

# September 2010

## Introduction and Thanks

One month ago, I started this assignment as Interim President of Mesa College for the 2010-2011 year. Returning to Mesa has been personally very satisfying and I've been incredibly surprised by the warm welcome from so many individuals. I thank you for your good will and friendship and look forward to an excellent year.

As I described in our opening week forums, I plan to be: available; responsive to issues; communicate; listen; consult; attend to college processes and timelines; and pay careful attention to the participatory governance processes. We have much to do!

And what an exciting start to the semester! Even with the challenges posed by construction and state budget, there is an upbeat energy among the faculty, staff and masses of students returning to Mesa or starting their college education for the first time. The Welcome booths have fielded literally thousands of questions, mostly of the "where can I find..." variety. Thanks go to the Associated Student Government and many campus volunteers who staffed the booth last week, and also to the PIO staff who developed the wonderful new campus maps.

Major activities for this year include the October 10-14 accreditation site visit, on-going facilities planning and construction, enrollment management; budget; strategic planning, planning for a new president in 2011-2012, and beginning to plan for the future. On this last topic, Mesa has always recognized the need to be future-oriented in planning. The economic situation may be difficult now, but at some point in the future will improve. When that occurs, we need to be ready with plans in hand.

Every member of Mesa College has been impacted in some way by the increased enrollment demand, even as the number of staff has declined. I want to acknowledge the added workload carried by counseling, admissions, student accounting, financial aid and other student services staff. Thanks also to faculty who have added students to already-full classes or advised students of other class options. The facilities, stockroom, mailroom staff have worked at top speed to assure all was ready for the start of the semester, an especially challenging task as service locations are changing due to construction. To staff in school and administrative offices, a huge thank you for your part in assuring a smooth start to the semester.

## Opening Week Enrollment Management Information

The Mesa College enrollments for the past semesters and for the fall 2010 semester confirm past experiences that enrollments are up when the economy is down. Unlike the universities, community colleges do not have the ability to determine the number of students we will serve and our funding is enrollment-dependent. This semester shows the highest enrollment in several years. This [table](#) shows the comparison to the same time last fall for August 23, the first day of classes.

## Accreditation Update

The Accreditation Co-Chairs and Instructional Services staff has completed the Mesa College Self Study report in anticipation of our Oct 10 – 14, 2010 site visit this semester. This process has involved working with the entire campus and the district office in developing the self study and then coordinating with each standard committee to locate and research all of the exhibits and corresponding documents to provide the evidence for the report. Prior to the visit, accreditation meetings have been scheduled with all of the participatory groups and schools on campus to review the final version of the self study report and the self study campus visit. The self study is well written and is a document in which the entire campus can take pride. We welcome the visiting time with excitement. The entire self study is now available on the Mesa College web at [www.sdmesa.edu/instruction/accreditation](http://www.sdmesa.edu/instruction/accreditation).

### **Mesa College Strategic Plan**

Completing the development of Mesa's Strategic Plan is a major goal for this year. The work that the campus completed last year on the Mission, Vision and Values statement was the precursor of the work that we'll do this year as we continue to incorporate planning into the fabric of our campus. During summer a task force reviewed the status of Mesa's strategic planning; the task force recommendations on next steps will go to the participatory governance Strategic Planning Committee shortly. The Strategic Planning Committee is a participatory governance committee chaired by the president. As interim president, I will fill this role and look forward to working with our campus community on this important project.

### **Summer Initiatives for Students**

This year, summer was particularly busy for Student Services. Current and potential students participated in or took advantage of a number of activities and initiatives. These included the GEAR UP Career Boot Camp which provided orientation for 40 eleventh grade students from Clairemont and Mission Bay High Schools. Our student trustees participated in Orientation Training and created their annual goals which include: a) to continue legislative advocacy; b) to promote district-wide student unity by staging multi-campus events; and c) to increase involvement with Continuing Education students. The FAST Program held three orientations for foster youth students; these students are enrolled as new students at Mesa for the fall semester. The Outreach and Community Relations staff created the Student Success Day On-Line Orientation, a first for Mesa. And, as mentioned above, Student Affairs staff conducted Welcome Week activities focused on helping students become acclimated to the campus during the first week of classes.

### **LEED Gold for Mesa College**

We just learned that Mesa's new Allied Health Education and Training Facility has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification for sustainable and green design by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). Congratulations to all who worked to make this possible!

### **Facilities Planning and Updates**

Over summer and continuing into this year, on-going projects in Instruction include working with several schools in the development of their new bond-funded projects -- PE/Athletics, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Business and Computer Studies and Technology, and Art and Languages. Using the lessons learned from completion of the Allied Health Building and the planning process for the Math/Science Building, it is our hope that, with each new building, we'll be better prepared to meet future Mesa College campus and student needs.

A vast number of facilities and construction activities occurred over the summer and will be continuing into the fall. The list of projects underway includes:

- Photovoltaic – Lots #1, #2 and top floor of parking structure. Will save an estimated \$50,000 in utility bills.
- Math & Science Building – Demo of F-100, F-200 and J-200 scheduled for December 2010.
- K-500 – New modulares located on the east side of I-200
- MET Relocation – Due to the demo of F-200, the MET to be housed in the L-600 complex. Their permanent location will be K-200 after the completion of Mesa's Master Plan.
- Modular Village – Installation of 10 modulares scheduled for mid-September 2010 due to the demo of F-100 and F-200. We anticipate moving a number of class sections to these new modulares sometime in the month of October in anticipation of the work done to prepare for the new Math/Science Building.
- Mesa College Design Center – Scheduled to be completed October 2010. Interior Design, Architecture, Building Construction and Landscaping are scheduled to occupy the Design Center.
- Student Services Building – Groundbreaking scheduled for September 22, 2010. More details to follow.

For updated construction information, please visit our web site:

<http://www.sandiegomesacollege.net/parking/index>. Please also remember that all work requests should now be submitted through the Facilities Services Call Center (FSCC) Work orders can be submitted by the following ways:

- Phone, 388-6422
- Fax, 388-6439
- Emailed to Facilities Services Call Center
- Online – [www.maintenancelogin.com](http://www.maintenancelogin.com)

## **2010-2011 Budget**

On August 19, 2010 Board of Trustees approved the District Adopted Budget. The District General Fund budget for operations is \$297,422,733 with Mesa's share being \$51,347,347. The current campus budgets have been rolled and loaded into our financial system. Administrative Services Vice President Ron Perez provides regular budget updates to President's Cabinet.

### **Chancellor's Forum**

Please mark your calendar for the Chancellor's Forum at Mesa College, Tuesday, September 28, 3:00-4:00 pm in H117/118. Flex credit is available as Workshop 59530.

### **Updates**

The President's Update comes out at the start of each month during the 2010-2011 year, distributed electronically and posted on the Mesa website at [www.sdmesa.edu/president/updates.cfm](http://www.sdmesa.edu/president/updates.cfm).

Note: All updates are posted on the San Diego Mesa College Website at: <http://sdmesa.edu/president/updates.cfm>. Currently available are the following: SDCCD Academic Calendar, the Flex Handbook, the Mesa campus map, the 2009-2010 Instructional and Student Services Annual Reports.

See also [www.sdmesa.edu/president/cabinet.cfm](http://www.sdmesa.edu/president/cabinet.cfm) for meeting summaries of the President's Cabinet which meets weekly on Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 pm.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Armstrong, Interim President**

**San Diego Mesa College**