

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



Wishing you all a joyful and restorative holiday season!

As we wrap up another meaningful semester at Mesa College, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the dedication, energy, and care each of you brings to our campus community. May your winter break be filled with rest, connection, and celebration in whatever ways bring you joy. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new year—refreshed, re-energized, and ready for all that awaits.



Click here to view the Holiday Luncheon album.



Save the Date: Convocation Spring 2026

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Coffee and Pastries in Mesa Gym

8:30 a.m. - 9:35 a.m. | Program with Campus Highlights, Updates and Olympian Spirit awards

9:40 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Dr. Gina Garcia, Keynote Speaker, HSI Servingness

10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Breakout Instruction and Transition Time

10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. | Breakout Sessions I (50 mins)

11:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Transition

11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. | Breakout Sessions II *(50 mins)

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch in the Mesa Quad



San Diego Mesa College expands educational services through partnership with Mexican Consulate

San Diego Mesa College is expanding access to higher education through a new partnership with the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego. A memorandum of understanding was signed vesterday with President, Dr. Ashanti T. Hands and representatives from the Mexican Consulate. Yolanda Granados of Mesa College's Dreamer Resource Center will provide weekly bilingual support at the Consulate, connecting community members with Mesa programs, pathways and student services.

The partnership reflects Mesa College's commitment as a Hispanic-Serving Institution to meet students and

families where they are and to provide welcoming, culturally responsive access to education. Mesa College will also co-host a bilingual college fair on January 24, 2026, at Logan Memorial Educational Campus, offering information on college options, financial aid and academic programs for students and families.

Mesa College Accreditation Update: ACCJC Commission Meeting in January

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges will convene its January Commission meeting on January 14–15, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawai'i. During this meeting cycle, the Commission will review San Diego Mesa College's 2025 Peer Review Team Report and take accreditation action in accordance with ACCJC policies and procedures.

ACCJC has confirmed that institutional accreditation actions are considered and taken in the Commission's closed session on January 15. Consistent with ACCJC protocol, Hai Hoang, the College's Accreditation Liaison Officer, and I have requested to appear before the Commission in closed session, via Zoom, to provide clarification and context related to the Peer Review Team Report prior to Commission action.

The ACCJC Open Session will take place on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 10:45 a.m. Hawai'i Standard Time and will be open to the public via virtual attendance. The Open Session agenda generally includes Commission procedural items, policy discussions, committee reports, and agency relations updates. The agenda and related meeting materials are available on the ACCJC Open Session event website.

Following the Commission meeting and receipt of formal notification from ACCJC, I will share relevant outcomes and any next steps with the campus community, college constituencies, and governing board, as appropriate.



By a generous \$1 million donation from philanthropist Roger Frey, SDCCD healthcare students will receive financial support to cover licensing and certification costs, allowing them to enter the workforce immediately after completing their programs.

The largest gift in SDCCD history, it builds on Frey's earlier \$600,000 contribution and launches a \$12 million endowment campaign to permanently sustain the Ready2Work program.

Established in 2024, Ready2Work reimburses healthcare students across SDCCD's four colleges for required licensing, certification, and testing expenses, removing financial barriers to in-demand careers. More than 1,100 students currently face over \$526,000 in licensing exam costs this academic year.

"After sacrificing so much to earn their degrees, I hope this gift removes students' final obstacle to rewarding careers," Frey said.

Mesa College is proud to highlight alum Sheba Candor, who used her experience in Mesa's Pathway to Law School program to launch her studies at USD School of Law and beyond.

For current Mesa students, she encourages embracing community college as a launching pad for your dreams. "Remember, you are exactly where you're supposed to be, and with persistence paired with purpose, you'll go further than you ever imagined," she adds. Sheba emphasizes using campus resources, seeking mentorship, and taking advantage of every scholarship and opportunity available.

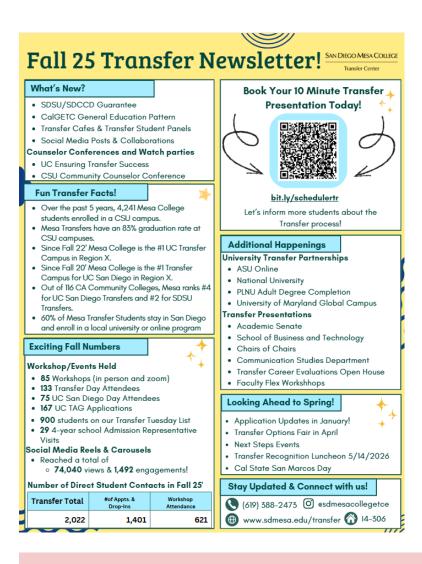
Her journey reflects the power of purpose, mentorship, and determination, and reminds us of what Mesa students can achieve with the support of our community.

Read the full feature: sdmesa.edu/newsroom.

Mesa College graduate Patricia Santos credits the program for helping her afford her \$1,050 licensure exam, enabling her to begin her career in physical therapy and give back to the community.

Read the full story at sdccd.edu/news.

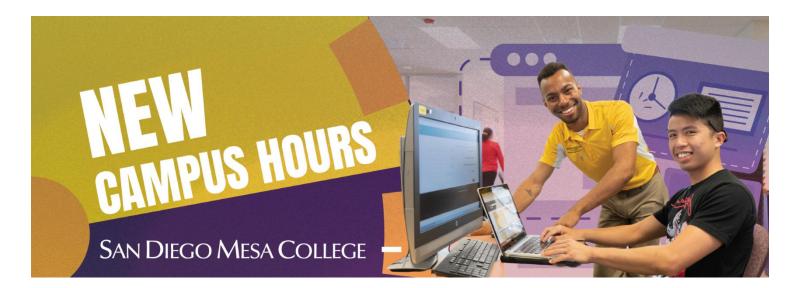




Explore our Fall 2025 Transfer Newsletter, featuring key data that brings our student transfer stories to life

District Closure for Holidays

A gentle reminder that the District will be closed from December 23, 2025 - January 2, 2026.



Spring 2026 Pilot: 36-Hour Workweek

Beginning January 5 through April 3, the District will implement a pilot 36-hour workweek. Most campus and student service areas will follow a Monday to Thursday schedule, with offices closing at 1 p.m. on Fridays. Spring 2026 classes will meet as scheduled. This pilot is an opportunity to support employee well-being, strengthen service to students, and better understand how to align staffing with peak periods of need.

A dedicated webpage with details and a short survey will be available for employees to review information and share feedback throughout the pilot. 36-Hour Work Week webpage.

Hours:

Student Services:

Fridays: Close at 1:00 p.m.

LRC Hours

January 2026 Intersession (Jan 5-Jan 30):

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Spring 2026:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Administrative Offices: Fridays: Close at 12:00 noon



A heartfelt thank you to the Mesa College Classified Senate for hosting a truly wonderful holiday celebration. The festivities were a joyful way to come together, reflect on the successes of the semester, and celebrate the dedication and hard work of our classified professionals. Your thoughtful planning and spirit of appreciation made the event both meaningful and memorable.



Join us for the 44th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. Students, faculty, administrators, and classified professionals from the San Diego Community College District will march together at the annual 44th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Sunday, January 18th, 2026. This year's parade theme is "Hope in Action: A Dream Still Unfolding"

RSVP by scanning the QR code in the flyer or click here.

SDCCD has released the Fall 2025 issue of WE Magazine.

On page 16, Mesa College highlights "Building Spaces of Unity", showcasing the opening of the CommUnity Spaces in the I400 Building, along with the addition of the KUP Unity Village. These spaces foster a sense of belonging through cultural programs such as Kapwa, Umoja, and Puente.

Click here to view article.

The WE Magazine also features the **SDCCDsafe App**, which helps students and employees stay safe by providing easy emergency communication, connectivity with their personal safety network, and the ability to send anonymous tips. Click here to view article.

Click here to view the Fall 2025 WE Magazine Issue.



OFFICE OF Instruction



Congratulations to our very own Dr. Bryan Malinis for being presented with the prestigious Wyman-Howe Award for his leadership and commitment. We are grateful for all he does in the Speech & Debate community!

Intersession and Spring 2026

As we anticipated, we did see an increase in Intersession 2026 enrollment as we now have a headcount of 2,251 and an FTES of 284.4. We do anticipate not enrolling as many students and also not having as high of an FTES compared to Intersession 2025; however, we are still reviewing additional opportunities to open up high demand courses as we balance resources and Spring 2026 courses. Spring 2026 enrollment has also increased, with an additional 1,136 students enrolling bringing our headcount to 16,052. Our FTES is 4,837 which brings us 84% of the way of meeting our Spring 2026 goals. As past patterns of enrollment indicate, we do expect to see additional enrollments over the holiday break and into January. We wish you all a Happy Holidays from Instruction!

TerraMesa Community Garden and Seed Scholars

TerraMesa is a student club dedicated to environmental sustainability and conservation. This semester, five interns supervised 34 student volunteers who contributed a total of 137 hours of service. Together, they distributed 340 pounds of fresh produce to students and processed approximately 1,800 pounds of food scraps and coffee grounds into compost.

Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome!
Opportunities include caring for native gardens as well as organic vegetable and herb gardens. If you are interested in volunteering, please click here to complete the form.

The Seed Scholars Program offers several paid internship opportunities, including the Career Readiness Internship, Garden Internship, Project Assistant Internship, and Research Internship. Click



here for more information about Spring 2026 internships.



AAPI Community of Practice - Fall 2025 (Cohort III) Wrap Up

AANAPISI wrapped up their signature AAPI Community of Practice w/ 25 faculty and classified staff members. The cohort learned more about the AAPI community and shared their best practices on how they used their knowledge to apply it to their students and everyday work practices. Congratulations to our Cohort III participants.

If you're interested for our next AAPI CoP, feel free to contact Leland Simpliciano at lsimpliciano@sdccd.edu

SD Foundation - AANHPI Lotus Fund Celebration - SD Mesa AANAPISIx Bridgelab

The SD Foundation AANHPI Lotus Fund was established in 2024 to invest in community-driven healing and capacity building. Many collaborative partners joined in to wrap up the year and share about their projects and build more community.

SD Mesa is proud to partner with BridgeLab through its Frontline Program, providing free mental health training through an AAPI-centered lens. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to supporting student well-being, culturally responsive care, and leadership development across our communities.

If you have students interested in receiving this training, applications are still open for the Spring semester!







For more information or additional questions, please contact mesascholarship@sdccd.edu

Scholarship applications are now available! Please encourage your students to apply to the Mesa College Foundation Scholarships. Our Scholarships webpage has all the information you might need!

The final deadline to apply is Thursday, February 17th, at 11:59pm!

You may also direct students to the Apply for Mesa Scholarships video, and a brief video tutorial we created on how to get started with applying.

Scholarship Application Workshops for Mesa College Scholarships are now available! Follow this link for more information about the workshops. 25 students who attend a workshop session and apply for at least 3 scholarships will be randomly chosen to receive a \$50 gift card!

If you would like a classroom presentation about our scholarships, then please contact Zulma Heraldez (zheraldez@sdccd.edu).



Student Affairs is pleased to present the SPRING 2026 Welcome Week on Monday, February 2nd through Thursday, February 5th!

We strongly encourage all departments that want to have an external (i.e. outdoors) set-up to request space at the Welcome Week booths on the Mesa Commons so that we can all support each other while we support our students; follow the instructions in the online form to request space at the Welcome Week booths if you are planning to host an outdoor activity. Other Welcome Week related set-ups, such as requesting a table and chairs to be placed right outside of your office space, *must be submitted separately through the usual event planner process*; we still ask that you let us know about your activity so that we may include it on the schedule of Welcome Week events!

Please submit your activities to the online Welcome Week Activity Form no later than Friday, January 9th, 2026.

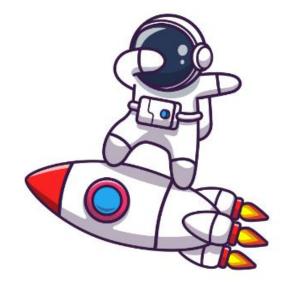
If you would like to volunteer at the Welcome Week Info Booth on Monday and Tuesday, then please contact Courtney Lee (clee@sdccd.edu) in the Student Affairs office with your availability. We look forward to a welcoming, festive, and engaging Welcome Week!



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



Click on the flyer to enlarge



New Students - CRUISE into Mesa!

Creating Rich Unique Intellectual Student Experiences
Become confident and prepared for your first semester at Mesa College

It's FUN! It's FREE!

- · Connect with a Peer Navigator who will serve as your mentor
- Receive support for CRUISE and the spring semester

 Build community and meet other incoming students
- And it's open to all **new**
- Learn about campus resources and student life
- college students! Participate in workshops aimed at your transition to Mesa College

WINTER CRUISE SESSION

All New, Incoming Students

January 13th-14th

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch provided! For more information and to register for Winter CRUISE, visit us at

www.sdmesa.edu/cruise



Deadline to register: January 5th, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

CANDIFCO MECA COURCE

2411 DIEGO MESA COLLEG

Room: 14-203 | 619-388-2757 | www.sdmesa.edu/cruise
Request for disability related accommodations should be made no later than eight (8) working days prior to event

BILINGUAL COLLEGE FAIR January 24, 2026

LMEC

- 2875 Ocean View Blvd San Diego, CA. 92113
- © 9:00am 3:00pm
- **Community Colleges**
- Universities
- Financial Aid Assistance
- Workshops
- And More

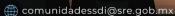
Representatives from local & international colleges & universities



Register here

For more information please contact the Community Affairs Department of the Mexican Consulate:

(+619-308-9930

















START YOUR **APPLICATION TODAY!**

https://sdmesa.academicworks.com

Zoom Session

Tue. 1/13 @3pm

Wed. 1/21@3pm

Thu. 1/22 @4pm

Fri. 1/30 @10am

Tues. 2/17 @3pm

Get 1 on 1 Support! 1PM-2PM EVERY MONDAY In-Person: Visit the Student Affairs Office @ 14-408 For Zoom:

> Please email: Adrian Balingit at vbalingit@sdccd.edu

For accommodations, please email at least 5

business days prior to the event Contact: Brittany Branson

Sponsored by Student Affairs and MT2C

Mon. 1/26@10am

Wed. 2/11@3:45pm

Thurs. 1/15 @10am



DEADLINE TO APPLY 2/17/2

In-Person Session LRC Writing Center (2nd floor)

- Tues. 2/10@11:10am
- Thurs. 2/12@11:10am
- Tues. 2/17 @11:10am

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Looking to boost your personal statement? Mesa **Tutoring & Computing** Center (MT2C) has drop-ins and appointments available



with writing tutors!



25 students who attend a workshop session and apply for 3 scholarships will be randomly chosen to receive a \$50!

Finals Week

Rock Painting!

Decompress after your finals with some fun and relaxing rock painting!



Requests for disability related accommodations should be made no later than 5 (five working days prior to the event at 619-388-2774

OFFICE OF Administrative Services

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.



Click here to view the December Bond Projects Update Report for Mesa.

Facilities

New Hydration Station

New Installation: A new hydration station has been successfully installed in the Architecture student breakroom.





We are excited to invite you to our upcoming C-CERT Training taking place January 26-28th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This training will equip you with essential skills and knowledge to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters on campus. As a member of C-CERT, your role is crucial in preparing, organizing, and collaborating as a team during and after emergencies. C-CERT members strengthen campus resiliency and play a vital role in emergency response efforts. Review flyer for all the details of this training.

Join us in enhancing campus safety and preparedness by registering for this important training. Your commitment to the C-CERT is invaluable, and we look forward to having you on the team.

For this Academy there will be a limit of approximately 15 people. You will receive a confirmation email from Matt Fay that you have been added to the training list. **You must be available for all three days of training.**

To register, please click here.

We are requesting volunteers to help with our annual Children's Center Holiday Bazaar and to urge you to donate wrapping supplies.

What: Volunteer to help organize and wrap gifts for kids at the San Diego Children's Center **OR** donate gift wrap, bags, or other wrapping supplies.

When: December 18th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

**must be punctual and available for those hours
specifically to volunteer. The center is a closed facility
for the safety of the children and your visit will be prearranged.

How to sign up: Email us at mesaclassified@sdccd.edu

How to donate: Drop off your gift-wrap donation to A-109 before December 18th. *All donations welcome*, no matter how small. We will also accept open rolls of wrapping paper, ribbon, bows, or tape.





As part of our ongoing commitment to campus safety and preparedness, we have scheduled a series of safety trainings and events for 2026. All employees are encouraged to attend at least one ALICE training during the year. Each ALICE session will focus on situational awareness, response options in an active threat situation, and practical strategies to increase personal and community safety on campus.

Building Managers may also request a customized, building-specific ALICE training for their area. To schedule a session tailored to your building's layout and needs, please contact: Sgt. Mark Green (mgreen@sdccd.edu)

Schedule:

Friday, January 30, 2026; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Friday, April 10, 2026; 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Friday, August 21, 2026; 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Friday, October 16, 2026; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Click here to learn which administrative areas are involved in managing our college operations.

OFFICE OF Institutional Effectiveness

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is excited to announce the launch of the redesigned **Transfer Volume Dashboard**, an interactive tool that provides a comprehensive view of Mesa College students who successfully transferred to four-year universities using the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) methodology.

This dashboard allows users to:

Explore annual transfer trends, top university destinations, and common majors pursued by Mesa transfer students.

Examine efficiency metrics, including time to transfer and units earned.

Analyze equity gaps to understand whether transfer outcomes are proportional across student populations.

These insights support institutional planning, illuminate key student pathways, and help the college strengthen strategies that promote equitable and timely transfer for all students.

You can access the Transfer Volume Dashboard here

. Note: Access requires SDCCD Single-Sign-On credentials. If you are logged in and cannot access the dashboard, please follow this instructions.

To schedule a demo, ask questions, or provide feedback, please contact acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu and ncortes@sdccd.edu.



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

Please take a moment to complete the "Mesa Dreams" survey. Your feedback helps us better serve you and guide our future fundraising goals.





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























