

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: September 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!

Office of the President Updates

The District Office and District Service Center flags were to half-staff, in observance of Patriot Day on Monday, September 11. The day marked the 22-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed in suburban Pennsylvania. Patriot Day serves as a remembrance of the lives lost on that September morning.

A Chancellor's Forum will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., on the San Diego Mesa College campus in room MC 211 A/B. Acting Chancellor Gregory Smith will discuss the implementation of the District's 2023-2030 Strategic Plan, enrollment and budget updates, and priorities for the 2023-2024 academic year. Flex credit available, Workshop 20113.

The [Kapwa August newsletter](#) is ready for your viewing pleasure. Many thanks to our multi-talented, Brin Balboa for their artistry in creating another beautiful student-centered newsletter.

Office of Instruction Updates

Dean Andrew MacNeill will serve as the Acting Dean of Arts, Humanities and Communication at San Diego City College, starting on September 28 and continuing through the fall semester. Dean Leslie Shimazaki will serve as interim dean of the Learning Resources and Academic Support school until an acting dean is hired. We wish Dean MacNeill great success in his new role.

Our Mesa College Art Gallery is receiving some great attention and reviews! An online contemporary arts journal, HereIn, Contributing Editor Justin Duyao writes about Francisco Eme's *The Resistance of the Echo and La Eco-Resistencia*, currently on view in our Gallery. He speaks highly of Eme's immersive work and the impact it can have on those who come to see it. San Diego State University's Daily Aztec also raves about Eme's exhibition and how it brings awareness and appreciation to what we are missing out on. To read the article from the Daily Aztec, please click on this link: [SDSU Article on Francisco Eme's Exhibition at San Diego Mesa College](#)

Congratulations to the following students who were accepted into the current cohort of the Region X California Medicine Scholars Program at the University of California, San Diego:

- Alexis Grey

- Alberto Lizarraga Herrera
- Jocelyn Lopez Rojo
- Arantza Montoya
- Joseph Musacco
- Angela Nguyen
- Ayla Pirodan
- Janna Sawah
- Khang Vo
- Christine Le, who is a scholar that has transferred to UC San Diego starting this Fall Quarter!

This program provides students attending any of our Region X community colleges with leadership, academic, service and skill building opportunities along with longitudinal mentoring and advising. The goal is to strengthen and enhance transfer pathways for young pre-medicine students who are attending community colleges in the San Diego and Imperial Counties. Congratulations to you all!

Office of Student Services Updates

Student Health is hosting Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please join us on Wednesday, September 13, 11:00am-2:00pm Mesa Quad and pick up your Suicide Awareness T-Shirt Give Away. For a list of additional events, please see the Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Flyer.



The Veterans Department has placed over 25 VA Work Study students throughout Mesa College campus for the Fall 2023 term.

Undocu Welcome Day: The DRC will be holding its first event of the year, Undocu Welcome Day. The event will take place on Tuesday, September 12, from 12pm-2pm at the Avanza Center, I4-202 (2nd floor). The event will be for our Borderless Scholars students to learn more about our center and for a chance to get to meet the Dream Team. Here is a [LINK to the Undocu Welcome Day flyer](#).

Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars – The DRC will begin its Fall 2023 Virtual / In Person Borderless Scholars Workshops to students. The event will be for our Borderless Scholars students to learn more about our center and for a chance to get to meet the Dream Team. Here is a [LINK to](#)

[the flyer](#) for upcoming workshops.

The Pride Center had their first FA23 San Ysidro Health Mobile Free HIV testing van on 8/30/23 from 11am-4pm next to the Pride Center and it was a GREAT success. San Ysidro Health conducted 27 HIV tests during this period. Thank you to Gio and Jacqueline for all of this support in making this happen. A HUGE shout out to Lucio and the Pride Center team for sharing their vision, cultivating this partnership, and

creating a community of trust and care for Mesa students and the campus community. Check the [Link to the Mesa College Calendar](#) for future HIV Testing dates.

Mesa Promise is announcing the Fall 2023 Laptop Opportunity. Only current, active San Diego Promise students at Mesa College are eligible to be entered in to an opportunity to receive a brand-new laptop. Forms are due Friday, September 22, at 1:00 PM and recipients will be notified via email mid-October. Information is available on our Instagram [@sdpromisemesa](#).

Join us on September 18th 10am-12pm G101 for Constitution Day, the Moot Court Honor Society Team from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law will present details in the US Supreme Court case of O'Connor-Ratcliff v Garnier, which is a local case from Poway, California.

Club Rush September 19-21 11am-2pm. We will feature up to 30 Mesa College clubs out on the Sunrise Plaza, and participating students can enter an opportunity drawing to win fun prizes.

Financial Aid is pleased to share that they are distributing their first large Pell Grant disbursement and within the next two weeks Financial Aid will provide over \$3.3 Million in refunds to students mainly Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG and a few loans.

Transfer, Career, and Evaluations has an open house scheduled for 9/26 to 9/28

Admissions and Veterans departments will be participating in the Latino/a/e Bienvenida event on Thursday, September 14.

The Veterans Department has certified over 750 students using Veterans Educational Benefits and has also placed over 25 VA Work Study students throughout Mesa College campus for the Fall 2023 term.

Office of Resource Development Updates

In line with our Chancellor's vision for a reorganization to our development teams across the colleges, Krista Stellmacher, CFRE, has been reclassified to Director, Development and Entrepreneurship. Congratulations, Krista!

The Office of Resource Development is building out our President's Circle, which is a community of supporters of the San Diego Mesa College Foundation that donate at least \$1,000 a year. In collaboration with faculty and classified professionals, we will be offering VIP experiences that highlight different programs across our campus and give our donors the opportunity to meet students, engage, and build community. If you have an idea for an event, or if you or someone you know would like to join the President's Circle, contact kstellmacher@sdccd.edu.

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!

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