



November 3, 2014

[Homecoming Week November 3-8](#)

Opportunities abound to participate in this week's Homecoming activities. The week culminates in our all day festivities on Saturday November 8th, beginning with the FallFest **FunRun**, a 1K walk, 5k run and more. All proceeds go to support our Student Veterans. To register simply click [here](#). Stick around for the Street Fair from 8-2 featuring food sales by Culinary Arts students and Jersey Mikes and over 60 vendors with items for sale and activities. At 1 PM we kick-off against Compton College in our last Football Game of the season. See you there!



[Mesa College Celebrates Veterans](#)

Student Veterans and our own Mesa employee heroes will participate in celebrations in their honor in November. Beginning with the Fall Fun Run, moving to our Veteran's Poster Display in the LRC, and an Open House at our Veterans Resource Center, including Transfer and Career Workshops designed for Student Vets on November 12th. On the 13th we honor a panel of World War II Veterans in LRC 435 from 11-1. All month long students are invited to enter the Veteran's Film Critique Contest. For more information, click on the title above.

[Student Success and Equity Updates](#)

[The Student Success & Support Program \(SSSP\) Plan](#) was vetted and approved this month. Work is underway to continue strengthening and scaling services in the "core 3" areas of: assessment, orientation, and education planning. Special thanks go to the many folks involved in the plan development, especially Susan Topham, Ailene Crakes and the Counseling Department. Counselors are gearing up for a new program

to help students complete their education plans. They can schedule an appointment with a counselor and will get a flash drive with their personal ed plan in the palm (well, wrist) of their hand.



[The Student Equity Plan](#) was vetted and approved this month as well. Many thanks go to Ashanti Hands, Jill Moreno-Ikari, and Bri Hayes and the staff and faculty who made contributions to the plan. As we move to implementation, there will be many opportunities to engage in our equity efforts.

The new [Student Success & Equity Committee](#) was launched on October 17. This 21 member committee will support and lead innovative campus initiatives. Additionally, it will provide a platform for collaboration and communication across the college that will result in an integration of our student success and equity efforts.

Under the leadership of Judy Sundayo and Kevin Branson, the [Diversity Committee](#) developed a new mission and vision to guide the committee's work as it strengthens culture competency at Mesa College.



Mesa formally launched its [Title V/Hispanic Serving Institutions \(HSI\) Program, Proyecto Éxito](#) on October 1. Several faculty members have graciously stepped into some key positions to help lead our HSI efforts: Wendy Smith- Grant Curriculum Development Specialist, Jennifer Cost- English Course Designer, Laura Mathis- Personal Growth Designer, Sim Barhoum and Bradley Hughes- Structured Learning Assistance Coordinators, and Leticia Lopez- Professional Development Specialist. Also, Monica Romero has taken on the Acting Director position while the search for a permanent Director is in progress.

As we move ahead, we will take advantage of some opportunities to work with some heavy hitters in the field of equity including the [Center for Urban Education \(CUE\) at USC](#) and the [Minority Male Initiative \(M2C3\)](#) at San Diego State University.

Mesa College Lands its first USDA Grant under Hispanic Serving Institutions

Congratulations to **Professors Leticia Lopez and Don Barrie** for writing and receiving their U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, in alignment with the President's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, Feed the Future. Launched in 2011, the focus is on increasing agricultural production to meet the projected global need by 2050.

The San Diego Mesa College's STEM Engagement for the Enrichment of Diverse Students (SEEDS) Scholars Program has been designed to specifically increase the number of Hispanic Students pursuing future graduate degrees by providing them with a firm foundation of advanced knowledge and skills beginning with their first two years in college.

Program objectives include the following:

- To offer SEEDS courses in Anthropology, Nutrition, Spanish, Biology, Geology and Personal Growth with content emphasis on food security, hunger and sustainable agriculture.
- To provide a SEEDS bridge program for 20 high school students per year for three years selected to be SEEDS Scholars.

Celebration on the Mesa-50 years of Student Success

Congratulations to all of the staff, students and faculty who contributed to our 50th Anniversary event. We enjoyed performances of dance, music, fashion, speech, culinary creations and more. Over 150 folks purchased tickets, and over 250 people participated. Major kudos go to Anne Zacovic, Veronica Gerace, and our Foundation Board for all of their hard work. The event was an opportunity to show off our student talent, celebrate our birthday, and raise funds to support our students. Thank you all that bought tickets and bid in our silent auction, the event netted approximately \$15,000. Not bad for our first time out!



Accreditation 2016-Telling Our Story

The Mesa College Accreditation Team is working hard on our self evaluation. A team of 10 people attended the ACCJC Self Study Workshop at MiraCosta College on October 22. It was an opportunity to see how the reports are now written, and how the new standards will impact our work. Thanks to the many of you involved in the process. For more information, please use the updated [accreditation website](#).

Website Update

Behind the scenes a website update is in progress. Thanks to those of you who volunteered to work with VPA Agatha and Lina Heil to redesign the website. We are working with a website consultant who is helping us with making things more intuitive, while providing ongoing support for those of you who interact with your content. Stay tuned for more updates.

There are so many ways to get involved in college life. Recently, at the Noche de Familia Event I had two Puentistas (Puente students) ask me if I was planning to come to their Mesa Women's soccer matches. I was able to see them in action a few weeks ago as they took on and beat Grossmont College. It's humbling to know that simply showing up makes a big difference for all of us, and I hope that you will take the opportunity to see your colleagues or students in action as they demonstrate their passion for teaching, learning and growing. For more information on upcoming events, please visit our [Events Calendar](#).

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday,

Handwritten signature of Pamela J. Lynch