

*Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: January 18, 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**

Please Save the Date for the Spring 2023 San Diego Mesa College Convocation, to be held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., in the Mesa Gymnasium. I look forward to seeing you there!

VP O'Connor and myself attended the Alliance San Diego MLK Jr. 35th All People's Celebration at Balboa Park this past Monday.

I am happy to share that two of our Deans have graciously agreed to serve in acting capacities for additional schools while we search for replacements this Spring.

- Dean Linda Hensley, Humanities, Acting Dean: Institutional Effectiveness. Effective: January 9, 2023
- Dean Monica Romero, Business and Technology, Acting Dean: Health Sciences & Public Service. Effective: January 13, 2023

### **Campus Events**

The Classified Professional Learning Committee hosted a Mini-Classicon Special Event today. Activities included yoga, bootcamp, sound healing, ALICE (active shooter) Training, and Safe-Zone Training. The Entrepreneurship Program is excited to announce the launch of its first Small Business Virtual Incubator (SBVI) at Mesa. The SBVI will be an online space that will help aspiring and existing entrepreneurs make their dream of opening a business or expanding an existing one a reality. It is the ideal program for students who have a complete business plan and are interested in taking their business to the next level. Students will receive free one on one coaching from industry experts, business advice, as well as financial support to help design a website, create a logo and marketing material, purchase business software, permits/licenses, and more. Students in the program are expected to have their business up and running by the end of the semester. For more information on the program and the link to apply, click [here](#). For any questions, please contact Prof. Landeros at [elanderos@sdccd.edu](mailto:elanderos@sdccd.edu).

### **Office of Resource Development Updates**

Thanks to the generous support of Faculty, Classified Professionals, Administrators, and friends of Mesa College, we raised over \$44,000 for scholarships, which will allow us to offer over \$120,000 in scholarships and incentives this year. Also thanks to many of our SDCCD community, we raised over

\$1,500 for #GivingTuesday. This week, we brought in \$20,700 in donations and accepted an in-kind donation of tribal artworks from Africa, Indonesia, and Asia worth \$44,000. Mesa College Foundation Board Member Aviva McPherron, VP at Nuvasive, was named in the Top 25 Healthcare Technology CTOs of 2022 by The Healthcare Technology Report. In the fall, we opened up our Innovation Grant cycle, which awards funds to various projects that forward the mission of Mesa College. This year, our committee reviewed 17 Innovation Grant applications totaling \$32,000 in funding requests. On the subject of grants, the Foundation has supported a \$20,000 grant from MUFJ Union Bank for our Virtual Small Business Incubator. The Foundation also began preparation for the FY21-22 Audit.

### **Office of Institutional Effectiveness Updates**

The results for the 2022 campus-wide Environmental Sustainability Survey are out. The Office of Institutional Research conducted the survey during the fall to collect actionable data to inform San Diego Mesa College's first Climate Action Plan and other sustainability initiatives. The Environmental Sustainability Survey Report was a collaborative effort between the Environmental Sustainability Committee and the Institutional Research Office in support of the Roadmap to Mesa2030, which calls for the development of a climate action plan. To view the results, click on the link [here](#).

### **Student Services Updates**

The Student Affairs Office recently helped coordinate the 41st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Parade, which took place over the weekend on Sunday. San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges came together this year to create a collaborative float that represents the San Diego Community College District, which encompassed the theme "Keeping The Dream Alive Through Education". You can view photos from the event [here](#).

### **In the Know**

To stay abreast of the latest news and to find out what's happening on campus, visit the links below.

- [Mesa College Newsroom](#)
- [Mesa College Events Calendar](#)

Best,  
Ashanti Hands

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**Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.**

**President | San Diego Mesa College**

*Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!*

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