

*Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: April 12, 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!

### **WOW (Word of the Week)** - Throughput Rate (Course Level)

The percentage of students that complete a gateway course (e.g. transfer-level math) in a given time period (e.g., 1 year from first enrollment or 1 year from first attempt).

### **Office of the President Updates**

Mesa College was awarded a Tutor to Teacher pipeline grant in the amount of \$150,000 by the San Diego Foundation's County Expanded Learning Grant Program. Special shout-out to Lisa Nicole Jones, Dr. Isabel O'Connor, and others for coordinating efforts for Mesa College. This work will be in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District.

Our annual Faculty Recognition event will be held this Thursday to celebrate those who have recently been promoted, received tenure, and/or retired.

### **Office of Instruction Updates**

The School of Learning Resources and Academic Support is thrilled to announce our newest team member, Brenda O'Connor, will be serving as Media Clerk in Library Services. Having previously worked as a NANCE in the Library, Audio-visual department, and Office of Instruction at Miramar College, Brenda is excited and grateful for the opportunity to continue serving students as a Media Clerk at Mesa. As a former community college student, proud member of the Latinx community, and child of an immigrant, Brenda is a firm believer in the power of the community college system. Please join us in welcoming Brenda O'Connor to our team and make sure to stop by the LRC to introduce yourself! Her start date will be Friday, April 14, 2023.

Please view the [press release](#) announcing the winning team for the SoCal Design Charrette. Our Interior Design program nominated Renee Smaldino to represent Mesa College, and she placed first, along with 3 other students from regional Interior Design programs, and then moved on to the regional competition in Arizona. The first place team was awarded \$10,000 and will be honored at the Calibre Design Awards at Beverly Hilton Hotel on May 12th. We are quite excited for Renee and proud for our program!

We have 212 Honors Contracts for the Spring 2023 semester!

Shout-out to Prof. Laurie Iunker, Prof. David Parillo, and Prof. Hamidreza Ghasemi Bahraseman, for accepting Part 1 of the MOST Coaches' Challenge! Keep up the good work! Part 1 – is currently underway (April 3 - April 14).

15 participants have recently completed Assess.

MOST had two proposals accepted for presentations at the [Online Teaching Conference](#) this summer. The Online Teaching Conference is an annual conference put on by CCC colleagues for CCC colleagues specifically to support teaching in the online modality. It's a place to connect with other professional development colleagues to learn new ways that they are supporting online faculty while also sharing resources, strategies, and new tools that can be used to create and facilitate equity-infused online teaching spaces for our students.

Our Education and Guidance Academic and Career Pathways (ACP) Task Force for Mesa Pathways, is tasked with educating our campus and students about the ACPs. To that end, we will be holding an event on Monday, April 17, 2023, from 11:00am to 1:00pm in MC-211 A/B, to introduce the Education and Guidance ACP to students (with lunch included). We are hoping to have representation from each of your disciplines in the form of a table with faculty and program information from your programs available to students.

[Education and Guidance ACP Programs:](#)

- ASL
- Black Studies
- Child Development
- Communication Studies
- Education
- Exercise Science
- Nutrition
- Physics

Reserve your table here: <https://forms.gle/mgNa1s7jLpY64qLp6>.

### **Administrative Services Updates**

The computer update process is proceeding smoothly across campus. The team has deployed over 400 PCs and anticipates completing Phase I by the end of next week. Phase II will commence in early summer, once Phase I's cleanup has been completed.

### **Student Services Updates**

CalWORKs has partnered with The Old Globe in Balboa Park to provide an opportunity for students to watch plays and theatrical performances at no cost. The first opportunity will be "The XIXth (Nineteenth)" which will be showing Saturday, April 15th at 2:00pm. Students that attend will receive transportation assistance and lunch.

The Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholar Program, in collaboration with Financial Aid and Admissions, will be training employees to better support and serve undocumented students. The purpose of the UndocuAlly training is to increase faculty and staff awareness, understanding, and self-efficacy when working with undocumented students, and to stimulate action to make the campus more responsive to the challenges and contributions of undocumented students. Attendees will receive 3 hours of FLEX credit for attending the training and a certification as an UndocuAlly. The training will be offered

in-person and through zoom. The deadline to RSVP is Monday, May 8th by 12:00pm. You must register to reserve your spot at: [https://bit.ly/UndocuAllySP\\_23](https://bit.ly/UndocuAllySP_23). When: Tuesday, May 16th | Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm | Where: San Diego Mesa College, Avanza Workshop Room: I4-202

A Registration Fest will be facilitated for all student-athletes, in order to help provide intervention and immediate hands-on support with registration, on May 1st & 2nd.

Mesa College was invited to participate in the UC Santa Barbara Transfer *Making it Happen* program. The program strives to ensure high school seniors make a smooth transition from high school, to community college, to the University of California.

### Campus Events

The San Diego Mesa College Jazz Ensemble, directed by Ian Tordella, will be performing this afternoon at Curran Plaza at San Diego City College from 12:00pm to 1:00pm.

The Mesa Music Department is also holding another recital hour in room C-119 from 3:00pm to 4:20pm, featuring the [Justin Grinnell Trio](#) with Justin Grinnell (acoustic bass), Melonie Grinnell (piano) & Julien Cantelm (drumset).

The last day to view the *Perceive Me* exhibition is tomorrow. Gallery hours are 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

In celebration of Cultural Unity Week, Mesa will host a *Festival of Colors* next week on Thursday, April 20, from 10:00am to 3:00pm, in the Quad. More info to come.

The San Diego Mesa College 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 4:30pm in the Mesa College Gymnasium. Tickets, tables, and other sponsorships are now available. General tickets are \$30 and Student tickets are \$20 (*for those not receiving an award*). To purchase tickets, please click [here](#), or click the following link to buy a table/become a [Scholarship Award Ceremony sponsor](#). Gift Basket Donations are requested! The Mesa College Foundation will once again be holding a Gift Basket Opportunity Drawing during the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. To contribute a gift basket, please [click here](#). Opportunity Drawing tickets will be available for purchase at the event, and winners will be selected and announced during the Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

### In the Know

To stay abreast of the latest news and to find out what's happening on campus, visit the links below.

- [Mesa College Newsroom](#)
- [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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