

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: October 19, 2022
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!

WOW (Word of the Week) - FTEF (full-time equivalent faculty):

- The portion of a full-time load, which each particular class represents
- 1 FTEF = 1 instructor teaching 15 equated hours per week for 1 semester
- If a full-time faculty member has a load that consists of 15 lecture hours, a 3-hour class represents 20% of that load

Office of the President Updates

I had the pleasure of serving on a *Presidential Equity Champions* panel at the bi-annual CCCCIO Conference today. The panel focused on *Advancing Equity through Intentional and Collaborative Leadership*.

SDSU recently received a \$1 Million USDA Grant to Support Sustainable Food and Agriculture Training for Latino Students. Mesa College will partner with SDSU to create a pipeline of students from community college through graduate school. “By opening this program to Mesa College students, we can spark excitement in the research process, build confidence for conducting research, and provide ways for students to see themselves at the next stage of their education,” said Professor Waverly Ray, who explained that more than half of the Mesa student body experiences food insecurity themselves. “This program demonstrates how research can be leveraged to alleviate this real-world problem,” she added. Selected students will receive financial support to take the team-taught class at SDSU and for doing research at Mesa’s vegetable garden. If they eventually transfer to SDSU and continue in the program, they will receive special counseling, scholarship opportunities and mentoring from both the faculty and peers.

SDCCD has partnered with WeeCare to provide access to a local and national network of childcare providers at discounted rates. Tomorrow at 12:00pm, SDCCD will host a 30 minute information session with representatives from WeeCare to guide employees through their services and answer questions. The presentation is titled: *Learning more about WeeCare: Employee Childcare Benefits*. Attendees can register in advance for this webinar [here](#). After registering, attendees will receive a confirmation email containing information on how they can join the webinar. Care Managers are available 24/7 for assistance. Available childcare options include full-time, part-time, night-time, or weekend care.

Campus Events

The Mesa College Borderless Scholars and Dreamer Resource Center are hosting a virtual event titled “Undocu Family Night” this evening from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, in conjunction with Undocumented Student Action Week. Attendees can register [here](#). To find out more information about the events offered this week, please visit the SDCCD NewsCenter [here](#).

Today the Pride Center will host *¡Las Reinas de los Cuentos!* from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in MC-211. Guests will learn about the history of drag in San Diego, followed by a Q&A session with San Diego's local drag queens, Raquel Ita and Barbie Q. The event will close with an exciting live drag show experience. This event will feature Mesa College Professor Paul Detwiler, Director of the event's featured short film, *Las Reinas de los Cuentos*. Click [here](#) to view the event flyer.

Jaime Seiverd, Research and Planning Analyst with the District Office, will speak tomorrow from 1:00pm to 2:00pm about their ethnographic work, education, and career at the next Ethnographer Extravaganza Virtual Event. Attendees can register in advance at this [link](#).

Please consider attending this all-virtual professional development event: "Equitable Placement and Completion: A Racial Justice Imperative," which is a joint effort between the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and The Puentes Project. The event will be held this Friday, October 21 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The featured speaker, Dr. Christopher Emdin, is the Robert A. Naslund Endowed Chair in Curriculum Theory and Professor of Education at the University of Southern California, and author of many titles, including *STEM, STEAM, Make, Dream; Ratchedemic: Re-Imagining Academic Excellence*; and *For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood and the Rest of Y'all Too*.

Participants will come away with an understanding of how to move racial justice work forward through Equitable Placement in support of student success in the California Community College system. The webinar will also introduce the 2022-23 Puentes Communities of Practice (ComPs) for California community college educators, which will include the following strands:

- [Linguistic Justice Across the Curriculum](#)
with Michelle Gonzales and Kisha Quesada Turner, Las Positas College
- [Math Justice for Student Empowerment](#)
with Karla Rojas, Sacramento City College and Hal Huntsman, Antelope Valley College
- [Instructional Design with Corazón/Heart](#)
with Fabiola Torres, Glendale Community College and Kristin Land, Chabot College
- [Placement + Support of Marginalized Students through a Justice Lens](#)
with Luke Lara, Miracosta College and Juan Pablo Carreon, Pasadena City College

To find out more information or to register to attend, please visit this [link](#).

Office of Instruction Updates

Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems Sector in San Diego recently invited Mesa College to partner with them on their Fall 2022 Community College Internship Program. Selected students will become part of Northrop Grumman's Autonomous Design Center of Excellence. The selected candidates will also work in a dynamic and people-focused environment where they will interact with end users, customers, and other developers. Mesa referred 5 students for this program, and 2 of them were hired.

The HSI grant team and friends held an HSI retreat last week. The retreat was very productive with rich discussion, and there were two significant highlights. First, participants worked diligently to update Mesa's HSI statement. The goal is to create a mission statement for the HSI programs that is intentional in serving our Hispanic and Latinx community. The second highlight affirms the HSI grant team's commitment to our Latinx community.

Office of Resource Development Updates

Innovation Grants are Available!

The Foundation is offering Innovation Grants of up to \$3,000 for projects that support student success. Applications are due November 11, 2022.

The Season of Giving

As we enter the season of giving back, you will hear from folks across our campus about ways you can show your support in the spirit of giving. We want you to know that we appreciate the work you are doing

each day, which is already a gift to our students. We are humbled that so many of you choose to give in support of student success. As you learn about different opportunities across our campus, know that we value donations in any amount to any cause that speaks to your heart. Here are a few opportunities: October 25 is San Diego Promise Giving Day. Thanks to a generous donor, all donations up to \$15,000 will be matched. To learn more and give, visit [Keeping the Promise](#).

The Child Development Center is accepting donations in support of their Halloween festivities. To give, you can drop off toys, pencils, healthy snacks (no candy), or other items 2-3 year olds could use by October 27 at either the Mesa Child Development Center or in Room I4-401, Student Services Administrative Suite.

Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of donors each year, the San Diego Mesa College Foundation offers over \$120,000 in scholarship funding to serve over 100 students. President Hands' family has found joy and meaning in giving back with their family scholarship, and would like to thank all of you who play a meaningful role in this vital resource for students. This year, we are proud to announce that—due to the generosity of this campus—we are already adding 6 brand new scholarship opportunities to our students. There's still time to establish a scholarship!

Classified Senate is accepting donations for a Halloween fundraiser to support their Scholarship. Donate in person, cash or check only, at I4-408 or BT-202. All donors will be entered into an opportunity drawing for a gift card.

Annual Scholarship renewal will start at the end of this week. Donations for this year's cycle will be accepted through November 15.

San Diego Mesa College Foundation Retreat

Last week, the San Diego Mesa College Foundation Board held their annual retreat. We would like to thank The Stand Resource Center for hosting the retreat, as well as the many staff and volunteers who helped make this event a success. We welcomed VP Maxey to the Board, had annual elections, and held productive and joyful discussions about goals for the Foundation, how we can best support our campus and students, and what each of us can do to contribute to the success of the Foundation.

SDCCAO Strategic Planning Meetings

The SDCCD Auxiliary Organization is undergoing a process of strategic planning. A work group was launched in the summer, and discussions are continuing through mid-November. Krista Stellmacher and John Crocitti sit on that work group and are listening for ways these strategic priorities may help Mesa and our students.

Student Services Updates

From 3:00pm to 5:00pm today, Financial Aid will host their Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Workshop. This workshop focuses on the appeal process for those students who have applied for Financial Aid (FAFSA or Dream Application), who have been disqualified due to SAP and who wish to enroll in coursework and appeal their status.

Students can also join Jessica Gaffney, Financial Aid/Foster Youth Liaison, as she works one on one with FAST students assisting in with all Financial Aid matters tomorrow from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the FAST Center.

The final draft of Mesa's Student Equity Plan will be reviewed at the Success, Equity, and Transformation Committee this Friday, October 21.

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](#)

