

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: Sept 20, 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 FamilyU Seal program is a national certification for higher education institutions making significant strides in intentionally serving parenting students. Generation Hope, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring all student parents have the opportunities to succeed and experience economic mobility, announced that San Diego Mesa College is among one of fourteen colleges chosen in its inaugural FamilyU Seal recipients. Click these links to read more: [Mesa Newsroom Article Regarding FamilyU Inaugural Seal](#) | [Generation Hope Press Release](#).

San Diego Mesa College Athletics has been awarded the DeVore Trophy for the 2022-23 calendar year! The DeVore Award is presented each year to a Pacific Coast Athletics Conference (PCAC) member college with the most successful men's and women's intercollegiate athletic program for the academic year. For more information, please visit this link for the [News Release from the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference](#).

Mesa will be sending a team to the CCC Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in Action Institute here in San Diego: Janue Johnson, Professional Learning Coordinator, and Gina Abbiate, CCAP Coordinator.

San Diego Mesa College Latinx Alliance mission is to empower, encourage, support, and help Latinx students succeed academically and personally in order for them to build a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities. Students are especially encouraged to join as their voices are valued and encouraged. Please share this [Latino/a/e Heritage Month Flyer](#).

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.

Office of Student Services Updates

- Mesa College is excited to announce the new Mesa Test Proctoring Center! Effective since September 12th, the Test Proctoring Center provides an inclusive and accessible testing center that incorporates equity, universal design principles, and a space to support student learning, cultivate course completion, retention, and academic goals. The Test Proctoring Center supports all San Diego Mesa College students while promoting a welcoming environment and flexible testing options while maintaining academic integrity. The center offers in-person testing for on campus and online courses requiring in-person proctoring services. The center also offers in-person makeup exams and remote proctoring via zoom as a service for students who cannot test with the rest of the class due to extenuating circumstances. To learn more, please visit the [Mesa Test Proctoring Center webpage](#).
- **Club Rush is 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.
- **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](#).
- **Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars** – The DRC will hosted their Fall 2023 Virtual / In Person Borderless Scholars Workshops to students. The workshops are on Tuesday, September 19, 3:30pm-4:30pm at the Avanza Center, I4-202, Thursday, September 21, 3:30pm-4:30pm, and Friday, September 22, 11am-12pm. Here is a [link to the September Borderless Scholars Workshops](#).
- **Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars** – FREE legal immigration consultations with an attorney are available for students and employees! Mesa College and Borderless Scholars are partnering with JFS/HELS to offer FREE legal immigration consultations! To learn more about this service, please contact the EOPS Office to schedule an appointment with a Borderless Scholars Counselor or visit our website at: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/eops/borderless-scholars/resources.shtml> and www.jfssd.org/HELS
- **Connecting with the FAST Scholars and NextUp Team over breakfast and lunch at 72Fifty:** Every week on Mondays from 9-10 am (breakfast) and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12-1pm (lunch), our FAST Scholars and NextUp students are welcome to join the team at 72Fifty to meet peers, the team, and resources to support them throughout their Mesa journey! Here is a [link to the NextUp and Fast Scholars flyer](#).
- **The Pride Center** is hosting this academic year Free HIV Testing in collaboration with San Ysidro Health—CHIP Program. Last August, 27 community members (students and employees) were tested.
- **The new Pride Scholars program** welcomed 116 students. Pride Scholars will receive counseling services, book vouchers, school supplies, meal and transportation assistance, and individualized case management to connect students with on and off-campus resources.
- The Pride Center introduced its new service, **QueerStyle Revival**, an additional clothing service on campus to support students in finding gender-affirming clothing. The Pride Center is accepting donations this FA23 semester.
- The Pride Center is preparing to celebrate **LGBTQIA+ History Month in October**. More information about events and activities will be shared soon with the campus community.
- **Transfer, Career, and Evaluations has a Monsters University Open House** scheduled on September 26 and 27 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Get ready to:
 - **Unlock Your Transfer Path:** Embark on a journey that leads you to your dream university. Our team will help you decode the transfer process, explore potential institutions, and pave your way to a seamless transition.

- **Launch Your Career Exploration:** Discover the world of opportunities that await beyond your academic journey. Explore various career paths, gather insights from professionals in your desired fields, and gain a clearer vision of your future.
- **Celebrate Your Graduation Milestones:** Picture yourself donning that cap and gown – your graduation is a goal within reach! Our team will guide you through the final stages of your academic journey, ensuring you cross the finish line with confidence.
- **Meet the TCE Team Scarers:** Behind every great success story is a team of dedicated supporters. Get acquainted with our friendly team, your companions on the path to transfer, career success, and graduation journey.
- **FREE Swag & Food (while supplies last)**

Office of Instruction Updates



San Diego Mesa College Multimedia program was proud to host this year's San Diego Game Jam, September 8-10, 2023. The San Diego Game Jam was a weekend-long competition where teams of students and game developers created brand-new games based on a challenging theme. We had 30 on-campus and 20 online participants who developed eight unique games over the weekend. Local professionals judge the games from the local industry. Winners TBA. This partnership has increased the visibility of our program and established new partnerships with industry.

Office of Resource Development Updates

San Diego Mesa College partner California Coast Credit Union is offering grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 to faculty "implementing innovative classroom projects that involve STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and mathematics)." Over \$64,000 will be awarded to educators across the region. To see a full list of the eligibility requirements/criteria and to apply, please click here: [Link to 2023 Cal Coast Cares Foundation Grant Information](#).

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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