



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*



As we continue responding to the recent cybersecurity threat impacting District systems, I want to express my deep appreciation to employees across our college and district who are navigating this situation with care, flexibility, and commitment. Responding to a challenge like this requires all of us working together. From IT professionals and facilities teams to faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and student workers, individuals across our community are adapting quickly and doing their part to ensure students continue to be supported and services remain available. As information continues to evolve, we are working closely with District leadership and college teams to provide coordinated communication and respond thoughtfully to immediate needs. [Click here](#) for the most recent update.



San Diego Mesa College Librarian Named 2026 Library Journal Mover and Shaker

Dr. Alison Gurganus, San Diego Mesa College Online Services Librarian and Innovation and Emerging Technology Faculty Specialist for SDCCD's Office of Institutional Innovation and Effectiveness has been named a 2026 Mover and Shaker by Library Journal in the Educators category.

Library Journal's Movers and Shakers is an annual national recognition spotlighting librarians and library workers who are shaping the future of the field. Dr. Gurganus was recognized for her leadership in AI and information literacy education, including her work for SDCCD and as AI Special Advisor on AI and Information Literacy to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office as well as her work as the President of the Council of Chief Librarians, which represents librarians, classified professionals and library administrators across all 116 California Community Colleges.

The full feature is available at:

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/dr-alison-gurganus-movers-shakers-2026-educators>





"Students who participate in dual enrollment programs during high school are more likely to graduate high school, enter college, and complete their degree and/or transfer than their peers who did not participate in dual enrollment. Therefore, the underrepresentation of Black students in dual enrollment programs during high school becomes an equity concern."

WEBINAR REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

**Dual Enrollment & Equity:
Opening Doors to College Access
and Success for Black Students**

Friday, May 8, 2026
12:00pm-1:00pm



https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wBPHtCfPRG2enPtYpWfOyQ
webinar ID: 856 3016 3546

nandi
California Community Colleges

Follow us on Instagram @nandi_org or online at nandiorg.org

[Register Today!](#)

We know that students who participate in dual enrollment programs during high school are more likely to graduate high school, enter college, and complete their degree and/or transfer.

Therefore, the underrepresentation of Black students in dual enrollment programs during high school becomes an equity concern.

Join Nandi for an important conversation this **Fri, May 8, 2026, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm** with **Dr. Darla Cooper** as she shares critical dual enrollment data on Black students.

Helps us unpack what this means for equity, access, and Black student success!

In Unity,

Nandi Team

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.



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, 2nd 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!



MESA VISIONS

Literary Magazine Launch Party & Readings

**WED
5/20**

**SAVE THE DATE
2:00PM - 4:00PM | MC-211**

Please join us to celebrate our Mesa College writers & storytellers as they share their creative pieces with the campus!

Created & Hosted by
ENGL 249: Intro to Creative Writing

Prof. Mariam Kushkaki & Prof. Nicole Michals
mkushkak@sdcdd.edu | nmichals@sdcdd.edu

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE	
2026 ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS	
MAY 12 TUESDAY 11:10AM - 12:10PM	Yes, And... @ K-107 (PERG160) Using the fundamental concept of "Yes...And," we explore three concepts essential for AANHPI. We will use Improv activities to witness how each individual's voice weaves unique colors and strengths into the AANHPI legacy.
MAY 15 FRIDAY 5:30PM - 7:30 PM	AAPL Recognition Ceremony @ Mesa College Quad Celebrating the personal & academic achievements of our graduating and transferring Asian American Pacific Islander students.
MAY 18-21 MON-THURS	AMP Finals Study Jams Get support for midterms! Monday, May 18 - 1:30-3:30PM @ KUP 14-201 Tuesday, May 19 - 11AM- 1PM @ VSC K-103 Wednesday, May 20 - 1:30-3:30PM @ Honors Center K-108 Thursday, May 21 - 5:30-7:30PM @ LRC Room 114
MAY 19 TUESDAY 11:15AM - 12:35PM	Pathways in Political Science @ Mesa College SB-113 Learn about different careers in Political Science from our guest speakers Dr. Ryan Fan and Profe. Tomas Hernández.
MAY 19 TUESDAY 1PM - 4:30PM	Henna Workshop @ Mesa College KUP Village Learn the background and history behind Henna and how to create designs
MAY 20 WEDNESDAY 9:35AM - 12:35PM	KAPWA Summit @ Mesa College KUP Village I4-201B Join us and celebrate our students as they manifest their inner artists, activists, healers, and humanitarians in a powerful showcase of their work.
MAY 20 WEDNESDAY 2:30PM - 4PM	AAPL Men of Color Meeting End of Year Celebration @ Mesa College KUP Village I4-201A Learn about who we are and what we do as the API Men of Color initiative. We will be gathering as we break bread (or spam), talk story, make/take space and reflect on the year before finishing the semester and finals.
MAY 22 FRIDAY 3:00PM	Asian Pacific Diversity Picnic @ Kearny Mesa Recreation Center Come play games, enjoy snacks and celebrate the end of the semester with our Asian Pacific Diversity Club
MAY 29 FRIDAY 10:30AM - 12:30PM	Mixed Student Union Meeting @ Mesa College KUP Village I4-201B Celebrate the end of semester with Mixed Student Union club members and peers!

These events are brought to you by KAPWA Learning Community, AANHPI SAP, AAPL Studies, AANAPISI, Asian Pacific Diversity Club, Work Based Learning, Mixed Student Union, AAPL Men of Color, AAPL Community of Practice, Outreach, NextUP, FAST, CARE/CaWORKS, Mesa College Library, Mesa Counseling, English, Chicano Studies, Journalism, and Asian Pacific Islander Advisory Committee. For more information, please contact: mesakapwa@sdcdd.edu. Request for disability-related accommodations should be made no later than 10 working days prior to the event.



Dear Mesa College Family,

Commencement is one of the most meaningful celebrations on our campus, and we invite you to be a part of this special day as we honor the incredible achievements of the **Class of 2026**.

This year's Commencement Ceremony will take place on **Friday, May 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the Merrill Douglass Stadium**, and we are seeking volunteers to help create a welcoming and memorable experience for our graduates and their guests.

Our graduates have worked hard to reach this milestone, and it takes our entire Mesa community coming together to celebrate them. Volunteers play a vital role in ensuring the ceremony runs smoothly and that our students feel supported as they cross this important finish line.

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the following roles:

Field Setup

Supports with placing programs on chairs, setting diploma covers, and assisting with other field preparation tasks before the ceremony begins.

Guest Liaison

Helps guests find seating areas, assists with line organization, and provides general wayfinding support throughout the venue.

Gate Support

Supports guest entry by scanning tickets and assisting with counting and tracking guest attendance.

Student Check-In

Assists graduates as they arrive by helping with the student check-in process and directing them to the appropriate staging areas.

Student Refreshments

Supports the refreshment station for graduates and helps ensure students have access to water and snacks before the ceremony.

Faculty Room Support

Assists faculty prior to the ceremony by helping prepare the faculty room and providing general support as faculty arrive.

If you would like to volunteer, please complete the [Commencement Volunteer Registration Form](#).

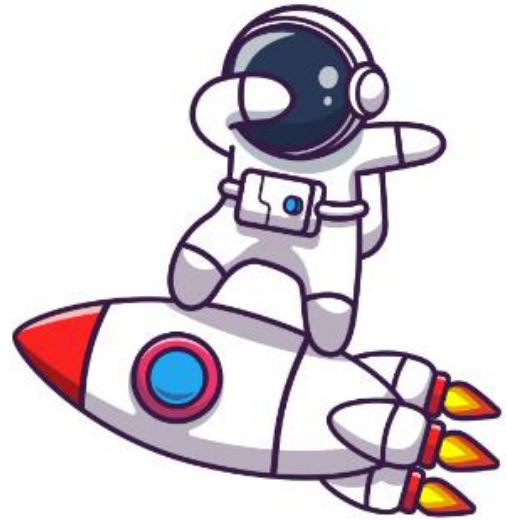
Additional details regarding volunteer roles, arrival times, and day-of logistics will be shared with registered volunteers as we get closer to the ceremony. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to **Ayana Woods** or **Liza Abuayo** at: awoods002@sdccd.edu | fabuyo@sdccd.edu

Thank you for helping us celebrate and uplift our graduates. We truly appreciate the Mesa community coming together to make this milestone moment unforgettable.

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

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH '26

Join us in recognizing National Foster Care Month. Please share below support for youth in foster care, raise awareness, and enjoy free pizza!

- MONDAY MAY 4** Blue Ribbon Day with Gelato 11:00 am - 1:00 pm FAST Center, K-101
- TUESDAY MAY 5** Career Services Workshop: Elevator Pitch and 1 Hour Resume Support 11:00 am - 1:00 pm FAST Center, K-101
- WEDNESDAY MAY 6** Empowerment Workshop with Jay Boyer 11:00 am - 12:00 pm FAST Center, K-101
- THURSDAY MAY 14** Servingness to Foster Youth 12:30 - 1:30 pm FAST Center, K-101
- FRIDAY MAY 15** Campus Visit: University of California San Diego 8:30 am - 1:00 pm UCSD
- TUESDAY MAY 19** Behind the Scenes: The Team's Semester 11:00 am - 12:00 pm FAST Center, K-101
- THURSDAY MAY 21** NextUp & FAST Achievement Ceremony 11:30 am - 1:00 pm MC 211
- TUESDAY MAY 26** Espresso Your Success Day 1 9:30 - 11:00 am FAST Center, K-101
- WEDNESDAY MAY 27** Espresso Your Success Day 2 9:30 - 11:00 am FAST Center, K-101

Request for accommodations should be made no later than five working days prior to the event. For more information, please contact: Marlene.Gracia@sdccd.edu

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

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

San Diego Community College District
City College - Mesa College - Miramar College - College of Continuing Education

BLACK PROFESSIONALS DAY Brilliant Minds ■ Bold Futures
Free Districtwide Event

Friday, May 8, 2026
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Hosted at San Diego Miramar College Building I - Auditorium (I-I01)

For all SDCCD Students and employees

PROFESSIONALS

- Meet Black business professionals from the San Diego Community

WORKSHOPS

- Career Fit
- Financial Literacy
- Resume Builder
- Networking 101
- Finding a Job with Handshake
- Crafting Your Elevator Pitch
- HBCU ADT Guaranteed Transfer
- Career Fashion Show

Breakfast and lunch provided
Transportation support available

Scan to Register or Click Link <https://forms.office.com/r/1Vfg6rVgqc>

REGISTER

SAN DIEGO
Community College District
City College · Mesa College · Miramar College
College of Continuing Education

BLACK GRADUATES & TRANSFER CEREMONY

Rite of Passage

Monday, May 11, 2026
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
San Diego City College

Celebrating Black Student graduates from Mesa, City, Miramar and CE

RSVP Link & QR Code
<https://bit.ly/2026SDCCDOPRSVP>

SCAN HERE

If you have any questions, please contact 619.388.2884.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Transfer Center

TRANSFER RECOGNITION

LUNCHEON

MAY 14TH
11 AM - 1 PM
MESA COMMONS
(MC-211 A/B)

bit.ly/AcceptedFairly

The Mesa College Transfer Center invites you to celebrate your transfer acceptance! Please tell us where you got in to be invited to the event! (spaces are limited).

mesatransfer@sdccd.edu 619-388-2473 www.sdmesa.edu/transfer 14-30

Education USA Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE México

Interested in attending college?
¿Interesado en asistir a la universidad?

Join us for a 30-minute, virtual session and learn about:

- Community Colleges in San Diego
- How to enroll
- Services that Mexico's Consulate in San Diego provides
- EducationUSA support in Tijuana for Mexican students enrolling at colleges in San Diego

Acompáñanos en una sesión virtual de 30 minutos para aprender de:

- Colegios Comunitarios en San Diego
- Como inscribirse al colegio
- Servicios que ofrece el Consulado de México en San Diego
- Asesoría de EducationUSA en Tijuana para estudiantes mexicanos inscritos en colegios en San Diego

May 13 and 14
13 y 14 de mayo
3:00pm - 3:30pm

Join us via Zoom:
<https://bit.ly/SDCCD-EdUSA>

For any questions, contact Ldiaz@sdccd.edu or 619.388.2884.

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

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.

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.

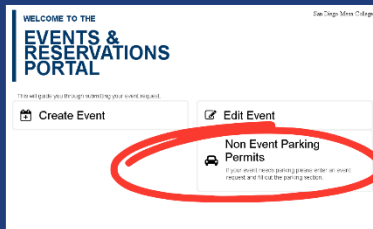
3

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

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.

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

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](#)



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



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

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

