "Games" tab:

<https://globalgamejam.org/jam-sites/2026/san-diego-global-game-jam-mesa-college>

OFFICE OF *Student Services*



SCHOLARSHIPS



Apply Now!

sdmesa.edu/scholarships

Over 115 Scholarships

Awards from \$250-\$2000

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



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
Scholarship Application Flyer

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Planning on Graduating? You Must Apply!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
HERE TO HELP

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Drop-In Sessions for CalFresh, CalWORKs, MediCal

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Healing & Empowering Minds

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
HELP WITH VA DISABILITY CLAIMS

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Spring 2026 Counseling Drop-In Appointments

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
TRANSFER CENTER CAFE

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Have a Quick Transfer Question?

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
TRANSFER ADMISSION INFO SESSION

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
BIENVENIDOS A LA FAMILIA MESA

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
STUDENT PARENT HEALING CIRCLE

Free Food Distribution 2026!

Available to Mesa Community
"Recommend bringing your own reusable bags"

1st Monday of each month Main Course	3rd Thursday of each month Main Course & Secondary
February 2nd	February 26th
March 2nd	March 19th
April 6th	April 22nd
May 4th	May 21st
June 1st	June 18th
July 6th	July 16th
August 3rd	August 17th (Thursday)
September 8th (Tuesday)	September 10th
October 5th	October 15th
November 2nd	November 19th
December 7th	December 17th

Attention: **STUDENTS**
Connect your **CHSD** card to your **San Diego Food Bank** ID card **INSTEAD** of the food distribution.

The Standard • (619) 384-5726 • (619) 384-5726

Steel columns are currently in fabrication and are expected to be installed within the next few weeks. To minimize impacts to athletics operations, the fence will be reinstalled in its existing configuration during home games to protect the baseball warning track, and temporarily relocated on non-game days to accommodate ongoing construction activities.

36-Hour Pilot Schedule



Student Accounting: Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:30, Friday 8:30-12:30pm

Business Office Support: Mon-Thurs 8:00-4:30, Friday 8:00-12pm

Business Services: Mon-Thurs 8:00-4:30, Friday 8:00-12pm

Print and Mail: Mon-Thurs 7:00-6:30, Friday 7:00-3:30pm

Classroom Technology: Mon-Thurs 7:00-6:30, Friday 7:00-4:00pm

Employee Office Technology: Mon-Thurs 7:00-6:30, Friday 7:00-1:00pm



Rooted in Purpose. Grounded in Equity. Growing Together.

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.

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](#)

**BREAKING BARRIERS.
EMPOWERING MINDS.
TRANSFORMING FUTURES.**



Welcome to Spring 2026! We are starting out the semester with two invitations to help our students and mission.

The gift of your time helps put college within reach.



Student Demand

Over **800** applications received annually



Volunteer Gap

200 reviewers are needed (far above 60 in the past)



How You Can Help

- 1) Sign up to review
- 2) Get friends to join!

Earn up to **20 HOURS** of FLEX Credit

Calling Volunteers!*
Become a scholarship reviewer; invite others to help. Transform futures with the gift of your time.

Volunteers play a crucial role in connecting our students with opportunity.
You're invited to experience students' inspiring stories that will touch your heart and fill you with hope for the future.

WE ARE
SIGN UP
BY FEB 14TH

TOP REASONS TO SIGN UP:

1. **Be Inspired:** Discover the remarkable achievements of our students.
2. **Create Impact:** Help put scholarship funds directly into the hands of deserving students.
3. **Connect with Community:** Learn about the diverse journeys and aspirations that make each student's story unique.
4. **Volunteer from Your Home:** Review can be done remotely on your time and schedule.

TIMELINE:
Sign up by February 14th
Read & review scholarships: February 27, 2026 to March 30, 2026

No experience needed!
Learn more at <https://bit.ly/26VolunteerFAQs>
* Anyone who has not submitted a scholarship application can volunteer.

Faculty Earn Up to **20 Hours of FLEX Credit**
Flex # 31292

Give the gift of time by volunteering to be a scholarship reviewer!
Please click on the two infographics for more information.

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](#)

