

From: Mesa President's Office <MesaPresidentsOffice@sdccd.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:09 PM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - November 15, 2023



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

You are cordially invited to **Save-the-Date for the San Diego Mesa College 60th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. In 2024, Mesa College will be celebrating 60 years of equity and excellence. You are invited to be a part of the celebration as we launch our year-long festivities. We will begin with a formal program and transition to music, dancing and other celebratory activities. Join us as we celebrate with students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, partners, the Mesa College Foundation, and members of the community. Your presence will add to the joy as we reflect on the past and look forward to continued years of empowering students with knowledge and opportunities. Please save the date and plan to join us! More details to follow.

This week Mesa hosted our **FamilyU Site Visit**. Our Mesa team has made incredible strides in support of our parenting students including the creation of parenting data dashboards, surveys, lactation spaces, creation of a Family Resource Center, Title IX focus on pregnant and parenting rights, sample parenting focused interview questions, policy impacts and recognition as a Family U Seal recipient. Our Student Fellow, Alexis Primo-Hawkins, is leaving her legacy by creating a scholarship for parenting students and so much more. We are making a population that has described themselves as invisible...visible.

Yesterday, we hosted a **Flag Raising Ceremony in conjunction with members of the Tribal Nation**. The event featured our land acknowledgment, a Kumeyaay Elder speaking on the Kumeyaay history, and singers lead by the Soaring Eagles Native American Indian Cultural Dance Group. This event was one of the many events during Native American Heritage Month.

Office of Student Services

This week is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week! This week is an annual program where people come together from across the country to draw attention to the problems of hunger and homelessness through education, service, fundraising, and advocacy. For more information, visit this link: [Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 2023.pdf](#).

The Mesa College Associated Students is pleased to present their Thanksgiving Feast event on Thursday, November 16, from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Mesa Commons 211 A/B. This partnership between Associated Students, the Mesa Culinary Department, The Stand: Basic Needs Resource Center, and Student Affairs features live music, holiday opportunity drawings, and delicious food prepared by the Mesa Culinary program. The event is open to all members of the Mesa College community at no cost whatsoever. If you would like to volunteer as a server or to assist with setup at the event then please follow [this link](#) to sign up! URL for the volunteer sign-up link: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/Xg47K8q089>

Office of Resource Development

Thank you to those of you who submitted or reviewed an Innovation Grant application in support of student success. We received a total of 17 requests! The Foundation Innovation Grants Committee will now work to diligently review the applications and award a total of \$15,000. Notifications of award decisions will go out in January of 2024.

The Foundation met and adopted a “Transformation Plan,” which lays out strategic priorities for growth over the next five years. Get a [sneak peek here](#) before we share with the broader community.

There is still time to create, renew, or fund scholarships! If you haven’t yet, you can still create, renew and fund a scholarship for the 2023-2024 Cycle. We will be providing balance information this week and next.

Taste of Mesa was a joy and success! With the support of this campus community, we raised over \$10,000 for the Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program! View [photos of the event here](#).

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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