

From: Mesa President's Office <MesaPresidentsOffice@sdccd.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 12:11 PM
Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of March 02, 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!

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OFFICE OF THE *President*

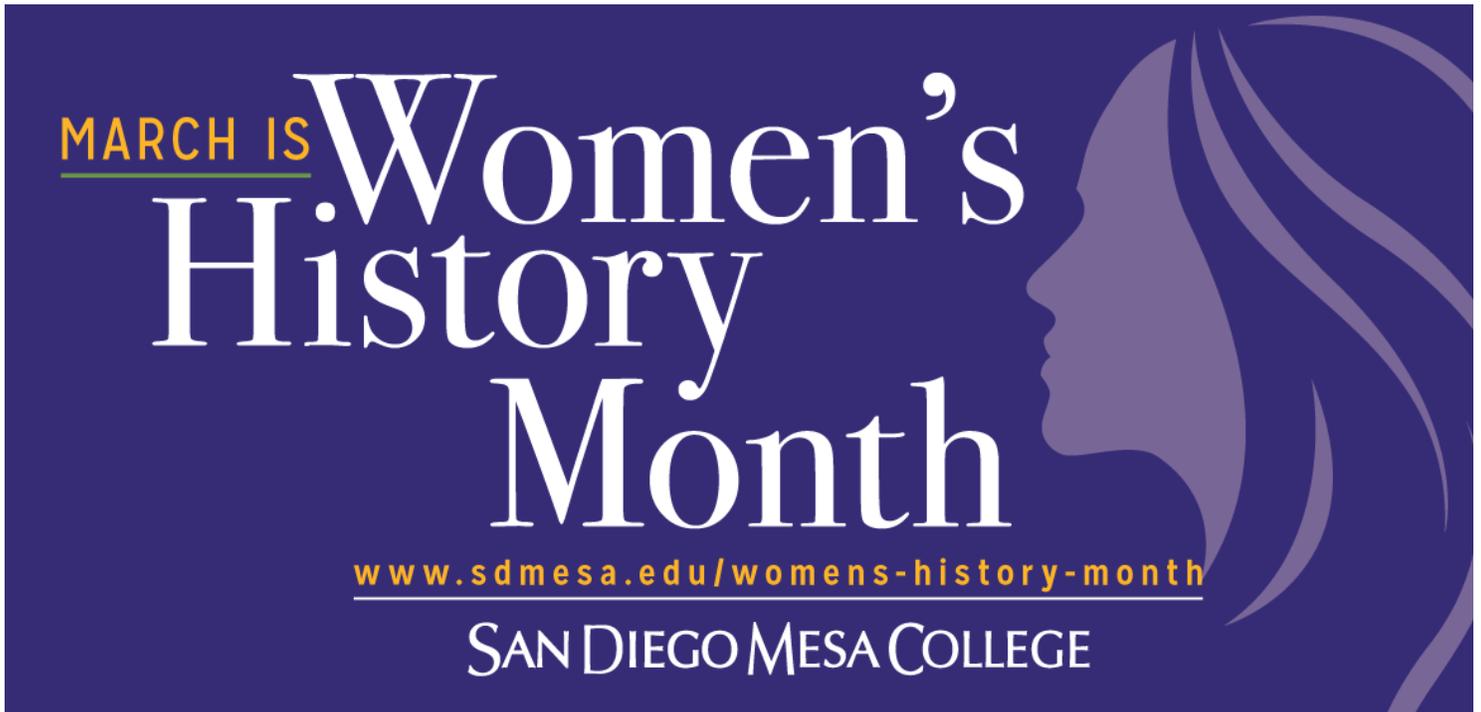


On Wednesday, Vice President of Administrative Services Lorenze Legaspi shared a message with the Mesa community announcing his decision to transition from his role at the college after nearly eight years of service.

In his message, Lorenze expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Mesa community and reflected on several of the collaborative efforts that shaped his time here, including the development of the Mesa2030 Educational and Facilities Comprehensive Plan, equity-centered resource planning, capital planning initiatives, our collective response during the COVID-19 pandemic, and his service as President of the San Diego Mesa College Foundation.



A campus celebration recognizing Lorenze's contributions, along with information regarding acting leadership for Administrative Services, will be shared next week.



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.



In collaboration with Mesa College, San Diego County Office of Education is holding their 2026 Apprenticeship & Vocational Training Expo on campus, on March 5, to create awareness of non-traditional post-secondary training and employment opportunities that lead to high-wage, in-demand jobs. Students have an opportunity to learn about training and career opportunities available through apprenticeship and vocational training programs in multiple pathways, as well as obtain information on employment opportunities and career services. In addition, students will gain insight on training programs and services offered at Mesa College through campus tours and hear from industry professionals in our industry panel session.





Thank you all for joining us for our Accreditation Celebration last Thursday!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Accreditation Celebration! It was wonderful to see our Mesa community come together to mark this important milestone. The afternoon was filled with sweet treats, a lively photo booth, and plenty of laughter and smiles as we celebrated the collective work and dedication that make Mesa College so special. We appreciate everyone who stopped by to share in the moment and help make the day such a memorable one.

[Click here to view photos from last Thursday](#)

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.



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.

There's still time to sign up for a focus group to help shape Mesa fundraising goals.

Timeline

We will be conducting focus groups in March of 2026

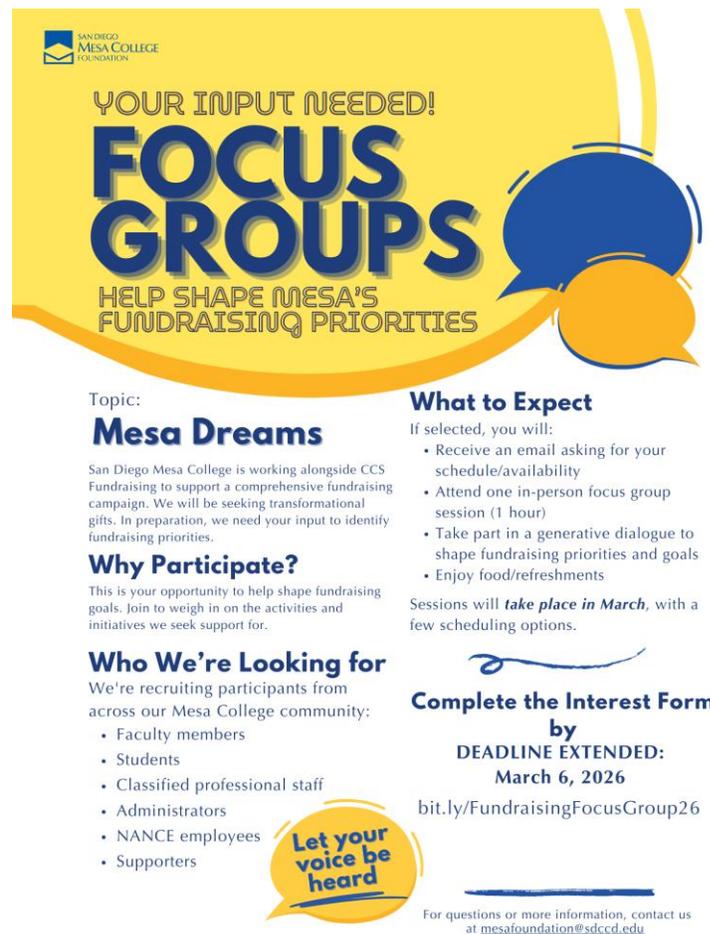
- March 6 - Deadline Extended! Submit interest form
- March 13 - Get email confirming your participation
- March/April - Join one in-person focus group session (multiple sessions will be available)

Commitment

To serve, we ask that you commit to:

- Attend one in-person focus group session (1 hour) in the month of March/April 2026
- Take part in a generative dialogue to shape fundraising priorities and goals
- Enjoy food/refreshments

Link here: bit.ly/MesaFocusGroups



The flyer features a yellow background with blue and orange accents. At the top left is the San Diego Mesa College Foundation logo. The main text reads 'YOUR INPUT NEEDED!' followed by 'FOCUS GROUPS' in large, bold, blue letters. Below that, it says 'HELP SHAPE MESA'S FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES'. To the right are two overlapping speech bubbles, one blue and one orange. The flyer is divided into sections: 'Topic: Mesa Dreams', 'Why Participate?', 'Who We're Looking for', and 'What to Expect'. A call to action at the bottom right says 'Complete the Interest Form by DEADLINE EXTENDED: March 6, 2026' with the link 'bit.ly/FundraisingFocusGroup26'. A small graphic at the bottom right says 'Let your voice be heard'.

Topic:
Mesa Dreams

San Diego Mesa College is working alongside CCS Fundraising to support a comprehensive fundraising campaign. We will be seeking transformational gifts. In preparation, we need your input to identify fundraising priorities.

Why Participate?

This is your opportunity to help shape fundraising goals. Join to weigh in on the activities and initiatives we seek support for.

Who We're Looking for

We're recruiting participants from across our Mesa College community:

- Faculty members
- Students
- Classified professional staff
- Administrators
- NANCE employees
- Supporters

What to Expect

If selected, you will:

- Receive an email asking for your schedule/availability
- Attend one in-person focus group session (1 hour)
- Take part in a generative dialogue to shape fundraising priorities and goals
- Enjoy food/refreshments

Sessions will **take place in March**, with a few scheduling options.

Complete the Interest Form by
DEADLINE EXTENDED:
March 6, 2026
bit.ly/FundraisingFocusGroup26

Let your voice be heard

For questions or more information, contact us at mesafoundation@sdccd.edu

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

ENROLLMENT *update*

As we enter week 5 of the Spring 2026 semester, we continue to experience small increases in enrollment. Specifically, our headcount is currently 21,328 compared to 21,296 students last week. FTES also saw a very small increase as our current FTES is 5,999.7 compared to last week at 5,996. These enrollment numbers are very positive and place us 3 percent over our goals for this semester. Historically, we do lose enrollment between now and into the start of the second eight-week session. We will be monitoring the second eight-week session daily to ensure we address any dramatic changes in enrollment in this short time frame.



A Fast Trip, Big Opportunities: Mesa Students at the Pathways to Law Summit

On February 20, a group of five Mesa students made a whirlwind overnight trip to San Francisco to catch the Pathways to Law Summit. While there, they visited UC Berkeley, including its law school, and spoke with former Mesa students. At the summit, they networked with other students, observed a mock trial, and heard keynote speaker Sergio Garcia, the first officially licensed undocumented attorney in the U.S.

The trip was organized by Michelle Rodriguez (Pathway to Law School Coordinator) and Wendy Smith (mentor and club advisor).

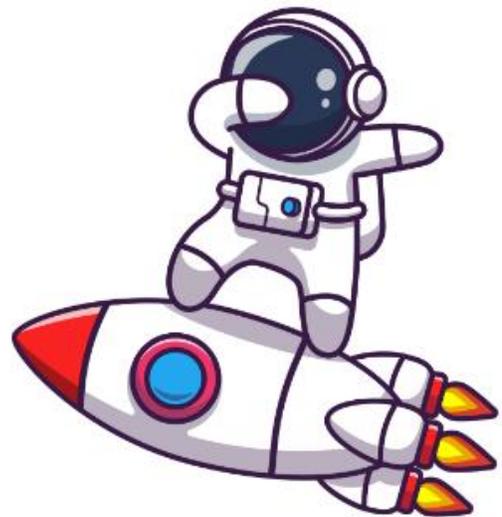
OFFICE OF *Student Services*

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>



Mesa College just set a new record for the most students ever certified for the UCLA TAP in a single admissions cycle. The old Mesa record was 28 students, but as of today we have 34 student certified for TAP for fall 2026!

Congratulations to Ingrid and Dante, they have been amazing Honors Program Directors!



SD Mesa Celebrates Lunar New Year

by Leah Lombos, Kapwa Project Assistant

Over 250+ students, staff, and facilities came together to celebrate Lunar New Year on the Mesa College Quad on Wednesday, February 23. Participants welcomed the Year of the Fire Horse with an abundance of red envelopes, community resources, delicious food, and activities. Students learned about the various resources during the resource fair, created art at the crafting stations, made wishes at the wishing tree, and listened to guest speakers made up of students, faculty, and community leaders from Viet Voices to share their Lunar New Year traditions. This event was organized by the AANHPI Mentorship Program, KAPWA Learning Community, AANHPI SAP, and AANAPISI. A special thanks to all the programs that participated in the resource fair!



AANHPI Student Achievement Program Inaugural Summit

by Leah Lombos & Trish Guevarra

On Monday, February 25th, SD Mesa's AANHPI Student Achievement Program sent a team of KAPWA Learning Community staff, faculty, a dean, and student leaders to attend the inaugural California AANHPI Student Achievement Program (AANHPI SAP) Summit at Sacramento State. The theme of the summit was "Serving AANHPI Communities in Higher Education: From Recognition to Transformation." Our students learned about successful collaborations between the AANHPI students at California Community Colleges and CSUs, such as transfer partnerships and shared programming. The KAPWA Learning faculty also participated in a poster board session presenting Mesa College's AANHPI SAP efforts which highlighted our achievements and goals to increase support for AANHPI students, particularly for multiethnic and multiracial students.



Mixed at Critical Mixed

Race Studies By Tyler Liebel, MSU President

Students from Mesa's Mixed Student Union had the opportunity to attend the Critical Mixed Race Studies (CMRS) conference at UCLA! Students were able to learn more about how to support our multiracial and multiethnic student population, and further incorporate our mixed community on our campus.

At CMRS, the student leaders behind Mesa's brand new Mixed Student Union were able to connect with other Mixed Student Unions from UCLA and UCSD. Mesa's Mixed Student Union held their first meeting on Friday, February 28th, with plans to show the "Mixed Match" documentary at their next meeting on March 20th. A special thanks to AANHPI SAP for funding this opportunity!



PANCAKE SOCIAL FUNDRAISER



pre-order now!!!

FROM 8-10AM | 10TH MAR | PLATE \$8

PRE-ORDER ONLINE USING THE TOAST APP STARTING 2/19/26.

WE'LL ALSO DELIVER IF YOU'RE ON CAMPUS!



Join us on Tuesday, March 10th as we bring back our annual Pancake Social where all proceeds go to our **Veterans Emergency Fund!**

\$8 = Pancakes, Sausage (pork or chicken), & home potatoes! Add Orange Juice or Coffee for \$2.

Contact Jordan Agricola at jagricola@sdccd.edu for more information.

Click on the flyer to enlarge



All actively registered San Diego Mesa College students have **FREE**, 24/7 access to virtual health care services through TimelyCare!

- Medical Now**
On-demand care for common issues (cold, flu, allergies)
- Scheduled Counseling**
Pre-scheduled therapy sessions (up to 12 visits/year)
- Scheduled Medical**
Book medical visits at a time that works for you
- Health Coaching**
Support for nutrition, sleep, time management, and mindfulness
- Talk Now**
24/7 emotional support for stress, anxiety, relationships, and more
- Available 365 Days**
Access care anytime, including nights, weekends, and breaks

IMPORTANT!

FOR IMMINENT THREAT, HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS, CALL 911 OR CAMPUS POLICE (X6405).

NEED SUPPORT? Start Here →



For More Information: <https://bit.ly/sdmesatc>

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
LAVENDER CELEBRATION
HONORING MESA STUDENTS
TUESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2026
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
D-101

Join us for a celebration of diversity, resilience, and achievement of our LGBTQIA* students at our Lavender Celebration Ceremony!

This event is a testament to the strength of our community and the importance of representation in academia. Let's commemorate this milestone with pride and solidarity, embracing the rich tapestry of identities that make our graduating class truly remarkable.

RSVP
tinyurl.com/2026LavenderCelebration

For other questions, contact Price Center Coordinator Lucio Lira at llira@sdccd.edu

Pride Center
SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Request for disability-related accommodation should be made no later than five (5) working days prior to the event. Call 619-388-2774.

RSVP TODAY! Saturday, March 14, 2026

JUMPSTART YOUR SUCCESS AT SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Visit the webpage to RSVP & details.
sdmesa.edu/jumpstart

Learn about the San Diego Promise Program offering free tuition. sdmesa.edu/promise

7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego, CA 92111
For special accommodations contact 619-388-2698 at least 5 days prior to the event.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

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

SAFETY

When to Call Events/Operations vs Facilities

Events and Operations

- Event Requests
 - Room Reservations
 - Setups
 - Event Parking
- Parking
- Site Improvements
- Furniture Requests
- Office Relocations

Events & Ops: 619-388-5881

Facilities

- HVAC
- Leaks
- Restrooms and related supplies
- Landscaping
- Minor Repairs

Facilities: 619-388-2814

Workplace Campus Safety vs Public Safety

Workplace Safety

- Cal/OSHA
- Emergency Management
- C-CERT
- Facilities Inspections
- Permits
- Hazardous Waste
- Biohazardous Waste
- Training
- Ergonomics

Public Safety

- 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

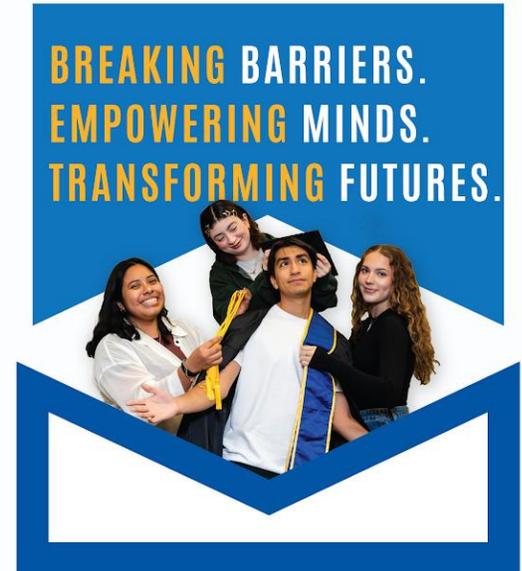
The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office is launching weekly Office Hours to serve as a partner for your data questions and ideas. Whether you're exploring data for program review or accreditation, thinking through how to use our dashboards, or simply trying to make sense of what the data is telling 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

