



# FIRST *Monday* ON THE *Mesa*

SAN DIEGO  
**MESA COLLEGE**  
Office of the President

Special Edition: April 20, 2020

## **Dear Mesa Family,**

I hope you are all staying safe during this time. This special edition of Monday on the Mesa seeks to continue to connect our community – and provide you with updates and inspiring stories of what the Mesa Community continues to accomplish for our students. Resilience could not have been a more appropriate theme to highlight this year at Mesa College. As we navigate into uncharted territory, brought about by the circumstances created by COVID-19, our students, faculty, staff, and community have proven to be just that – RESILIENT.

## **Message from Academic Senate President Manuel J. Vélez**

On behalf of the faculty and the Academic Senate I want to wish everyone the absolute best of health and well-being. During these difficult times when we find ourselves away from our campus and community and from those with whom we interact daily, let us reaffirm our commitment to our Mesa College community and to serving both our students and the Linda Vista community in the best way possible. We are all in this together and together we will come out strong!

## **Campus Community Forums**

On Wednesday, April 8, I held our first Campus Community Forum, providing a platform in which over 300 members of our Mesa community were able to ask questions, obtain information, and provide input on what their needs are, assisting us in ensuring the continuity of education and services



WE ARE *Mesa*

*The Leading College of Equity and Excellence*



for our students. Thank you to everyone who tuned in and joined the conversation. In case you were unable to participate, the [April 8 Campus Community Forum](#) is available online to view. The next Forum will be held this week, on Thursday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. Questions can be submitted in advance at <https://bit.ly/sdmesaga>. These Community Forums seek to remind students, and all of our campus community, that we are with them every step of the way, and that #WeAreMesa. Tune in [here](#) for the next forum on April 23!

### Online and Other Student Support

We continue to update our [Mesa College COVID-19 webpage](#) as important updates are announced. We have already created an [Online Student Services webpage](#), where students can get information, and access all of our services online. The webpage includes all of the student support services available, including tutoring, laptop check-out, admissions, assessment, counseling, DSPS, financial aid, health services and outreach, to name a few. Please be sure to refer students to this important resource. In accordance with the District's directive to transition students to online learning, Mesa's College Technology Department jumped into action and began preparing and distributing laptops, and still continue to work tirelessly to get the computers dispersed to Mesa College students in need, all across the county. It has been a team effort that they have executed superbly with the help of the Learning Resource Center team. Our District Technology team has also been doing an incredible job setting up remote workstations for Mesa College employees. A big thank you to the Mesa College Technology and District Technology teams for their great contributions during this time.

### Meeting Basic Needs During COVID-19

Within days of the campus transitioning to remote online learning, faculty and staff began to identify student needs. The Learning Resource Center, in conjunction with IT and Student Services, gathered and made available over 100 laptops that were then distributed to students during March. A limited number of laptops are still available, and students can request them by completing the request form at [bit.ly/MesaLaptopCheckout](http://bit.ly/MesaLaptopCheckout). [Student Success and Equity](#) continues to focus on meeting the immediate needs of our most vulnerable students. During the week of April 13, Mesa provided \$2,800 worth of meal vouchers to 115 frequent users of The Stand. In

## Prez Pam CAMPUS COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday, April 23, 2020  
1:00pm-2:00pm



### Online Student Support Services

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### Mesa Resources for Student Check Out

We currently have a limited supply of laptops available for check out, but anticipate getting more soon. Please use this form to indicate your need and a staff member will be in touch. Other resources will be added as they become available.

\* Required

Email address \*

Your email

a unique partnership with California Burritos, we were able to not only support our students but also help our local small businesses. We are also in discussions with the San Diego Food Bank to create an opportunity for Mesa students to use our Pop-Up Markets again soon, in a safe environment.

### Mesa College COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund

The [Mesa College COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund](#) was established within a matter of days, and is available through the support and generosity of San Diego Mesa College Foundation, Associated Students, the Office of Student Success and Equity, and generous donors. Fund-raising began in March, and the student application portal opened the week of April 6. Within 24 hours, Mesa received nearly 2,000 applications, and on Monday, April 13, the Accounting Office sent out the first set of checks. The Fund will supply \$150 to students via a lottery system, with the goal of distributing approximately 50 checks each week.

### 2020 Scholarship Awards

This past week, San Diego Mesa College announced the [2020 Annual Scholarship Awards winners](#), where approximately \$163,000 is being awarded. Mesa College is awarding 119 scholarships to 181 students - 40 of whom are receiving more than one award. Due to the current COVID-19 situation and the financial impact on our students, we asked donors to allow monetary awards to be provided to students in advance of the standard timelines – and our donors unanimously agreed. Their flexibility allowed us to send out our first round of over 100 2020 scholarship checks, getting money into the hands of our students, weeks before they would normally receive it. In addition, although we cannot hold an in-person Ceremony, we are currently putting together a Scholarship presentation to honor each recipient and donor, which will be posted online and shared in May.

### Budget Planning and Program Review

On Tuesday, April 14, you all received our [Chancellors Budget message](#). As you know, this is an extremely dynamic environment, and we still have many unknowns concerning our work and when we will be back on campus again. I can only imagine the challenges you are facing while trying to coordinate projects, people, and resources. I am regularly reminded of why I love our Mesa community...you all find ways to creatively and humanely solve issues that impact our students. As we move forward, executive leadership is trying to assess priorities and focus on both immediate mission critical issues,

**Student Support During This Pandemic**

April 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 - 2:50 pm  
Zoom meeting ID 866855752

- Talk to the therapist
- Open and caring discussion about managing your calm and keeping your focus
- A place to ask questions, handling what's happening

\*Drop in discussion is not a substitution for emergency services or therapy



**ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

**Winners List**

and more broadly longer-term planning for the Fall. As part of this effort, I proposed to the PIE Committee that we suspend Program Review for the 2020-21 academic year. We will be extending the timeline for the Mesa 2030 plan, and this will be our guidepost going forward. Spending time investing in our facilities, enrollment, staffing, and operational planning is a good way for us to collaborate throughout next year. We will create a process for BARC, or another way to request resources that would have been managed through program review. For FHP and CHP, we will have our approved lists that are just now making their way to President's Cabinet, and then to my desk. We will also use the Fall President's Cabinet retreat to assess student success and equity outcomes, informing both short- and long-term planning.

### Mesa 2030 Update

As we move forward with the Mesa 2030 Master Plan, the Mesa 2030 Task Force will be holding a meeting as scheduled, via Zoom, on April 21. Through our next virtual gatherings, the Mesa 2030 membership along with our consultants, Gensler, will discuss how to proceed with Mesa 2030 given the uncertainty we are currently facing - as much of the information we use in creation of the Master Plan is related to unemployment, industry growth, and enrollment. Departmental Interviews will take place virtually in May, as we also aim for in-person meetings in the fall. In consideration of the current status and movement to Mesa College functioning entirely online, parts of the process will need to be reviewed including potentially extending the overall timeline through spring 2021. Additionally, we will be continuing the IEPI Peer Resource Team visits virtually, with the first session taking place on April 29. The focus of this visit is to help us envision how we incorporate Equity and Pathways into the Mesa 2030 Master Plan.

### 2020 Summer Schedule – SNEAK PEEK

Mesa has finalized our slimmed down and online [Summer 2020 schedule](#). Deans and department chairs worked collaboratively to develop the summer 2020 schedule, which will be available to students on April 20. Courses will be offered only online. Students will have access to a variety of course offerings, allowing them to continue to pursue their educational goals. We look forward to seeing how we can support our students' academic needs while strategically balancing fewer sections this year, and maintaining the continuity students need to achieve their education goals. Please visit [www.sdmesa.edu/Summer](http://www.sdmesa.edu/Summer) for a sneak peek of the



## 2020 Summer Schedule

SNEAK PEEK is available at



[sdmesa.edu/summer](http://sdmesa.edu/summer)



schedule, along with other important dates/deadlines.

### Mesa College Assisting in the Community

Several Mesa College departments in Exercise Science, as well as Animal Health, Biology, Chemistry, and Architecture, are contributing to regionally coordinated efforts to support PPE needs at local hospitals. The [Architecture Department's](#) ILT, Luis Suarez, is utilizing the department's 3-D printers to create face shields for medical workers. Mesa College was also able to provide 50 masks to the Bayside Community Center, allowing them to continue providing meals to our local seniors.

### Teaching Adaptability, Resilience, and Innovation

Adaptability, resilience, innovation and commitment to student success. Those are words that characterize the work that our faculty are doing to help support every Mesa student, ensure that they stay in school, and achieve their educational goals. For example, as the state shut down and colleges moved to remote teaching, the speech and debate coaching community immediately created forums and resources to try to help each other in the transition. The Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association (PSCFA) created a Communication Studies/Forensics Pandemic Facebook group where faculty helped each other with how to transition and finish the intercollegiate forensics semester. Although the competitive semester is over for our more advanced students, our novice students still had more tournaments to compete in. Thanks to the hard work of many coaches, novice competitors will be able to finish the semester, as planned, with a virtual tournament hosted by PSCFA May 2-3. During this time our newest students will be able to present the speeches they have been working on all semester. We are wishing our students great luck and skill for our first ever online tournament.

### Professional Development Continues

Mesa's faculty and staff shine like bright stars as we provide instructional continuity for our students in an online setting. Katie Palacios and the Distance Education Committee members offered a wide variety of workshops to assist faculty in the transition. Professional development opportunities to assist faculty and staff continue to be offered through [the LOFT](#) and other discipline specific areas. Strong Workforce Lead Faculty Member Tasha Frankie is holding two different discussion sessions for CTE faculty to share challenges and successes on transitioning CTE to the online environment, how the faculty can support each other, as well as helping CTE students in the online environment.



The LOFT is dedicated to providing Mesa College employees with opportunities for professional learning. See our calendar [here!](#)

Mesa College offers resources for its employees as well as sharing the knowledge of others. Self paced learning provides a huge range of topics for employees to use at their own pace and based on their individual needs.



All resources are free for Mesa employees!



[Vision Resource Center](#) - Introducing the [Vision Resource Center](#), a new portal dedicated to providing the exceptional support needed to meet the goals and commitments of the [Vision for Success](#) through the [Guided Pathways](#) framework.

Participate in online learning and join communities of practice around the concepts and skills necessary to ensure our students and our colleges achieve their full potential. Free for all California Community College employees. [Register Here!](#)



### Upcoming Support + Workshops (via Zoom)

- 4/20 @ 10:30 - 12p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/20 @ 2p - 4p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/21 @ 10:00 - 12p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/21 @ 1p - 4p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/22 @ 10:00 - 12p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/22 @ 1p - 4p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/23 @ 10:00 - 12p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/23 @ 1p - 3p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/24 @ 10:00 - 12p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- 4/24 @ 1p - 3p | Todd's Lab Hours | [Katie's Zoom Room](#)
- [Workshop offerings from CVC-OEI via Zoom](#)
- [Workshops offered through 3CSN via Zoom](#)
- [ACCJC Discipline-Specific Discussions](#)

### Kudos to Mesa Departments and Programs

Mesa is one of two community colleges in Region X to receive Preferred Provider status with the San Diego Regional Economic Development Council's JP Morgan Chase Advancing Cities grant. This designation will allow our [Computer Information Sciences](#) students to participate in paid internships with local companies. Mesa is applying for two short term Regional Strong Workforce grants. One will provide funding for us to implement additional Retention and Success strategies for our [Career Education](#) students. The other grant will focus on internal marketing strategies to our Career Education students.

Faculty members Jennifer Snyder, Physical Science, Irena Stojimirovic, Astronomy, and Katlin Choi, [Work Based Learning](#), have been invited to apply for a grant from The San Diego Foundation. If awarded, the [STEM](#) Classroom Career Alliance grant will focus on developing strong connections between the content of STEM courses and the pursuits of regional industry partners or academic research laboratories in order to acquaint students with career possibilities. Faculty will be recruited to redesign their courses in order to incorporate innovative research

problems from regional industry and students will have the opportunity to participate in a paid internship with the research partner.

Dr. Denise Rogers has been awarded a competitive Mellon/ACLS Community College Faculty Fellowship. The scope of her project involves working with [Mesa's World Cultures Collection](#) to make it more accessible to the campus and community as a valuable learning resource. As part of the fellowship, Denise will be developing an OER textbook on the collection that will be shared across the state.

Again, please know that we are working hard every day to support our community. Soon, we will begin the process for the first stages of returning to campus whenever that may be. It will be dependent on the directions that we are provided by local and state systems, and will be done in a way that protects our employees and students. We have no dates or timelines as of yet, but know that we are on it.

I hope to "see" you at our Community Forum on Thursday, April 23' at 1:00 p.m. Please let us know if you need assistance or support at anytime.



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### First Monday on the Mesa

Is the [President's](#) monthly newsletter, published by the President's Office and the [Office of Communications](#).

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