



*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*



**REVOLUTION: (RE)DEFINING BLACK STUDENT**

The seventh annual Black Student Success Week is going strong this week with many fulfilling events going on throughout the District. This year's theme is *Revolution: (Re)Defining Black Student Success*. The 2026 Black Student Success Week shifts from institutional designations (BSIs) to an overall structural transformation, and calls for a deliberate redefinition of who higher education serves, how it serves, and who controls the narrative of Black student success.

For a full list of events this week, [click here for the flyer](#).



**Dr. Isabel de los Angeles O'Connor, Vice President of Instruction at San Diego Mesa College and President of the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers, has been named the 2025–2026 recipient of the Carter Doran Award.** Presented annually by the CCCCIO Board, the award honors an outstanding Chief Instructional Officer who demonstrates leadership from the heart, creativity, and a lasting impact on their college and the broader system.

Dr. O'Connor was recognized for her transformational leadership and significant contributions to statewide instructional initiatives, including her work advancing the Common Course Numbering initiative to improve student mobility and success across California community colleges. Her service continues to shape equitable pathways and strengthen instructional practice systemwide. Read the full story at [sdmesa.edu/newsroom](https://sdmesa.edu/newsroom).



### **Mesa College Takes Over LA**

The USC–Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute’s LA2026 initiative brings together historical and cultural institutions across Los Angeles to develop humanities programming commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. These efforts highlight Southern California’s relationship to national narratives and identities, including the ongoing and uneven struggle for democracy.

As part of this initiative, the story of the 1976 Bicentennial at USC will receive special attention, particularly the ways in which students advanced the idea of participatory democracy on campus. This includes the founding of El Centro Chicano and the creation of the mural *Ad Astra per Aspera*. César López, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies at San Diego Mesa College and a USC alumnus, and Mary Ann Pacheco, Council Member for the City of Whittier and a USC alumna, will join Laura Dominguez, Ph.D., NEH Postdoctoral Scholar and Research Associate (LA2026) and USC alumna, for a conversation on the history and struggles of Chicana/o Movement activism in Southern California from the 1960s through the 1990s.

Assistant Professor Gabriela Kovats Sanchez from the Chicana/o Studies Department will be presenting her academic paper at the AERA Annual Meeting in Los Angeles on Friday, April 10, from 7:45–9:10 a.m. The title of her paper is

“Living Indigeneity: Centering Critical Reflections, Epistemologies, and Reclamation for Diasporic Indigenous Communities.”

She also shared news of her latest publication: a book review of *The Children of Solaga* by Daina Sanchez, recently published in the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. She noted that she plans to include this book in the upcoming CHIC 201 course she will be teaching next year.

[You can view the publication here](#)



### One week away! Mesa College's Scholarship Awards Ceremony

To offer this at no-cost to scholarship recipients, we call on our campus to support. Here's how you can help us honor our students:

#### Gift Items for the Opportunity Drawing

Help continue the tradition of offering an opportunity drawing at the event by giving themed baskets or items. All contributions will be recognized as supporters of the 33rd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony.



If you would like to donate a basket, please **bring your basket to the Student Affairs Office (I4-408) by 4:00pm on Monday, April 27th.**

#### Sponsor A Recipient's Ticket

Help make a scholar's moment unforgettable — sponsor a scholarship recipient's attendance at this year's ceremony.



[▶ Sponsor a Student Recipient](#)

#### Join as a Guest or Sponsor a Table

Join us at the San Diego Mesa College 33rd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, **April 29, 2026** at 4:30 pm in the Mesa College Gymnasium.



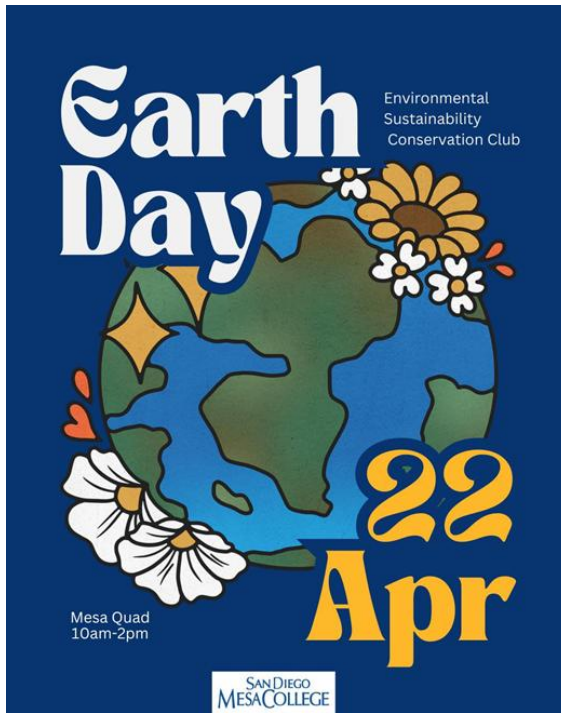
[▶ View Sponsorship and Ticket Options and Register](#)



**Happy Earth Day!**

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, is a global reminder of our shared responsibility to protect and preserve the planet. It encourages individuals and communities to take meaningful action—whether through sustainability efforts, conservation, or simple everyday choices—to support a healthier, more resilient Earth for future generations.

Today on the Mesa Quad, join TerraMesa in celebration until 2:00 p.m.. There are DIY seed starter kits, interactive recycling, clothing swap, vermicomposting, book swap, a native plant ID challenge, and much more.



## Join Us at the Linda Vista Fair and Parade!

Saturday, April 25, 2026

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

6900 block of Linda Vista Road

The [Linda Vista Multicultural Fair & Parade](#) is a free, family-friendly community celebration held annually in San Diego, bringing together food, art, culture, and entertainment. Taking place on April 25, 2026, the event features live performances, global cuisine, cultural exhibits, and activities for all ages, including a parade, kids zone, and art contest. Rooted in more than 40 years of tradition, the fair highlights the diversity and community spirit of Linda Vista while offering opportunities for local vendors, performers, and organizations to participate.



### 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](mailto:chancellor@sdccd.edu)
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | [lkostic@sdccd.edu](mailto: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

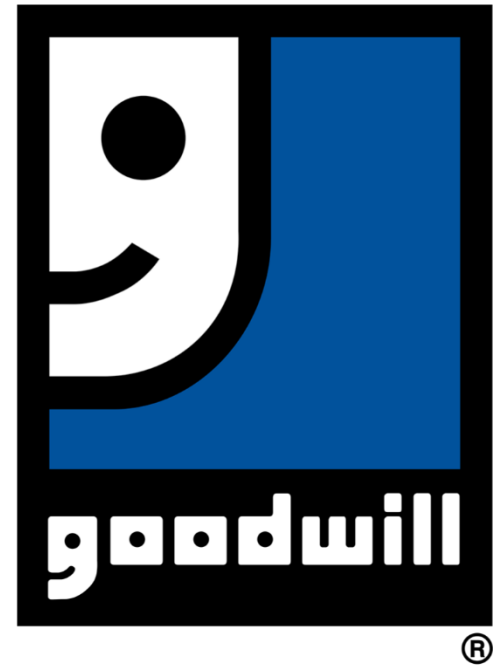
**San Diego Mesa College has a clear, coordinated Immigration Enforcement Response Plan** centered on our Emergency Management Response Team, led by the President and including College Communications, Vice Presidents, Facilities and Operations, OEHS, and the Campus Community Emergency Response Team, 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.

## Mesa College Partners Up with Goodwill of San Diego

San Diego Mesa College and Goodwill of San Diego are proud to strengthen their partnership through a shared commitment to workforce education and leadership development. As part of this collaboration, Mesa College recognizes Goodwill of San Diego's Management Development Program by awarding credit for prior learning to employees who complete it, affirming the value of their professional training and experience.

Eligible Goodwill employees will receive credit for BUSE 150 – Human Relations in Business, the first course in Mesa College's Retail Management Certificate (RMC) program, creating a clear pathway from workplace learning to college credentials. Together, San Diego Mesa College and Goodwill of San Diego are aligned in a shared vision to prepare, empower, and elevate the future leaders of our community.

A huge thank you to Howard L. Eskew, Professor of Business and lead faculty for the Mesa Retail Management Certification program who has led the work for this important student pathway.



## ENROLLMENT *update*

Spring 2026 headcount is 21,203 and our FTES is 5,994 which is still well above our Spring 2026 FTES target of 5,790. As we start week 3 of the second-eight-week session, we do not anticipate any large impacts to our headcount or FTES. We are pivoting our focus to Summer 2026 and Fall 2026 enrollment numbers as priority registration for Summer 26 starts Monday and Fall 26 on May 4.



### Golf Tournament Basket Donations from Departments

The Athletics Department is seeking donations for the first Annual Olympian Open Golf Fundraiser. If you have any gift cards, season tickets, sports memorabilia, or other desirable donations, please drop them off with Ryan Shumaker in the Athletics Department (ES Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor).

*Thank you for supporting your Mesa College student-athletes.*



### Save the Date!

**Golden Scissors Fashion Show Friday, May 22 at 5:00 PM on campus**

Tickets are **on sale now** with early bird pricing:

<https://sdmesafashion.ludus.com/>

Golden Scissors is our signature annual runway show and student showcase, featuring original student designer collections, a full-scale production, and an incredible collaboration across our Fashion, Culinary, Hospitality, and Music programs. It is always a highlight of the year and a truly special event for our campus community.

We would love to see you there and truly appreciate your support of our students!

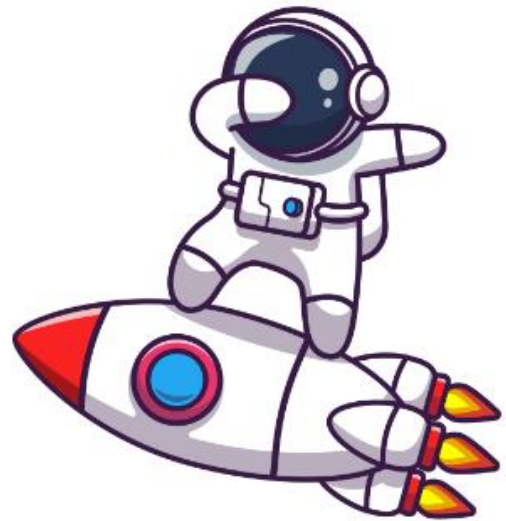
# OFFICE OF *Student Services*

# 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>



**Click on the flyer to enlarge**

A flyer for the DSPS Department Graduation Celebration. It features the San Diego Mesa College DSPS logo, a gold seal for the Class of 2026, and the Delta Alpha Psi logo. The text says: "YOUR ARE INVITED TO DSPS DEPARTMENT GRADUATION CELEBRATION MAY TUESDAY 5 1:30-3:00 PM." It also mentions that the DSPS office wants to celebrate achievements with graduates and transfer students, and provides an RSVP link: <https://bit.ly/2026DSPSGrad>.A flyer for the Lavender Celebration at San Diego Mesa College. It features a purple and pink color scheme with a rainbow border. The text says: "LAVENDER CELEBRATION HONORING MESA STUDENTS TUESDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM D-101". It describes the event as a celebration of diversity, resilience, and achievement for LGBTQ+ students and includes an RSVP link: <https://www.sdmcc.edu/2026/Lavender-Celebration>.A flyer for Black Professionals Day at San Diego Community College District. It features a blue and black color scheme. The text says: "BLACK PROFESSIONALS DAY Brilliant Minds Bold Futures Friday, May 8, 2026 9:00 am - 2:00 pm". It lists activities like Career Fairs, Financial Literacy, and Networking, and includes a QR code to register: <https://www.sdmcc.edu/2026/Black-Professionals-Day>.A flyer for Summer Priority Registration EOPS Programs at San Diego Mesa College. It features a sunset background. The text says: "SUMMER PRIORITY REGISTRATION EOPS Programs APRIL 27 & 28". It lists services like Class Registration Assistance and includes a QR code to register: <https://www.sdmcc.edu/2026/Summer-Priority-Registration>.A flyer for Fall Priority Registration EOPS Programs at San Diego Mesa College. It features a forest background. The text says: "FALL PRIORITY REGISTRATION EOPS Programs MAY 4, 5 & 6 9 AM - 12 PM". It lists services like finding registration dates and includes a QR code to register: <https://www.sdmcc.edu/2026/Fall-Priority-Registration>.A flyer for the Monarch Celebration at San Diego Mesa College. It features a monarch butterfly logo and a starry background. The text says: "MONARCH Celebration THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM". It describes the celebration as honoring borderless scholars and includes a QR code: <https://bit.ly/2026MonarchGrad>.A flyer for the Rite of Passage ceremony at San Diego Community College District. It features a green and red border. The text says: "Rite of Passage Monday, May 11, 2026 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM San Diego City College". It includes an RSVP link: <https://bit.ly/2026SDCCORP>.A flyer for the Transfer Recognition Luncheon at San Diego Mesa College. It features a blue and white color scheme. The text says: "TRANSFER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 11 AM - 1 PM MESA COMMONS (MC-21 A/B)". It includes a QR code: <https://www.sdmcc.edu/2026/Transfer-Recognition>.A flyer for the Just Dance Tournament at San Diego Mesa College. It features a colorful background with a dancer. The text says: "JUST DANCE TOURNAMENT TUESDAY, APRIL 28 1:00 - 2:00 PM AVANZA CENTERS". It includes an RSVP link: <https://www.sdmcc.edu/2026/Just-Dance-Tournament>.A flyer for DSPS Priority Registration at San Diego Mesa College. It features a blue background with a yellow circle. The text says: "DSPS PRIORITY REGISTRATION COME TO THE DSPS HIGH TECH CENTER FOR SUPPORT REGISTERING FOR SUMMER 2026 AND FALL 2026 CLASSES DATE: MONDAY MAY 4, 2026 TIME: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM LOCATION: DSPS HIGH TECH CENTER LR-110". It includes a QR code and a link: <https://sdccd-edu.zoom.us/j/4357241161>.

# WELCOME NICK UNDERWOOD

## *Acting Director of College Facilities and Operations*



I am excited to share that Nick Underwood will be serving as the Acting Director of College Facilities and Operations.

Nick brings a strong background in facilities management, construction coordination, and leadership. In his current role as District Facilities Supervisor for Buildings and Grounds, he has overseen maintenance and operations across multiple campuses, leading skilled trades teams, managing projects, and ensuring work is completed safely, efficiently, and in compliance with all applicable regulations. His experience managing budgets, coordinating with contractors, and supporting complex operational needs positions him well for this role.

Throughout his career, Nick has demonstrated a commitment to maintaining safe, functional, and high-quality environments that support students, faculty, and classified professionals. He is also known for his collaborative approach and ability to work effectively across departments and with external partners.

**Please join me in welcoming Nick to this role!**

# SAFETY TRAINING WEEK

## A Safer Campus Starts with You

Join us for a single session or the full series—morning and afternoon options available

**MAY 12** **FIRE SAFETY TRAINING**  
 9:30-11:30am  
 2:30-4:30pm






**MAY 13** **FIRST AID TRAINING**  
 9:30-11:30am  
 2:30-4:30pm



**MAY 14** **BREATHLESS CPR AND AED**  
 9:30-11:30am  
 2:30-4:30pm





### A Safer Campus Starts with You!

We are pleased to announce Safety Training Week, a series of hands-on workshops designed to equip our campus community with essential emergency skills. Join us for a single session or the full series; morning and afternoon options are available to fit your schedule.

#### Fire Safety: Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Education, and Fire Prevention

May 11th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

#### First Aid: Basic Aid Techniques, Bleeding Control, and Evacuation Chair


May 12th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

#### Breathless CPR and AED Demonstrations and Trainings

May 13th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

[Safety Training Week Sign Ups – Fill out form](#)

First come first serve, 25 participants per session.



**FIRE SAFETY TIP**

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE · ADMIN SERVICES

**WEEKLY SAFETY TIP**

## KNOW YOUR NEAREST FIRE EXTINGUISHER

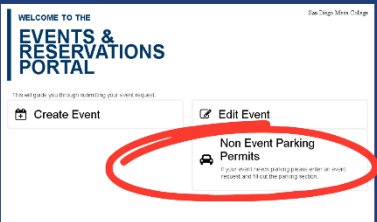
Take a moment this week to locate the nearest fire extinguisher in your work area. Remember the **P.A.S.S.** technique – **P**ull the pin, **A**im at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the handle, and **S**weep side to side. In an emergency, alert others and call 911 before attempting to fight a fire.

**3**  
SECONDS

is how fast fire can double  
Act fast – know your exit  
before you need the

## NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!



[WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS](http://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.

### Reminder regarding parking permits for events, guest speakers, and meetings.

Event Parking:

All parking for events should be included as part of your Event Request in the [Events & Reservation Portal](#). Please keep in mind that all event requests must be submitted at least three weeks before the date of your event (longer for large events). More information can be found in the [Event & Reservation Portal FAQs](#).

Non-Event Individual/Group Permits:

Requests for non-event parking can be submitted via the [Non Event Parking Permit Request Form](#) now available on our [webpage](#), within the [Events & Reservations Portal](#). These would include requests that are not part of an “event,” such as guest speakers, departmental meeting attendees, etc. that do not require any other support.

**Notice: Effective Monday, April 6, the Business Services Office will close at 12:00 PM daily for walk-up service to accommodate year-end processing. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this busy time.**

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](mailto: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](#)

**BREAKING BARRIERS.  
EMPOWERING MINDS.  
TRANSFORMING FUTURES.**



### 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](#)



Join us for the San Diego Mesa College Olympian Open on **July 24, 2026**, at 12 p.m. as we tee off to support our incredible student athletes. This signature golf fundraiser brings together community leaders, alumni, and champions of education for a day of fun, connection, and purpose. Your participation, whether through sponsorships, donations, or in kind gifts, directly fuels athletic equipment and academic support that help our Olympians succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

[▶ Register and Donate](#)

Our **annual Mesa College Giving Day** will take place on the eve of our graduation commencement, Thursday, May 28th. This is a day where we join together to build community and support for Mesa and our students. With the help of Maria Teresa Rodriguez Rivera (Mesa Impactship Program Intern), Kiana Kikuchi, and Amanda Brown, we are elevating our efforts this year. Here's our timeline:

- April 20: Ambassador Toolkit Available
- May 4: #MesaGivingDay Kickoff
- May 28: #MesaGivingDay
- May 31: Deadline for #MesaGivingDay donations

We are seeking Ambassadors to help spread the word about #MesaGivingDay - anyone can support!

[▶ Join our Ambassador Interest List](#) for updates on how you can get involved

## *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](#)

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**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](#)

