



*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

- LaKeita Platts attended the English Learning Institute college fair hosted by UCSD. Deyanira Preciado-Bayardo and Jennie Roachford visited the MOU high schools to hold application and information workshops.
- Kari Parker is outgoing as Department Chair of Counseling and Leroy Johnson will be serving in the role beginning June 1. Congratulations Leroy!
- The Transfer Center has a new Coordinator. Welcome Anne Hedekin to her new home in the Career/Transfer Center.
- Olivia Picolla and Raquel Sojourner from Transfer, Career, and Evaluations attended the Western Pathways Conference in Denver, Colorado to learn more about what universities and colleges are doing to increase student success for students in career technical education programs.
- Leroy Johnson moved into position as Counseling Department Chair and Anne Hedekin has replaced him as Transfer Center Coordinator.
- Jennifer Roachford in Admissions welcomed baby Jordan on May 19th at 5 lbs. 6 oz. Congratulations to Jennifer and her family!

## Events & Activities

- The 10th Annual STAR Awards was a great success. We had over 300 attendees and honored our teams and athletes. A special tribute was paid to Jan Ellis in recognition of her accomplishments and dedication to Mesa College.
- Mesa College received our outcome letter following our third-party audit examining OCR Compliance in our CTE Programs. The results were very positive and remediation efforts are already underway. We will submit our Voluntary Compliance Plan to the auditing team by June 20th and we will have one year to bring our campus into compliance in the identified areas.
- Peer Navigators held an End of the Year student panel to share their experience of transferring to their respective colleges. Panel expressed genuine feelings (ranging from excitement to being scared) about the transition to better connect with students. The panel served a twofold mission: continue setting the Peer Navigator standard, and making transferring a realistic goal.
- The SSE department and Student Affairs coordinated the Rite of Passage/Black Graduation Celebration.

## Innovations & Data

- Assessment and Outreach have spearheaded a pilot in which 130 students from Madison and Kearny High Schools were able to use high school GPA, last class taken in English and math, and grade received in those classes to determine their placement levels. A little less than half (49%) of the pilot cohort did not have to take either the math or English placement test based on the recommendations generated from the Online Placement Assistant.
- The BSSOTP Grant Program completed its Hot Spot and Embedded Counseling for the Spring 2017 semester.
- SYE (ADVOC8) ended its application deadline with 62 applicants. Twelve students are currently wait-listed. We have had 46 confirmations. A cohort of 50 applicants will be ensured for Fall 2017.
- FAST Scholars received a \$35,000 grant through the Angell Foundation.
- The appointment structure changes adopted by EOPS in the Fall of 2016 led to 36% increase in the number of students meeting full program compliance (attending all three of their counseling appointments) compared to Fall 2015.
- This year, Mesa utilized an electronic student check-in system for Commencement, electronically processing 646 students.
- Financial Aid has disbursed almost \$11M in BOG Fee Waivers and over \$18M in Pell Grant dollars.
- The Classroom Tutoring program had a total of 2,206 student contacts in the Spring semester. CTs supported students in Anthropology, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Geology and Math.
- The 2017-18 Promise cohort for Mesa College was finalized on May 31st and currently sits at 287 students. The Outreach department expects that there will be some student exchange between colleges but anticipate that the cohort size will not fluctuate much.
- Collaborative efforts between Student Success & Support Program, Student Equity, and Basic Skills resulted in the development of an Innovative Practice, Funding Request online form.
- The Comfort Tent served 532 students while the Comfort Cart saw approximately 1200 students.
- The VPSS office is working with Associate Dean of Research Bridget Herrin to establish Program Review Data Packets for Student Services cohort programs.
- So far in 2017, AskMesa has been asked 7,275 questions and 98% of all questions asked are able to be linked to a related response.

## Student Success Stories

- On May 2nd, Vanndaro Chhum was recognized at the Transfer Recognition Luncheon as the keynote speaker. A former student at Mesa, and now a contract staff, he spoke about his family originating from Cambodia, his cultural history and struggles. He also shared how Mesa College provided him with the necessary skills to be successful as he transfers to SDSU in Fall 2017.
- Eight Peer Navigators are transferring (SDSU, Cal, UCSD, UCR)! They have worked very hard and met all the requirements to transfer. The program is very proud of their efforts and they will be missed.
- Last October one of our female students told STAR TRIO she was not applying for transfer due to being pregnant and unsure of her abilities. We listened to her, provided her encouragement, and assistance with the transfer application (just in case). She was accepted to SDSU and she expressed her gratitude to all the staff for the 4 years of support and caring she received.
- The ASG student leaders have proven that they balance academic excellence in conjunction with service to the community. Ava Fakhrabadi, Johanna Eriksson, and Tad Tobar served as the ASG Exec Team and they created community, support, leadership and encouragement each week during their ASG board meetings. They each lead with excellence and care. Ava will be attending UCLA or UCSD, Johanna will be attending SDSU!! and Tad will be going to UCB!! We are so proud and thrilled for their next journey.
- In Student Health Services, Laura Milligan, FNP, spent 3 hours working with a young student who has a very serious chronic illness. The student had secured a good paying, full time job. Unfortunately, she made too much money and her Medi-Cal was cancelled. Laura helped her find options for private pay insurance, choose the right plan to cover her medication and provided a contact at a free service clinic in case she couldn't afford the new insurance plan.
- We had two student veterans get accepted to Stanford: Ryan Loper and Evander Deocariza. Several student veterans were accepted and plan to attend UC Berkeley (waiting to hear back from UC Berkeley regarding those that accepted), one notably is Freddy Cervantes, who was accepted into their electrical engineering and computer science major.

# **Admissions**

## **Employee Updates**

- LaKeita Platts attended the English Learning Institute college fair hosted by UCSD.
- Deyanira Preciado-Bayardo and Jennie Roachford visited the MOU high schools to hold application and information workshops.
- Jennifer Roachford welcomed baby Jordan on May 19th at 5 lbs. 6 oz. Congratulations to Jennifer and her family!

## **Innovation & Data**

During the month of May there were 100 Petition to Challenges; 4,727 phone calls and 1,046 visits to our office for Residency, International Students, and Allied Health.

## **Policies & Procedures**

The MOU high school students can come to Mesa during the summer for free.

## **Special Recognition**

Congratulations to Deyanira Preciado-Bayardo for obtaining her Master's Degree in Counseling from SDSU!

# Assessment

## Innovations & Data

This year was an amazing year for innovation in our department. A few of our highlights include:

### Partnership with MT2C Tutoring

We have partnered with MT2C to provide students with an alternative form of preparation for the placement test. Traditionally, students are unable to receive tutoring services if they have not yet taken a class at Mesa so we partnered with MT2C to provide interested students with a voucher that they can redeem for one hour of tutoring in math, English or both. The tutors have been provided with the same sample tests that are available to students and go through it with them to help them brush up on their skills. We hope that this service will help students walk in to the placement tests more prepared and, in turn, help them achieve higher placement levels.

### MMAP Pilot

Our department, in conjunction with Outreach, really spearheaded a pilot in which 130 students from Madison and Kearny High Schools were able to use high school GPA, last class taken in English and math, and grade received in those classes to determine their placement levels. A little less than half (49%) of the pilot cohort did not have to take either the math or English placement test based off of the recommendations generated from the Online Placement Assistant.

### Assessing Testing Preparedness

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.

## Policies & Procedures

### Streamlining Post-Assessment

To help streamline the post-assessment process for students, we developed a one page Individual Score Report that is printed out for each student after they complete their assessment. In addition to their individual placement levels, they receive information about their next steps as to successfully complete the SSSP steps and fully transition into Mesa College.

## **Associated Student Government**

**No Update**

# Career

## **Employee Update**

Olivia Picolla and Raquel Sojourner attended the Western Pathways Conference in Denver, Colorado to learn more about what universities and colleges are doing to increase student success for students in career technical education programs.

## **Events & Activities**

The Career Center hosted Two Resume Workshops, one Job & Internship Search Workshop, and a Choosing Your Major & Career Workshop.

## **Innovations & Data**

The Career Center served 118 students through appointments, walk-in counseling, workshops and walk-in services. Our online job board, MesaJob Network, posted 98 new jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities for students. 60 new students and 51 new employers created an account on Job Network.

## **Student Success Stories**

Two students were able to secure employment opportunities after seeking the career assistance with their resume and interviewing skills.

# Counseling

## Employee Updates

- Kari Parker is outgoing as Department Chair of Counseling. Beginning May 30th, Leroy Johnson will be serving in the role. Congratulations Leroy!
- The Transfer Center has a new Coordinator. Welcome Anne Hedekin to her new home in the Career/Transfer Center.

## Events & Activities

The 10th Annual STAR Awards was a great success. We had over 300 attendees and honored our teams and athletes. A special tribute was paid to Jan Ellis in recognition of her accomplishments and dedication to Mesa College.

## Innovations & Data

- SYE (ADVOC8) ended its application deadline with 62 applicants. Twelve students are currently wait-listed. We have had 46 confirmations. A cohort of 50 applicants will be ensured for Fall 2017.
- The BSSOTP Grant Program completed its Hot Spot and Embedded Counseling for the Spring 2017 semester. The grant's workshop series, including a partnership with the Career Center, reached over 800 students, and Counselors had over 115 student counseling contacts as well. For the whole 2016-2017 year, BSSOTP reached over 1300 students with student service informational workshops and over 450 students with Embedded and Hot Spot Counseling services. Evaluation is underway to glean the best practices from 2016-2017, towards offering improved BSSOTP student connections for 2017-2018.

# DSPS

## Events & Activities

- Mesa College DSPS hosted a graduate recognition event for our students on May 16th. We provided a variety of snacks and treats to help our students fuel up prior to finals. We saw more than 20 of our graduates attend and it was great to hear what is on the horizon for our class of 2017!
- Mesa College received our outcome letter following our third-party audit examining OCR Compliance in our CTE Programs. The results were very positive and remediation efforts are already underway. We will submit our Voluntary Compliance Plan to the auditing team by June 20th and we will have one year to bring our campus into compliance in the identified areas.

## Innovations & Data

The end of the semester is always a busy time of year, and May proved to be no different. We had a total of 248 counseling appointments, 126 drop-ins and saw 66 new students access services. Additionally, we proctored close to 500 exams in our testing center. The High Tech Center had 180 students log 800 hours and provided 93 tutoring sessions. The HTC also processed eight alternate media requests.

## Student Success Stories

May was an exciting month for our students. We had a total of 120 students from DSPS graduate, earning 115 Associates Degrees, 14 Certificates of Achievement and 5 Certificates of Performance . We had more than 20 students graduate with honors and our graduates earned an average GPA of 2.99.

## Special Recognition

Congratulations to Rebekah Corrales on completing NFI and being promoted to Professor.

# EOPS/CARE

## Employee Updates

Currently interviewing for new EOPS/Special Populations Counselor position and have posted SST position.

## Events & Activities

- On May 5th, EOPS hosted a Celebrating Your Successes/Celebrando Sus Exitos recognition dinner for students receiving a certificate, associate's degree or transferring. Forty-two students and their guests attended the event. Students were presented with a certificate and an EOPS sash.

## Innovations & Data

- EOPS had a 13% increase in number of unduplicated students served in academic year 2016 – 2017 compared to the 2015-2016.
- There has also been a 35% increase in the number of students served on one-on-one appointments and 41% increase in the number of students served through group appointments.
- Students Served: 792 (13% increase from previous year)
- CARE: 18
- Borderless Scholars: 49
- FAST Scholars: 50
- FAST Scholars received a \$35,000 grant through the Angell Foundation.

## Student Success Stories

125 EOPS students graduated (# includes 95 current and 30 past participants that timed out of the program)

# Evaluations

## Events & Activities

The Evaluations Office organized and implemented the student registration and check-in for the 2017 Commencement Ceremony.

## Innovations & Data

- This year we utilized for the first time an electronic student check-in system for Commencement and it was a huge success allowing check-in to run smoothly for everyone involved.
- Evaluations served 219 students and processed 416 petitions in the month of May.

## Student Success Stories

Evaluations processed 698 student registrations to attend the Commencement Ceremony which was an 18% increase over last year's number of registered students. Additionally, we checked-in 674 students to the Commencement Ceremony, (registered and walk-ins); a 19% increase over last year's attendance.

# Financial Aid

## Employee Updates

Final stages of hiring a new SAT.

## Events & Activities

May 19th, Mesa Financial Aid hosted Region X meeting and had our last appeal workshop for Spring semester.

## Innovation & Data

Our disbursement totals to date:

- Bog Fee Waiver (A,B and C) \$10,854,619
- Pell Grant \$18,218,836
- SEOG \$293,917
- Cal Grants (B & C) \$1,330,713
- Full-Time Student Success Grant \$357,900
- Direct Loans \$1,251,895
- PLUS Loans \$115,186
- Alternative Education Loans \$533,199

## Special Recognition

To all office staff - having our Financial Aid Officer out on ERP has put a lot of stress in office, and their help is appreciated.

# HSI/Title V

## Employee Updates

The CT Program says "Thank You!" to the Classroom Tutors who are transiting on, many who are graduating and transferring!

Andrew Baac  
Andrew Tracey  
Anthony Mejia  
Daniela Perez Padilla  
Emily Eisner  
Helen Almassy  
Jimmy McArthur  
Margret Kawabata  
Natalie Eddy  
Natalie Robertson  
Oscar Torres  
Paloma Fernandez  
Parmosh Sriprawat  
Victoria Green

The Professional Learning objectives of the grant are now being co-facilitated by Denise Rogers and Maria-Jose Zeledon-Perez!

## Innovations & Data

The Classroom Tutoring program had a total of 2,206 student contacts in the Spring semester. CTs supported students in Anthropology, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Geology and Math.

## Policies & Procedures

The Department of Education, Hispanic Serving Institution Division is now requiring all grantees to submit a monthly project update. This is being done to produce a greater record of grant activities and ensure better communication and support between the USDOE and grantees.

## Special Recognition

A special shout out to Juan Bernal and Kelly Spoon, two innovative math instructors (and HSI Grant course re-designers). They have developed a new pilot program, Mathletics, aimed primarily at serving disproportionately impacted students who earned a "C" in Math 46 or 96 to provide not only math skill building support, but also workshops and tools to help students reduce math anxiety and build math confidence.

# Outreach & Community Relations

## Employee Updates

- Four of the eight Student Ambassadors ended their assignments with us in May to begin internships and take part in orientations and preparation for the Fall at their respective four-year universities.
- Vanndaro Chhum was accepted to SDSU for Fall Admission. He will be working on his BA in communications.

## Events & Activities

- Outreach hosted students from O'Farrell Charter High School on May 15th. We had 30 students whose grade level ranged from 11th \_12th grade. The students heard from Outreach and DSPS, then concluded with a campus tour. They all look forward to being future Olympians.
- Outreach Student Ambassadors participated in the Annual Spring 2017 College Fair hosted by Clairemont High School. Ambassadors provided information to 247 prospective students on programs and services offered at Mesa College. Ambassadors contributed to a successful event.

## Innovations & Data

- The 2017-18 Promise cohort for Mesa College was finalized on May 31st and currently sits at 287 students.

## Student Success Stories

- On May 2nd, Vanndaro Chhum was recognized at the Transfer Recognition Luncheon as the keynote speaker. A former student at Mesa, and now a contract staff, he spoke about his family originating from Cambodia, his cultural history and struggles. He also shared how Mesa College provided him with the necessary skills to be successful as he transfers to SDSU in Fall 2017.
- On May 20th, Brittani Kaigler proudly participated in Mesa's Commencement Ceremony. She received her Associates degree in Communications Studies and will be continuing her pursuit of a Bachelor degree at Temple University in the Fall.
- Two Promise students, Quintin Wortham and Jadifaye Dineros, met with President Luster, Chancellor Carroll, and two potential donors on May 22nd to talk about their experiences with Mesa College what the Promise Scholarship has meant to them in their first year as college students. These students have utilized many of Mesa's support services, have won additional scholarships, and have become interwoven into the fabric of Mesa. They are shining examples of how student blossom, succeed, and give back when given the right information, encouragement and support.
- The Promise Program hosted a "Pay It Forward Book Return" Program where current Promise students could return their used textbooks to the Promise Coordinators in exchange for a ticket to an opportunity drawing for a \$50 book store gift card. Students would receive one ticket per book returned. We received a very generous donation of books from a student, Samantha Ceron-Draeger, who did not want tickets. She said, "...I don't need the raffle tickets I just want to give back to you guys for giving me a chance to get free books and supplies throughout this year. Thank you so much!" We are inspired by Samantha and her generosity and are encouraged by our Promise students' desire to give back and pay forward the opportunities they've been given.

# Peer Navigators/Summer CRUISE

## Employee Updates

Aside from those whose assignments have ended, our Peer Navigator team remains the same. A new team of Peer Navigators for 2017-2018 have been identified and will start June 5.

## Events & Activities

- Peer Navigators held an End of the Year student panel to share their experience of transferring to their respective colleges. Panel expressed genuine feelings (ranging from excitement to being scared) about the transition to better connect with students. The panel served a twofold mission: continue setting the Peer Navigator standard, and making transferring a realistic goal.
- The Peer Navigator program piloted a study hour held by faculty (math and English) in preparation for their upcoming finals. The foundation for the event was laid and the program hopes to grow from it for the following year during midterms and finals.

## Innovations & Data

The CRUISE Program, with the help of Daniel, created a CRUISE Alumni testimonial feature to help highlight the program. We hope the new addition will also motivate new students to register for the event.

## Student Success Stories

Eight Peer Navigators are transferring (SDSU, Cal, UCSD, UCR)! They have worked very hard and met all the requirements to transfer. The program is very proud of their efforts and they will be missed.

## Policies & Procedures

Training for the new Peer Navigator team will start on June 5th. As such, the PN handbook has been updated by outlining expectations, reinforcing responsibilities, and expressing commitment.

## Special Recognition

The Peer Navigator and Summer CRUISE programs would not be as successful if it weren't for the efforts and attention to detail, of Alexi B (\*Project Assistant). She has been very active of our efforts, connected with each of the PNs, and supported the new Lead Peer Navigator.

# STAR TRIO

## Employee Updates

- Thuan: participated in STAR Awards (Athletics)
- Brandon: attended the UCLA Stomp tour, Transfer Luncheon, Real Talk, Umoja
- Petra: Led end-of-year staff/student meeting with the Human Knot exercise (focused on non-verbal communication)
- Marichu & student staff: conducted activities for toddlers at the Mesa Child Development Center Spring Fair
- Marichu: participated in Transfer Luncheon & graduation
- Staff: participated in the May Fiesta & Crazy Sock contest

## Events & Activities

- Held Meet & Greet for program participants
- Held Finals Week Study Hall
- Provided graduation photo packages
- Conducted end-of-year focus group

## Innovation & Data

5,591 visits, an increase of 136 visits (compared to 2015/16)

## Student Success Stories

Last October one of our female students told us she was not applying for transfer due to being pregnant and unsure of her abilities. We listened to her, provided her encouragement, and assistance with the transfer application (just in case). She was accepted to SDSU and she expressed her gratitude to all the staff for the 4 years of support and caring she received.

## Special Recognition

To all of our student workers for their commitment to helping others succeed.

# Student Affairs

## Employee Updates

We are thrilled to share that Shanelle Watkins will continue her service as the Student Affairs and Student Equity Graduate Intern during the Summer 2017. She is an exceptional addition to Team Student Affairs and we are pleased to have her internship continue with our team.

## Events & Activities

### 2017-2018 ASG

Associated Student Government held its annual Student Government Elections during May 1-5. We are pleased to announce the new student leaders of 2017-2018:

President: Joseph Newall

Vice President: Mathilda Kristoferson

Treasurer: Andres Moncada

Senator: Maliha Afroze

Senator: Carlos Aldrete

Senator: Guillermo Duarte

Senator: Gabriel Gonzalez

Senator: Sierra Hudson

Senator: Jen Mei Han Khor

Senator: Adrian Lopez

Senator: Hong Nhung Nguyen

Senator: Javier Perez

Senator: Jason Kenneth Zuehlke

### NCRC Art of Inclusive Communication

Student Affairs hosted the final NCRC Art of Inclusive Communication training session for student in Spring 2017. This session was scheduled for a later timeslot than previous student sessions and the afternoon start time had a dramatic effect on student attendance (20 students signed up and 16 attended). Overall, it appears that staff and faculty training sessions are most successful when scheduled during daytime work hours, roughly 9am to 4pm, whereas the student training sessions are most successful when scheduled for the evening, between about 3pm and 6pm. This revelation should be useful in planning any similar training sessions in the future, whether for students or campus employees. (May 11, 2017)

### Rite of Passage Ceremony

Mesa College served as the host for the Rite of Passage Ceremony 2017 for all three sister campuses. It was a tremendous success with over 65 students in attendance! The house was packed with family, friends, and staff all in celebration of our students. Dr. Hands inspired the crowd with her inspirational words of wisdom, Mr. Larry Maxey motivated the students with his uplifting words and humor, Dr. Kendrick Dial impacted the students with his powerful spoken word, and Dr. Thekima Mayasa shared the importance of the ceremony, why we celebrate and encouraged us to do more. The student testimonials were moving as all three students shared the

importance and impact the college community has had on their success. Mesa was thrilled to host and we can't wait to do it again in three years! (May 17, 2017)

### **Caps, Gowns, and Honors Regalia**

Student Affairs provided support to graduating students with financial difficulties by loaning caps and gowns to students with verified financial need. Furthermore, this is the first time in at least 20 years that the Student Affairs office has sold out of Honors Regalia (meaning the white and gold cords, and the gold tassel); our stocks were emptied even after requesting and receiving additional gold cords from other departments and campuses. There can be very little doubt that this is a direct result of the exceptionally large amount of graduates.

### **Commencement 2017**

Commencement 2017 was a great success! Over 680 students walked across the stage this year! This was our largest number of graduates participating in Commencement and we were thrilled with the enthusiasm and pride each graduate shared during the ceremony. Our Student Speaker, Ava Fakhrabadi was an exceptional speaker bringing the crowd to tears. Prez Pam Luster motivated the crowd with her powerful words of encouragement and even rapped to Kendrick Lamar's song "The Greatest". Commencement was filled with happiness, joy, pride and great PRIDE. Congrats to our Olympians! (May 20, 2017)

### **Student Leadership Recognition Event**

Student Affairs and the Inter-Club Council hosted their end-of-the-year Student Leadership Recognition event. This time around the event was comfortable and informal, with a tasty meal of pizza, salad and bread sticks provided by O's American Kitchen. Over 40 student leaders and club representatives and members of the Associated Student Government, attended the event. T-shirts and few other items were handed out as giveaways, as well. Everyone had an excellent time. (May 18, 2017)

### **Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) Spring 2017 General Assembly**

Courtney served as the travel advisor for the Associated Student Government when they deployed a contingent to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) Spring 2017 General Assembly. This iteration of the conference was arranged quite differently than previous General Assemblies, and the actual general sessions, during which voting occurs, were held primarily with the campus delegates; indeed, the room where the general sessions took place was far too small to admit all of the attendees. Ultimately, the student travelers had an excellent experience and everyone returned to San Diego without incident or injury. (May 5-7, 2017)

### **Passing of the Gavel Ceremony**

ASG held our final meeting and Passing of the Gavel Ceremony. This was a time in which ASG members shared their highlights of the year, things they learned and the impact the team has made on one another. As we closed out the end of the year with Passing of The Gavel, the student leaders shared laughter, tears and excitement. Ava Fakhrabadi, ASG President 2016-2017 shared her words of guidance to the incoming student body president Joe Newall. Along with words that were shared was the passing of the President's Gavel. Congrats to both the outgoing and incoming council. We anticipate another year of student development, leadership engagement and community building.

## **Student Success Stories**

The ASG student leaders have proven that they balance academic excellence in conjunction with service to the community. Ava Fakhrabadi, Johanna Eriksson, and Tad Tobar served as the ASG Exec Team and they created community, support, leadership and encouragement each week during their ASG board meetings. They each lead with excellence and care. Ava will be attending UCLA or UCSD, Johanna will be attending SDSU!! and Tad will be going to UCB!! We are so proud and thrilled for their next journey.

## **Special Recognition**

Shanelle Watkins did an excellent job taking the main lead with the logistics for our very uplifting Rite of Passage Ceremony. The event was a great success due to Shanelle's collaboration with faculty, administration, staff and students. She created an online reservation system, coordinated the slide show, worked on the program and most importantly she closely connected with students not only at Mesa but at our sister campuses as well. Through this one event Shanelle established a strong rapport with students encouraging them to participate in the Rite of Passage Ceremony as well as Commencement! We are very fortunate to have Shanelle on our team and look forward to her continued service in Student Affairs and Equity.

# Student Development

## Events & Activities

- The Transfer Recognition Ceremony took place on May 2 from 11:30-1:00 PM. This event celebrated the transfer successes of our Mesa College students . Our very own Vanndaro Chhum was the event keynote speaker.
- The 2017 STAR Awards was held on May 9. The event recognized the academic achievements, community spirit, and athletic excellence of Mesa College's students-athletes.
- The Real Talk panel discussion series on "Relatedness" occurred on May 18 at 12:45 PM. The discussion featured cultural and learning support that can support their success at Mesa.
- The 2017 Inaugural Veterans Graduation Ceremony was held on May 19 at 11:00 AM. The event honored the academic successes of the Mesa College student veterans.
- A Veterans Compliance Survey with the Veterans Administration took place on the week of May 15th.

## Innovations & Data

- Collaborative efforts between Student Success & Support Program, Student Equity, and Basic Skills resulted in the development of an Innovative Practice, Funding Request online form.
- Excited about the future launch of the new online orientation.
- Availability of the Student Development website which includes information on areas that the position supports, in addition to committees, and SSSP Plans.

## Student Success Stories

Proud of the student veterans who will be transferring to Stanford this fall. Way to go Ryan Loper and Evander Deocariza. Freddy Cervantes will be transferring to UC Berkeley, along with Raymond Bacco, Roger Valverde, Arty Casillos, and Eric, and Jordan Agricola to Wesleyan College.

## Special Recognition

- Thanks to Vanndaro Chhum for being the Transfer Recognition keynote speaker for sharing his inspirational story during the event.
- A special recognition goes to the Transfer, Evaluations, and Career Center staff for assisting and working as a team to support this important event. A special thanks goes to Leroy Johnson, Raquel Sjourner, Shawn Fawcett, Gity Nematollahi, Deborah Salazar, Danielle Short, Cynthia Cordova, Mary Garcia, and the work study in TEC who assisted with this event.
- Thanks to Kristy Carson and the STAR Awards Committee for a job well done. Committee members include Kristy Carson, Naayieli Bravo, John Crocitti, Sarah Dillenbeck, Dawn McClelland, Travis Nichols, Lynn Nugyen, Jake Portugal, Melissa Rockey, Nathan Resch, and Nathan Talo. Special thanks goes to Acting Dean Kevin Hazlett for continued collaborative efforts between the Counseling and Exercise Science and Athletic Departments.
- Thanks to the following individuals who played a role in supporting the Veterans Graduation Ceremony: Ramiro Hernandez for his vision and for organizing the event, along with his wife Jackie for assisting with the leis and beautiful centerpieces. Joan Freeman for singing God Bless the USA, Jordan Agricola for sharing his heart-warming story, Susan Topham for supporting the event in her role as City College's

Interim VPSS, LaWanda Foster for funding the graduation stoles. Thanks to the Veterans Advisory Committee to include Evan Adelson, Ivonne Alvarez, Angie Avila, Danene Brown, Andre Castro, Claudia Estrada, LaWanda Foster, Gabriel Gonzalez, Dylan Hardie, Trung Huynh, Leroy Johnson, Suzanne Khambata, Lisa Kuschnick, Janet Langrehr, and Tonya Whitfield.

- A special thanks to Tonya Whitfield for always doing a phenomenal job of taking care of our student veterans and supporting our events.
- Many thanks to Michael Temple for his continued leadership of the Mesa Academy/UMOJA program. His work with the Real Talk series is appreciated by all and supports our equity efforts on campus. In addition, it's exciting to hear that the UMOJA Consortium has created a common/statewide application for incoming and prospective students.
- A Veterans Compliance Survey with the Veterans Administration took place on the week of May 15th. Thank you to LaWanda Foster for ensuring that everything was in place in preparation for the audit. Thank you for a positive audit experience!
- Thanks to Barbara Plandor for being the Acting Supervisor for Transfer, Evaluations, and Career during Claudia's absence. I appreciate her willingness to work collaboratively and support the areas.
- Another special thanks goes to Dean Larry Maxey for being incredibly supportive of our equity efforts and for being collaborative. It has been a fun learning experience.

# Student Health Services

## Employee Updates

Itzel Moreno, Peer Educator, is graduating! Itzel is leaving for UC Davis in the Fall. Our Medical Assistant student, Jennifer, from Mesa College is graduating. Vanessa Gambala FNP was her preceptor for the Spring semester.

## Events & Activities

- Student Health focused on the Comfort Tent and the Comfort Cart in May. The Comfort Tent served 532 students while the Comfort Cart saw approximately 1200 students. Students were served by one of our Marriage Family Therapists to talk with along with multiple Peer Educators. We gave out hundreds of water bottles, fresh fruit, snacks, scantrons, pencils, hugs, a listening ear and, of course, comfort. Our Peer Educators created inventive affirmation cards ie "Crying is OK, let it out", "Your past doesn't make you unlovable", "You deserve the love you keep trying to give everyone else", "You don't need to be at your lowest to ask for help", "You are enough", "Give yourself some credit. You've come pretty far", "Healing is not linear".
- Student Health Peer Educators erected a Mesa Cares reflection area subsequent to the tragic shooting in the University Town Center area. Students, staff and faculty responded with notes of love and care for the victims and their family.

## Innovations & Data

We recorded 547 student contacts in our office this month.

## Student Success Stories

Laura Milligan FNP spent 3 hours working with a young student who has a very serious chronic illness. The student had secured a good paying, full time job. Unfortunately, she made too much money and her Medi-Cal was cancelled. Laura helped her find options for private pay insurance, choose the right plan to cover her medication and provided a contact at a free service clinic in case she couldn't afford the new insurance plan.

## Policies & Procedures

Lezlie Allen RN from Miramar College, Dotti Cordell from City College, Nancy Bromma FNP and I collaborated to review and update the Student Health fees list for Board approval.

## Special Recognition

Laura Milligan FNP for always working tirelessly to help every student overcome obstacles that seem insurmountable.

# **Student Success & Equity**

## **Events & Activities**

Rite of Passage/Black Graduation Celebration

## **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.

# Transfer

## Employee Updates

- Leroy Johnson moved into position as Counseling Department Chair and Anne Hedekin has replaced him as Transfer Center Coordinator.
- Raquel Sojourner's move to the Transfer Center will become permanent in June.

## Events & Activities

- Transfer Recognition Luncheon; celebrating the successful transfer of our students to a variety of public and private schools throughout California and the US.
- Transfer Options Spring Fair
- National College Signing Day
- UCB breakfast transfer meeting

## Innovations & Data

Total students served outside of TRL and Transfer Awareness Day

- 520 students (483 drop in and 37 appointments)
- 703 reported transfer to SDSU
- 129 reported transfer to other campus (not specified yet)

## Student Success Stories

Transfer Center gave a fond farewell to one of our longtime student workers, "Jecht" Somelane Souriyamath has transferred to UCB. Olivia Picolla will be starting SDSU in the fall. Two vets transferred to Stanford (a school that only takes 13 transfer students worldwide!).

# Veterans & Records

## Employee Updates

Developing Mesa Journey timeline for Veterans

## Events & Activities

Hosted our Inaugural Veterans Graduation Ceremony, where we had 22 student veterans participate. The event was well attended and finished in a timely manner. Student veterans received certificates, stoles, and Red, White and Blue leis, and took a picture with the President.

## Student Success Stories

We had two student veterans get accepted to Stanford: Ryan Loper and Evander Deocariza. Several student veterans were accepted and plan to attend UC Berkeley (waiting to hear back from UC Berkeley regarding those that accepted), one notably is Freddy Cervantes, who was accepted into their electrical engineering and computer science major.

## Special Recognition

Thanks to all of the departments and individuals who made the Inaugural Veterans Graduation Ceremony a success.

# Vice President Student Services

## Employee Update

VP Hands successfully completed the California Community College Athletic Association Compliance Rule Exam. A new requirement for VPs of Student Services.

## Events & Activities

- Hosted our 3rd Immigration Workshop for students, staff, faculty and administrators. Shortly after the presentation, Student Services distributed stacks of Red Cards to Student Services and other campus departments. Red Cards were created to help people assert their rights and defend themselves against constitutional violations.
- VP Hands
  - Attended and/or participated the following End of Year Celebrations: Classified Awards Ceremony, Faculty Tenure/Promotion and Retiree Recognition Ceremony, STAR Awards, New Faculty Institute Cohort Graduation, SDCCD Black Graduate & Transfer Student - Rite of Passage Ceremony, Mesa Vision, Inaugural Veterans Graduation Ceremony.
  - Hosted BSI|SSSP|SE Campus-wide Integration Meeting
  - Coordinated the presentation of MMAP efforts for members of the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee
- Daniel
  - Has been working with the Mesa Journey's team to distribute templates and lend guidance to department/programs as they fill out their template.
  - Worked with the Joel and Danielle Short to pilot a sign-in app for commencement.
  - Has been coordinating PC and technology purchasing in preparation for several PC upgrades in various departments this summer.
  - Has been planning and working on web projects and improvements for various departments including CRUISE, Promise, Student Development, Counseling, and The Stand.
- Trina
  - And the Classified Senate provided leadership for Classified Appreciation Week
  - Is working with the SS Center Safety Work Group to develop the building's emergency plans.

## Innovations & Data

- Working with Associate Dean of Research, Bridget Herrin to establish Program Review Data Packets for Student Services cohort programs.
- Attended the Regional Math Symposium Planning Meeting chaired by VP McGrath. The symposium will focus on Intermediate Algebra, will include representation from regional high schools, Region X community colleges and our four-year regional partners (UCSD, SDSU, CSU San Marcos, USD and Point Loma) and will address equity implications of associated barriers.
- Coordinated Equity Efforts Assessment (EEA) meetings with the Center for Urban Education and Student Equity, SSSP, Basic Skills, Title V, Title III, Strong Workforce leads. EEA is an expansive assessment of our current equity initiatives which include:

- mapping each initiative
- identifying areas of intersection
- evaluating allocation of resources based on goals, and
- assessing the equity focus of initiatives

This partnership will answer questions such as “How do these projects work together to advance Mesa’s equity agenda?” “How do the stated goals of the initiative or initiative proposal relate to the current or planned activities?” “How is success within this initiative measured and assessed?” The outcome will include check-list/guide/crosswalk that will strengthen current efforts and help ensure that new equity initiatives are complementary, monitored and assessed in ways that align with our equity vision.

- The commencement sign-in app was able to electronically process 646 students at commencement
- So far in 2017, AskMesa has been asked 7,275 questions and 98% of all questions asked are able to be linked to a related response.

### **Student Success Stories**

Getting to participate in the largest commencement ceremony to date was very heartfelt. I can’t help but feel that the students moving on will have bright futures ahead.

### **Policies & Procedures**

Bridget Herrin presented the Mesa College 2017 Student Success Scorecard Dashboard to members of the Mesa Student Services Council Committee. The data available in this scorecard tells how well Mesa College is doing in remedial instruction, job training programs, retention of students and graduation and completion rates and can be used to inform action leading to increased, equitable outcomes in the areas of transfer and degree and certificate attainment.

### **Special Recognition**

- Student Services would like to thank Business Administration and Facilities for working with us to purchase new chairs for open seating and lounge areas.
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