



*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!

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OFFICE OF THE *President*



The Board of Trustees held a special meeting yesterday to consider the current and future name of the College of Continuing Education César E. Chávez campus. After public comment and careful deliberation, the Board unanimously voted to remove Chávez's name effective immediately, citing the broader legal and social context surrounding sexual violence and the importance of acknowledging survivors' voices.

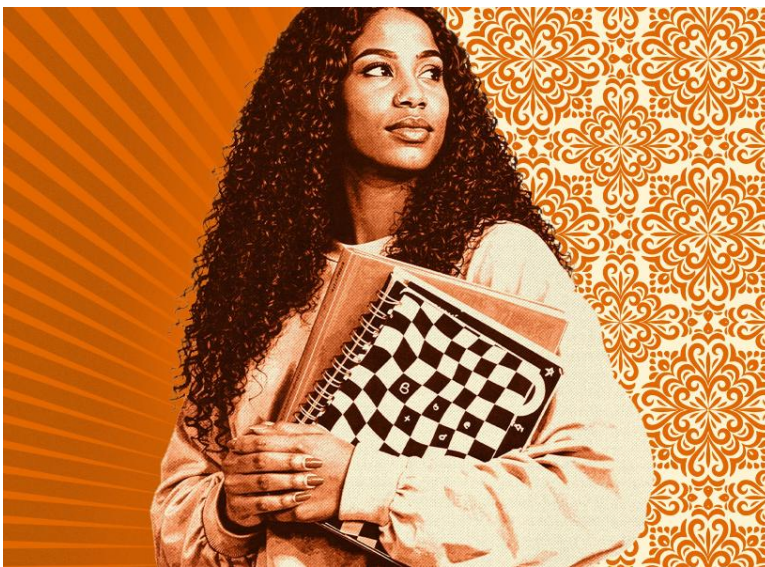
To allow for a thoughtful and inclusive renaming process, the campus will temporarily revert to its previous name, Harbor View. This interim step ensures a transparent, stakeholder-driven approach involving students, faculty, staff, and community members. President Tina King will lead this process, with a recommended permanent name expected to be presented in Fall 2026.

To read the full message from Chancellor Smith, [click here](#).

**Join us at the San Diego Mesa College 33rd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 4:30 pm in the Mesa College Gymnasium.**

Together, we will celebrate the achievements of our students and honor the generosity of our donors. The evening will include appetizers, recipient recognition, opportunity drawings, and more.

[▶ View Sponsorship and Ticket Options and Register](#)



## **REVOLUTION: (RE)DEFINING BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS**

In 2020, a dedicated coalition of leaders and advocates within the California Community Colleges pioneered the creation of Black Student Success Week. This annual event, observed during the last full week of April, offers a time to reflect on our commitment to the academic well-being of underserved students, including but not limited to Black and African American students.

The seventh annual Black Student Success Week is scheduled for **April 20 - 24, 2026**. This year's theme is *Revolution: (Re)Defining Black Student Success*. The 2026 Black Student Success Week shifts from institutional designations (BSIs) to an overall structural transformation, and calls for a deliberate redefinition of who higher education serves, how it serves, and who controls the narrative of Black student success.

For a full list of events, [click here for the flyer](#).

## 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](mailto:chancellor@sdccd.edu)
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | [lkostic@sdccd.edu](mailto: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.

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OFFICE OF *Instruction*

[Check out the latest from MESA at Mesa!](#)

The MESA Program proudly celebrates Biology major Maria Teresa Rodriguez Rivera, a recipient of the prestigious CELP Scholarship through the Aquarium of the Pacific. This \$10,000 award recognizes her dedication to STEM and supports her continued academic and professional growth.

In March, MESA provided students with valuable hands-on learning and industry connections through a partnership with Rick Engineering and an engineering panel hosted with the San Diego SHPE chapter—reinforcing its commitment to preparing students for STEM careers.



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

ENROLLMENT  
*update*

We have officially started the second-eight week session for Spring 2026, with steady growth in our enrollment numbers. Currently, our



### **Golf Tournament Basket Donations from Departments**

The Athletics Department is seeking donations for the first Annual Olympian Open Golf Fundraiser. If you have any gift cards, season tickets, sports memorabilia, or other desirable donations, please drop them off with Ryan Shumaker in the Athletics Department (ES Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor).

*Thank you for supporting your Mesa College student-athletes.*

overall headcount is 21,380 students, 4,575 of which have at least 1 second-eight week session course. FTES is 6,032 which is well above our target for Spring 2026. This FTES is also well above our FTES at this same time last Spring, which was 5,772. We look forward to the finalization of Spring 2026 enrollment numbers and the pivot to summer and fall 2026 enrollment, which is right around the corner.



**Save the Date!**  
**Golden Scissors Fashion Show Friday, May 22 at 5:00 PM on campus**

Tickets are **on sale now** with early bird pricing:

<https://sdmesafashion.ludus.com/>

Golden Scissors is our signature annual runway show and student showcase, featuring original student designer collections, a full-scale production, and an incredible collaboration across our Fashion, Culinary, Hospitality, and Music programs. It is always a highlight of the year and a truly special event for our campus community.

We would love to see you there and truly appreciate your support of our students!

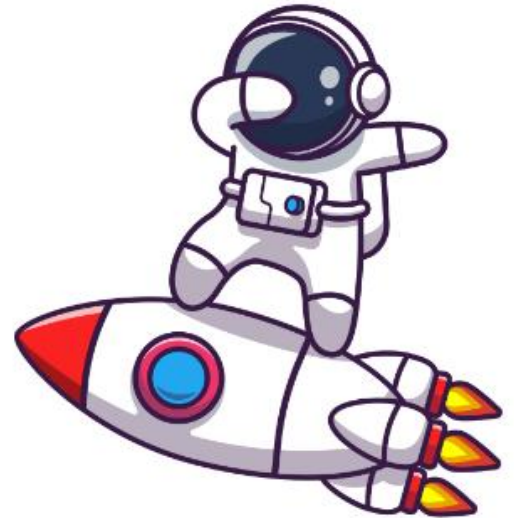


# New Issue Alert

[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>



## Great News from Financial Aid!

During the yearly All Financial Aid Directors meeting, hosted by the California Community College Chancellors Office, San Diego Mesa College was recognized as a top 10 California Community College with increases in paid Cal Grants to undocumented students.

[Click on the flyer to enlarge](#)

This collage features five promotional flyers from San Diego Mesa College. From left to right: 1. Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2026, held on May 29th at 2:00 p.m. in Merrill Douglas Stadium. 2. Lavender Celebration honoring Mesa students on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in D-101. 3. Month of April 2026, listing various events such as 'How To Follow-Up On Job Application' on APR 09, 'Resume & Cover Letter Writing' on APR 13, 'Introduction to Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS)' on APR 15, 'How To Finish Transfer/AA Career Fair' on APR 23, and 'SUNCO District Wide Career Fair' on APR 29. 4. Drop-in sessions for CalFresh, CalWORKs, and MediCal, offering services like food budgeting and health insurance assistance. 5. Spring Transfer College Fair, inviting students to ask questions about transfer options and meet with representatives from various colleges.

This collage features five promotional flyers from San Diego Mesa College. From left to right: 1. Monarch Celebration for Borderless Scholars, held on Thursday, May 7, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. 2. Rite of Passage for Black Graduates & Transfer Ceremony, held on Monday, May 11, 2026, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. 3. Transfer Recognition Luncheon, held on May 14th from 11 AM to 1 PM. 4. Apply to Be Mesa College Commencement Student Speaker, with a deadline of Friday, April 10th at 5:00 AM. 5. Run for an ASG Position for the 2026-2027 term, with auditions on Thursday, April 23rd from 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM.

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OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

**Notice: Effective Monday, April 6, the Business Services Office will close at 12:00 PM daily for walk-up service to accommodate year-end processing. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this busy time.**

[Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#) | [Consolidated Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#)



**A site walk has been scheduled to review safety, logistics, and anticipated impacts related to upcoming work on the slope above the southeast corner of Parking Lot 1 (see diagram to the right).**

Tree and shrub removal will take place in Parking Lot 1 adjacent to the baseball field from Friday, April 10 through Tuesday, April 14, 2026, between approximately 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each day. This work is necessary to remove a dead tree in preparation for soil borings associated with the future Performing Arts Center and Administration Building project.

During this time, approximately 30 parking spaces will be temporarily unavailable. Minor construction noise and dust may also be present in the immediate work area.

Next steps include coordination of a comprehensive safety plan—outlining fencing, staging areas, and related measures—and a pre-construction walk to be scheduled no later than Wednesday, April 8. Additional details will be shared as they become available.

Thank you for your continued support.

# NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!

WELCOME TO THE  
**EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL**

San Diego Mesa College

This will guide you through submitting your event request.

Create Event

Edit Event

**Non Event Parking Permits**

If your event needs parking please enter an event request and fill out the parking section.

[WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS](http://WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS)

This form can be used for parking permit requests that are **NOT** related to an event and do not require additional resources or a space/room (i.e. community clinic, meetings in dept. conference rooms, guest speakers during a class, etc.)

- Must be entered two weeks in advance
- Requests require manager approval, similar to Event Requests
- Can be used for single or group permits

Parking related to events will need to be entered as part of an Event Request.

## New Resource: Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office has published a new [Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary](#) on our website to support a shared understanding of the terminology used across Mesa College. Whether you're reviewing reports, navigating dashboards, or interpreting campus communications, this resource is designed to clarify common data definitions and acronyms in one central place. You can find it on the [IE website](#) under the **Data Dictionary & Acronym Glossary** section. We invite you to explore it and reach out to the IE Office with suggestions for new additions, updates, or corrections as we continue to build and refine this tool together. For feedback, please contact **Adriana Caetano** at [acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu](mailto:acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu).

### 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](#)



## 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](#)



Join us for the San Diego Mesa College Olympian Open on **July 24, 2026**, at 12 p.m. as we tee off to support our incredible student athletes. This signature golf fundraiser brings together community leaders, alumni, and champions of education for a day of fun, connection, and purpose. Your participation, whether through sponsorships, donations, or in kind gifts, directly fuels athletic equipment and academic support that help our Olympians succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

[▶ Register and Donate](#)

Our **annual Mesa College Giving Day** will take place on the eve of our graduation commencement, Thursday, May 28th. This is a day where we join together to build community and support for Mesa and our students. With the help of Maria Teresa Rodriguez Rivera (Mesa Impactship Program Intern), Kiana Kikuchi, and Amanda Brown, we are elevating our efforts this year. Here's our timeline:

- April 20: Ambassador Toolkit Available
- May 4: #MesaGivingDay Kickoff
- May 28: #MesaGivingDay
- May 31: Deadline for #MesaGivingDay donations



We are seeking Ambassadors to help spread the word about #MesaGivingDay - anyone can support!

[▶ Join our Ambassador Interest List](#) for updates on how you can get involved

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## 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](#)

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**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](#)

