Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2026 10:11 AM
Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of November 2, 2026



Hello Mesa College Community!

Weekly Update 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*



Celebrating Native American Heritage Month at Mesa!
November is Native American Heritage Month, and San Diego Mesa College invites our campus community to celebrate and honor the rich cultures, traditions, histories, and achievements of Indigenous peoples!

Throughout the month, Mesa will host a variety of engaging events and activities that encourage learning, reflection, creativity, and connection. Join us as we celebrate Indigenous voices, stories, and contributions that continue to enrich our communities.

Everyone is welcome to participate! Explore the full schedule of events at www.sdmesa.edu/native-american-heritage-month.



Supporting Students, Inspiring Success: A Well-Deserved Recognition

On October 28, 2026, SDSU's 2026 San Diego State University's Doctorate in Education with a concentration in Community College Leadership CCLEAD program Recognition Celebration recognized all Region 10 Basic Needs Coordinators, including Mesa College's The Stand Basic Needs Coordinator, Johanna Aleman, for their dedication and efforts in addressing basic needs and supporting the well-being and success of community college students.



Mesa College Students Selected for Inaugural Mariachi Honor Band Concert

Congratulations to Mesa College students **Aiden Huber and Edgar Alvarez**, who were selected through a highly competitive audition process to perform in La Jolla Music Society's inaugural Mariachi Honor Band Concert, today Thursday, November 5, at 7 p.m. at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center.

Aiden, a violinist majoring in Humanities and Communications, and Edgar, a guitarist majoring in Music, will perform alongside talented young musicians from across San Diego County in a special celebration of mariachi music, cultural artistry and the next generation of musicians.
Dr. Leticia López, Dean of Arts and Languages, will represent Mesa College and accept a special recognition on behalf of the college during the event.

If your calendar is open, consider attending this special performance to enjoy great music and support our students!



Mesa Shows Up at the 40th Annual HACU Conference!
San Diego Mesa College proudly showed up and represented at the 40th Annual Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Conference, held right here in San Diego! The conference brought together higher education leaders, educators, and advocates from across the nation to celebrate Hispanic-serving institutions, exchange innovative ideas, and strengthen pathways to student success. Mesa's participation reflected our continued commitment to equity, inclusion, and advancing educational opportunities for our diverse student communities. Mesa was proud to be part of the conversation, collaboration, and celebration!



Click the banner above for the 2025-2026 Mesa College Fact Sheet



Chancellor Smith Shares 2026 Midterm Election Update

On November 4, SDCCD Chancellor Gregory Smith shared an update on the 2026 Midterm Election outcomes, highlighting key federal, state, and local races and their potential impacts on the District and our communities. Among the notable outcomes were the reelection of SDCCD Board of Trustees members Maria Nieto Senour and Craig Milgrim, along with statewide measures affecting education funding and essential services. Chancellor Smith emphasized the importance of monitoring these developments as the District continues to assess their implications for community colleges, student support services, and future funding priorities.

Click here to read Chancellor Smith's message

OFFICE OF *Instruction*





From Classrooms to Cat Paws: Future Vet Techs Explore Mesa!
Last week Mesa College's Veterinary Technology program welcomed visitors from Logan Memorial Educational Campus's Animal Science pathway on a tour of the program the facility.

As part of our ongoing collaboration with SDUSD, Logan Memorial students toured the facility, observed labs, met instructors, and even had the opportunity to learn about the care and feeding of our goats. The high school students were also able to see our Mesa Veterinary Technology students in action providing our felines with wellness checkups and vaccinations.

ENROLLMENT *update*

Fall 2026 FTES is 6,256 and our headcount is 21,866. For Fall 2026, we are 101.5% towards meeting our goals and anticipate being able to meet our targets even with changes in enrollment and fraudulent "bot" students being removed. As for Fall 2026, the numbers *have decreased slightly*, and we have *-0.38% less* students this week compared to last week.

Stay updated on the latest developments of our Olympian Athletes!
https://www.gosdmesa.com/landing/index

SAN DIEGO
Community College District

Perkins & Strong Workforce Annual Reports

The FY 2025-26 Perkins and Strong Workforce Program Annual Reports highlight the significant impact of Career Education investments across SDCCD and here at Mesa College. Districtwide, SWP Round 9 provided more than $7.1 million in local and regional funding, supporting workforce priorities including work-based learning, job placement, Career Education programs, and regional industry-sector investments.

At Mesa, $760,289 in Perkins funding supported approximately 200 paid Mesa Impactships, connections with 100+ employers through career fairs and hiring events, technology and equipment upgrades, and 18 curriculum revisions designed to strengthen alignment with workforce and industry needs. Together, Perkins and SWP investments help strengthen our Career Education programs, expand career-connected learning, and create pathways that connect Mesa students with employment and the regional workforce.

Perkins Annual Report | Strong Workforce Program Annual Report

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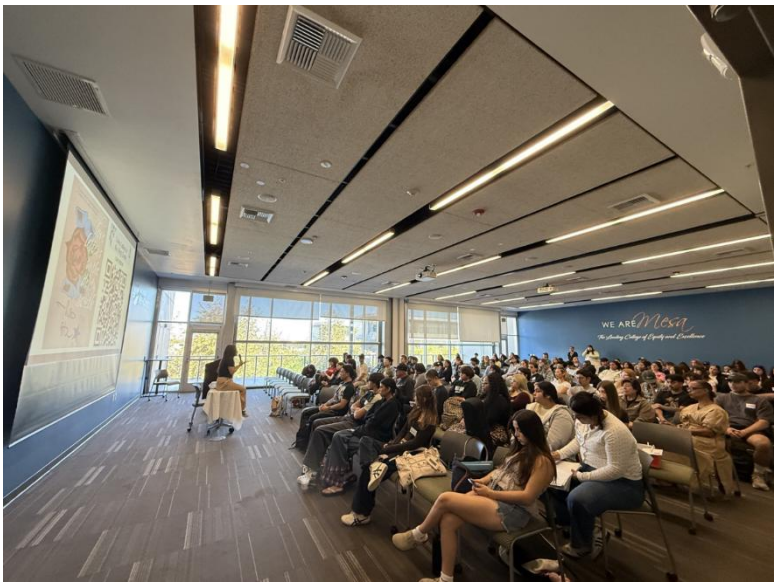
OFFICE OF Student Services





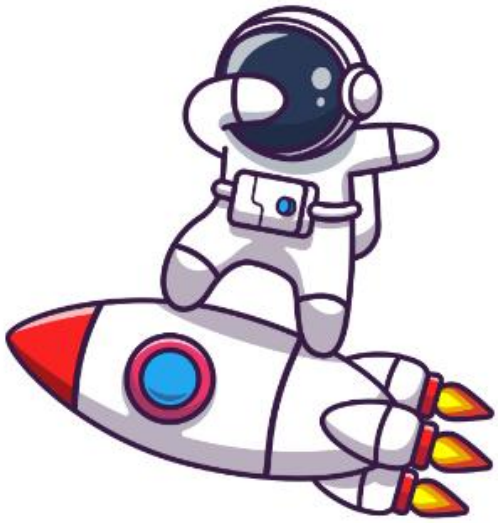
Careering While Asian Event

Careering While AAPI took place last Wednesday, October 28 and was a great end to this year's Filipino American History Month. As Elaine Mariski, an integrative cardiology nurse practitioner, microbaker/Breadtista, and Filipina American, left a lasting impression when she said, "There's only one version of you in this world, let the world know that." The inspiring Asian American and Southwest Asian/North African professionals were: Charlie Lieu, Maia Whitaker, Osama Shabaik, and Elaine Marisiki. Kapwa scholars, Alexandra Quintana and Julian Bayan moderated the panel posing questions about systemic racism and discrimination and strategies to navigating career pathways. A participant shared that this panel made them wonder, "how much of our career decisions are based on what we actually want versus what society considers successful."



Dr. Thao Ha Reading
There wasn't a dry eye in the audience as Dr. Thao Ha shared her memoir, "Love Letters to the Dirty South" recounting her love for Vu who was sentenced to 60 years in prison. Dr. Ha's story highlighted the intersection of immigration, legal system and health care systems while growing up as Vietnamese refugees in the American South. Thank you to attendees and our collaborators from English, CARE/CalWorks, Rising Scholars, Kapwa, Umoja, Puente, and Chicano Studies.

New Issue Alert



[Click here for the latest Mesa Journeys Newsletter!]

The Mesa Journeys newsletter gives a more in-depth look at all the great things that are happening on our campus. We encourage all faculty and staff to pass this along to our students, and also to sign up to receive these newsletters straight to their inboxes! Click below to sign up and for more information about Mesa Journeys:
https://linktr.ee/mesajourneys





Annual Student Parent Winter Holiday Event
CARE, CalWORKs, and The Stand are hosting our Annual Student Parent Winter Holiday Event for our student parents and their families on **December 3rd, 2026**. This event brings in over 150 attendees and is one of our favorite events to host. We are reaching out to request **new children's books and unwrapped toys for children of ALL ages**. We kindly ask that

you bring your generous donations to our EOPS Office located in Student Services Building, I4-309 or arrange for pick-up by emailing Grace Aumoeualogo at gaumoeualogo@sdccd.edu by **November 30*, 2026*.** Attached are some photos from last year's event and here is the link to view more photos. The CARE and CalWORKs Programs serve student parents receiving CalWORKs cashaid benefits. Many thanks to the Mesa community for your continued support!



Start your morning with pancakes and a purpose—every plate helps support Mesa College's Veterans Emergency Fund!



We are seeking faculty and staff volunteers to help make the Thanksgiving Feast a success. If you are available to volunteer and help serve at the event then please follow this link to sign up! Your support is greatly appreciated!



Join Mesa College as we celebrate Veterans Week with a week of special events, camaraderie, and appreciation honoring the service, sacrifice, and contributions of our military-connected students and veterans!



Join Mesa College November 16–20 for Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week as we Reflect, Restore, and Unite through a week of engaging activities, meaningful connections, and community support dedicated to raising awareness, fostering compassion, and helping students meet their basic needs!

For More Events, Click on the Links Below

Annual Student Parent Winter Holiday Event

UCSD Day 2026

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship Opportunity

Veterans Recognition Game

Transfer Application Support

Ask, Advocate, Navigate

Fall 2026 Financial Literacy Workshop

Avanza Late Night Study

Fall 2026 Workshop Series

Resume Palooza

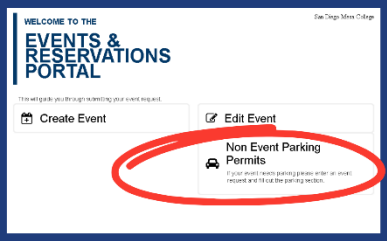
Fall 2026 Student Parent Healing Circle

Virtual Friday Workshops

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!



This form can be used for **p**arking permit requests that are **NOT** related to an event and do not require additional resources or a space/room (i.e. community clinic, meetings in dept. conference rooms, guest speakers during a class, etc.)

- Must be entered two weeks in advance
- Requests require manager approval, similar to Event Requests
- Can be used for single or group permits

Parking related to events will need to be entered as part of an Event Request.

WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS

Events Office Hours

Wednesdays at 11:00am

Join for event help every Wednesday from 11:00-12:00pm. Find the zoom link on the Events and Operations webpage. Or scan the QR code here.

DESIGN CENTER RENOVATION

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Phase 0 — **Winter Intersession: January 2027**

Restrooms Z-400 & Z-100

Phase 1 — **Spring Semester: February - May 2027**

Buildings Z-400 & Z-100

Phase 2 — **Summer Intersession: June - August 2027**

Buildings Z-300 & Z-200, Courtyard

Phase 3 — **Fall Semester: August - December 2027**

Buildings Z-500 & Z-600



Construction use parking

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

SAN DIEGO Community College District

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

New Retention Dashboard Now Available!
The Institutional Effectiveness Office is excited to launch the new **Mesa College Retention Dashboard**, which tracks first-time college students and their retention across terms. Explore retention trends across student populations, identify equity gaps, and support data-informed strategies for student success. Find and explore the **Retention Dashboard** under **Student Learning & Momentum** on the **Institutional Research/Data Dashboards** page.



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION CORNER

A space to learn about our latest efforts to connect partners who share our passion for education with opportunities to give. See how fundraising can help you, our students, and Mesa's mission.

Learn More



Want to learn more about grant seeking?
View the flex workshop hosted by Dr. Michael Lettieri, who is leading grant writing efforts, and Krista Stellmacher, CFRE and Director in service to the Office of Resource Development and Foundation.
View Recording

Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities

Please remember that our district has an official immigration policy, AP 3415. This policy directs all inquiries regarding immigration enforcement to the District Chancellor and District General Counsel. If you receive a confirmed report of immigration enforcement on campus, please contact:

- SDCCD Chancellor's Office (Greg Smith): 619-388-6957 | chancellor@sdccd.edu
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | lkostic@sdccd.edu

You are not expected to engage with immigration enforcement or place yourself or others at risk. If approached by immigration officials, you may respond:"I am not authorized to speak with you, answer your questions, or provide access to any people or facilities per SDCCD policy. Only the District Chancellor and General Counsel have authority to assist you."To stay informed and prepared:

- Update your emergency contact information in the MySDCCD portal
- Download the SDCCDsafe App
- Refer to the District's Immigration Resources page
- Continue to read campus emails and official updates

San Diego Mesa College has a clear, coordinated Immigration Enforcement Response Plan centered on our Emergency Management Response Team, led by the President and including College Communications, Vice Presidents, Facilities and Operations, OEHS, and the Campus Community Emergency Response Team, in coordination with SDCCD Police. Recognizing that every incident is unique, this structure ensures we are prepared to act quickly and compassionately with clear communication, coordinated safety measures, and robust support for students and employees should an incident occur.

Participatory Governance

To learn more about our Associated Students, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate, please visit the links below:

Associated Students | Academic Senate | Classified Senate

In The Know

For additional information on what is happening on campus and in our community - visit the links below:

Mesa College Newsroom | Mesa College Events Calendar

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.
President | San Diego Mesa College
Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!
7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721
Mesa College | Student Support Services