

**Spring 2017 Convocation Survey Results
(Spring 2017)**

Project Overview

In the Spring 2017 semester, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness administered a convocation survey, designed to assess the effectiveness and utility of the presentation at the 2017 Mesa College Spring Convocation. The survey was available to all Mesa College employees via web link sent through email. A total of 125 employees completed the survey. According to the 2016-17 Facts of File report, there were a total of 1,476 employees at Mesa College in the 2015-16 academic year. Using last year's number (2015-16), the response rate was about 8%. Thus, the results should be interpreted with caution as they may not be generalizable to the entire population.

Summary of Results

► Convocation Attendance

Of the 125 respondents, the majority indicated that they had attended the Spring 2017 Mesa College Convocation (79%; see Figure 1).

► Presentation Evaluation

Among those who attended convocation, most respondents reported at least some agreement with the statements regarding the effectiveness and utility of the presentation (see Figure 2). Specifically, 86% reported at least some agreement to the statement they had a better understanding of the challenges some Mesa College students face, whereas 84% reported the event being valuable and meeting their expectations (somewhat agree to strongly agree). Additionally, most agreed (at least somewhat) that the speakers were interesting (82%) and that there should be more presentations regarding this topic in the future (80%). Finally, 77% at least somewhat felt that they could identify disproportionate impact in their own program or service area.

When asked to provide explanations for any particularly high or low ratings, both positive and negative comments were noted. A large number of respondents simply reported the presentation being a positive experience for them. Other positive comments included gaining insight from the event, learning new information/seeing new data, finding the speakers very knowledgeable, and being glad the whole campus had access to such an event. In contrast, many also felt that the challenges with the limited capacity of the venue and technical problems interfered with the event. Others reported that they lost focus during the presentation, they did not gain new information from the event, and that it was beneficial but too long.

Survey respondents were also asked how they would use the information from the event to make changes in their programs or service areas. The most frequent responses regarded providing intentional support to students. Some of these methods were greeting students, knowing the names of all students in a class, and sharing personal stories. Others reported increasing the dialogue around student equity, through committees and staff meetings, and connecting students to support programs and resources at Mesa. Some respondents suggested having more training or professional development around student equity, whereas others reported having an increased awareness or recognition of the hardships students may face. Finally, a group of respondents reported that there would be little or no change to their programs or services areas, a few indicating they were already implementing changes to help support student equity.

► Suggestions for Future Convocations

By far, the most common response to improvements to the Spring 2017 Convocation was that a larger venue with more chairs and less tables would have been desirable, as well as improvements to the audio system. Other frequent responses included making it more interactive with activities and less, or optional,

lectures. Additionally, some respondents expressed a desire to have more of a student voice, with success stories or panels, whereas others felt that there should be more time for faculty and staff to share effective strategies and network. Finally, some felt that there needed to be improvements to the food, such that healthier options be available, or include more variety suitable for those with dietary restrictions.

When asked about other topics of interest for future convocations the most common suggestion included having equity-based discussions around gender, age, LGBTQAI students, military students, first generation students, and international students. In addition, employees asked for more recent data on equity, which would incorporate improvements made on campus, continuing the equity discussion, including more student perspectives, discussing the future challenges and direction of Mesa, effective teaching strategies, and opportunities available to students and employees.

Figure 1. Did you attend the Spring 2017 Mesa College Convocation?

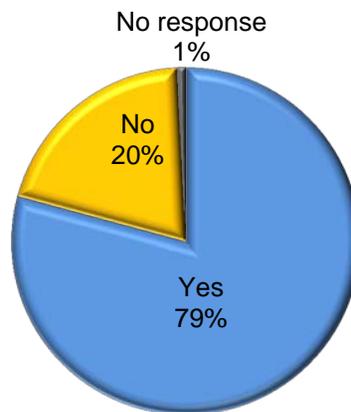
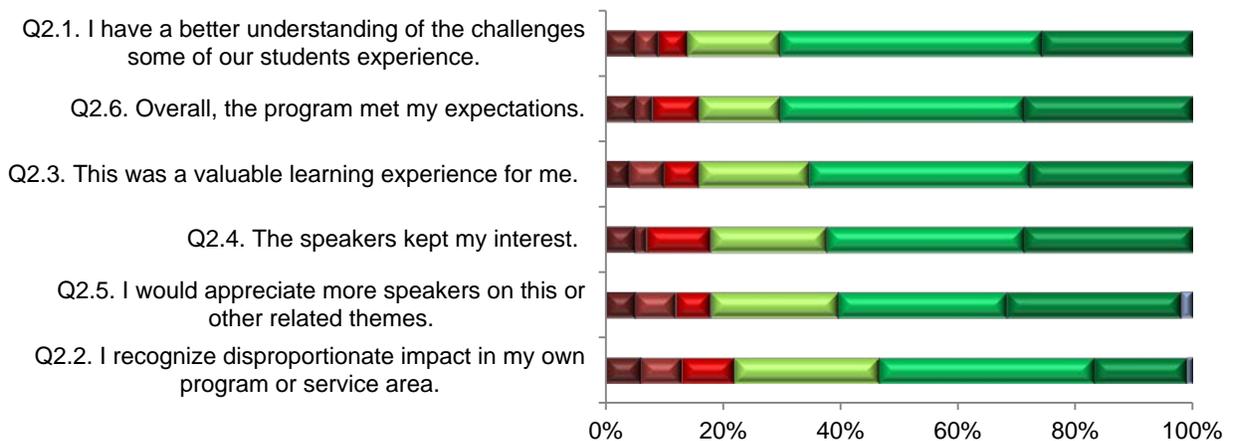


Figure 2. Reflecting on the presentation at the Spring 2017 Convocation, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements using the scale below.

■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree
 ■ No response



Conclusions and Limitations

The present survey was undertaken as a measure of the effectiveness and utility of the presentation at the Spring 2017 Convocation. The results of the survey revealed that most respondents felt that the program met their expectations and that the presentation improved their understanding and knowledge about disproportionate impact and the challenges some students face. Additionally, many found the speakers held their attention and are looking forward to more presentations on similar topics. Many respondents indicated that they would continue using what they learned through intentional support strategies for students, having increased dialogue around this topic, and seeking out or providing related training and professional development.

Much of the discussion around improvements to this semester's convocation regarded increasing the size of the venue for future events, as well as improving the audio system. Others mentioned a desire for a more interactive format, including more student perspectives and voices, providing more opportunities for faculty to share information and interact with one another, and more food options.

Finally, many respondents indicated that they would like to see future presentations on student equity, but to see information on more student groups, such as examining data by gender, age, etc. Others suggested future events that show more recent data, include more student perspectives, provide insight on future directions of Mesa, and share information on effective strategies and currently available opportunities for students and employees.

Using the number of employees provided in the 2015-16 Facts on File, the response rate was about 8%. Thus, the results of the survey should be interpreted with caution as they may not be generalizable to the total population.

Appendix A. Survey Responses

Q1. Did you attend the Spring 2017 Mesa College Convocation?	Number	Percent
Yes	99	79%
No	25	20%
No response	1	1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q2. Reflecting on the presentation at the Spring 2017 Convocation, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements using the scale below.

Q2.1. I have a better understanding of the challenges some of our students experience.	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	26	21%	26%
Agree	45	36%	45%
Somewhat agree	16	13%	16%
Somewhat disagree	5	4%	5%
Disagree	4	3%	4%
Strongly disagree	5	4%	5%
Not asked	24	19%	--
<i>Total</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q2.2. I recognize disproportionate impact in my own program or service area.	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	16	13%	16%
Agree	37	30%	37%
Somewhat agree	25	20%	25%
Somewhat disagree	9	7%	9%
Disagree	7	6%	7%
Strongly disagree	6	5%	6%
No response	1	1%	1%
Not asked	24	19%	--
<i>Total</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>


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Q2.3. This was a valuable learning experience for me.	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	28	22%	28%
Agree	38	30%	38%
Somewhat agree	19	15%	19%
Somewhat disagree	6	5%	6%
Disagree	6	5%	6%
Strongly disagree	4	3%	4%
Not asked	24	19%	--
<i>Total</i>	125	100%	100%

Q2.4. The speakers kept my interest.	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	29	23%	29%
Agree	34	27%	34%
Somewhat agree	20	16%	20%
Somewhat disagree	11	9%	11%
Disagree	2	2%	2%
Strongly disagree	5	4%	5%
Not asked	24	19%	--
<i>Total</i>	125	100%	100%

Q2.5. I would appreciate more speakers on this or other related themes.	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	30	24%	30%
Agree	29	23%	29%
Somewhat agree	22	18%	22%
Somewhat disagree	6	5%	6%
Disagree	7	6%	7%
Strongly disagree	5	4%	5%
No response	2	2%	2%
Not asked	24	19%	--
<i>Total</i>	125	100%	100%

Q2.6. Overall, the program met my expectations.	Number	Percent	Valid Percent
Strongly agree	29	23%	29%
Agree	42	34%	42%
Somewhat agree	14	11%	14%
Somewhat disagree	8	6%	8%
Disagree	3	2%	3%
Strongly disagree	5	4%	5%
Not asked	24	19%	--
<i>Total</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q3. Please provide an explanation for any particularly high or low rating. (N = 40; “No very high or very low responses,” “No response,” and “Not asked” excluded)

Although I feel I am fairly knowledgeable of some of the challenges students face, this provided some information in areas I hadn't considered. The speakers were very knowledgeable and were able to answer audience questions thoroughly.

Data regarding Mesa students was shared. This provided more impact.

**** and **** both did an excellent job at showing how we all matter and the data showed the amount of work that we have to do to move forward.

Every presentation on Equity gives me a better "feel" for it -- even if some parts have been repeated at earlier workshops.

Excellent job!

Having taken the TMOC course, most of the info provided was just a repeat of that. Hence some of the lower scores I provided.

Hearing other points of view is always a learning experience

high: campus updates, student experience information, meeting faculty and staff, staff recognition. low: space/location

I always enjoy convocation, but this time the room capacity affected my experience.

I am a former Mesa student and understand that many of our students face large obstacles both real and imagined.

I can't help thinking that while diversity is extraordinarily important to the mission of Mesa, that term seems disproportionately applied to issues of race and gender. It might be worthwhile exploring at these convocations the role of diversity in terms of students' skills and educational experiences. There is such a broad variety of student ability that often the challenge is not to address inequities, but ways in which we can achieve student success for those who are not fully ready for either CC or more advanced tertiary institutions.

I could not hear some of the speakers, the microphone didn't appear to be working well. Folks sitting toward the back would hear laughter and wonder what was said.

I did not see a direct connection or how to improve my program.

I enjoy learning new practices that impact my work.

I enjoyed the presentation but felt that perhaps less data and more real-life stories could have been used.

I had heard **** & **** speak at the classified staff training, so I was interested to hear more about their research and how it can inform our practices at Mesa to make the higher ed more equitable.

Q3, continued

I have attended Convocation previously in Continuing Education and I am very pleased with the experience that i had here with Convocation at Mesa.

I have attended their workshops before. I think it is great the entire campus had a chance to get the info.

I have been to report-out meetings with the speakers previously, so it wasn't new information, but I was very happy to see it at Convocation (captured audience).

I have seen **** and **** present many times so the information was not new to me.

I spent most of the program in the hallway since there was no seating available. It was very poor planning to have the convocation in Mesa Commons Room.

I think having brief break-outs during longer talks would be an effective way to get attendees to chat with each other immediately about the concepts, data, info they're given, as well as a good way to maintain interest and attention.

I thought that **** and **** did an amazing job and I would highly recommend that they do another presentation in this area.

I would advise the speakers to consult readily available best practices on PowerPoint use. I would also recommend that the proposed changes be empirically tested before being broadly offered as solutions. Also, students claiming that they think something would work for them, and that something actually working, are not the same thing.

informative speakers.....interesting

It was a lot of tables to digest, good info but hard to stay focused

It was too crowded. Couldn't hear from the hallway.

It's great to have a forum where we come together to learn how to better serve our students.

I've seen **** and **** speak a number of times, so this was mostly the exact same thing I had already heard a number of times.

My program makes every effort to work with students to meet their needs academically as well as on a personal level. We also refer students to the many quality programs we have on campus.

Presentation was very good, but very long.

The CCEAL speakers were great! Also I loved the updates from the VPs.

The presenters were excellent. I would have liked to have heard from more committees as to what they are doing.

The speakers content was not very helpful or accurate. Statistics were not clear or representative (comparing Hispanic students with low income white students).

The speakers gave me insight on some of the challenges our students face. I would be interested in learning more on how we can further help our students.

The topic was eye-opening

The topic was good, but the speakers had too much information and too long for what they did. Fall was better.

There needs to be more space for everyone to sit comfortably in order to benefit from the presentation. It was hard to hear from the back and outside.

Very poor production

what an incredibly racist topic. ALL people. ALL of them need to be treated the same and equally.

No very high or very low responses (35)

No response (26)

Not asked (24)

Q4. As a result of the information I learned from the presentation, one immediate change I want to make in my program or service area is... (N = 41; "No response" and "Not asked" excluded)

... more dialog amongst faculty.

be even more welcoming to my students especially if they are from groups who may be more apprehensive

Be more aware of the factors that affect students, that are not apparent.

become more informed and read the book i received from our two presenters.

Being more personal with my students, sharing stories.

Being more present when on campus. Personally greeting students and showing genuine interest in their work at Mesa.

Bigger room

bigger venue

connect my students to campus resources

Continue to look at student cost reductions

Continue to support ALL students.

describing student supports services more completely/

do a better job of letting our students know what is available as far as different programs at Mesa

Find a different location. Chairs had to be placed in the hallway and people were standing up along the walls, including a few deans.

Get more people involved. Now they can't say they haven't seen Mesa's data. It was presented in a public setting.

hire more staff so that we can serve the campus better.

I don't want to make any.

I have no immediate changes to make in my basic skills classroom. I have always tried to be flexible and compassionate in my courses

I will do my part to support the staff, faculty, and administrators in order to create more equitable outcomes for students.

I would want to have equity-based PD focused on culturally responsive teaching in STEM since most CRT workshops focus on items that are irrelevant to us and don't focus on how to do all the CRT aims while still covering too much content for the time allotted.

Increase adjunct counselor, staff and student worker training.

Intentional support

Make sure I know all my students names early on.

Making sure to announce/tell students in the first day I care if they succeed

More study groups to target students hesitant to come to one-on-one office hours.

Move to a different location. The room was too small to accommodate the large crowd.

No changes at this time, but plan to continue to be mindful of disproportionate impacts in our community and will focus on taking steps to address them to create an equitable student experience.

None. I'm already doing what they are suggesting, and it is not actually helping as much as they claimed -- as evidenced by their answers to questions.

Nothing comes to mind.

Participate in a committee to help students in need.

recognize that students may be experiencing major life events and may need emotional support outside of the classroom (e.g., non-academic conversations with faculty).

Q4, continued

regularly checking in on the affective needs of my students.

Staff meetings cover equity issues.

Still trying to figure this one out.

The room was way too small. Maybe they could have presented the program in shifts? it was also hard to hear. Maybe the tables could have been ditched to allow more room.

There is not enough information or context provided to develop a meaningful answer. The reason we work at Mesa is the students.

To be sure to ask students how they are doing and if they feel they are being served.

To provide more professional learning opportunities for employees and input on how to approach changes we can make to better address the issues raised at convocation.

Very little. But it does keep me cognizant of issues that are worth bearing in mind.

We are already doing much with our Counseling/PERG faculty associated with a number of equity initiatives (HSI, BSI, etc.). We hope to go through a process of assessment of those efforts in the coming year.

We had a young man of color in our program and he was unsuccessful and I know if the men of color program were open he would have benefited greatly

No response (60)

Not asked (24)

Q5. What suggestions do you have that would have improved the Spring 2017 Convocation? (N = 51; "No response" and "Not asked" excluded)

A BIGGER room - Commons way too small. A student panel to accompany the Equity piece.

A bigger room and more chairs.

A little more time for Q&A.

better location it was too small

Better planning for the crowd size; many people could not find seating

bigger room

Bigger room, better acoustic support

Bigger room.....

Bigger space to provide seats for everyone.

Different location to accommodate the number of people who attended, and were in the hallways unable to hear the speakers.

Find a bigger place!!!

Get a larger room with audio suitable for the size of the room.

Get rid of the tables so more chairs can be in the room

hands on, participatory rather than data driven lecture style presentation.

I am gluten free and sugar free. Is there anyway something can be served so I may partake of the goodies??

I like the short presentation showing former Mesa students in the community. I would like to see pictures from their student days as well as a short bio of their journey to success.

Q5, continued

I think actual students (via video) talking about their experiences would have been more impactful; along with professors who are models sharing what they do to engage all students (various disciplines represented).

I think, since I've taken their course and have seen the presentation before, what went on a convocation didn't really have an effect. Had I not taken the course or seen the presentation, it would have been more impactful to me personally.

I would like to see it start a little bit later in the morning, around 9 a.m.

If we use that room again; remove the tables and work on the sound.

It would have been nice to give attendees an opportunity to share successful pedagogical strategies with each other re: marginalized students. This could be solved with breakout sessions or to arrange the tables in a way that would encourage collaboration and dialogue--some kind of activity that would get us talking and moving.

larger room

Larger room with seats

Larger room?

Larger space

Larger space. Healthy snacks (fruit or non pastry items).

Larger venue, maybe expand to other rooms where convocation is playing on a big screen.

Larger venue. Healthier food options. Real cream instead of creamer packets.

Maybe a student story or student highlight?

Maybe at a new location; not enough seats :(

Maybe more interaction among audience. However, it was important to review the data that had been collected on our students, which took some time.

More available seating.

More chairs!

More chairs, small group conversation.

More networking opportunities with faculty we only see periodically.

More coffee stations

Need to find an alternate location that can seat the whole group.

No presentations; keep this event for Mesa updates for the new semester only.

No suggestions

None

Nothing

See previous comment, question #3.

Shorter presentation.

something fun. photo booth? make your own sundae?

Speakers who haven't presented a number of times at Mesa events. A larger room.

Stoop the blatant lying from the administration

The lecture needed to be optional.

The venue. Too crowded/cramped.

Too many people in the meeting space. Possibly take out the tables to provide more space or break it up into two sessions. It got very crowded and hot.

Q5, continued

Unfortunately, the room felt too small. It is a beautiful space, but it seemed we needed to be in the gym.

Use larger space.

No response (50)

Not asked (24)

Q6. Which other topics would you like to see presented at future convocations? (N = 34; "No response" and "Not asked" excluded)

?

A follow up with more recent data on Men of Color to reflect the changes the campus has made.

Information on new training opportunities for faculty on campus.

A presentation from the Diversity Action, Inclusion & Equity (CDAIE) on what is being done to improve the campus climate as it relates to diversity and inclusion

Any current, relevant subject matter.

Benefits.

Dynamic teaching ideas from excellent speakers.

Emphasis on gender and equity for women need more discussion. The charts presented by **** and **** were alarming in that it presented large gender disparities. Women across various racial/ethnic groups had multiple areas of concern that needed to be addressed.

Employee Equity

Follow up research from MC23 about our campus since a lot has changed.

grit, mindset

Grossmont had someone involved with Underwater Dreams (a documentary about a high school team of undocumented students beating out MIT in a robotics comp) give their keynote one year that had everyone raving for weeks after... I'm sure they'd be willing to share who that was. Maybe some student perspectives or panels?

Helping the Economically Disadvantaged.

I can't think of any at the moment, sorry.

I think that we should continue working on the issue of Equity

I would be interested in a presentation on Learning Assessments. How does our work at the college impact students and how do we know if we are effective?

I would like to continue seeing student success presentations.

I would like to hear about any of the opportunities that our students can tap into.

I would like to learn more about the ways we can create more equitable outcomes for our students for faculty, staff, and administrators. I think this is key and what would add to what was already presented by **** and ****.

I would like to see a presentation on where we are now with the type of data collected. I think what was presented was toward the beginning of our efforts to address disproportionately impacted student needs.

It would be great to see something related to Safe Zone or gender/trans best practices.

More of the same: diversity, inclusion, equity.

more topics like equity issues. I really also like the speaker at the Fall convocation.

more topics that affect the classroom teaching/improvement

Q6, continued

No presentations - just Mesa College updates

No suggestions

Not sure right now

review of the Mesa vision and values - and what those mean to us

Some idea of the direction and shape of the future.

Student Equity

The importance of making out students feel welcome.

The issue of first generation college students vs. those who come from families with college experience(s) would be one of the most important. Special issues for mature age/former military students.

Upcoming trends and new challenges our school is facing

Veterans "Adults"/ students returning to the classroom Maybe start us on the teaching men of color curriculum?

what our international students are dealing with

No response (67)

Not asked (24)

Appendix B. Survey Instrument

Spring 2017 Convocation Survey

Welcome to the Mesa College Convocation Survey! We would like to gather your thoughts and feedback regarding the Spring 2017 Convocation. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your honest feedback will help us to improve convocation presentations in the future. Responses are completely anonymous. Please respond by **Monday, February 13th**.

To proceed with the survey, please click "Next". Thank you for your participation!

Spring 2017 Convocation Survey

1. Did you attend the Spring 2017 Mesa College Convocation?

- Yes
- No

Spring 2017 Convocation Survey

2. Reflecting on the presentation at the Spring 2017 Convocation, please rate your level of agreement with the following statements using the scale below.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
I have a better understanding of the challenges some of our students experience.	<input type="radio"/>					
I recognize disproportionate impact in my own program or service area.	<input type="radio"/>					
This was a valuable learning experience for me.	<input type="radio"/>					
The speakers kept my interest.	<input type="radio"/>					
I would appreciate more speakers on this or other related themes.	<input type="radio"/>					
Overall, the program met my expectations.	<input type="radio"/>					

3. Please provide an explanation for any particularly high or low rating.

4. As a result of the information I learned from the presentation, one immediate change I want to make in my program or service area is...

Spring 2017 Convocation Survey

5. What suggestions do you have that would have improved the Spring 2017 Convocation?

6. Which other topics would you like to see presented at future convocations?

Spring 2017 Convocation Survey

Thank you for participating in the Mesa College Convocation Survey! Your feedback is important and will help us improve future convocation presentations.