

Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 4:12 PM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of October 26, 2026

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. 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*



Honoring the Legacy of Dolores Huerta

The passing of Dolores Huerta invites us to reflect not only on an extraordinary life but also on the responsibility we each carry to make our communities more just, more inclusive, and more hopeful. Her life's work reminds us that meaningful change requires courage, persistence, and a belief in the possibility of something better. These are values that resonate deeply with who we are at Mesa College and the conditions we strive to create for our students every day.

Our hearts are with her family, loved ones, and the countless communities touched by her extraordinary life.

Sí, se puede. Siempre.



On Friday, October 30, 2026, San Diego Mesa College will host our annual “Taste of Mesa”, the premier cooking-show & fundraiser benefiting the Culinary Arts Management Program. Taste of Mesa will feature internationally-inspired cuisine, cook-off competitions between alumni, students and an advanced baking team. Join us at 5 pm at Mesa Commons for an evening of food, inspiration, and community!

Purchase tickets here: <https://givebutter.com/taste-of-mesa-2026>

Help Us Pack the Pantry!

Did you know nearly 1 in 2 college students face food insecurity? We’re on a mission to change that. Today marks the kickoff of the Annual Pack the Pantry Food Drive!

We’ve partnered with Cal Coast Credit Union and the San Diego Food Bank to provide healthy, nutritious meals to students who need them most. ❤️

[Click here to learn how you can help](#)



Innovation Grants

2027 Innovation Grants are now available! Applications are due by November 2. Read up on the application, process, and eligibility [here](#)



The [Fall 2026 Districtwide Town Hall](#) focused on student and employee mental health and well-being, highlighting available resources, initiatives, and the importance of fostering a culture of care and belonging. Mesa College shared its innovative approach to expanding mental health services, including its *Tomorrow Needs You* suicide prevention campaign, while districtwide discussions emphasized collaboration, accessibility, and supporting the well-being of our college community. Click the link above to watch.



Click the banner above for the 2025-2026 Mesa College Fact Sheet

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

ENROLLMENT *update*

Fall 2026 FTES is 6,256 and our headcount is 21,866. For Fall 2025 we are 101.5% towards meeting our goals and anticipate being able to meet our targets even with changes in enrollment and fraudulent "bot" students being removed. As for Fall 2026, the numbers *have decreased slightly*, and we have *-0.38% less* students this week compared to last week.



Stay updated on the latest developments of our Olympian Athletics
<https://www.gosdmesa.com/landing/index>

OFFICE OF *Student Services*



From Community to Capacity: Supporting LGBTQIAS2+ Employee Resource Groups Statewide

Lucio Lira, Pride Center Counselor Coordinator at San Diego Mesa College, facilitated the statewide webinar, "From Community to Capacity: Building and Sustaining LGBTQIAS2+ Employee Resource Groups." This space raised awareness of resources to support the development and sustainability of LGBTQIAS2+ Employee Resource Groups, centering opportunities to build community, strengthen advocacy, and foster belonging across California community colleges.

The [webinar slide deck](#) is available for colleagues interested in supporting this work on their campuses. The webinar recording is being remediated for accessibility and will be available soon.

Puente Scholars Inspired at Statewide Motivational Conference UCLA

On Saturday, October 24, 2026, the 26-27 Puente Cohort attend Puente Statewide Motivational Conference at the University of California Los Angeles. In attendance were the 25 students enrolled in Puente along with the Professors Anthony Lince, Juan Bernal, and Patty Rodriguez. This one-day student conference which brings together all first-semester Puentistas throughout Southern California for a day of community building, workshops, and campus tours, with a goal of motivating academic success and university transfer.

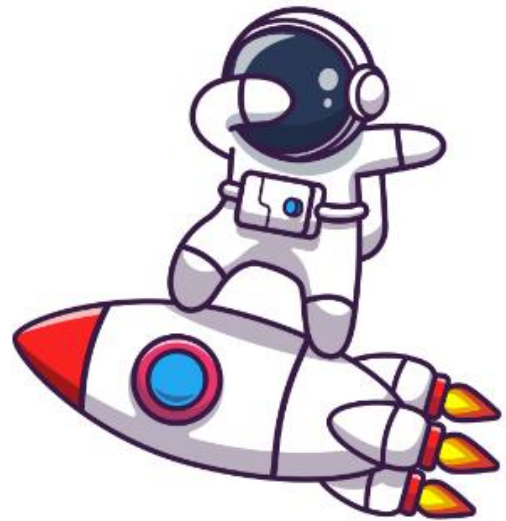


New Issue
Alert

[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>



Mesa College's Laura Lampe Goes Viral for Her Work with Doctors Without Borders

Student Health Services' Laura Lampe, FNP became TIK TOK famous this week with her video about working with Doctors Without Borders this past summer. She has 504K views so far and it has gone viral. The video shows Laura putting on her contamination protective gear before caring for patients with Ebola in Uganda (Summer 2026). The comments are beautiful and worth a quick peek. [Click](#)

[here to check out the TikTok post](#)



HONORING OUR VETERANS
San Diego Mesa College
CACM
 Culinary Arts • Culinary Management

PANCAKE SOCIAL FUNDRAISER



PANCAKE SOCIAL FUNDRAISER
 FROM 8-10AM | 10TH NOV | PLATE \$TBD

Join us on Tuesday, November 10th, for our Pancake Social, with all proceeds going to our Veterans Emergency Fund!

Start your morning with pancakes and a purpose—every plate helps support Mesa College’s Veterans Emergency Fund!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Planning on Graduating? You Must Apply!

If you plan on completing a Degree and/or Certificate of Achievement, you must apply through your mySDCCD portal to obtain the award. For questions regarding graduation requirements, please contact a counselor.

MYSDCCD PORTAL → MYACADEMICS → APPLY FOR DEGREE / CERTIFICATE

2026-2027 DEADLINES

ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER (ADT) DEADLINES	GENERAL DEADLINE	COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2026 Students Transferring to CSU in Spring '27 with ADT	NOVEMBER 15, 2026 Fall 2026 Deadline	MARCH 15, 2027 Deadline to ensure your name is in the Commencement Program
FEBRUARY 15, 2027 Students Transferring to CSU in Fall '27 with ADT	APRIL 30, 2027 Spring 2027 Deadline	Steps to Apply QR Code below  bit.ly/sdmesa_apply_degree
	JULY 31, 2027 Summer 2027 Deadline	

www.sdmesa.edu/graduation | (410) 306 | (619) 388-2680 | mesaevaluations@sdccd.edu

[Deadlines](#) to earn a degree or certificate a October 1 for Fall ADT earners and November 15 for all other Fall degrees and certificate



This event is sponsored/brought to you by:
EOPS | NextUp | FAST | CARE | STAR TRIO

SDSU | Educational Opportunity Programs, Outreach & Success

SDSU EOP is a support program for first-generation California residents who are historically underserved due to high financial need. Many EOP transfer students are former EOPS participants.

This workshop is designed to receive information on completing the SDSU EOP application for Fall 2027, learning EOP Program support services, and other information about the SDSU EOP program.

RSVP HERE:


Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026
 12:00pm - 1:30pm
 AS Conference Room (I4-408)
 Light snacks and refreshments

Questions? Contact us:
 Email: mesaeops@sdccd.edu | Phone: 619.388.2706

On November 3, SDSU’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) will host a workshop at Mesa College to guide Fall transfer students through the application process and available support services.



For More Events, Click on the Links Below

[Pop-up Resume Review Tent](#)

[Fall 2026 Housing S Ready, Set, Rent!](#)

[Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship Opport](#)

[Fall 2026 Art Focus](#)

[Fall 2026 CalFresh, MediCal, Drop In Sessions](#)

[Ask, Advocate, N](#)

[Fall 2026 Financial Literacy Workshop](#)

[Avanza Late Night S](#)

[Fall 2026 Workshop Series](#)

[Fall 2026 Graduation Commencement Workshops](#)

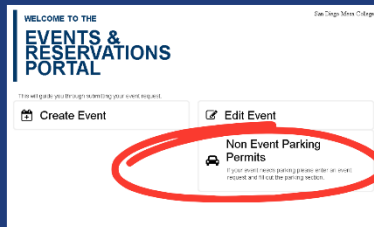
[Fall 2026 Student P Healing Circle](#)

[Virtual Friday Wo](#)

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!



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.

Events Office Hours

Wednesdays at 11:00am

Join for event help every Wednesday from 11:00-12:00pm. Find the zoom link on the Events and Operations webpage. Or scan the QR code here.



DESIGN CENTER RENOVATION

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Phase 0 Winter Intersession: January 2027

Restrooms Z-400 & Z-100

Phase 1 Spring Semester: February - May 2027

Buildings Z-400 & Z-100

Phase 2 Summer Intersession: June - August 2027

Buildings Z-300 & Z-200, Courtyard

Phase 3 Fall Semester: August - December 2027

Buildings Z-500 & Z-600



Construction use parking

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OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

New Retention Dashboard Now Available!

The Institutional Effectiveness Office is excited to launch the new [Mesa College Retention Dashboard](#), which tracks first-time college students and their retention across terms. Explore retention trends across student populations,

identify equity gaps, and support data-informed strategies for student success. Find and explore the **Retention Dashboard** under **Student Learning & Momentum** on the **Institutional Research/Data Dashboards** page.

IE Office Hours

A DEDICATED TIME TO THINK
THROUGH YOUR DATA TOGETHER 🌟



QUESTIONS?

We're here to help.



DATA?

Let's explore it together.



IDEAS?

Let's work through them.

*We look forward to being
your data thought partner. ❤️*

🌟 **Flex #34535**

Every Tuesday
12:30–1:30 p.m.



1st & 3rd Tuesdays:

In person in the
IE Conference Room (A-109)



2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 872 4762 5082



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, CFI and Director in service to the Office of Resource Development and Foundation.

[View Recording](#)

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.

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](#)

