



Hello Mesa College Community!

Weekly Update from Prez Hands provides 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!

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OFFICE OF THE *President*

Mesa College student Katrina White was featured in the CBS Sunday Morning feature on how a loophole deprives foster children of benefits. As CBS mentions, young people in foster care who are entitled to survivor and disability benefits are having those benefits taken by state agencies that apply for the benefits themselves without giving notice to the child or their relatives.

Katrina White shares her story of struggle, perseverance and resilience alongside three other former foster youth. To hear their courageous stories, click on the video to the right.





We are so excited to announce Lucio Lira as Mesa College's new full-time Pride Center Counselor Coordinator!

Lucio (he/they/él) is an experienced educational practitioner who has worked as a multicultural, gender-affirming, and academic counselor in community colleges for over five years. Lucio is known for his leadership in creating inclusive environments and transformational healing spaces supporting the educational journey of LGBTQIA+ students such as affinity spaces and academic learning communities.

Lucio grew up in Tijuana and is a first-generation student/professional. As a transborder student, Lucio crossed the border daily to attend school. As a proud product of the community college system, Lucio's persistence led him to earn his AA in Psychology from Southwestern College, BA in Psychology from UC Davis, and MS in Multicultural Counseling from SDSU. Lucio is currently completing his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the joint doctoral program at UCSD and CSUSM, where he is interested in researching LGBTQIA+ students' sense of belonging in community colleges.



Last week, 19 student leaders from the Kapwa Learning Community attended the annual National Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) Conference in Oakland, CA. They attended with a team of faculty and staff from various campus departments. Our students also had the privilege of being selected to present three different workshops: *SPAM Lite: Student Professionals and Mentorship*; *Taking Care of Our Own: Culturally Nurturing Counseling + Work-Based Learning*; and *Kokua from the Mainland: Sending Prayers and Action to Those Impacted by the Maui Wildfires*.

Thank you for the leadership of APAHE tri-chair Dean Dr. Ailene Cua Crakes for organizing the largest APAHE conference in its history with over 1,400 attendees across the nation, Vice President of Instruction, Isabel O'Connor for her on going support, Vice President of Administrative Services Lorenze Legaspi for hosting dinner for our students and campus partners, AANAPISI Director Leland Simpliciano for his contributions, Dr. Hai Ly Tran, Professor Katlin Choi, Wellness Counselor Marc Pescadera, and Kapwa Counselor/Coordinator Patricia (Trish) Guevarra for making this fantastic opportunity possible.

To read more on this wonderful event, please [click here for the report written by Kapwa Counselor/Coordinator Trish Guevarra](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mesa College Past Presidents Panel

Join us for an inspiring discussion with our esteemed past presidents. Hear from our distinguished past presidents as they share their experiences, insights, and stories from their time leading San Diego Mesa College.



Dr. Constance Carroll

1993-2004

Dr. Rita Cepeda

2005-2010

Elizabeth Armstrong

2010-2011

Dr. Pamela Luster

2011-2022



Wednesday,
April 17, 2024



MC-211



Panel: 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Reception: 12:00-1:00 pm



No RSVP required | For question, contact Leticia Diaz at ldiaz@sdccd.edu



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE Mix & Mingle with Chancellor Smith

Thursday, April 18, 2024 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For questions, please contact Eileen Hayward at ehayward@sdccd.edu

On Wednesday, April 17 at 11:00 a.m., join us as we bring together esteemed past presidents to share their unique insights and experiences in leading Mesa College. These former presidents have left a lasting mark on our college, and will offer first-hand accounts of their time in office.

No RSVP is required. We hope to see you there!

On Thursday, April 18 at 11:00 a.m., we will be hosting a Mix and Mingle with our new Chancellor, Greg Smith. Chancellor Smith will be visiting different events on campus to meet some of our Mesa College community, then participate in a Q&A session where our community will get the chance to learn about his vision for the District.

No RSVP is required. Look out for more information as the event draws closer.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Annual Celebration for CULTURAL UNITY WEEK
60th Anniversary 1963-2023
FESTIVAL OF COLORS
Reggae Band:
INTENT
Featuring founding members of Reggae band Steel Pulse & Messenjah
Ronnie Steppa McQueen-Bass & Eric Walsh
Thursday, April 11th 5:00 p.m.
San Diego Mesa Quad
7250 Mesa College Drive
Sponsored by the Mesa College Fine and Performing Arts Committee, Humanities Institute & the Committee for Diversity, Action, Inclusion & Equity.
For questions contact Prof. Denise Rogers, derogers@sdccd.edu

Cultural Unity Week is going strong with lots of wonderful events filled with meaningful exploration and a celebration of culture!

Tomorrow, April 11, Mesa will hold our Festival of Colors event at 5:00 p.m. on the Mesa Quad. This event will celebrate cultures through the arts, dance, and food, and will feature a guest performance from the reggae band INTENT. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information on the remaining events for Cultural Unity Week, please visit the [Mesa College Campus calendar](#) and check "Cultural Unity Week" under "Campus Events".



Volunteer to help with Commencement on Friday, May 24, 2024

Together, let us unite to craft an unforgettable experience for our graduating class. To volunteer your time and expertise for this momentous event, please complete the [Commencement Volunteer Registration form](#). For any inquiries or further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at awoods002@sdccd.edu

Applications to join the **Associated Students** <https://bit.ly/2024ASapp> are now available for the 2024-2025 academic year! We encourage every Mesa College student to **apply** and run for an elected position in an effort to collaboratively create a positive and meaningful impact on our student body and all of the communities in which Mesa College belongs.

Applications are due by **11:59pm on Monday, April 15, 2024!**



You are cordially invited to join us at the San Diego Mesa College 31st Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 4:30pm in the Mesa College Gymnasium.

At this fabulous event, we will recognize and celebrate our 2024 student scholarship award recipients for their outstanding achievements. The evening program will include appetizers, recipient recognition, extravagant opportunity drawings, fun and more. Please stay tuned for the list of recipients.

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 or become a [Scholarship Award Ceremony sponsor](#)



Special Request: GIFT BASKET DONATIONS for Mesa's 31st Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony

The **2024 Scholarship Awards Ceremony** will take place on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024** at the **San Diego Mesa College Gymnasium** beginning **4:30pm**.

If you would like to donate a basket, please complete the [Gift Basket Form](#) and bring your basket to the Student Affairs Office (14-408) by **5:00pm on Monday, April 22nd**. All contributions will be recognized as supporters of the **31st Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony**. Assistance with assembling your items into a basket is available, just contact us for help!

Please call (619) 388-2699 with questions or concerns. Thank you so much for your support!

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

Join us in promoting employee wellness, connection, campus integration, and community at our Wellness Walkabout!

For more information, please contact Catherine Cannock at ccannock@sdccd.edu

A promotional graphic for a "Wellness Walkabout" event. The background is dark blue with a yellow diagonal stripe on the right side. The text "Wellness Walkabout" is in large white font. Below it, in smaller white text, is "Promote employee wellness, connection, campus integration and community". There are three icons: a location pin for "Designated Route", a clock for "30 Minutes per Walk", and a speech bubble for "Conversation Starters Provided". On the right, there is an illustration of people walking. At the bottom, it says "MAY 15, 2024" and "10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 30 mins/session (walk)". There is a QR code and text: "Please scan the QR code for Registration and Location" and "For questions, please contact Catherine Cannock at ccannock@sdccd.edu".

Participatory Governance

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:

Mesa College Newsroom

Mesa College Events Calendar

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](#)

