



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 Spring 2023 San Diego Mesa College Convocation was held on Thursday, January 26th from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., in the Mesa Gymnasium. Thank you to everyone who joined us and our efforts to “Shine Light on Equity and Excellence”!

The District Office and District Service Center flags, as well as each flag on the college campuses, have been lowered to half-staff through sunset tomorrow, in observance of the Presidential Proclamation in honor of the victims of the tragedy in Monterey Park.

The Mesa College community grieves with all those affected by the recent tragedy at Monterey Park. A virtual Listening Circle will be held this afternoon at 4:00 p.m., where the community can share their thoughts and feelings.

The State Chancellors Office recently awarded Mesa College \$140,000 to establish a Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (Mesa) Program in 2022-23.

In Fall 2022, Mesa College hosted our first ever Black Excellence Conference. A summation of the conference can be seen [here](#).

This week, President Hands is attending The Aspen Institutes New President’s Fellowship in Middleburg, Virginia.

Office of Institutional Effectiveness Updates

In furtherance of district and college environmental sustainability goals, Mesa will submit its first STARS report at the end of January. STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System) is a tool developed by AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) to provide a framework for measuring and improving campus-wide sustainability. The findings of our STARS report will form the backbone for Mesa’s Climate Action Plan, which we hope to complete this spring.

Office of Resource Development Updates

Director Krista Stellmacher and a Mesa College Foundation Board Member attended the 19th Annual Nonprofit Governance Symposium at the Nonprofit Institute at the University of San Diego.

The Foundation brought in \$25,800 revenue in the last week.

The Foundation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, under Dr. Veronica Gerace’s leadership, launched a DEI survey to conduct a baseline assessment.

The Foundation Impact Committee, under Dr. Madeleine Hinkes's leadership, alongside the Scholarship Committee, encourages you to [volunteer for scholarship review](#) - and distribute the link to others who may want to support our mission by volunteering in this capacity. [Sign Up Here](#).

The World Arts Council, under Dr. Denise Rogers's leadership and in collaboration with several campus committees and programs, welcomes you to join us for the *Africa in Context exhibit* to take place at the Mesa College Gallery on Thursday, February 9, at 4:00 p.m.

Partner organization [Bayside Community Center](#) is hosting a Lunar New Year Celebration at the [Love, Linda Vista Farmers Market](#) on Thursday, January 26 from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at 6939 Linda Vista Road. All are welcome. Information about [performances can be found here](#).

Student Services Updates

Student Affairs, in conjunction with the Associated Students, will host the Advocacy Legislative Leadership Retreat in the Fall 2023 semester. The retreat will create a positive and collaborative environment, while teaching leadership development skills. Workshops will include Diversity Training, Advocacy, Communications, Restorative Practices, and managing mental wellness. More details to come.

This spring, there will be increased access for student veterans and military dependents available in the Veterans Success Center. We are excited to include representation from Disability Services, Career Services, Transfer Counseling, and Tutoring Services.

Equity Evolved, our very own STAR TRIO, which is a federally funded student support service program, is now approved to serve undocumented students. The CCC Chancellor's Office and the US Department of Education have reached an official agreement allowing select TRIO programs to expand their equitable impact. Mesa's STAR TRIO is thrilled to opt-in on this initiative and has begun collaborative planning with our Borderless Scholars Program to maximize our shared supports for undocumented student success. To learn more about Mesa STAR TRIO and to apply, visit sdmesa.edu/STAR.

A professional development training/workshop is being arranged for the Veterans Services Team to help recognize students experiencing mental illness and suicidal ideations.

There will also be increased counseling support for Promise students this spring, through additional career workshops, Promise Hot Spots, and reaching out to Promise students who are not enrolled full-time who need assistance with building a class schedule.

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

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](#)

