



# SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

**PAMELA T. LUSTER, PRESIDENT**



**43%**

Students Receiving Financial Aid



Latino 33% · White 32% · Asian/Pacific 14%  
Filipino 7% · African American 7%  
American Indian 1% · Other/Unreported 9%



**27%**

First Generation College Students

## ABOUT MESA COLLEGE

Among the largest community colleges in California and the nation, San Diego Mesa College is a fully accredited, comprehensive college serving 25,000 students and offering more than 196 associate degree and certificate programs. In August, 2015, Mesa College became the first California community college to offer a bachelor's degree. In June, 2016, the college was recognized for having the largest number of students who earned degrees designed to transfer to the California State University system in 2015. With its premier fine art and music programs, robust language and humanities offerings, and rigorous math and science curricula, Mesa ranks as San Diego's top transfer institution. Its career workforce programs include the pilot bachelor's degree in Health Information Management. Situated on a beautiful, suburban 104-acre mesa in the geographic center of San Diego, the college's small classes, outstanding faculty, and reputation for quality offer an unparalleled academic experience. As an HSI (Title V) eligible institution, Mesa College is committed to becoming the leading college of equity and excellence, and to the success of all students — including underrepresented students and more than 2,400 veterans and their families.

## ABOUT PRESIDENT PAMELA T. LUSTER



Dr. Pamela T. Luster has served as President of San Diego Mesa College since 2011. In these five years, through intentionality, heart and conviction, she has guided Mesa through an unprecedented transformation. Dr. Luster has embraced the change to a minority majority student population, hired a large group of diverse faculty in the past three years alone, secured Title V and Basic Skills grants, and has set and directed campus equity efforts. Through professional development of faculty and staff, programs that scale up basis skills acceleration, and partnerships with four-year institutions, Mesa is realizing an innovative equity-centered focus, and embedding equity-minded policies, structures, and practices across the college. Diversity, access and equity are among the 10 values of San Diego Mesa College. Under the leadership of Dr. Luster, Mesa College in 2015 adopted the equity vision of becoming the "Leading College of Equity and Excellence."

### Highlights of Dr. Luster's efforts to advance diversity and equity at Mesa College:

- Designation of Mesa College as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and the college's first \$2.6 million dollar grant, "Proyecto Exito". Critical imperatives of this five-year grant include Redesigning Basic Skills and Gateway Courses; initiating new academic support and student support systems; faculty and staff development; creating supportive spaces and reduction in D/F/W rates in gateway courses.
- Creating the Office of Student Success and Equity. (2015)
- A commitment to diversifying our faculty and staff has resulted in the hiring of 80 new contract faculty over the past three years, among them a majority of individuals from diverse ethnicities, races and gender identities.
- Partnering with the University of Southern California's Center for Urban Education (CUE) as well as San Diego State University's Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) to create innovative equity-centered initiatives and embed equity-minded policies, structures and practices across the college.
- Mentoring future community college leaders by teaching the capstone course for SDSU's Ed.D. program in Community College/Postsecondary Educational Leadership.

### Recent college-wide efforts include:

- The creation of Summer C.R.U.I.S.E., a 4-day new campus orientation with an equity focus, and Jumpstart Your Success, which brought 350+ incoming students, and 80 faculty and staff volunteers together for an introduction to college life. (2015, 2016)
- The college opened a new home for professional development of faculty and staff, called the LOFT (Learning Opportunities for Transformation). (2016)
- Mesa College was awarded a \$1.5 million College Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Grant designed to scale up English and math acceleration; embedded counseling; and embedded graduate student tutors. (2016)
- In May, the college launched a summer Course Redesign Institute (CRI). 24 multidisciplinary faculty were empowered to redesign their courses through an equity lens. (2016)

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