

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: July 26, 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

President Hands' op-ed article, "Race Has Always Mattered in Higher Education", is now published in the San Diego Union Tribune. Hands' asserts that the recent affirmative action ruling falsely applies colorblind measures to a world where race still matters. To read more, [click here](#).

A Mesa alumni is doing great things! Former Mesa Architecture student Nasra Nimaga is being highlighted in an article by global architecture and design firm Perkins Eastman, speaking about her passion for advocacy and shaping equitable communities. In the article, she talks about why Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives are important in the workplace, and some of her leadership experiences and projects. During her time at Mesa, Nasra was awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. She went on to UCLA to earn a Bachelor's in Architectural Studies. After UCLA, she was awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Award and attended Princeton University where she earned her Master's in Architecture. To read her article, [click here](#).

Mesa College welcomed Ashley Jacobs, host of Fox 5 San Diego's The LOCAList SD, to explore the **fashion program and small business incubator**. To watch the segment, [click here](#).

We are incredibly proud of our **Women's Volleyball** program for leading the way with community college students earning scholarships to play at 4-year universities. In 2022-23 ranked 3rd (of 42) with 6 students committing to university programs. Read more [here](#).

Last week, Mesa's **AANAPISI Grant** Team convened together for a summer retreat to reflect on amplifying best student success practices, addressing challenges, and planning for the upcoming year. The team collaborated with local API businesses, organizations and leaders in Kearny Mesa – Convoy Asian Cultural District. Day 2 of the AANAPISI Summer Retreat was held at the Asian Business Association of San Diego (ABASD) Office which consisted of a historical walking tour, lunch, and team-building and other activities.

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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