

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: Sept 27, 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



Mesa College received the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) Chet Devore Trophy at the September 27th PCAC Meeting with Regional Athletic Directors.

In our continuous pursuit of equity and excellence, it's important to understand the roles of **Outcomes Assessment** and **Program Review**. These two processes are integral to our growth and development as an institution. Let's explore the differences between these processes.

- **Outcomes Assessment** is a campus-wide process that evaluates how instructional areas and programs impact our students, contributing to our mission of becoming a leading institution for Equity and Excellence. This assessment ensures alignment between what students learn and course, program, service area, and institution outcomes, guiding evidence-based decisions. This ongoing dialogue enhances institutional effectiveness, fosters continuous improvement in educational quality, and informs our planning and budgeting decisions. For further information, please see our [website](#), [handbook](#), and/or contact Eliza Rabinovich at erabinovich@sdccd.edu.
- **Program Review** is a campus-wide process to facilitate the continuous improvement of teaching and learning at Mesa College as we strive to fulfill our Mission as an institution. Each institutional unit assesses the effectiveness, currency, and viability of their area with an intentional focus on equity and excellence. Program review provides an opportunity for each institutional unit to collect and reflect on data, identify opportunities for improvement, plan ahead, and request

resources. For further information, please see our [website](#), [handbook](#), and/or contact Hai Hoang at hhoang@sdccd.edu.

This Friday, San Diego Mesa College will host the San Diego Community College District's (SDCCD) **2023 Black Professionals Day**. Click [this link to the flyer](#) for more information.

Our 2022-2023 Fact Sheet is now live. Visit this [link](#) to view.

Thanks to Acting Chancellor Smith and District Colleagues for sharing at Tuesday's Chancellor Forum. Click this link to see the [Chancellor's Forum 2023-2024 Presentation](#).

Latino/a/e Heritage Month is going strong! For events that are coming up, please visit this [link to the Latino/a/e/ Heritage Month flyer](#).

Office of Student Services Updates



SDCCD won 3rd place for the 2023 San Diego Pride Parade Student Contingent. We love that we share the parade duties with the District!

Live Chat: We have been able to serve students and provide them immediate support and guidance via the Live Chat system. As of today, we have responded and supported over 7,300 students via live chat (chat with a live person: Classified professional, student intern, ambassador, or project assistant). Additionally, our Virtual Bot provided over 75,000 responses to student questions, with an accuracy rate of 97%. This has been an exceptional service provided to our students making it easier for them to communicate without having to come to campus.

Scholarship Application Incentive – We were thrilled to incentivize the Scholarship application workshops for this year. Students that attended one of our workshops in collaboration with the writing center and applied for at least (3) scholarships automatically received \$100! The data proved that students that attended the workshops had a much higher rate of being awarded a scholarship! Of the total amount of scholarship awarded, 41% of the funds was awarded to students that attended the workshop. We had over 200 students take advantage of this opportunity!

Financial Aid is thrilled to award the **Middle College Grant Award** to seven students in the HIMS Bachelors Program with a grant totaling \$20,000. This funding is specifically offered to students in the Bachelors program that are in financial need.

Promise has begun notifying Year 1 Promise students that they will need to submit **Promise Progress Reports**. They are due October 20, 2023 and the form is available at <https://bit.ly/2324fallrep>. Students will submit their current mid-semester grades for every enrolled course (including all courses from Mesa, Miramar, and City College) for Fall 2023. Contact: sdpromisemesa@sdccd.edu.

Office of Instruction Updates

Mesa Pathways - Mesa Success Coaches:

Over the summer, the Mesa Success Coaches (a Mesa Pathways workgroup) implemented their planned expansion of the Mesa Success Coaches Program, which included the recruitment of coaches, the development of a Canvas shell, and an orientation to onboard and provide support to our coaches.

Due to overwhelming student demand, we are pleased to see the continued growth of the Mesa Success Coaches pilot that currently has 46 volunteer coaches serving 225 Mesa College students! Coaches have been matched with students and students have been engaged in person, over email and via text and success stories are already being reported!

Coaches are eager to be more involved in-person with the students they are coaching. To meet this need, a Halloween mixer has been scheduled for October 31st from 1-3pm in the Mesa Quad, where there will be games and a costume contest. This event will provide an opportunity for Mesa Success Coaches and their students to get to know one another in-person. It will also provide an opportunity for students and the greater campus community to learn about our [Academic and Career Pathways](#) (ACPs). Instructional faculty from various disciplines will be available to engage in conversation and share information pertaining to their academic programs. All members of the campus community are welcome to participate and we hope to see you there!

Kudos to core workgroup members: Ian Duckles, Gina Abbiate, Pahua Vang and Leslie Shimazaki for their hard work to make this program a reality!

MOST Refresh currently has **47 active faculty participants** as we start Week 2 of the cohort.

Last week (Week 1) focused on **Welcoming, Connection, and Belonging**. Participants warmed up with friendly introductions, redesigned their orientation modules to be more welcoming to students, and added that human touch to their online spaces. This week (Week 2) participants turn their focus to **Equitable Assessments**. Participants will be exploring formative and summative assessments, applying Universal Design for Learning (UDL) into assessments, and discovering some Grading for Equity strategies

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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