

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 11:59 AM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of March 09, 2026



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*

On March 4, 2026, Vice President of Administrative Services Lorenze Legaspi shared with the Mesa community that he will be transitioning from his role at San Diego Mesa College.

Lorenze's time at Mesa has been marked by thoughtful leadership and meaningful contributions to our college community. From advancing the vision of Mesa2030 to supporting the college's planning and resource alignment efforts and guiding important facilities and capital planning initiatives, Lorenze has helped position Mesa for the future. His leadership during complex moments, including our response during the COVID-19 pandemic, and his service as President of the Mesa College Foundation reflect his deep commitment to this community and to our students.

Please join us to celebrate Lorenze and the many ways Lorenze he has contributed to Mesa, and to wish him well in his next chapter.

Celebration for Lorenze Legaspi

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Gazebo Area Near C and B buildings

More information to follow.

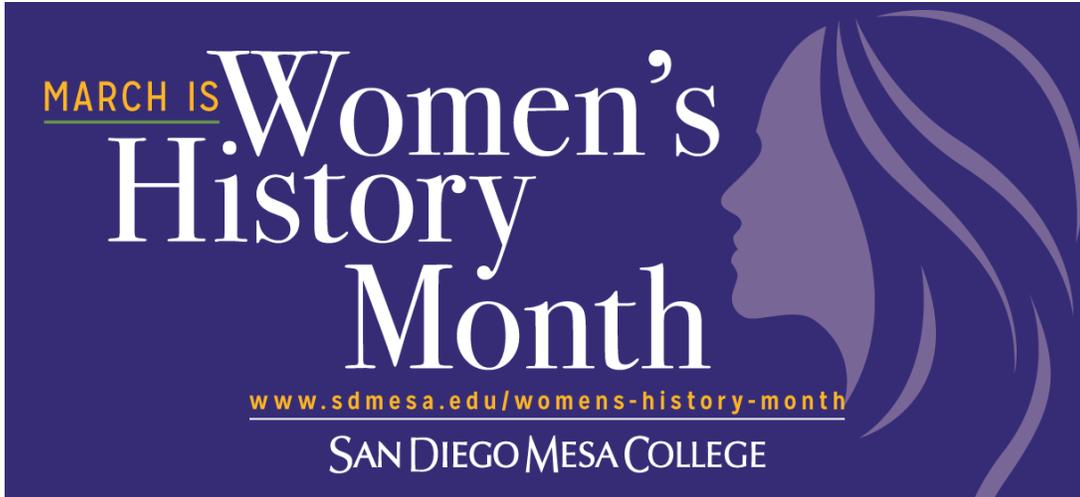
Lorenze's last working day at Mesa will also be Friday, March 20, 2026.





To support the college during this transition, **Jacqueline Collins, our College Facilities and Operations Director, will serve as Acting Vice President of Administrative Services until a search is complete.** Jacqueline brings deep knowledge of Mesa’s operations and a strong record of leadership. She previously served as Acting VPAS for nearly three months in 2023, where her leadership and attention to detail helped ensure continuity and stability for the division. Her experience, institutional knowledge, and care for the college position her well to support the Mesa community during this period, and we are grateful for her willingness to step forward in service to the college.

I hope you will join us in celebrating Lorenze and the impact of his work while also extending your support to Jacqueline as she steps into this important role.



March is Women’s History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the achievements, leadership, and lasting contributions of women throughout history and in our communities today. San Diego Mesa College invites the campus community to join us in honoring Women’s History Month through a series of events, programs, and conversations that highlight the voices, stories, and impact of women across disciplines and generations. We encourage everyone to explore the lineup of events below and take part in celebrating the strength, resilience, and accomplishments of women.

Click the banner above for an event calendar.



Chancellor’s Spring Forum

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

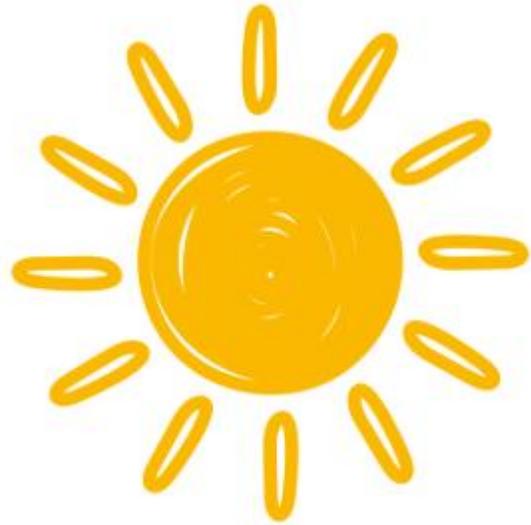
2:30–4 p.m. | Mesa College, Room MC 211 A/B
College Flex # 31704

Join Chancellor Smith for a unique opportunity to engage on matters of interest and importance to you, and to share your ideas to help shape the future of our District.

Our Summer 2026 4 x 10 schedule will take place from June 1, 2026, through August 7, 2026.

There have been questions about how a reduced work schedule may impact summer operations. Please note that the 36-hour work week pilot is currently scheduled to conclude on April 3, 2026. Negotiations regarding the future of a reduced work schedule are ongoing.

In the meantime, the summer 4 x 10 schedule will operate as usual during the June–August period noted above.



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.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

ENROLLMENT
update

We are starting week 6 and enrollment is fairly set for full semester courses and our dynamic dated sessions, with the exception of the second eight-week session. Our current headcount is 21,332 with an FTES of 6,004. At the same time last year for Spring 2025, we had a headcount of 20,870 and FTES was 5,871. For Spring 2025, between this point in the semester up until the start of the second eight-week session,

we lost 2% of our headcount and 99 FTES. We do anticipate our Spring 2026 FTES and headcount to also reduce as we move towards the second eight-week session, but even with this reduction, we will meet our Spring 2026 enrollment goals.

Recap | SD Mesa Attends the [Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators \(AHSIE\) Conference](#) (March 8 - 11, 2026)

The SD Mesa team (funded by HSI STEM grant) is braving the cold in Boston, Massachusetts while attending the AHSIE Best Practices Conference, joining higher-education colleagues from across the country to share strategies that strengthen Hispanic-Serving Institutions and advance student success. The conference provides opportunities to exchange best practices, build partnerships, and learn innovative approaches that support equity-centered teaching, student services, and institutional “servingness.” Participants are also receiving updates on the evolving federal landscape for higher education, including discussions on funding priorities and policy developments that may impact Minority-Serving Institutions. The team looks forward to bringing these insights and connections back to Mesa to continue strengthening support for our diverse student community.



OFFICE OF *Student Services*

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>





How do you take a fragmented community and restore it? Our Umoja Community set out to answer this question in attending the 2026 A2MEND Conference. This year's theme centered the *Sacred Work of (Re)membering, (Re)storing, and (Re)birthing Black Men and Boys*. We found that community is vital and shows up in numerous ways, and most of what we believe is missing has been within us all along. Our scholars continued to elaborate on the importance of leading by example, showing up for one another when no-one else will, and making the intentional choice to be present. As our work has already set many of these themes into motion, we'll continue pouring into our cups so we may pour into the campus community and strengthen these bonds for everyone.

[Click on the flyer to enlarge](#)

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

We are writing to remind all staff and faculty of our cybersecurity best practices. Phishing and fraud attempts targeting our campus community continue to increase in sophistication — and are no longer limited to email. Recent incidents on campus have involved scams conducted via cell phone calls and text messages as well. It is important that everyone remains informed and vigilant across all channels of communication.

Phishing and IT Fraud Best Practices

Please keep the following guidelines in mind whenever you receive an email, text message, or phone call requesting sensitive information or financial action:

- **Be aware of recent fraudulent activity on campus.** Recent incidents on campus have involved employees being deceived into complying with fraudulent financial requests — including scams carried out via text message and phone call, not just email. These scams are active and can affect any one of us.
- **Verify who is contacting you.** Scammers often impersonate Deans, Vice Presidents, or even the College President through email, text, or phone. For emails, always confirm the domain matches @sdccd.edu. For texts or calls,

verify the identity of the requester by contacting them directly through a known, official number before taking any action.

- **Be cautious of unsolicited financial requests.** No administrator, department head, or college official will ask you to fulfill financial transactions or purchase items on behalf of the college through an unsolicited email, text message, or phone call. Always verify such requests through a known, trusted channel before taking any action.
- **Think before you click or respond.** Whether in an email or a text message, hover over or carefully inspect any link before clicking to confirm the actual web address. Do not click links, call back unknown numbers, or download attachments from unexpected or suspicious messages.
- **Be skeptical of urgency.** Phishing attempts — whether by email, text, or phone — often create a false sense of urgency to pressure you into acting quickly without thinking. Slow down and verify through a separate, trusted channel before responding.
- **Report suspicious contact immediately.** If you receive a suspicious email, text, or phone call, contact the SDCCD IT Department at ITHelp@sdccd.edu or 619-388-7000. If you have already responded to a fraudulent message or call, contact IT immediately.

Please note that San Diego Mesa College is not able to reimburse employees for funds lost as a result of fraudulent schemes, including phishing or social engineering attempts conducted through email, text message, or phone calls. This applies even in situations where the request may have appeared legitimate at the time.

We strongly urge every member of our college community to pause and verify before acting on any financial request, regardless of how it is received. When in doubt, reach out directly to the supposed sender through a known phone number or in person.

Resources

For more information on phishing awareness and how to protect yourself, please visit the SDCCD Phishing Awareness Page at www.sdccd.edu/students/email-phishing.aspx or contact the IT Help Desk at ITHelp@sdccd.edu or 619-388-7000.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Your vigilance is our best defense.

Fiscal Year End Deadlines

To help everyone prepare for year-end, Business Services has provided key deadlines, guidance, and resources at the link below. Please take a moment to review and share with your teams to ensure a smooth and timely close.

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

Mesa Emergency Management Website



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

<u>Events and Operations</u>	<u>Facilities</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Room Reservations ◦ Setups ◦ Event Parking • Parking • Site Improvements • Furniture Requests • Office Relocations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVAC • Leaks • Restrooms and related supplies • Landscaping • Minor Repairs

Facilities: 619-388-2814

Events & Ops: 619-388-5881

SAFETY

Workplace Campus Safety vs Public Safety

<u>Workplace Safety</u>	<u>Public Safety</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cal/OSHA • Emergency Management • C-CERT • Facilities Inspections • Permits • Hazardous Waste • Biohazardous Waste • Training • Ergonomics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

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.

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](#)

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](#)

