



Mesa Pathways Fellows Program

Welcome Spring 2022!

We returned from the holiday break on January 17th and have enjoyed resuming our participation in the Pathways workgroups. We'd like to highlight the following projects in our January-February report.

Student Leadership Summit - March 8

Student Leadership Summit: Financial Aid

Financial Aid Student Leader Summit Workshop
Daisy Mosqueda
Financial Aid Specialist

What are the top questions you get from students about Financial Aid?

- How do I know if I'm eligible?
- How does the FAFSA satisfactory academic progress report work for the returning students?
- Do you have to be a full-time student to get Pell Grant?
- Can I apply to it in the middle of the semester?
- Are there options other than FAFSA?
- How long will I have financial aid for?
- Is there a class or workshop on how to manage the money?
- How do I access the money?
- Can I get financial aid for all 4 years? or more?
- Do I have to have amazing grades to get it?
- Why do you need your parent's financial information if I don't live with them or if they're not supporting you financially?
- Is citizenship or permanent residency required?
- How to do a Financial Aid appeal?

**Daisy Mosqueda
Financial Aid**

The main focus of the March summit was to improve financial literacy and discuss the areas of financial aid that students struggle with. Guest speakers from the Financial Aid office [presented](#) a workshop and answered questions. Student leaders from the Peer Navigator program, STEM peer mentors, and The Stand highlighted [common questions](#) they and other students have. Peer Navigator Thea Lernhard noted, "I get these same questions all the time. FAFSA is Financial Aid? Yeah... The thing that you spent hours to finish is Financial Aid...A lot of Promise students don't realize by doing FAFSA, they will get their Promise stuff."

Under Lindy Mosqueda's leadership, the Fellows are coordinating with Financial Aid Director Gilda Maldonado and Campus Digital Communications Specialist Anabel Pulido to post and cross-promote deadlines and other financial aid information on social media, helping eliminate barriers and creating greater community with relevant posts students are drawn to.

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Student Stories

MESA PATHWAYS FELLOWS

Student Stories

Are you a current Mesa College student or an alumni?

Would you be interested in sharing your education journey and providing a positive impact?

Help us amplify student voices!



interviews: via zoom.
Duration: 10-20 minutes
Contact: sdmesapathwaysfellows@gmail.com

YouTube

Instagram

Student Stories

Did you have a clear sense of your major when you started?



WATCH THE FULL VIDEO ON OUR YOUTUBE

[Jessica](#), who is an adult learner, had enrolled in Physical Therapy program. However, after taking some courses, she realized that the program wasn't the right fit for her. She was later invited to be a part of the EOPS program where she received the help and tools to figure out what her path is. While taking some classes to figure out what she liked and working with a counselor, she found her passion in Business major. Now, she's working towards her degrees with the Mesa's help.

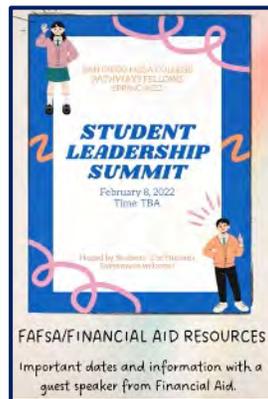


[Logan](#) is a student veteran who is going through the process of transitioning from the military world back to civilian life, navigating through college which can be difficult when military preparation for the transition is lacking. Logan recounts some troubles he faced when applying to school and the help he has received throughout his time here at San Diego Mesa College. To make things better for incoming student veterans, he wants to share his experience and contribute to changes for the better.

The Fellows' Outreach and Social Media Teams continue to develop their contact lists to recruit more students so they can tell their stories, too.

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Social Media



Early Semester Instagram Insights

The Fellows' Instagram has seen major growth since the start of the Spring Semester. During the last two weeks of January, our account reach grew a dramatic 3,623 percent compared to traffic during the break. Students are back and looking at the updates we share. During this time, we also received 27 profile visits, meaning that 27 accounts not only viewed our posts but visited our homepage.

During the last week of January, we reached 501 percent more accounts than the week prior. This tells us that we are growing constantly as the semester progresses.

TikTok Early Semester Posts & Views

Student Services Hours (606 views) ♦ Future Student Leadership Summit Meetings (177 Views) ♦ Lunar New Year Part 1 (234 Views) ♦ Lunar New Year Part 2 (226 Views) ♦ Canvas Calendar added to Mac Calendar (301 Views) ♦ The Stand (250 Views) ♦ Student Beans Website (267 Views) ♦ Grammarly (220 Views)

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Student Engagement Innovation Grant (Round Two)

The Pathways Fellows program has received a second round of funding on behalf of the larger Mesa Pathways effort to promote student voice in Pathways. The plan includes funds to encourage student participation in Student Success Team development; the Student Leadership Summit; research projects; and virtual or in-person events.

Fellows Team News



We wished a fond farewell to Fellow Gabriela Ibarra Aspe in December. Gaby has accepted a position at SDSU where she is working toward a master's degree. While a Fellow, Gaby was especially instrumental in the development of the Student Leadership Summit which will now be led by Jocelyn De Santiago-Ramirez. We miss Gaby and wish her well!

Program Coordinator Trina Larson and Lead Fellow Daniela Perez Padilla are in the process of hiring two new project assistants and one Financial Aid work-study to round out our team.