

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: Aug 10, 2023
Sent On Behalf Of President Ashanti T. Hands



Hello Mesa College Community,

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands provide a brief overview of the exciting efforts taking place within our community. The updates are also a great way to tell our collective story of success, and to document our journey of becoming the Leading College of Equity and Excellence. Enjoy!

Office of the President Updates

Next week on Thursday, August 17 is our Fall 2023 Convocation! This Convocation will center around “Equity in Action: Illuminated Paths,” focusing on unapologetic, clear, visible, and well-defined ways toward achieving equity. This event will feature campus and district updates, a guest panel with Deputy Chancellor - Dr. Daisy Gonzales, CCCCO Vice Chancellor for Educational Excellence and EEO - Dr. Abdimalik Buul, and Director of the Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research - Dr. Tina Ngo Bartel, and special recognition and breakout sessions. The event will be held in the Mesa Gym with coffee and muffins being served at 8:00 a.m. and the program beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. To register for a breakout session and lunch, please [fill out this form](#). (Flex #20062) For more information about Fall 2023 Flex Week, please [click here](#).

To allow all San Diego Mesa College employees to come together in community and attend Convocation, all departments will be closed Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mesa College Alumna, Dr. Nellie Tran, is advocating for our AAPI Scholars. In a California Community College podcast called “AAPI Heritage Month and the Importance of Mental Health Awareness at California Community Colleges”, she sits down with Deputy Chancellor Dr. Daisy Gonzales to talk about the importance of students receiving support from their teachers as they transition from high school to college. Dr. Tran believes that educators “have a lot of power to create change, power to allow students to chase a dream” and there should be more assistance for students who experienced hate against the AAPI community. To listen to the whole podcast, [click here](#).

We are delighted to announce that our Vice President of Administrative Services, Lorenze Legaspi, will be returning and resuming his role on Monday, August 14. We would like to thank College Facilities and Operations Director, Jacqueline Collins, for her hard work and dedication in her role as the Acting VPAS, ensuring the continued success of our Administrative Services department and a smooth transition back for VPAS Legaspi.

Gentle reminder that this is the last week of the 4/10 schedule. We will resume the 5-day work schedule next week, August 14th.

Office of Instruction Updates



Math Adjunct Faculty, Bruce Underhill, recently participated in the National Senior Track Meet in Pittsburgh, PA. Professor Underhill won the gold medal in the long jump, a silver medal in the triple jump, 6th place in the 200M and 7th place in the 100M. Awesome job, Bruce!

Mesa College Work-Based Learning (WBL) is launching our next iteration of WBL at Mesa College with the hiring of Faculty Liaisons within seven instructional schools. The WBL team is thrilled to continue its work of supporting, implementing, and incorporating WBL. This work will support Mesa 2030, specifically including our goals of increasing Pathways & Partnerships in support of equity and excellence. Interested in expanding or supporting WBL in your classroom or your students? Please feel free to reach out to your WBL Faculty Liaison.

WBL Faculty Liaisons:

- Denise Rogers for the School of Arts and Languages
- Danica Moore for the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Wendy Smith for the School of Humanities
- Todd Curran for the School of Exercise Science, Health Education, Dance, and Athletics
- Kathie Taylor for the School of Business and Technology
- Holly Jagielinski for the School of Health Sciences and Public Service
- Alessandra Moctezuma for the School of Social/Behavioral Sciences and Multicultural Studies

The three primary roles of each Liaison, in partnership with our full-time WBL Coordinators Katlin Choi and Shawn Fawcett, will be to:

- Advocate and support faculty members within schools to further integrate WBL & Career within course curriculum and syllabus activities.
- Promote WBL as a tool to support retention, completion, employability, equity & social mobility, and technical skills.
- Support Work-Based learning data collection efforts, known as the “SG21 framework.”

We look forward to seeing you at your school meetings this Fall.

Office of Student Services Updates

The HHS workshop is being offered via Zoom every Monday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for questions regarding CalWORKs eligibility requirements and/or to talk with a SD County Representative about CalWORKs/CashAid, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal. [Click here](#) for more info.

Mesa College is launching a brand-new program: Pride Scholars! The Pride Scholars program assist LGBTQIA+ students through academic and personal support services including counseling, textbook assistance, meal and transportation assistance, school supplies, self-care management, individualized case management, and so much more. Students can apply at <https://tinyurl.com/SDMesaPrideScholars>

The Peer Navigator program successfully welcomed 600 new students during the four-week, three-day Summer CRUISE program! Some of the many successes of CRUISE included: in collaboration with Assessment, EOPS, and Counseling, a Registration Rally was created to help incoming students with their fall registration; supporting the new student onboarding experience by incorporating affinity groups/learning communities in CRUISE, like Umoja, Pride, Dreamers, Kapwa, and the Puente program; and continuing the strong partnership with our Promise program, International Student Orientation, and Student Athletes by offering additional support within Summer CRUISE. Led by Peer Navigators, each day offered an interactive and engaging activity for new students to get acclimated to their new campus. CRUISE also welcomed our Veteran, Continuing Education and Adult Learners during Saturday CRUISE.



Office of Administrative Services Updates

More furniture groups for students to hang out in have been added, this time in the Allied Health building!



In the Know

For additional information on what is happening on campus and in our community – visit the links below:

1. [Mesa College Newsroom](#)
2. [Mesa College Events Calendar](#)

Best,
Ashanti Hands

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.

President | San Diego Mesa College

Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!

7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721

[Mesa College](#) | [Student Support Services](#)

