

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: September 6, 2023
Sent On Behalf Of President Ashanti T. Hands



Hello Mesa College Community,

The *Weekly Updates 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!

Office of the President Updates

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023, a Press Conference was held on the San Diego Mesa College campus focusing on the Fentanyl crisis in San Diego, particularly for students as they begin their fall classes. The Press conference was led by Millennium Health Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Angela Huskey, Congressman Scott Peters, and San Diego Mesa College President, Dr. Ashanti T. Hands, with a personal commentary from Ramsey Atelsap – Father of Kai Atelsap, who died of fentanyl poisoning this summer due to a counterfeit pill containing fentanyl. Following the conference, a booth was provided by the San Diego Mesa College Student Health Services department who provided information and resources, including Fentanyl test strips and Narcan.

The San Diego Chapter American Association for Women in Community Colleges (SDCAAWCC) Inaugural Conference will be held this Friday, September 8, 2023, on the San Diego Mesa College campus, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., in room MC 211 A/B. The *Strengthening Women in Higher Education Conference* will feature keynote speakers Dr. Constance Carroll, Dr. Daisy Gonzales, and Dr. Claudia Curry, as well as regional speakers leading breakout sessions.

Hamidreza Ghasemi-Bahraseman, Professor in the Engineering Department at San Diego State University, announced that a research paper authored by Mesa College students has been published and now accessible online at <https://engineeringjournals.stmjournals.in/index.php/JoTEA/article/view/6663>. This is the second research paper published with another publication currently under review.

Dr. Hands extends a special thank you to Cassandra Storey, Acting Dean of Health Sciences and Public Service, Amanda Johnston, PTA Program Director, Dr. Gail Bachman, Director of Clinical Education, and Shelly Hess, Dean of Instructional Services, for submitting Mesa College's second Baccalaureate Degree Program application in the area of Physical Therapy Assistant.

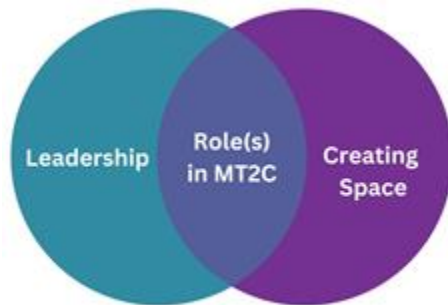
A Chancellor's Forum will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m., on the San Diego Mesa College campus in room MC 211 A/B. Acting Chancellor Gregory Smith will discuss implementation of the District's 2023-2030 Strategic Plan, enrollment and budget updates, and priorities for the 2023-2024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

Office of Instruction Updates

On Friday, September 1, 2023, the large MT2C team met to reflect upon the program and continued the work as a community of practice. At this training session, the MT2C Metacognitive Journey for the semester, *Creating Space*, was discussed and how that concept shows up in the learning assistance field. The MT2C team individually drew drawings of their understanding of creating space and then connected these drawings to demonstrate how to create this space together.



The team of tutors, classified professionals, faculty, and administrators took this a step further and started connecting the *Creating Space* concept to the concept of leadership ***and*** how their multiple roles can bring together the concept of creating space and leadership to help develop student success.



Some relevant data from this event with 50 responses from the team can be found here: [Link to MT2C All Tutor Training Google Sheet with Responses](#)

Of note, you might notice the impact this training had on the team's

- Understanding of the semester-long-theme.
- Future practice as educational professionals.
- Appreciation for the PL as a whole.

Lastly, they awarded the 2023 MT2C Tutor of the Year to Hamad Alshaif. Hamad is an amazing STEM tutor on the team who discussed how the MT2C theme from last year, *Understanding and Embracing Anxiety*, helped him come to terms with his our anxiety, and how the team's inner work has helped him become an even better tutor for others.



They will continue this conversation about CREATING SPACE at the next All Tutor Training on Friday, October 13, 2023. All are welcome to join this training around noon.

Office of Student Services Updates

Mesa CalWORKs Welcome Meet & Greet Event will be held Thursday, September 7, 2023, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., in the Avanza Workshop Room, I4-202. Come meet the CalWORKs Team and learn about the support services and resources we offer students. Food will be provided. [Click here for Mesa CalWORKs' Welcome Meet & Greet Flyer](#)

CalWORKs, CARE, and The Stand's Parent Cafe returns this Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., in the AS Conference Room, I4-409A. Student parents will have an opportunity to learn about Mesa College resources and connect with other student parents. Food will be provided. [Click here for the CalWORKs, CARE, and The Stand Parent Cafe Flyer](#)

HHSA Workshop offered via Zoom every Monday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for questions regarding CalWORKs eligibility requirements and/or to talk with a SD County Representative about CalWORKs/CashAid, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal. [Click here for the HHSA & CalWORKs Workshop Flyer.](#)

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 Jewish Family Services 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: www.sdmesa.edu/EOPS or www.jfssd.org/HELPS

The Stand: Dr. Pamela T. Luster Resource Center at San Diego Mesa College is proud to have supported 1,276 Mesa College students in having their basic needs met during the fall 2022 semester. Impressively, students receiving basic needs supports have a 75% average of successfully completing course work. The Stand seeks to alleviate basic needs insecurity for our students by providing a safe and secure environment where all students have access to free resources both on campus and in the community including but not limited to food, professional clothing, transportation, childcare, housing, personal health, books and school supplies to help them succeed both in the classroom and in the community. To learn more about the stand, visit <https://www.sdmesa.edu/thestand>

Student Development

- Mesa College will participate in the MCRD Career and Education Fair on September 20, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Jillian Ventrone and Jordan Agricola will be tabling on behalf of Mesa College.
- Dr. Ailene Crakes is facilitating presentations on AANHPI -SAP to AANAPISI Grant Team meeting, Instructional Deans, Pcab, SET, etc.
- Cynthia Rico and Marisa Alioto are working on the ACPs for majors.

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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[Mesa College](#) | [Student Support Services](#)

