



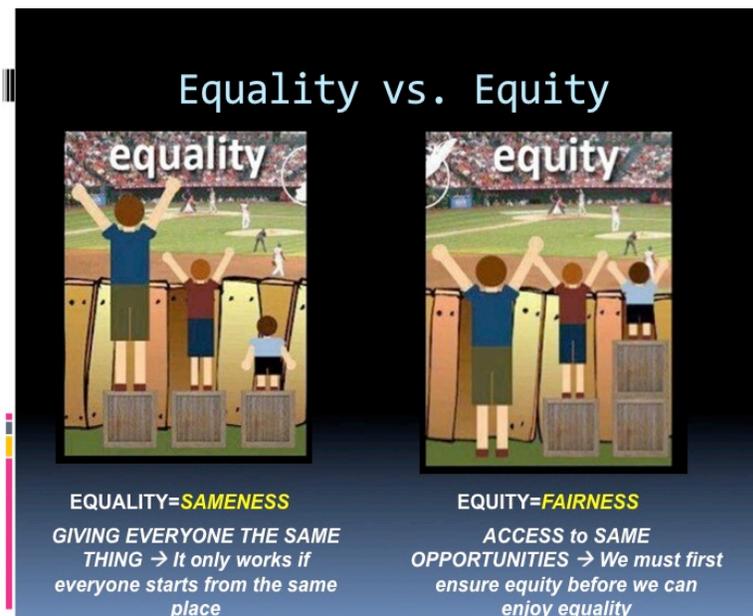
April 6, 2015



April showers bring May flowers...would be a lovely occurrence given our current water situation. We can expand the metaphor to “showering” our students with knowledge, self-efficacy, and motivation so that they can finish the semester strong, ready for their next journey. We can all celebrate the May flowers through attending one of many college celebrations that begin this month.

Student Success and Equity

Mesa College is addressing student success and equity on multiple fronts. We are weaving our efforts together, integrating the work of our Title V-HSI team, under the leadership of Monica Romero, to the work of our Change Agent Teams working with the Center for Urban Education (CUE), with the work of the Minority Male Initiative through SDSU under the leadership of Ashanti Hands, and the work of our SSSP projects we are focused on systemic change on behalf of our students. The graphic I've included is a clear representation of how we are approaching this work. I encourage you to check in with colleagues who are working on these important teams to get feedback on our progress.



Hiring Updates

We are well into our hiring processes, and most of our first level committees are meeting this month. By semesters end we hope to have 14 new faculty, at least 8 new classified employees and three administrators. We will be giving regular updates to the campus about hiring, including new classified staff and administrators. This month's e-news has a recap from fall. [Click here](#) to view the March eNews.

Student Scholars Abound

From Honors, to PTK, to Bridges to the Baccalaureate, and scholar athletes...Mesa College students shine. Today, 2 students, Sarah Taha and Judith Jaime accompanied by Professor Leticia Lopez are being honored in Sacramento at the annual All-California PTK Luncheon. Later this month we travel to San Antonio, Texas to the America Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Conference, as we await news of another national award.

Last week I had the pleasure of serving as the Awards Chair for the California Community College Athletics Association, where Albert Gamez, Jr, Mesa class of 2014 was awarded the highest award, Statewide Student Scholar Athlete. Albert sent a video acceptance from his new digs, CalPoly SLO where he is a track athlete, competing in trials for the NCAA, and majoring in Kinesiology. Albert's entire family attended and accepted the award on his behalf.

Our Speech and Debate Team returned from Barcelona last month, after competing valiantly for the Olympians in international competition. More on their story in the [E-News!](#)

The 28th Annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE)



will take place May 26-30, 2015, Washington DC. The conference is a dynamic event that is a place of inclusion, skill building, alliances, and knowledge on issues of race and ethnicity in higher education. Conference details can be found online at: <https://ncore.ou.edu/en/> Staff and faculty interested in attending the conference, as part of the Mesa team, must submit a Letter of Interest by: ***Friday, April 10, 2015***. Email your letter of interest to: mesaprojectoexito@sdccd.edu

Requests will be reviewed by a subgroup of the Campus Employee Development Taskforce, consisting of faculty, staff and administrators, and recommendations forwarded to the President for approval.

Celebrations on the Mesa

We have officially entered celebration season at Mesa. Canyon Clean-Up is this Saturday, Career Expo next week, Dance Concert 16-18, and our Annual Scholarship Event is on April 24. For full information, [click here](#) for events.

The college will hold the President's Cabinet Planning Retreat on May 1 from 9-3 PM @ USD. Over 60 people have been invited, and if you are interested in joining us, please email Beth Cain (scain@sdccd.edu) to inquire about open spots.



I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events this month or just out and about on campus.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela J. Lust".