

October 2016

[View this email in your browser](#)



HOMECOMING SPIRIT WEEK

— October 10–15 —

Colleagues:

Welcome to First Monday on the Mesa for October 2016. Autumn is arriving just in time for fall activities at the college. We celebrate [Hispanic/Latino Heritage Events](#), Spirit Week, kick off STEAM @Mesa College, and continue our progress towards telling our story for [Accreditation 2017](#). This week we are celebrating the new endeavor, [MesaMoves](#), a way to create a more sustainable way for all of us to get to and from campus. I hope you are able to see all of our upcoming [events in the calendar](#) so you can take part in the happenings this month. Also, we invite you enjoy the [August/September issue of Mesa Enews](#). Enjoy!

Welcome

New Faces on the Mesa

Matt Fay is Mesa's new Occupational, Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator (OEHS).

The OEHS Coordinator is a new position created to assist Mesa College with all aspects of safety.

Matt has a Bachelor's of Science in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University and holds many safety related certificates. Matt comes to this position with over 24 years of related experience with Mesa College. He has expertise in occupational safety and health administration (OSHA) policies and compliance, hazardous materials management, safety training, and regulatory plan writing. He has served on the Mesa College Safety Committee, and he has assisted the College with Mesa safety related projects. Matt has a talent for analyzing problems, developing procedures and finding innovative solutions. We are excited Matt is here to help Mesa College enhance Safety tools and training for employees and to build on relationships and collaborations in the community and with the District.

Mesa Supported Little Free Library Opens

On Friday September 23, 2016, Mesa's Honors staff collaborated with Principal Sarah Saluta of San Diego Cooperative Charter Schools to place the little library right outside of the elementary school located on the corner of Linda Vista Rd. and Genesee Ave. If you'd like to learn more about the little library project, please go to <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>



The idea for this project was conceived by Pegah Motaleb. However, it took many generous individuals who put in time and money to make this a reality.

- San Diego Mesa College Foundation; AFT Local 1931; and Mesa's Honors program helped fund the project.
- Professor Sam Lee, Math professor at Mesa and Miramar, volunteered his time all Summer 2016 to paint it.
- Honors student staff members, Andrew Rice, Erik Tomlinson, and Carissa Carrasquillo, all of whom are works studies Veteran students, worked with the elementary school students to place it outside of the elementary school.
- Arthur James, Stockroom Clerk at Mesa College Receiving, helped transport it to the elementary school. He helped with the digging too.

- Mesa Facilities allowed us to borrow their shovels.

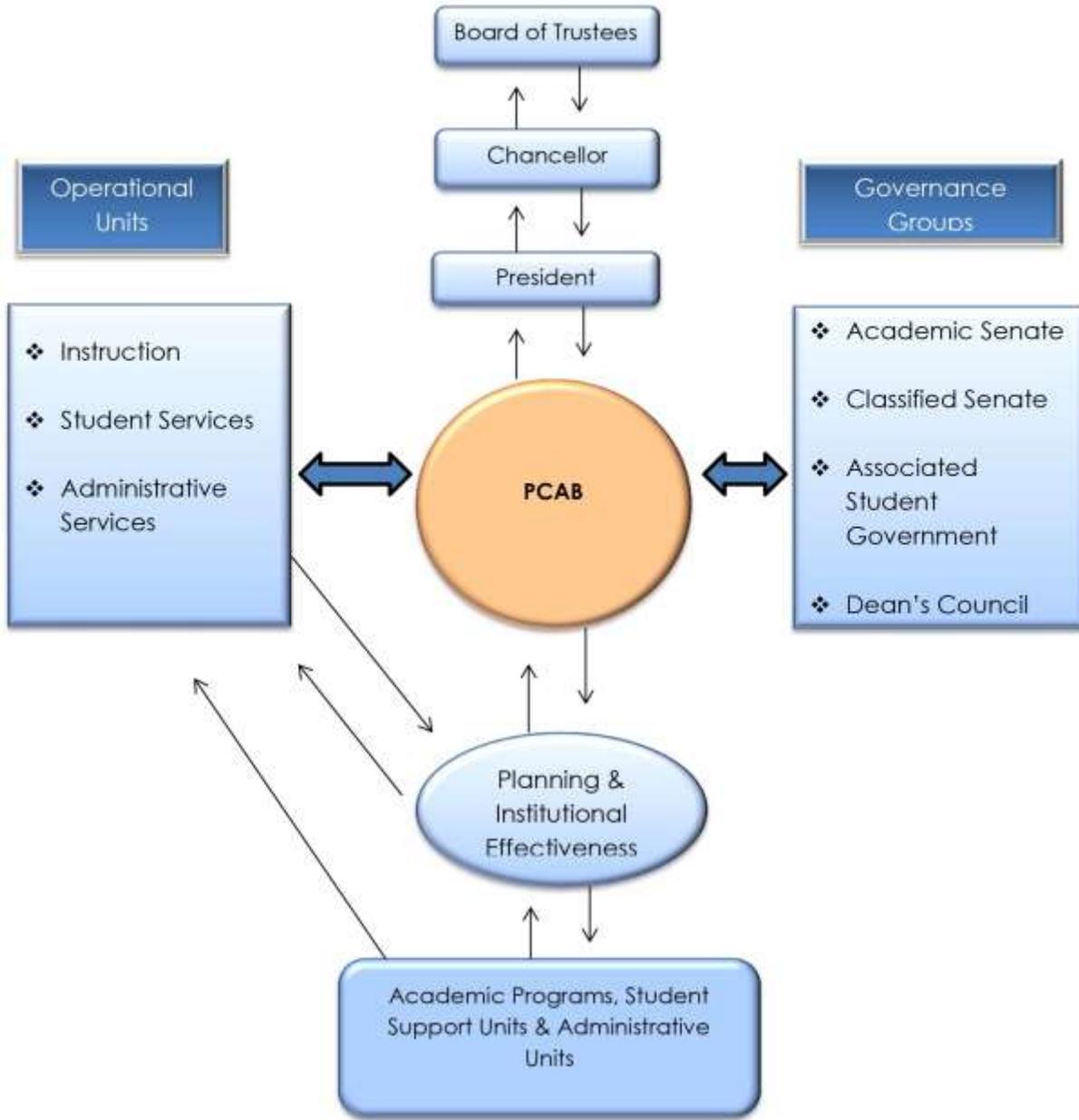
Please go and visit the little library located on 7260 Linda Vista Rd. San Diego CA 92111 (corner of Linda Vista Rd. and Genesee Ave.) Take a book, give a book, and spread the importance of literacy.

Governance @Mesa College gets a boost!

For the past two years, the Governance Task Force has worked hard to help the college create a clear and consistent set of tools and communications to represent our governance processes. Last spring the President's Cabinet recommended this new set of tools, and agreed to begin using our new governance website and posting guidelines for committee work. Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Susan Topham, Rob Fremland, and our governance tasks force we are now ready to launch our new support tools. The college has an improved [governance website](#) that includes templates, organization charts and other easy to use tools and tidbits for committee chairs and their support professionals. Additionally, a new section is being added to the college Institutional Planning Guide this year so that we will have both governance and planning in one guidebook moving forward. We look forward to assessing our progress in spring 2017.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Governance Chart





Mesa Commons Grand Opening

San Diego Mesa College has a new center of campus life. The Mesa Commons, set for an official dedication on September 14, has become the new heart and hub for students at San Diego Mesa College. Adjacent to the new Sunrise Plaza at the east entry to the campus, the 73,000-square-foot facility offers students a place to study, shop, and eat.

For students in the Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program, it provides a state-of-the-art learning facility and laboratory. On the first floor, retail and food service options include the M-Stop convenience store, the Java Jive coffee café, a two-level cafeteria with multiple menu options, and the expansive new Campus Store. Upstairs, the Culinary Outlook houses the Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program's classrooms and laboratory, along with one of the few student-run restaurants on campus.

The building is also home to faculty and student lounges, conference rooms, and the college's printing and mail services and stockroom departments. Mesa Commons is on track to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The design and construction team comprises Balfour Beatty Construction, SGPA Architecture and Planning, and The Miller Hull Partnership.



Sustainability Summit



Approximately 100 local students were welcomed to San Diego Mesa College as part of the SEEDS Scholars Program's Sustainability Summit Sept. 30. Kearny, Mission Bay and Madison High school students were in attendance along with many current Mesa students.

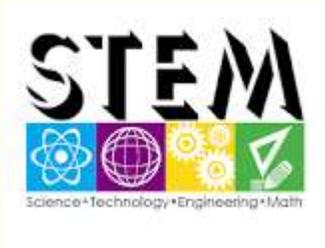
The day's activity included workshops on community connections and students for enviro-justice; campus tours; and a "Plantémon Go" activity, where students found distinct plants living on Mesa College's campus.

Mesa College biology major Morgan Bourgeois, Mesa biology/chemistry major Isabella Maclsaac and San Diego State University chemistry major Jade Johnson presented their student research to the high school students during lunch, which included a cricket flour chocolate chip cookie. During the community connections segment of the program, students spoke to representatives from a variety of organizations including Dean's Greens, Feeding America San Diego, Pure Water San Diego, Surfrider Foundation (San Diego County Chapter), Mission Trails Regional Park, USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The SEEDS (STEM Engagement for the Enrichment of Diverse Students) Scholars Program at Mesa College is aimed at increasing the number of Hispanic students pursuing future graduate

degrees by providing a firm foundation of advanced knowledge and skills in STEM-related fields. The program is funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



Mesa receives over \$5 million for Title III Hispanic Serving Institution STEM Grant!

The Mesa College Title III grant proposal, entitled “STEM Conexiones” (STEM Connections) supports a number of instructional and student support practices aimed at strengthening the college’s capacity to serve underrepresented students. Specifically, the grant aims to increase student connections through enhanced counseling services, peer mentoring and outreach, faculty connections through professional development and curriculum redesign, and pathways connections working directly with high schools and adult learners to prepare them for STEM majors.

Through this grant the college will establish a STEM Center, a place where students, peer mentors and faculty will work together on classroom support, and a research incubator for students to begin undergraduate research projects.

The genesis and energy to apply for this grant came directly from the STEM faculty, led by Chemistry Professor Dr. Donna Budzynski, and Biology Assistant Professor, Dr. Jennifer Carmichael. We were greatly aided by the guidance of Monica Romero, Title V HSI Director, and our grant writer. They interviewed their colleagues, students, and others across STEM disciplines to assess the colleges’ needs, and to put together this three pronged approach to increasing access and success for STEM students. Dr. Budzynski notes, “The faculty is really excited that this grant will help us expand our work with students and help them achieve their goals through increased access to mentoring, tutoring and interactive learning environments.”

Accreditation 2017

Institutional Self-Evaluation Report review is underway!

We are in the midst of reviewing each standard of the College's Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) . Many thanks to those that have already reviewed and provided feedback. Each meeting, the standard is posted on the [Accreditation website](#) with feedback guidelines.

In advance of each President's Cabinet meeting a reminder goes out with the information regarding what section is under review, all are welcome to come hear the leads of each section present. The calendar for review can be found [here](#).

Each Thursday, our Accreditation leads and interested others are meeting to review your feedback and incorporate it into our final drafts. If you have an interest in joining this writing group, we meet in A-104 from 1-3 every Thursday.

We have much to celebrate this month, and I hope that I will get a chance to see you at one of our many events, or just wandering across campus. If you haven't been to lunch or dinner at the Culinary Outlook, you are missing out on great food and a wonderful setting.

Spirit Week culminates in our Saturday, October 15th Homecoming activities that include our annual fun run, a fundraiser for emergency loans to Veterans, and our homecoming football game. This year, our colleagues from Exercise Science, Dance and Athletics are hosting a tribute to our beautiful colleague Jan Ellis from 2-4 in the gym.

It is an honor do this work, and at Mesa, we are truly creating community every day. Thanks to all of you, who everyday walk beside our students on this incredible journey.

Pam

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Mesa Mon

SATURDAY

RUN

OCT.15.16

<http://bit.ly/MesaMon>

Pamela T. Luster, President

San Diego Mesa College
7250 Mesa College Drive
San Diego, Ca 92111

P: (619) 388-2721

E: pluster@sdccd.edu

 @sdmesaprez

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE
Office of the President