



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*



Message from President Hands

Hello Mesa College Community,

Last week, the Board of Trustees approved the District's 2026–27 budget. I encourage you to take a few moments to review the [2026–27 Budget Presentation](#) for a fuller picture of the District's fiscal outlook, priorities, and planning considerations.

There is good news in this budget. The District enters 2026–27 from a position of fiscal health, with strong reserves and increased Student Centered Funding Formula revenue. At the same time, the budget recognizes the need to plan carefully for continued economic and political uncertainty, rising costs, and restricted and one-time resources that are not keeping pace with our needs.

For Mesa, one of the most meaningful highlights is an approximately \$1.1 million ongoing investment in instructional support.

As one-time funding ends, we have been intentional about identifying the supports that matter most to our students, faculty, and programs and determining where ongoing investment can help sustain that work.

I want to extend my gratitude to our Instruction team and Vice Presidents for the thoughtful work that went into identifying and prioritizing these needs, and for moving this process forward with urgency and care. Their work helped ensure that our requests reflected both the needs of our instructional programs and our commitment to sustaining critical supports for students.

I am pleased to share that Mesa's prioritized requests were approved:

- \$100,000 to backfill embedded tutoring
- \$200,000 for STEM peer mentoring
- \$40,000 for Allied Health test preparation
- \$22,000 for Allied Health peer mentoring
- 6.0 FTE for Instructional Lab Technician positions
- \$125,000 to increase the Work Experience Internship Faculty Director from part-time to full-time

Together, these investments represent approximately \$1.1 million in ongoing support for teaching, learning, and student success at Mesa.

This matters because these are not simply budget line items. They represent people, programs, and supports that directly touch the student experience, tutoring, mentoring, workforce preparation, instructional support, and pathways that help our students persist, complete, transfer, and move into meaningful careers.

There will continue to be difficult choices ahead, particularly as one-time and restricted funding ends. We will not be able to sustain everything in the same way. Our responsibility is to be thoughtful about what we prioritize, transparent about the choices we make, and disciplined about aligning our resources with what matters most for our students.

This investment is one example of that commitment and of what *One Mesa. One Mission.* looks like in action.

San Diego Community College Presents


CITY COLLEGE • MESA COLLEGE • HERRINGTON COLLEGE • COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION


**HIGHER EDUCATION
LEGAL SERVICES**
a program of Jewish Family Service

Know Your Rights & Emergency Preparedness Workshops for Undocumented Families

Learn about immigrant rights and family safety planning.
Facilitated by SDCCD and Higher Education Legal Services.
This workshop is open to all allies.



All workshops begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.

Join Us on Zoom
<https://sdccd-edu.zoom.us/j/84797687743>

Fall 2026 Workshops

September 22, 2026
(Flex: 35582 credit 40230 noncredit)

October 21, 2026
(Flex: 35583 credit 40231 noncredit)

November 18, 2026
(Flex: 35584 credit 40232 noncredit)

December 16, 2026
(Flex: 35585 credit 40233 noncredit)

For accessibility accommodations, contact Dean Lillian Garcia at lgarcia002@sdccd.edu.

English presentation with live translation in Arabic, Dari, Haitian Creole, Somali, and Spanish

I want to acknowledge the recent immigration enforcement activity involving San Diego City College and City College student Renatho Casseus. As President Shabazz shared with the City College and District community, this has been an extraordinarily difficult time for Renatho, his family, and our colleagues and students at City. We stand with them.

While this occurred at City College, we know its impact is felt across our entire District, particularly by our undocumented, mixed-status, and immigrant students, employees, and families.

As we recently shared with our Dreamers and broader Mesa community, we remain committed to creating a safe, informed, and welcoming campus and ensuring our community has access to the information, resources, and support they need. Our Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars Program continue to provide legal resources, counseling, wellness support, and guidance for students and employees.

I also encourage you to participate in the upcoming Virtual Know Your Rights workshops, open to students, employees, family members, and allies.

During moments of uncertainty, how we show up for one another matters. Let us continue to be a Mesa community where every student feels seen, valued, supported, and able to pursue their education with dignity and a sense of belonging.

One Mesa. One Mission.



Spirit of Mesa moves to October 2027

The Spirit of Mesa planning committee has updated our event to take place in October 2027. We are deeply grateful for the support of our sponsors, partners, vendors, and the whole campus community in this transition. We look forward to fall 2027's gathering for even more opportunity to celebrate our students, recognize our supporters, and spotlight programs like the Mesa Impactship Program that are shaping the future of San Diego's workforce. More details about the 2027 forthcoming!

The [2025–26 Facts on File](#) is now available, providing key data and information about the San Diego Community College District and its colleges. San Diego Mesa College's section begins on page 12 and highlights information specific to the college and our community.



Beginning **September 15, 2026**, CCCApply will transition to **CCCStart**, introducing a new Start@SDCCD process designed to provide students with an improved and more streamlined entry experience.

Learn more about the transition and why the change is being made by watching this brief video: [Why CCCStart?](#)

OFFICE OF *Instruction*



Mesa Allied Health Inspires Future Healthcare Professionals

This week, Allied Health faculty presented at “From Classroom to Career”: Healthcare Pathways in San Diego, hosted by San Diego Workforce Partnership and UC San Diego Health.

The virtual event was designed for high school student and young adults and aimed to highlight the wide range of healthcare careers available beyond the traditional roles of doctors and nurses.

Allied Health faculty hosted three of the pathway breakout rooms Health Information, Radiologic Technology, Phlebotomy/Medical Assisting, giving students an inside look at each profession, including a day in the life, job market outlook, and salary potential

With over 100 high school participants, it was a great opportunity to showcase some of Mesa’s programs and the many career possibilities in healthcare and introduce young people to professions they may not have otherwise considered.

ENROLLMENT *update*

Fall 2026 FTES is 6,284 and our headcount is 21,982. For Fall 2026, we are 101.9% 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 continue to increase, and we have -0.40% more students this week compared to last week.



Stay updated on the latest developments of our Olympian Athletes!

<https://www.gosdmesa.com/landing/index>

ETHNIC STUDIES WORK BASED LEARNING COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

CALL FOR APPLICATION

This structured and facilitated Community of Practice space supports Ethnic Studies faculty to engage in learning, dialogue, and planning that will expand work-based learning (WBL) curriculum through a heart-mind framework grounded in the Ethnic Studies disciplines.

Emphasis will be placed on reimagining career exploration and preparation through cultural roots, local community organizations and partnerships, as well as the histories, knowledge, and lived experiences of historically marginalized and racialized communities.

COMPENSATION
1 ESU CREDIT /
PARTICIPANT

**DEADLINE:
FRIDAY
OCT 2, 11:59PM**

CoP Dates/Times:

1 ST SESSION IN-PERSON	FRI / OCT 30 10AM - 2PM
2 ND SESSION IN-PERSON	WED THURS / JAN 20 & 21 10AM - 2PM
3 RD SESSION ZOOM	FRI / MAR 12 10AM - 11:30AM
4 TH SESSION IN-PERSON	WED / JUNE 9 11AM - 2PM

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

A COLLABORATION OF WBL, BLACK STUDIES,
CHICANA/O STUDIES, AAPI STUDIES, AND
ETHNIC STUDIES FACULTY COUNCIL

GOT QUESTIONS?

- DR. KATLIN CHOI, KCHOI@SDOCCD.EDU
- DR. CANDACE KATUNGI, CKATUNGI@SDOCCD.EDU



Mesa Work-Based Learning has partnered with Ethnic Studies Faculty Council to facilitate a paid Community of Practice on Work-Based Learning.

- **To apply**, use the QR code below or [click here](#).
- Need more details about the experience? [Click here](#).

We welcome you to join us in this opportunity for reflection, connection, and continued growth in exploring and advancing work-based learning curriculum through a heart-mind Ethnic Studies framework.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*



A Night at The Old Globe: CalWORKs/CARE Students Experience *Begin Again*

The Old Globe welcomed CalWORKs / CARE students and their families back to the whimsical world of live theatre this Fall! *Begin Again* is a heartwarming story about rediscovering passion, purpose, and starting over. A once musical comedy-drama film now has its pre-Broadway run at The Globe -- with our students enjoying the contagious energy of its opening days!

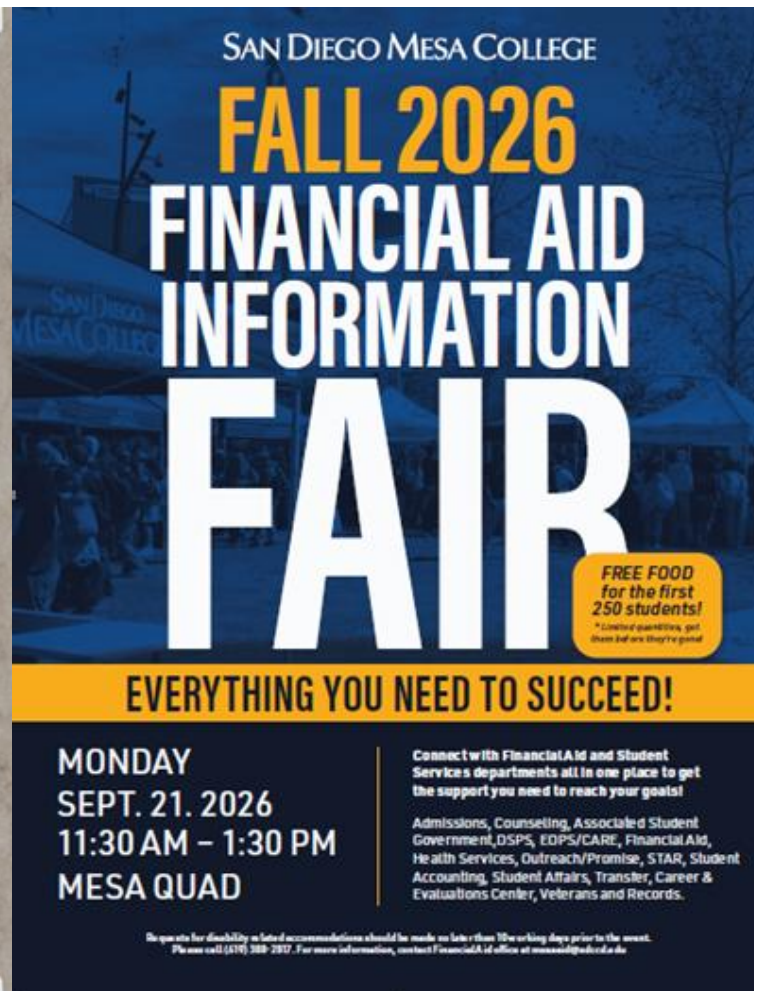
If you haven't visited The Old Globe yet, please consider their community nights which are intended for those who identify as BIPOC and/or LGBTQIA+: <https://www.theoldglobe.org/other-programming/community-nights-at-the-globe/>

It also provides significant discounts on tickets.

We hope to see you at Balboa Park soon. Stay cool (and hydrated)!



Mesa College will host its **Annual Veterans' Emergency Fund BBQ Fundraiser** in partnership with the Culinary



Mesa College will host its **Fall 2026 Financial Aid Information Fair** on **Monday, September 21, from 11:30**

Department on **Tuesday, September 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** BBQ plates will be available for \$12, with chicken and vegetarian options, and gelato bowls for \$3. All proceeds benefit the Veterans' Emergency Fund, which supports military-connected students experiencing unexpected financial hardships. This year, supporters can also purchase a BBQ plate in advance to be donated directly to a military-connected student at no cost.

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Mesa Quad. Students are invited to connect with Financial Aid and Student Services departments in one convenient location to get the support they need for a successful semester. Participating areas include Admissions, Counseling, DSPS, EOPS/CARE, Financial Aid, Health Services, Outreach/Promise, STAR, Student Accounting, Student Affairs, Transfer, Career & Evaluations Center, Veterans and Records. **Free food will also be available for the first 250 students!**

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>



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Mental Health Services

Peer to Peer

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

National Suicide Prevention Month

SEPTEMBER SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

25 Sept, 2026

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

G-101

Request for disability related accommodations should be made no later than five working days prior to the event. Call (619) 388-2774 or contact sdmesamentalhealth@sdccd.edu for more information

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Transfer Center

UC TRANSFER Support

August - September Events

TAG THURSDAYS

Aug. 13th - Sept. 24th

Join us **every Thursday** to complete your UC TAG Application (Due September 30th) through the UC Transfer Admission Planner.

Via ZOOM: <https://gqr.sh/Y9Aa>

Register Now!

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
13th	4th 11th
20th	18th 25th
27th	

PIQ FRIDAYS

Aug. 21st - Sept. 25th

We will be hosting workshops **every Friday** focusing on a different Personal Insight question each week! Find the best way to approach each prompt to strengthen your UC transfer application!

I4-306, 3rd Floor of Student Services Building

View Questions Here!

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	
AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
14th	4th 11th
21st	18th 25th
28th	

What is TAG?

Transfer Admission Guarantee, a program offering guaranteed admission to students applying from California community colleges to select University of California campuses.

What are PIQs?

PIQ stands for Personal Insight Question, which is the short essay requirement used in the University of California (UC) application. Students are required to submit 4 essays with their UC Application.

mesatransfer@sdccd.edu (619) 388-2473 @sdmesatransfer I4-306 (3rd Floor Student Services Bldg.)

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Transfer Center

CSUSM

FALL + SEMESTER WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17th

Application Workshop | 11:30am to 1pm | I4-306

Tabling at the Transfer Center | 1pm to 2:30pm | I4-306

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22nd

Application Workshop | 1pm to 3pm | BT-216

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19th

Application Workshop | 1pm to 3pm | BT-216

Registration:

sdmesa.edu/transfer | (619) 388-2473 | Location: I4-306 | mesatransfer@sdccd.edu



For More Events, Click on the Links Below

[From Community to Capacity: Building and](#)

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

[Finding Your Future: Scholarship Success Lab](#)

[Fall 2026 Art Focus](#)

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

[Panel: Who Am I? Who Can I Become?](#)

[Sustaining
LGBTQIA+
Employee
Resource
Groups](#)

[Fall 2026
Financial
Literacy
Workshop](#)

[The Serenity
Space Moved!](#)

[Ballet
Folklorico with
Mesa Dance](#)

[Fall 2026 Club
Rush](#)

[Club Advisor
Training](#)

[Fall 2026
Student Parent
Healing Circle](#)

[Clubs: Get Involved! Join A
Club, Find Your
Community](#)

[Fall 2026 Association
Student Application](#)

[ALMA: Alliance for Latine
Mesa Achievement](#)

[Welcome Back Parent
Cafe](#)

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*



NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!

WELCOME TO THE
EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL

This website is for submitting your event request.

Create Event Edit Event

Non Event Parking Permits

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.

WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS

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.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

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](#)

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





On Friday, October 30, 2026, San Diego Mesa College will host our annual “Taste of Mesa”, the premier cooking-show style fundraiser benefiting the Culinary Arts Management Program. Taste of Mesa will feature internationally-inspired cuisine and 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>

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](#)

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](#)

