

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: May 17, 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

This week, Mesa College is celebrating Classified Professionals Week. Today, we hosted our Classified Staff at the Classified Service Awards. We thank the Chancellor, Board Members, Margaret Lamb, the AFT President, and the San Diego Mesa College Jazz Trio for joining us at this special event.

On Tuesday, we are all smiles watching the 1st cohort of our Small Business Virtual Incubator (SBVI) presentations. SBVI is an online space where students receive guidance and 1:1 business coaching from experts in the industry who help our entrepreneurs start or expand their businesses. Launched in Spring 2023, 14 students in various fields (food & beverage, e-commerce, health, and fitness coaches, massage therapy, aeroponics) began their Small Business journeys. Students presented their business concepts and shared their experiences in the program. We are proud to offer students the opportunity to take their business idea to the next level and help them design an action plan to increase their success probability.

Tonight, we will celebrate Black Graduates and Transfer Students at the Districtwide Rite of Passage Ceremony hosted by City College.

Office of Instruction Updates

Last Friday, Mesa hosted the San Diego Mesa College Research Conference in the MS Building.
[Here is a list of the winners:](#)

Category: Oral Presentations

“Subcellular localization of insulin-stimulated pAKT in gonadotropes revealed by an optimized fractionation protocol”

Winners: A. Garcia, O. Molinar-Inglis, D. Nicholas, J. Keyes, J. Adame, M. Cisneros, M. Lawson, J. Zhang, and J. Trejo

Mentor: Heather McGray

Category: Poster Presentations

First Place: “An analysis of distress symptoms and alcohol consumption in a college sample: Anxiety differentially mediates drinking across gender”

Winners: Faith Satrya, Kali Olmsted, and Tina Johnston

Mentor: Oscar V. Torres

Second Place: “The relationship between the cognitive reflection test 2 & Psychology as a science scale: Exploring the impact of question position”

Winners: Nicole S. Smith, Kiersten M. Reyes, Daniela M. Velazquez, Douglas A. Jenks, Tamil L. Patterson, Connor B.A. Lewis, and Geoffrey Robinson

Mentor: Justin Estep

Third Place: "Restoration Needs Assessment for at-risk coastal salt marsh species"

Winner: Coral Weaver

Mentor: Rachel Russell

Thank you to the organizing committee, mentors and judges!

One of our students, Judy Collado, recently received a \$10,000 scholarship through the Assistance League of Greater San Diego. Assistance League of Greater San Diego offers scholarships for full-time students who have completed community college and are transitioning to an accredited college or university as a junior in pursuit of a four-year degree. Judy is starting the HIMS program in the Fall, and her time at Mesa will be covered through this scholarship. She will be recognized at a luncheon on May 22, and Connie Renda will be joining her.

Assistant Professor Laurie Lunger was awarded a [Teach Access faculty grant](#) to develop modules, presentations, exercises or curriculum enhancements, or changes that introduce the fundamental concepts and skills of accessible design and development into her teacher education courses. Congrats Laurie!

Please join us in congratulating Mathematics instructor Debbie Moss. Her SCY High School team of 30 students won the national finals of the Texas Instruments *TI Codes Contest* for their invention "Can-o-matic 9000"! You can see their video and the other winners here:

<https://education.ti.com/en/promotion/codescontest>

Please join us in welcoming Joseph Martinez to the School of Mathematics & Natural Sciences as a new tenure-track faculty in Physics. Joseph earned his Bachelor's in Physics from CSU San Bernardino and his Master's in Physics from UC Irvine. Joseph has also been facilitating a Faculty Inquiry Group (FIG) with colleagues on mastery-based grading, which he has subsequently implemented in his classes. Welcome Joseph!

Student Services Updates

Volunteers are still needed to assist with the 2023 Commencement Ceremony! We have various responsibilities and shifts. Please register to volunteer. We will have (5) Opportunity Drawings for all volunteers and the prizes include a \$100 Gift card. To sign up to volunteer at Commencement, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ayana Woods at awoods002@sdccd.edu.

Under Amy Bettinger's leadership, Assessment and Outreach are hosting RegFest this Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00-5:00 in the Assessment lab to assist high school students who have semester ed plans with the course registration process.

Campus Events

The San Diego Mesa College Music Department presents the San Diego Mesa College Guitar Ensemble, which will be performing at today's Recital Hour, in C-119 from 3:00pm to 4:20pm.

The Stand: Pamela T. Luster Resource Center will host its Thursday Farmers Market tomorrow in the Quad from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

The MESA MOVES: Dance Spectrum – A Mesa College Dance Concert will take place in the Apolliad Theatre (C-Building) this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Performances each day will be at 7:30pm, with an additional performance at 4:30pm on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

The San Diego Mesa College 2023 Commencement Ceremony will take place on the Merrill Douglas Stadium next Friday, May 26, starting at 2:00pm. Congratulations to all of our 2023 graduates!

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

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.

President | San Diego Mesa College

Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!

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