

Together, We Can Do More- Our Impact Era for Scholarships

President's Cabinet · September 15, 2026



Krista Stellmacher

Executive Director, Mesa College Foundation



Ruby Arellano Pineda

Mesa Alumna & Scholarship Recipient



Victoria Kerba Miller

Dean of Student Affairs *(via video)*



This Community Is Changing Lives

~\$1.4 million

Total Awarded in 9 years!

"I never thought I'd be chosen. This scholarship didn't just help me pay for books, it told me I belonged here."

— Mesa Scholarship Recipient



Experiencing Scholarships

As someone who went through it, I can tell you what this means.

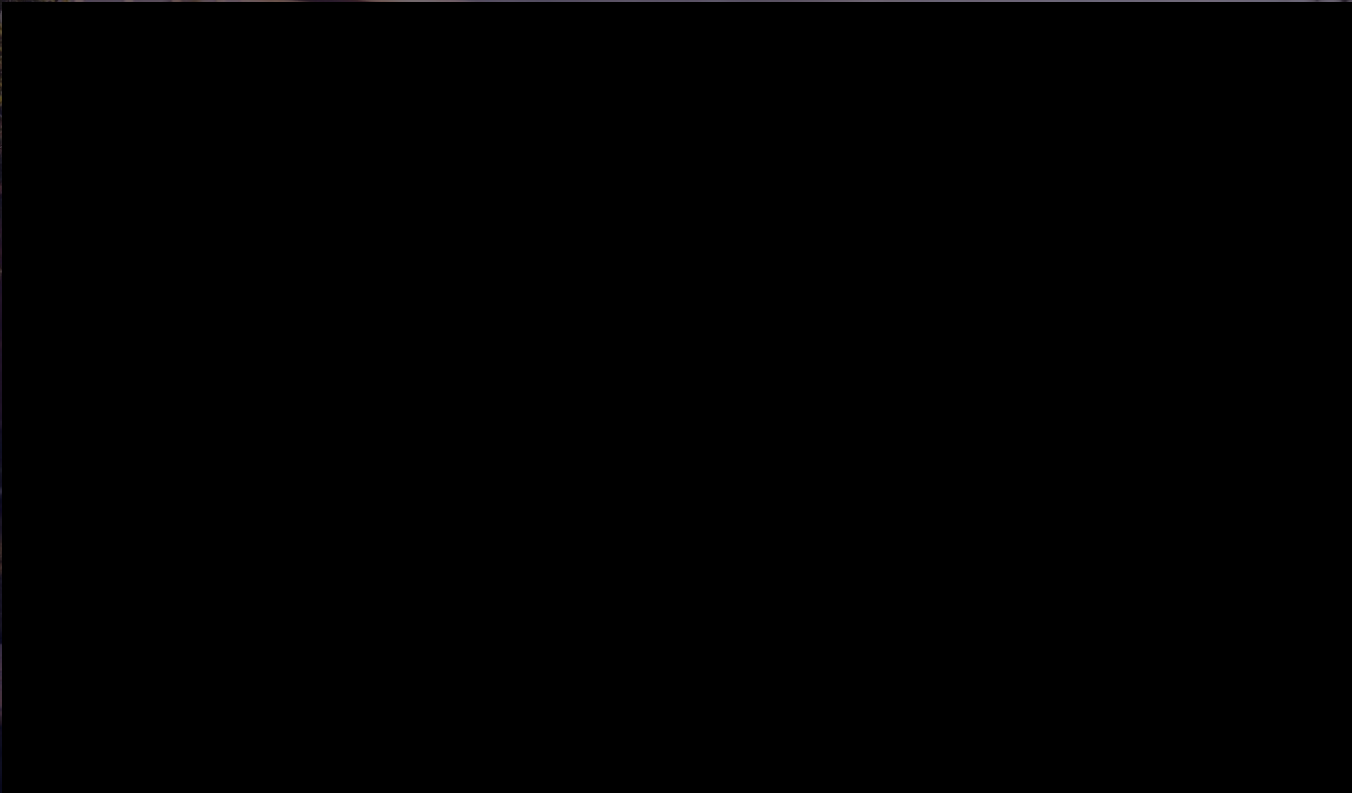
Ruby Arellano Pineda
Mesa Alumna & Scholarship
Recipient





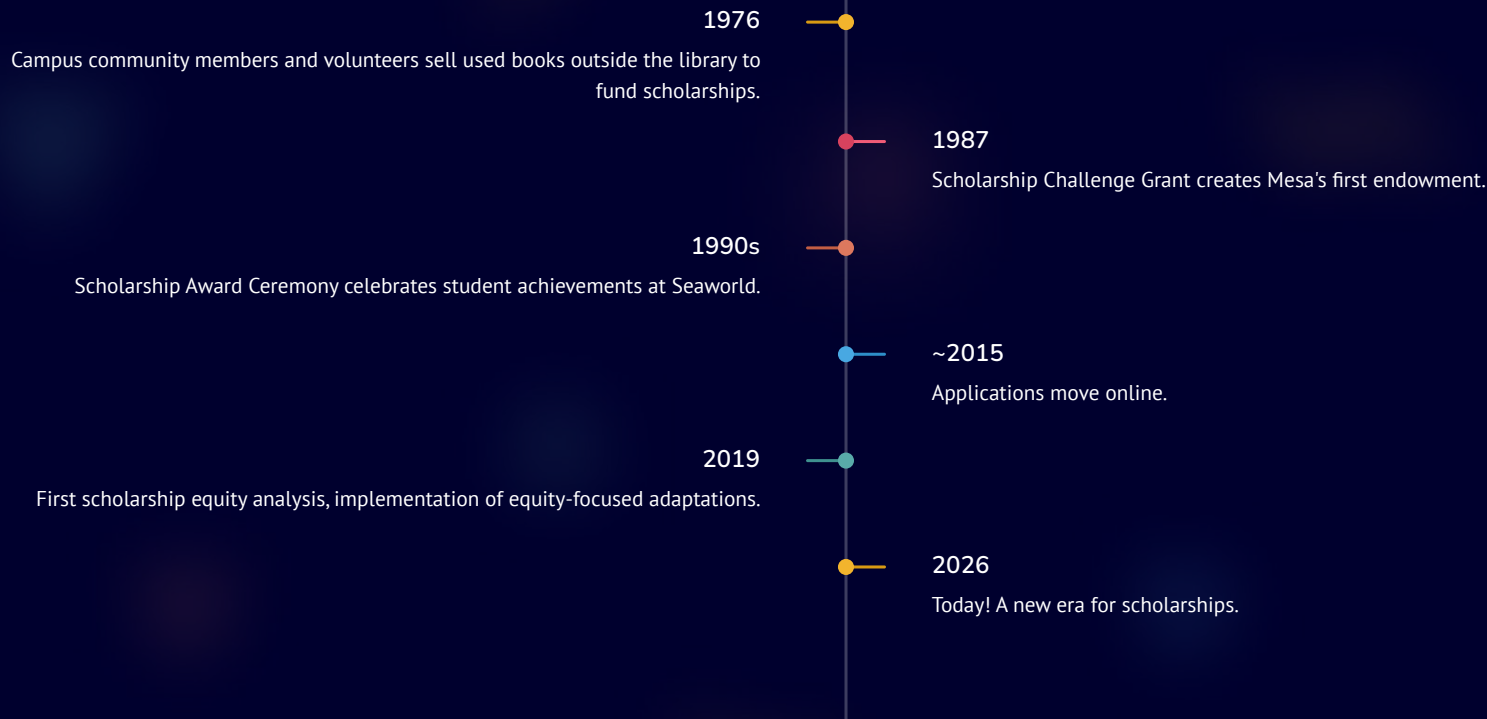
DEAN'S MESSAGE

Message From Student Affairs



Mesa Has Always Evolved

This transformation isn't a disruption — it's the next chapter in a long tradition of adaptation and excellence. Moving online was a big change, too.



THE CHALLENGE

How It Looks Today

We grew out of a boutique model, and we have now reached scale!

THEN



Finite unique scholarships
Boutique, Personal, Handcrafted.

NOW



115 unique scholarship funds
115 unique criteria

Growth Has Come at a Cost

1

Reviewers

- 262 volunteers are needed
- Each year, we have roughly 65 (*25% of what we need*)
- Equals 4 full-time employees working for a month

2

Staff

- Peak cycle: 122 hours per wk
- Support 1,300 "customers"
- Process 350 checks, manage about 5,000 communications
- No dedicated staff position

3

Students

- Average of 20 hrs each, total of 16,000 hrs
- Estimated \$488,000 worth of labor - \$610 each
- Average award of \$675
- 4 in 5 receive no funds

Bottom line...

\$1.07

per \$1.00 awarded

WHAT'S CHANGING

Our Impact Era - Five Transformational Shifts

- 1 Renewable, Multi-Year Awards
- 2 Aligned and Connected with Campus Programs
- 3 Communities of Giving: Choosing Where Funds Go
- 4 Transformational Thresholds
- 5 Planning: Review & Selection

Communities of Giving

\$50 + \$50 = \$100

Giving Options

We've organized our scholarships into four core areas of impact. Expand a category to learn more about the history, community of donors, and community of scholars behind every scholarship.

Q Search by scholarship name or keyword...



Invest In Belonging

9 FUNDS

Ensure all students feel welcome and supported through scholarships directed towards program or affinity groups at Mesa.

EXPLORE



Recognize Excellence & Service

2 FUNDS

Scholarships that recognize students who go above and beyond in athletics, leadership, and academics.

EXPLORE



Support Journeys on Specific Academic & Career Paths

11 FUNDS

Passionate about a particular academic discipline or career path? Support the next generation of talent pursuing that goal.

EXPLORE



Remove Barriers

2 FUNDS

Invest in those who are investing in their futures despite significant financial barriers to accessing a college education.

EXPLORE



<https://scholarship-momentum.vercel.app/give>

What This Means This Year

San Diego Mesa College Foundation

PART 1 OF 2, CONTINUE AND THE INVITATION TO CHANGE

[SCHOLARSHIP NAME]

Join Us in the 2026-2027 Scholarship Cycle

Thank you for being a part of scholarships at Mesa. This year, we're making exciting changes to how scholarships work so your dollars go further and more students can benefit. We heard you through our Donor Feedback Survey, and we're delivering on what you asked for. Use this form to:

- Continue your partnership
- Choose where your impact lives
- Tell us how you'd like to be recognized

Please complete this form by **Tuesday, November 10, 2026**. Scholarships that have been renewed and funded will be included in the new portfolio.

Continued partnership

Do you want to continue supporting Mesa students through scholarships this year?

☒ Yes, I'm in!

☐ Not this year

☐ I'm not the right person to ask

What is changing this year

This year, the San Diego Mesa College Scholarship Committee is proud to debut a new approach to scholarships, one built to honor your generosity, expand your impact, and reach further for students than ever before.

You can have more impact by giving through one of our core offerings.

Greater impact for every dollar
Pooled funds award more scholarships than the same dollars can on their own.

More goes directly to students
Less time spent on administration means more of your gift reaches students.

Stronger ties to students and donors
Donor profiles and student stories connect you to the people you support.

[Watch a short video](#) [See an example](#)

Choosing your path forward

How would you like to proceed this year?

☒ Join the new giving menu

☐ I'd prefer not to change anything this year

☐ I'd like more information before I decide

San Diego Mesa College Foundation

PART 2 OF 2, CHOOSE IMPACT, RECOGNITION AND REVIEW

Choose your area of impact

Where would you like your scholarship investment to be directed? You can select more than one. Each area represents a different way your giving reaches students.

Select a specific area

Add another area

[Pride Center](#) [Art](#)

Select as many areas as you like, then click one to remove it.

Your recognition

How would you like to be recognized? Choose all that apply.

☐ Listed by name in our Recognition section

☐ A donor profile with my story (photo + bio)

☐ Memorial or tribute recognition

☐ I prefer to give anonymously

Review preference for next year

We're considering changes to how applications are reviewed. Which approach appeals to you?

☐ Entrust Mesa's scholarship committee for all selection and review

☐ Only review finalists (top 5 to 10)

☐ Assign to qualified applicants by greatest financial need

☒ Other idea

Tell us your idea Required

What would you suggest instead?

[SAVE & CONTINUE](#)

<https://mesa-2026renewal-preview.netlify.app>

Connecting This to Our “Why”



Thank You

Together, we can do more for our students.

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