SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
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SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS CAMPAIGN

Background: San Diego Mesa College freshman Kendra Jackson is a severe asthmatic and the second-hand smoke at San Diego Mesa College was making her sick. On October 27, 2005, she addressed the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees, expressing her concerns about second-hand smoke on campus and requested that something be done about it. Following the meeting, she rallied with staff and fellow students to begin a campaign to ban smoking on campus. In December 2005, the Smoking Investigation Committee (SIC) was born. The SIC group hosted a student health fair and gave educational presentations to the campus' shared governance bodies, which voted to ban smoking following a seven-month transition period. On January 1, 2007, the campus became the third community college in the state of California to become smoke-free.

Impact:

- Reduction of unhealthy tobacco smoke on campus.
- Expected reduction in exposure to tobacco smoke to the approximately 22,000 students
- Full accessibility to those who wish to attend school or work on campus who were previously prohibited from doing so because of their severe sensitivity to second-hand smoke.
- Increase in number of persons quitting smoking due to social norm change and healthy habits.
- Increase in healthy lifestyle habits among students.
- Smoking cessation program and increased support to help with addiction.

Mesa Smoking Investigation Committee Members:

Committee Chair and Director of Health Services: Suzanne Khambata, FNP
Students: Kendra Jackson, Justin Leech, Annjeri Skarposzewski, Maricel Ramirez
Faculty: Allied Health Programs Chair and Faculty Member Chris Kinney
CASA Consultant: Evelyn Hogan
District Police Officer: Nancy Shumaker
Classified Staff Representative: Vice President Penny Hedgecoth
Acting Vice President of Student Services: Damon Bell

Timeline:

October 27, 2005	Student Kendra Jackson speaks before the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustee Meeting
December 2005	Smoking Investigation Committee (SIC) is formed
February 14, 2006	Mesa College "I Love a Healthy Campus" Health Fair
February-April '06	Presentations to Mesa College shared governance bodies
April 18, 2006	Mesa College President's Cabinet approves SIC recommendation to transition to a smoke-free campus
June 12, 2006	Designated Smoking Areas in effect in Mesa College parking lots.
January 1, 2007	Smoke-free Mesa College Campus.
February 5, 2007	Mesa College Smoke-Free Awareness Day

San Diego Mesa College is a fully-accredited two-year college offering more than 150 Associate degree and certificate programs. Serving 22,000 students, Mesa consistently ranks among the top statewide in transferring students to four-year colleges and universities. Mesa College offers specialized career programs that cannot be found at most other area colleges, including: Multimedia degree and certificate programs, Architecture, Animal Health Technology, Fashion and Interior Design, Allied Health programs and Hospitality and Event Management. Mesa College is the largest of three colleges in the San Diego Community College District, which includes San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College and San Diego Continuing Education. President: Rita M. Cepeda, Ed.D.