



FIRST *Monday* ON THE *Mesa*

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE
Office of the President

May 2021

Finishing Strong

We have made it to May, and we are now celebrating alongside our students... through scholarships, many special ceremonies and events, and of course commencement. Through this year we have remained focused on equity, and uplifted voices and people that have seen and experienced significant trauma and violence. As a college, we have made efforts to respond, with support, with love, and by creating space to come together. As we continue to do this work, we will need to continue to hold ourselves accountable in these spaces. We will need to learn more about what it is to be an ally/accomplice for racial equity, and how equity and excellence can only be present when we use our own privilege and agency every time. Dr. Bettina Love in her book "We Want to Do More Than Survive" (a Mesa College reading and book discussion selection this year), speaks to the idea of co-conspirators, and much more. I encourage you to take the time to watch [this interview](#) where she and colleagues lay out some of these concepts and actions. If you have limited time, I encourage you to tune in around the 37 minute mark, and stay as you can. It will be worth your time.



I remain grateful for all of you, our Mesa family and community. In a year where almost everything we have accomplished has been without benefit of breathing the same air, I congratulate you. As we make our way into the summer, it will become clearer when our return to campus efforts can be realized. We will be in communication as often as possible about how this occurs. Bravo, fellow Olympians, be well.

2021 Commencement Ceremony

Despite this challenging year, our students have persevered. This year's graduating class is truly impressive. Mesa College is graduating 2,202 students, and awarding 2,313 academic degrees and 380 certificates, a 3 % percent increase from last year. Mesa College is conferring 28 Bachelor's Degrees in Health Information Management. We have 75 valedictorians and over 500 students graduating with honors. Please join us for our Virtual Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 28, at 3:00 p.m. which will be broadcast on the [Mesa College YouTube channel](#). For information visit: www.sdmesa.edu/commencement.

2021 Drive-Thru Grad Parade, "Carmencement"

We are thrilled to be presenting the Mesa College Grad Parade, "Carmencement" on Friday, June 4, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Last year's grad parade was a huge success, and we are looking forward to this opportunity to celebrate, honor, and recognize the accomplishments of our Mesa College graduates. Students who wish to participate should RSVP at <http://bit.ly/mesagradparade2021>. Graduates are encouraged to show off their winning Mesa Spirit by dressing up and decorating their vehicles for a victory lap around campus, where they will also receive their diploma cover. Mesa staff and faculty can sign up to join us as we cheer them on. We are expecting this year's celebration to be even more spectacular than before. More info at www.sdmesa.edu/commencement.

2021 Culminating Ceremonies

Mesa College will hold multiple special graduation and end-of-year recognition ceremonies to honor students, faculty, and staff. This month, Mesa will celebrate student success in Veterans, Honors, Transfer, Rite of Passage and EOPS. We will host Raza Grad, the Physical Therapist Assistant Pinning and the HIM Completion Ceremony and many more. Please see the [Mesa College Campus Calendar](#) for the full list of events.

Black Student Success Week

The San Diego Mesa College Black Faculty Counselor's Collaborative launched its inaugural programming for Black Student Success Week, during April 26-30. The focus for the week was on academic achieve-



ment, mental wellness, and career opportunities for Black students. The programming included a workshop for Black student success, which blossomed into a working group on how to build community and a network between non Black faculty and Black faculty and staff to better support Black students at Mesa College. The student voices segment included a panel of Black Mesa College Alumni who shared with us how to maintain a healthy mindset and continue to display Black (student) excellence during a pandemic, and while experiencing social unrest on a national level. For more information and resources, please visit the [Mesa College Black Lives Matter webpage](#).

2021 Virtual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Weds, May 12 - Join us for the Celebration

This year, we will celebrate the Mesa College Virtual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 12, at 5:00 p.m. Chancellor Carroll and Board of Trustees President Maria Nieto Senour will join us as we celebrate our 2021 Scholarship winners. This year, Mesa College offered 115 scholarships. Of those, 103 scholarships provided awards. Combined, over \$130,000 was provided across 223 awards to 147 students (several students received more than one award and several scholarships had more than one awardee). Faculty, staff, students and their families, donors, and members of the community are all encouraged to attend the Ceremony. The hour-long Program will include special messages for winners and the presentation of award recipients that will be aired in conjunction with the Program. **Please RSVP for the Ceremony at:** <https://bit.ly/2021ScholarshipAwardsRegistration>

Summer Registration is OPEN

This summer, Mesa is proud be offering over 550 classes in various subjects and disciplines. Each class will only cost \$46 per unit, and there will be primarily online options available. This is a great time for students to get ahead or make up credits, especially with small class sizes during the summer. To see the summer 2021 Class Schedule, please visit www.sdmesa.edu/Summer/.

Campus Community Forums

We continue to hold our Campus Community Forums twice each month, providing a platform for members of our Mesa community to obtain information, ask



questions, and assist us in ensuring the continuity of education and services for our students. The next Forum will be held on Tuesday, May 11, at 2:15 p.m. Topics presented include the Mesa College Dance Program and the recent Digital Dance Productions, as well as “Propelled by Protests”. The presentation will include videos, student discussions, and discussion on faculty work on equity-minded assignments. There will also be Community Forums during the summer. All Forums are hosted via webinar and on YouTube. If you are ever unable to join us for the Forums, you can watch them on the [Mesa College YouTube Channel](#).



May Mobile and Farmers Markets

The Stand will continue to provide two large free food distributions per month during Spring 2021. May distributions will take place on Monday, May 3, from 1:00-2:00 p.m., and Thursday, May 20, 10:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m., in the parking structure. Please encourage students to [OPT IN on The Stand webpage](#) for more information and emails about upcoming events.

ClassiCon 2021

Save the Date, June 1-3, for ClassiCon 2021! The Classified Professional Learning Committee has planned three days of learning and community building for Classified Professionals. Each employee brings their own unique knowledge, culture, and life experience to work each day. Together, we celebrate the beautiful mosaic of world cultures that make up our Mesa community.



Tuesday, we kick off ClassiCon with a campus drive-in event. Hear from campus leaders and pick up swag, educational enhancements, and a to-go lunch! Then, log in from home for virtual workshops and team-building. Learn new technology skills and equity practices, and share time together cooking a meal, creating art, and moving your body. Registration opens the first week of May!

Mesa Pathways

Mesa Pathways Committee awarded over \$29,000 to six projects through the Mesa Pathways Grants. Funded projects include: STEM Peer Mentoring, Grading for Equity Faculty Inquiry Group, support for Mesa Journeys project and CREDO Instruct. Another



round of grants is slated for Fall 2021. The Guided Majors and Mapping Workgroup presented data and findings from this semester's Mesa Mixers at the April 13 Community Forum. They voted among the various sorting categories and a name for the "meta-major" categories. Results will be announced in May. The Mesa Pathways Fellows continue to do great work. Dr. Monique Greene and the Riverside City College Pathways student leader team joined the Fellows on April 19 to discuss challenges and strategies for encouraging all student as leaders. The Black Student Experience (BSE) longitudinal study is a collaboration between the Fellows and Institutional Effectiveness. The study will assist in better understanding Black / African American students' ongoing experiences that relate to their educational journey. On May 19, the Fellows will host a Student Leadership Summit, which will provide student leaders from across the campus a space to share thoughts, ideas, and begin work towards collaborative vision and mission aimed at student success.

Administrative Services Update

In preparation for the Fall 2021 semester, Administrative Services is working in support of student services and instruction as the campus prepares to transition to in-person activities. As a campus, we continue following guidance put forth by the CDC. Any employees who need to access campus are required to stop in to get screened through the Mesa College Stockroom, or the Mesa College Technology Department located in the loading area behind Mesa Commons.

The Reopening Discussion Group convened for a discussion this month, and as we move towards more in-person activities, we will be meeting two more times before the end of the spring semester. If you have questions about reopening and are unaware of who your representative is in the Reopening Discussion Group, please reach out to Matt Fay, Jacqueline Collins, or Lorenze Legaspi with questions.

Here is the latest picture of the current progress of the Mesa Quad, along with an image of what the quad will look like once it is completed (estimated late 2021).



Mesa2030:

The Mesa2030 Task Force is wrapping up nearly 2 years of work visioning the future of Mesa College. During April, the first drafts of the Mesa2030 Comprehensive Master Plan and the RoadMap to Mesa2030 Strategic Plan were shared with President's Cabinet, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee, Classified Senate, Academic Senate, and Associated Students. During this process, the campus community shared their input and feedback. Both the Mesa2030 Task Force and the Strategic Planning Task Force integrated this feedback into updated drafts that will be shared back to each of the groups for a second reading and a vote of support. Among the most significant changes includes updated language to include a more explicit focus on environmental justice and climate change. Check in with your representative to learn more!

Data Dashboards: AB705 and Student Success.

Before AB705 passed, Mesa was already leading the way with innovations in English curriculum and placement methods. Since 2015, more than twice the percent of students who complete Transfer level Math and English in their first year in 2015 did so in 2020, going from 7% in 2015 to 16% in 2020. The largest gains were seen by the most disproportionately impacted students, Black and Hispanic/Latinx students saw triple the percent of students complete in 2020 compared to 2015. Over 1/3 of first-time students are completing transfer English in their first year, up from 18% in 2015 and more than ¼ are completing transfer-level math, up from 13% in 2015. To see more Data on the success of Mesa students, check out the Student [Success Metrics Dashboard](#).

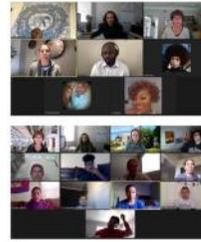
DEPARTMENT AND PROGRAM INTERVIEWS



Campus/Community Engagement

STUDENT FOCUS GROUPS

A total of 21 students shared their experiences and suggestions in one of these focus groups: Pathway Fellows and Peer Navigators, Black Students, and Latinx Students. For complete results, refer to the Mesa2030 webpage.



What types of spaces would you like to see developed on campus to support your success?



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