



Student Services Monthly Updates are designed to tell our story of providing pathways that inspire, engage and empower our diverse students to learn and succeed. These updates also track our support of Mesa's journey of becoming the leading college of equity and excellence. We encourage you to review our highlights and dig deeper into departmental updates to learn about new employees, innovations, data, events/activities, student success stories, special recognitions and new policies/procedures impacting the way we serve students. Thanks to our incredible Student Services Team for their tireless efforts in creating the conditions that matter for our students to succeed.

- Ashanti Hands, Vice President, Student Services

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Monthly Update Highlights

Employee Updates

- Cesar Gaxiola and Abimaliel Rosario Lopez were hired as Student Services Assistants in Admissions; Ruben Leyva was hired as a Senior Student Services Assistant in Counseling.
- Dulce Carolina Lopez and Des Short Lopez were promoted to Student Services Technicians in Admissions and Evaluations, respectively.
- Rena Alspaw has joined the HSI Grant office as a work-study student to assist in the HSI Grant.
- The Peer Navigator/CRUISE program welcomes Project Assistant, Alexi Balaguer.
- Student Affairs is thrilled to bring Shanelle Watkins as its Programming and Events Graduate Intern
- Michael Booth, LMFT, joined Student Health Services as its New Mental Health Coordinator.
- Sasha Verastegui is the new Adjunct Counseling Coordinator for CalWORKs

Events & Activities

- International Student Orientation was held in conjunction with the Cruise January 9 - 12.
- The ASG participated in welcome week on Monday and Tuesday and gave out goodie bags with 5 scantrons and some information about the Associated Student Government to students for free!

- In support of BSSOT, counselors made 83 classroom visits to 16 different basic skills classes during the fall. In addition, Counselors made 143 student connections in English basic skills classes and made 185 student connections in Mathematics basic skills classes.
- Borderless Scholars collaborated with Mesa College's Chicana/o department on an event that provided post-election information for undocumented students.
- The Proyecto Exito grant office was visited by representatives from the US Department of Education for a formal site visit. The representatives met with grant faculty, staff and students and campus administration. They were complimentary of grant's outcomes thus far.
- The Outreach department presented to UCSD Upward Bound tutors and college advisors on January 7th. Outreach gave a Mesa College presentation, informing attendees about its services and the many opportunities the College has to offer.
- Winter CRUISE (1/10-1/12) was a huge success! Thanks to the collaboration with International Student Orientation, 95 new students were introduced to Mesa by our Peer Navigators.
- The Inter-Club Council concluded its semester's worth of events, including the distribution of \$4500 in Vending 5000 funds to eligible student groups, with an informal "Movie Day" on December 9th that attracted around five attendees. The movies shown were Jumanji and Zathura, both based on illustrated children's books written by Chris Van Allsburg.
- The week-long Winter Comfort Tent hosted by Student Health Services in December 2017 served 659 attendees.
- Student Success and Equity supported the Black Leadership Symposia and implemented a bus pass program.
- The Veterans Day Celebration Week consisted of a VRC Open House, BBQ, air-suit wrestling, Career Resources for Veterans, "Stories of our Past" Veterans Panel, Transfer Options for Veterans, Transfer Drop-ins for Veterans

Innovations & Data

- As of 1/30/17 the Admissions Office has serviced 26,653 students.
- Admissions welcomed 67 International Students from the following 21 countries
- The office formalized a partnership with the Mesa Tutoring & Computing Centers (MT2C) that will allow students who would like to meet with a tutor to refresh their skills before taking the placement tests the opportunity to do so.
- In the month of December, Counseling serviced 2,133 students through drop-in and appointments and facilitated 140 Orientation Workshops.
- In the month of January, Counseling serviced 2,906 students through drop-in and appointments and facilitated 267 Orientation Workshops.
- DSPS proctored 368 exams and students logged 1000 hours in the High Tech Center in December and January. In the High Tech Center, there were 256 total alternate media requests for the semester.

- The appointment structure changes adopted by EOPS in the Fall of 2016 led to a significant increase in the number of students meeting full program compliance (attending all three of their counseling appointments) for the semester. Fall 2015: 48% of students attended all three appointments Fall 2016: 84% of students attended all three appointments.
- Proyecto Exito has re-established its blog. Learn the latest grant updates @ www.mesaproyectoexito.wordpress.com
- In STAR, of the 225 students served in 2015/16, 89% were first-generation and low-income and/or a student with a disability. Persistence from year to year was 87%. 92% of students were in Good Academic Standing by the end of the academic year.
- The Transfer Center had 782 total student contacts in December and January.

Student Success Stories

- A student that recently became homeless and has been living in her car has been able to secure a job that will, hopefully, enable her to afford a more stable housing situation in the near future. She is thankful to the Mesa Community - she shared with us that, "she couldn't have done it if she didn't have people believing in her and providing her with the support she needed during a very trying time in her life". With the support of various departments on our campus including Financial Aid, DSPS, The Stand (she needed business casual attire that she was able to obtain here!) and EOPS she has managed to turn a very difficult situation into an empowering experience.
- One of our PM CRUISErs shared how appreciative she is of her Peer Navigator as he was cited as being a huge support. She shared it was the first time in school after five years and happy to earn A. Shout out to the PNs!
- Mesa College has received the military friendly designation and recognized for exhibiting leading practices in supporting post military students.
- A homeless student who was sleeping in his car and attending classes was able to obtain housing with case management support. This enabled the student to feel safe and focus more closely on his class attendance and grades.

Policies/Procedures

- As part of our student conduct process, Student Affairs is including a pre and post assessment for all students that are referred to meet with Student Affairs.
- Services for Homeless Students - Point of Contact, Lisa Naungayan, EOPS
- Services for Formerly Incarcerated - Point of Contact, Larry Maxey, SS&E
- LCOM 101 has been accepted in its entirety (5 units) for VA benefit certification as of Jan 30, 2017.
- In conjunction with District Student Services, Mesa Student Services worked to implement two bills (AB 199 and 801) designed to help improve student success for homeless students.

Admissions

Employee Updates

Cesar Gaxiola and Abimaliel Rosario Lopez were hired as Student Services Assistants; Dulce Carolina Lopez was promoted to Student Services Technician. We said goodbye to Sunny Jones as she retired as a Student Services Assistant

Events & Activities

International Student Orientation was held in conjunction with the Cruise January 9 - 12.

Innovations & Data

As of 1/30/17 the Admissions Office has serviced 26,653 students. We welcomed 67 International Students from the following 21 countries - AFGHANISTAN, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, FRANCE, HONDURAS, INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KOREA, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NEW ZEALAND, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH KOREA, VIETNAM

Student Success Stories

Students enjoyed a successful Intersession since it hasn't been offered since Spring of 2009.

Associated Student Government

Events & Activities

We participated in welcome week on Monday and Tuesday and gave out goodie bags with 5 scantrons and some information about the Associated Student Government to students for free! We also will be having our senator elections coming up in 2 weeks so please let any interested students know applications and information is available at student affairs!

Special Recognition

Thank you to all the amazing senators who came to the Student Government office during break to help out with making our poster board!

Assessment

Innovations and Data

The office formalized a partnership with the Mesa Tutoring & Computing Centers (MT2C) that will allow students who would like to meet with a tutor to refresh their skills before taking the placement tests the opportunity to do so. All students, upon intake, are offered the option of seeing a tutor for one hour of tutoring in English and/or math prior to taking the placement exam. If students choose to do so, they are given a referral card that they can redeem for one hour per subject of tutoring support at MT2C. The idea is that if a student is provided the option of help and receives focused support in the subject that they are not feeling confident in, they will be more confident and refreshed when they take the exam which could lead to better placement. Referrals to MT2C began during the second week of January and students have been receptive to the service. Both areas are looking at other ways to expand the partnership to serve students including having a tutor available in the Assessment Office or an adjacent space and developing refresher videos that students can access online through the Assessment website.

We have also included two local questions to the Accuplacer questionnaire at the beginning of the exam regarding student preparedness and accessibility of study aids. Data collected from these questions will help us determine if we are meeting our Student Services Outcomes and to adjust service/approach if needed.

Assessment continues to work closely with faculty and staff on the MMAP pilot and is ready to support the pilot roll out this Spring.

Special Recognition

Special shout out to Amy Bettinger who won "Best Cookie" and Josh Taylor who won "Best Ugly Sweater" in the December M&M event.

Career

Employee Updates

A new veteran work-study student joined our team this winter term.

Events and Activities

The Career Center was very busy setting up employer visits this month (January). We had a couple of workshops offered during intersession that were very well attended including; UCSD's Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) and a R sum  workshop. The center has been coordinating with student success and equity to prepare for the grand opening of the STAND.

Innovations and Data

The center finalized the clean up of their schedule codes on SARS for their events grid. This will help with in-house workshop schedules of multiple departments. This month was a busy month for the career centers program review. Development of new SSO's will be looked at in the summer.

Student Success Stories

Students continue to fill up our career counseling appointments and are very grateful for the opportunity to receive our services. We had two students receive clothing support from the Stand in December and three in January.

Policies/Procedures

Employer Policy: the Border Patrol and other agencies will continue to be welcome at Mesa as long as they are here to provide employment opportunities for our students.

Special Recognition

All the Career Center staff (including student workers) for helping the Transfer Center with their busy supplemental application season in addition to the large amount of work they have in the department.

Counseling

Employee Updates

In January we hired Ruben Leyva, Senior Student Services Assistant.

Events & Activities

For January, Counseling continues its role in the Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Program (BSSOTP) on the heels of an active first semester, Fall 2016. Through the Fall 2016 semester, counselors made 83 classroom visits to 16 different basic skills classes. Counselors made 143 student connections in English basic skills classes and made 185 student connections in Mathematics basic skills classes. Counseling connections covered a range of questions and content including personal and crisis support, transfer planning, career discussions, and student education planning. Of the 328 total student connections, 208 new abbreviated education plans were generated, individualized for each student's success.

Analysis of students needs throughout the Fall 2016 student connections revealed a student need for career decision making and development. Counseling partnered with the Career Center to offer a closing Career Resources Workshop in each of the partnered basic skills classes. In January, a student survey has been developed to glean student feedback for improved service provision in the coming embedded counseling semesters with BSSOTP. Also, in January the format of embedded counseling has evolved to prioritize Counseling Hotspot locations in three locations: the Humanities Building, the Math and Sciences Building, and the MT2C center in the LRC.

For Spring 2017, 183 students have successfully been enrolled in the Fast Track program

Innovations & Data

In the month of December, Counseling serviced 2,133 students through drop-in and appointments. We facilitated 140 Orientation Workshops.

In the month of January, Counseling serviced 2,906 students through drop-in and appointments. We facilitated 267 Orientation Workshops.

DSPS

Employee Updates

Dee Dee Redulla, our Senior Clerical Assistant accepted a new role at ECC. Her last day with DSPS was Tuesday, January 31, 2017. She will be missed.

Events & Activities

DSPS participated in Winter Cruise, providing information on available support services to more than 75 new students. DSPS met with approximately 20 prospective students from Diego Hills Charter High School on Thursday, January 26th, to provide an overview of DSPS and how to access accommodations, once enrolled.

Innovations & Data

For the month of December, there were 150 Counseling appointments and 526 Drop-ins. 346 exams were proctored and 102 students logged 1000 hours in the High Tech Center. There were 256 total alternate media requests for the semester. For the month of January, there were 258 Counseling appointments and 873 Drop-ins. There were a total of 22 exams proctored during intercession.

Policies/Procedures

Reminder to Mesa College Faculty and Staff: The Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) Department is here to assist San Diego Mesa College in meeting the requirements of federal laws (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the ADA) and District policy by ensuring access to equal educational opportunities. However, this is a large task and we can't do it without the help, support and collaboration from all of you! As a faculty member at Mesa College, you not only have a responsibility from a student equity lens, but also a legal obligation, to provide academic accommodations. Thank you for your collaboration and support!

Special Recognition

Steven Salter wants to give special recognition to the faculty and staff in DSPS for creating such a welcoming environment, providing flexibility in support in my first several weeks at Mesa College. Thank you!

EOPS/CARE

Events and Activities

FAST Scholars hosted a holiday party for former foster youth - the event included presentations by SDSU Guardian Scholars program and other local organizations that support foster youth. Borderless Scholars also hosted a holiday celebration - the event provided a safe space for students to discuss post-election concerns. CARE invited students and their children to share a holiday meal, make a holiday craft and pick out books to take home. Borderless Scholars collaborated with Mesa College's Chicana/o department on an event that provided post-election information for undocumented students. EOPS has developed information packets for homeless students who are referred to the office. Students will be provided with campus resources, community resources, information regarding shower access, priority registration and based on funding - backpack, school supplies and a meal card.

January was off to a busy start with the processing of over 500 applications, orienting over 100 new students to the program and processing book vouchers, parking permits and AS stickers for eligible continuing and new students.

Innovations and Data

The appointment structure changes adopted by EOPS in the Fall of 2016 led to a significant increase in the number of students meeting full program compliance (attending all three of their counseling appointments) for the semester. Fall 2015: 48% of students attended all three appointments Fall 2016: 84% of students attended all three appointments.

Student Success Stories

A student that recently became homeless and has been living in her car has been able to secure a job that will, hopefully, enable her to afford a more stable housing situation in the near future. She is thankful to the Mesa Community - she shared with us that, "she couldn't have done it if she didn't have people believing in her and providing her with the support she needed during a very trying time in her life". With the support of various departments on our campus including Financial Aid, DSPS, The Stand (she needed business casual attire that she was able to obtain here!) and EOPS she has managed to turn a very difficult situation into an empowering experience.

Special Recognition

A big THANK YOU to Nicole and Lisa for all the great work they have been doing - with Jackie gone and the program undergoing some changes and in growth mode it has been an intense couple of months - thanks for hanging in there ladies!

Evaluations

Employee Updates

Interviews took place in January for the vacant SST position. The person that is selected is set to start in early Feb.

Events & Activities

Commencement preparations have been the focus of the evaluations department. A collaboration meeting with the office of communications took place in the month of January. Most commencement marketing materials have been completed.

Special Recognition

Evaluations office would like to thank the district evaluators for their support and patience with our office during the time we did not have an SST.

Financial Aid

Employee Updates

We have the Foster Youth new staff Kesia Williams.

Innovation & Data

We are creating a new process to better assist Foster Youth.

Here is a breakdown of what we have paid to date:

2016-2017	# Students	Disbursed
Pell Grant	4,418	\$9,646,550
SEOG	381	\$116,019
Federal Loans	290	\$993,986
Unsub	20	\$93,495
Alternative Loans	56	\$479,814
BOG C	111,888	\$8,462,822
BOG B	1,396	\$866,575
BOG A	377	\$324,162
Cal Grant B	863	\$653,388
Cal Grant C	24	\$5,253
Misc	25	\$24,237

Special Recognition

N/A

HSI/Title V

Employee Updates

We are excited that Rena Alspaw has joined us a work-study student to assist in the HSI Grant office. The Classroom Tutoring program hired 9 new tutors for Spring 2017!

Events & Activities

The Proyecto Exito grant office was visited by representatives from the US Department of Education for a formal site visit. The representatives met with grant faculty, staff and students and campus administration. They were complementary of grant's outcomes thus far. They particularly noted hearing the same theme from everyone they met with, that the campus' authentic caring and focus on engagement and equity is positively transforming outcomes for students. The CT program held a two-day training for the 20 students serving as classroom tutors for the spring. Training covered topics ranging from general CT program policies and procedures to utilization of resources, mentoring, engagement and equity, and of course, tutoring strategies.

Innovations & Data

Proyecto Exito has re-established its blog. Learn the latest grant updates @ www.mesaproyectoexito.wordpress.com

Special Recognition

Agustin Rivera Jr. for planning and facilitating Mesa's first Winter and Saturday CRUISE programs!!

Outreach & Community Relations

Events & Activities

The Outreach department presented to UCSD Upward Bound tutors and college advisors on January 7th. Outreach gave a Mesa College presentation, informing attendees about its services and the many opportunities the College has to offer. UCSD tutors and college advisors will disseminate the information that was shared with their high school students.

The Outreach ambassadors assisted Winter Cruise and Saturday Cruise with comprehensive campus tours, helping to welcome incoming students to the Mesa campus and sharing with them their experience as Mesa College students. The Outreach Student Services Technician gave a Mesa College presentation to Spanish speaking parents during the Saturday Cruise and applauded their contribution to their students education. The Outreach team was happy to collaborate with Cruise to make these two events a success.

On January 27th, the Mesa Outreach team participated in the Spring semester District Outreach Training held at the Educational Cultural Complex (ECC). At this training they were able to work with the District Outreach teams from City College, Miramar College and Continuing Education. The training was informational and extremely beneficial to the Mesa College ambassadors.

Special Recognition

Special shout out to Karla Trutna who won the prize for "Best Other" dessert for her Trutna Family Pumpkin Bread during the Decemeber M&M event.

Peer Navigators/Summer CRUISE

Employee Updates

The program is delighted to introduce our new Project Assistant, Alexi Balaguer! A proud UC Davis Aggie, Alexi earned her bachelor's degree in Community and Regional Development. She brings her student programming background to support the Peer Navigator, CRUISE, and student center! Welcome!

The Peer Navigator program regrets to share one of our team member has stepped down. He will be missed but his students will be with a new Peer Navigator.

Events and Activities

Peer Navigator program held our inaugural holiday potluck and gift exchange! Team pulled together and celebrated the season with food, fun, and smiles :-)

Winter CRUISE (1/10-1/12) was a huge success! Thanks to the collaboration with International Student Orientation, 95 new students were introduced to Mesa by our Peer Navigators. In addition, Saturday CRUISE was also piloted on January 14, 2017. Fifty-five early graduates from Kearny High School attended CRUISE. Outreach Ambassadors, Tutors, current CRUISErs, and Peer Navigators conducted campus tours, icebreakers, "Kahooted," and held a student panel. Initial feedback from the student panel was positive as genuine questions were asked, such as "how to deal being at a two-year while my friends are at a four-year college." Based on their reaction, PNs, OAs, and tutors were all eager to respond on all the benefits of being at Mesa.

Innovations & Data

Preliminary feedback from surveys show a strong awareness (pre and post comparison) of support program (ex. DSPS, EOPS, STAR) at Mesa. In addition, students indicated a need to connect with their respective PN, at least, once a month.

Student Success Stories

One of our PM CRUISErs shared how appreciative she is of her Peer Navigator as he was cited as being a huge support. She shared it was the first time in school after five years and happy to earn A. Shout out to the PNs!

Policies & Procedures

Updating/ongoing with PN training in the works.

Special Recognition

Everyone who participated in Winter/Saturday CRUISE!

STAR TRIO

Events & Activities

Office personnel participated in the M&M Cookie Contest, Winter CRUISE presentations, Spring Convocation. Thuan Le attended Equity in Action. Brandon Williams completed the Teaching Men of Color training. Marichu Magana attended the SoCal WESTOP Chapter meeting at Pasadena City College, program review training, conducted an essential oils activity with Health Services staff.

Innovations & Data

Completed the TRIO Student Support Services Annual Performance Report for 2015/16. Outcomes were reported for 438 current and prior years' students. Of the 225 students served in 2015/16, 89% were first-generation and low-income and/or a student with a disability. Persistence from year to year was 87%. 92% of students were in Good Academic Standing by the end of the academic year. Of the students in the 2012/13 (4 year) cohort, 41% earned an Associate's Degree or Certificate while 18% transferred to 4-yr institutions for a total of a 59% graduation and transfer rate. For the 2016/17 year, we've processed 269 applications and currently serving 190 students.

Student Affairs

Employee Updates

Student Affairs is thrilled to bring Shanelle Watkins as our Programming and Events Graduate Intern. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in multicultural studies. Shanelle will be assisting Student Affairs with events and programs that focus on leadership development.

We are happy to share the Daniel Stromwall has moved in to Student Affairs I4-408!

Events & Activities

ICC End of Semester Activities: The Inter-Club Council concluded its semester's worth of events, including the distribution of \$4500 in Vending 5000 funds to eligible student groups, with an informal "Movie Day" on December 9th that attracted around five attendees. The movies shown were Jumanji and Zathura, both based on illustrated children's books written by Chris Van Allsburg.

2016/2017 Scholarship Opportunities: Mesa College Student Affairs announced that applications for scholarships through the Mesa College Foundation for the 2016-2017 Academic Year are available online through the Mesa College website. 90 scholarship opportunities are currently available, and combined they total more than \$180,000 in potential awards.

37th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade: Mesa College displayed a cake-themed float designed and built by Mesa College staff and administrators, with the essential assistance of the Mesa College Theatre Tech Program, which attracted about sixty marchers to participate in the parade.

Spring 2017 Welcome Week: This semester's Welcome Week series of events featured many improvements to process and infrastructure, including moving the sign-up form for hosting a Welcome Week event, which simultaneously builds the Welcome Week Schedule of Events, online. Various faculty, staff, administrators and students provided a combined total of 136 volunteer hours to staff the Welcome Week Information Centers over its two days of operation, which recorded roughly 945 verified contacts with students (the actual total is probably twice that, if not more, but I do not have a method in place capable of tracking every student that approaches for assistance). The most common information requested by students was how to find a particular room or building on campus. Altogether, Welcome Week included 15 special activities hosted or provided by 10 Mesa College academic Departments and Service Areas.

Policies and Procedures

As part of our student conduct process we are including a pre and post assessment for all students that are referred to meet with Student Affairs in an effort to resolve a conduct matters. The data will help determine if a student has learned from the experience and is taking steps to change their behavior. In addition this will assist with Program Review.

Special Recognition

Team Outreach for serving at the Info Stops for Welcome Week! Outreach you ROCK!! Student Health Team for hosting an educational, interactive, FUN Welcome Week activity. Student Health always coordinates great events! Team Financial Aid- they do it all!! They have been working HARD making sure our students have access to education. Team Assessment for their collaboration with the Tutoring Center to help students prepare for assessments. Very creative team! Team Student Affairs for modeling excellence!! No matter how difficult the task, this team gets it done with care, charisma and FUN!

Student Development

Employee Updates

- Admissions:
 - Cesar Gaxiola, Student Services Assistant
 - Abi Lopez Rosario, Student Services Assistant
 - Dulce Carolina Lopez, Student Services Technician
- Transfer, Evaluation, Career
 - Danielle Short, Student Services Technician
- Counseling
 - Ruben Leyva, Senior Student Services Assistant

Events and Activities

- Collaborative efforts with the Physical Education/Athletics Department on ways to expand services to student-athletes.
- Collaborative efforts between Student Development and Student Equity on the planning and implementation of the Second Year Experience Program - ADVOC8.
- Collaborative efforts with the Veterans Office to identify veteran work study students who can assist in the Veterans Resource Center Identification of a volunteer who can assist with Soldiers Who Salsa.
- Membership in the California Community College Veterans Caucus Initial planning stages for the Breakfast Social for VA students and the Student Veterans Graduation Ceremony.

Innovations & Data

Utilization of SARS in the Office of the Dean of Student Development to track petitions and student contacts. Continued work on the Mesa College Orientation - completion of the outline and copy writing concept. PERG 120 taught from a student athlete's perspective by Michael Temple

Student Success Stories

Mesa College has received the military friendly designation and recognized for exhibiting leading practices in supporting post military students. Additional info can be found here: <http://militaryfriendly.com/schools/san-diego-mesa-college/>

Special Recognition

- San Diego Mesa College designated as "military friendly" per military friendly website. This designation was based on the survey for service members and veterans.
- To Michael Temple for volunteering to teach Personal Growth 120 - College Success and Lifelong Learning for student athletes in Spring 2017
- To Michael Temple for representing San Diego Mesa College and presenting on equity minded advising at the DREAM Conference.

Student Health Services

Employee Update

New Mental Health Coordinator, Michael Booth LMFT joined our team on January 17, 2017. Michael is an expert in many areas pertaining to College Age health services. He is fluent in Italian, French and English. He has an extensive work history including the Vatican in Rome and Scripps Mental Health at Mercy Hospital.

Events & Activities

In December 2017 we hosted the Winter Comfort Tent. We served 659 attendees at the week-long event. Students reported that the tent was incredibly welcoming, they knew, from word of mouth, what the tent space offered a safe space to decompress, have healthy conversations and caring listening ears that provided guidance toward reaching their potential.

Innovations & Data

First time events: The Comfort Tent offered two sessions of professional Music Therapy with a licensed Music Therapist who also provided expressive movement (dance). Our Winter Retreat offered a lecture on the different types of Marijuana that are available in shops, the nursing/medical implications of Marijuana use in the college age person and the legal/moral aspects stemming from the recent legalization of Marijuana. Also at our Winter retreat we had a professional presentation by Chance the Dragon who represented the "Furries of San Diego". Recently we've had a few students who related to us that they belonged to a "Furry" community. Not knowing much about the community, we invited them to our office. The presentation covered the psycho-social aspects of the Furry subculture. Eight Furries attended the presentation, each with their own personal story to share.

Student Success Stories

A homeless student who was sleeping in his car and attending classes was able to obtain housing with case management support. This enabled the student to feel safe and focus more closely on his class attendance and grades.

Special Recognition

Kayte Hayduk, a Veteran student in the Health Information Technology program at Mesa, created an organizational system to ensure quality assurance with respect to our records. We are now current in our chart purging and storage. She is a huge asset to our services.

Student Success & Equity

Employee Updates

- Sasha Verastegui - Adjunct Counseling Coordinator, CalWORKs

Events & Activities

- December 9th, Black Leadership Symposia
- Implementation of Direct Support - Bus Pass Program
- January 14, Winter CRUISE - Parent Workshop
- January 16, All- People's Breakfast

Policies & Procedures

- Services for Homeless Students - Point of Contact, Lisa Naungayan, EOPS
- Services for Formerly Incarcerated - Point of Contact, Larry Maxey, SS&E

Special Recognition

Umoja/Puente working group (Brandon Williams, Johanna Aleman, Sade Burrell, Sahar King) led by Michael Temple for the development of the 1st Annual, Black Student Leadership Symposia. Excellent Job!

Transfer

Employee Updates

New SST: Danielle Short

Events & Activities

Completed Supplemental Application period for SDSU.

Innovation & Data

782 total student contacts for Dec and Jan

Special Recognition

Daniel Short!.

Veterans & Records

Employee Updates

Starting up drop-in hours again at the Veterans Resource Center for Spring 2017.

Events & Activities

Veterans Day Celebration Week consisted of VRC Open House, BBQ, air-suit wrestling, Career Resources for Veterans, "Stories of our Past" Veterans Panel, Transfer Options for Veterans, Transfer Drop-ins for Veterans.

Policies & Procedures

LCOM 101 has been accepted in its entirety (5 units) for VA benefit certification as of Jan 30, 2017.

Special Recognition

Jordan Agricola-accepted to Wesleyan University through the Veterans POSSE Program

Vice President Student Services

Events and Activities

- Vice President Hands served on a Senior Leaders in Student Affairs Panel for SDSU Master's students
- M&M Committee hosted an Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest/ Best Dessert Bake-off
- Vice President Hands co-hosted our Annual Principal's Roundtable. Nine schools were in attendance.
- Vice President Hands served as a faculty member for the NASPA AVP Institute: Excellence in the "Number Two" Role.
- Vice President Hands participated in the following SS Department Activities: Black Student Leadership Symposium (Umoja), Fast Scholars Holiday Gathering
- Student Services staff participated in the following Martin Luther King., Jr. activities: MLK Parade and Dignity Breakfast
- Vice President Hands participated in the following opening activities: Convocation, New Faculty Institute, Winter CRUISE, and Saturday CRUISE.
- Student Services Staff volunteered at Welcome Week activities
- M&M Committee hosted a Meet and Greet for new Student Services Faculty, Staff and Administrators (Summer 2016 – Fall 2016)
- Daniel Stromwall helped plan the M&M Dessert Bake-Off in December and Meet & Greet in January, participated in Convocation, has been updating website materials in preparation for the spring semester, is working on our multiple measures assessment pilot, participated in an event at the San Diego Food Bank, and has been working to launch The Stand in early February.
- Trina Larson worked with the team that completed the Accreditation Institutional Self Evaluation Report and convened the Classified Senate for the spring semester.

Innovations and Data

- 1.7M California youth experience homelessness. 32% of students experience housing insecurities and 12.2% of students experience food insecurities.
- Because intersession units are technically spring-semester units, the VPSS Office has seen a 380% increase in unit override petitions for the spring semester compared to last year. (Policy: Students can take 16 units without intervention; 20 units with a counselor's approval; and greater than 20 units with administrative approval). The District is looking at this.

Policies/Procedures

- In Spring 2017 Student Services adopted new service hours. Our new hours are as follows:
 - Monday – Tuesday: 8am – 7pm
 - Wednesday – Thursday: 8am – 6pm
 - Friday: 8am – 3:00pm
- In conjunction with District Student Services, Mesa Student Services worked to implement the following bills designed to help improve student success for homeless students:
 - AB 199, requiring community colleges to give access to shower facilities to homeless students under the age of 25, effective January 1, 2017.
 - AB 801, providing priority registration for homeless students (a student that is verified as being without a residence in the last six years). Effective Spring 2017, qualified homeless students will

- be referred to the EOPS office on campus for information about shower access and priority registration as well as referral to other support services.
- Student Services transitioned coordination of Spring 2017 Community College Equity Assessment Lab (CCEAL, formerly Minority Male Community College Collaborative) Workshop Series to the Professional Learning Committee.

Special Recognition

Special THANKS to the Congratulations and Thanks to Trina Larson for her work in the completion of Mesa's 2017 Institutional Self Evaluation Report.

Special THANKS to all 24 Student Services Departments and Programs who met the November 30th Program Review deadline. Thanks to all of the Student Services Liaisons and Managers who met their December and January review deadlines.