

Weekly Update from Prez Hands  
Week of November 29, 2023



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**



The **San Diego Mesa College 2023 Holiday Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in MC 211 A/B. The Culinary Arts faculty and students are preparing a wonderful meal as we all gather this year and reflect on our accomplishments and look forward to a successful 2024 Spring Semester. We hope that you will be able to attend and request that you RSVP to confirm your attendance and preferred seating time: [RSVP Form for 2023 Holiday Luncheon](#)

**Our athletes are achieving amazing things!** Our Women's Volleyball team defeated Mt. San Antonio College to advance to the State Championships, and their next game will be this Friday against American River College at 7:00 p.m. To add to their achievements, 11 team members have been selected to the 2023 PCAC Women's Volleyball All-Conference Team. Switching to cross country, for the first time in school history, both the men's and women's individual titles belong to Mesa! Sophomore Jyden Schmid

claimed the 3C2A title, while freshman Alexis Noble claimed her title shattering the school's record with a time of 17 minutes and 54 seconds. We are so proud of our athletes!

You are cordially invited to **Save-the-Date for the San Diego Mesa College 60th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. In 2024, Mesa College will be celebrating 60 years of equity and excellence. You are invited to be a part of the celebration as we launch our year-long festivities. We will begin with a formal program and transition to music, dancing and other celebratory activities. Join us as we celebrate with students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, partners, the Mesa College Foundation, and members of the community. Your presence will add to the joy as we reflect on the past and look forward to continued years of empowering students with knowledge and opportunities. Please save the date and plan to join us! More details to follow.

### **Office of Instruction**



*Pictured (L-R): Erica Olmos – Employer Relations Coordinator; Jennifer Park – Acting Outreach Supervisor; Rebekah Soliman – CISC student and tutor; James Gappy – Associate Professor Computer Science; Monica Romero – Dean of Business and Technology*

The Mesa College Computer Science Department, Outreach, Work-Based Learning, and Tutoring attended the Economic Development Corporation's Advancing San Diego Verified Program Designation event. This event was the second step in the process for the CS department to become a [Verified Program](#) for training in Software Development for San Diego County (through the EDC). At the event, local employers interviewed and assessed our program and support services for final program verification. We await the results due in the next couple of weeks.

### **Office of Student Services**

*Coming Soon from Outreach and Assessment:*

- **Promise Counseling Workshop - Transfer Resources (SDSU/UCSD)** will take place on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Learn about what to expect once you move onto your transfer institution. Learn about what next steps you will take for our local universities: SDSU and UCSD. This workshop is open to all students but tailored to those who already are or

who will be moving onto their transfer intuition next Fall semester. To register, visit this link: [Fall 2023 Promise Counseling Workshop Series Sign-Up Form](#).

- **Promise Counseling Workshop - Heart & Stones Rock Painting** will be Friday, December 8, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on campus. The Heart and Stones workshop facilitates a community of Promise students in a meditative/calm setting where they will learn about aspects of color psychology while painting stones with personal positive messages. The purpose is to meet as a community of students before finals week and decompress through productive creativity. To register, visit this link: [Fall 2023 Promise Counseling Workshop Series Sign-Up Form](#).
- **Mesa Outreach will be at the SDCCD Counselor and Partner Conference** on Thursday, December 7, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Miramar College. This collaboration, networking, and development event invites high school counselors and partners to get to know the San Diego Community College District and what San Diego City, Mesa, Miramar, and Continuing Education Colleges have to offer so they are able to provide guidance and support to their own communities! More information at <https://www.sdccd.edu/outreach-day/>.

**Student Health Services:** This Wednesday, November 29, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Quad, Student Health Services will conduct 3-5 minute trainings on Narcan and distribute boxes of one-dose Narcan. A brown bag lunch will be included. For more information, please contact Suzanne Khambata at [skhambat@sdccd.edu](mailto:skhambat@sdccd.edu).

**CRUISE (Creating Rich Unique Intellectual Student Experiences) sessions will be returning this January:**

- Saturday CRUISE will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
  - Saturday CRUISE is designed for early high school graduates. High school students completing their coursework in December 2023 and planning to attend Mesa for the Spring 2024 semester should consider this one-day CRUISE session.
- Winter CRUISE will be from Tuesday, January 9, 2024, through Wednesday, January 10, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
  - Winter CRUISE is designed for all new, incoming students who recently graduated from high school or have graduated from high school and have not attended college in the last three years, new students transitioning from Continuing Education, Veterans and Adult Learners who have yet to attend college.

To learn more about CRUISE and to register for a session, visit our website at [www.sdmesa.edu/cruise](http://www.sdmesa.edu/cruise).

**Avanza Peer Navigators** are offering a Scholarship workshop on Monday, December 4, 2023 from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Learn about the different types of scholarships available and the steps on how to apply.

**Connect with students over breakfast and lunch at 72Fifty!** Every week on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m. for breakfast, and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. for lunch, our FAST Scholars and NextUp students are welcome to join the team at 72Fifty to foster connections and enjoy a meal!

**Mesa's FAST Scholars and NextUp team will be hosting a Winter Wonderland Brunch** on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. to celebrate their persistence and success as the academic semester comes to an end. Brunch will be provided.

**FAST Scholars and NextUp team will be hosting California Coast Credit Union** on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. to lead a Financial Literacy workshop on credit at the FAST Center. Lunch will be provided.

**Rising Scholars is hosting a meditation session** on Friday, December 1 at 10am in the AS Conference room.

### **Office of Administrative Services**

The new Wi-Fi system is now available at Mesa College. [SDCCD-Campus-Connect](#) will ensure fast, stable connections to the internet no matter where you are on any campus or the district offices. The new Wi-Fi network also offers enhanced security measures to safeguard your information. SDCCD-Campus-Connect was first launched at the College of Continuing Education and has since expanded to City and Mesa Colleges.

Work for a virtual server that allows students remote access is ongoing. A smaller ‘proof-of-concept’ system was tested this past year with successful results and now a larger scale remote system is being built.

### **Participatory Governance (Associated Students, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate)**

Classified Senate is hosting a Radiant Recognition Holiday Fundraiser! In line with this year’s theme, “Equity In Action: Illuminating Paths”, colleagues have the opportunity to express their gratitude and appreciation to someone special, or even treat themselves, with a beautiful light box. Light boxes are \$5 each, and you can leave a personalized message. Preferred method of payments are cash or checks (made out to San Diego Mesa Classified Senate), and can be submitted to either Jennifer Phelps in BT-202 or Thieny Trinh in MS-306. Payments can also be made via PayPal at [sdmesa.classified.senate@gmail.com](mailto:sdmesa.classified.senate@gmail.com). To place your order, simply fill out this [Radiant Recognition Holiday Fundraiser Form](#). For any payment questions, please reach out to Jennifer Phelps, [jphelps@sdccd.edu](mailto:jphelps@sdccd.edu).

**To learn more about our Associated Students, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate, please visit the links below:**

[Associated Students](#) | [Academic Senate](#) | [Classified Senate](#)

### **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

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**Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.**

**President | San Diego Mesa College**

*Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!*

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

