



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) - Course Retention Rate/Course Completion Rate

Percentage of students who do not withdraw from class and who receive a valid grade. The percentage of students who complete a course with a grade of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I or RD out of total official census enrollments.

Office of the President Updates

We were so pleased to see all of our faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and student/hourly workers at the annual San Diego Mesa College Holiday Luncheon earlier today! A HUGE thank you to our incredible students and faculty of the Culinary Arts Culinary Management Program! You guys really outdid yourselves!

San Diego Mesa College is a proud sponsor of this Friday's #RealCollegeCalifornia: Basic Needs Summit. Mesa College is sending a Basic Needs team (Johanna Aleman, Michael Sanders, and Pahua Vang) to attend the summit.

This week, I completed my Listening & Learning Tours. The tour included 29 departments, over 30 hours of sharing, and more than 350 employee voices. Each session focused on the following questions:

- What accomplishments are you most proud of?
- What difficult problems tend to persist at Mesa? What new challenges are emerging?
- How does your area embody Equity and Excellence?
- What opportunities would lead to greater success and how would you pursue them?

A representative from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness accompanied me at each session, documenting what was shared, and will provide a written report to me, capturing stories and theming challenges, and opportunities presented throughout campus. In Spring 2023, themes will be shared broadly so that we can begin the process of removing barriers and building bridges in support of our vision of being the Leading College of Equity and Excellence.

Office of Instruction Updates

Please join us in congratulating Communication Studies Professor and Coach Das Nugent, who was the recipient of the 2022 Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association (PSCFA) Wyman-Howe Coaching Award. This award is considered the most prestigious award the organization gives, and is specifically awarded for excellence in coaching. Das has been an active member of the speech and debate community for more than 20 years, and his contributions to speech and debate students and the community are immeasurable. We are so proud of him! Feel free to send him a personal message of congratulations.

The first of many *Dynamic Dialogue and Desserts* (Triple D) sessions will take place on Thursday, December 8. Mesa's Culinary Arts Students will provide wonderful baked holiday desserts. Faculty plan to continue meeting monthly to

conduct dialogue about topics that affect our campus community. Future topics include: Fatigue, Rigor/Equity, Navigating Persistence, Attendance, and much more. These dialogue sessions are facilitated by faculty for faculty. This initiative is sponsored by VP O'Connor as part of the AEM series. The next *Triple D* session will take place on Wednesday, January 25, at 12:30pm in the LOFT.

Allied Health's Neurodiagnostic Technology Program will be celebrating the completion of its first Neurodiagnostic Technology class on Wednesday evening. Neurodiagnostic students complete a 15-month program of professional education that combines in-depth academic study on campus with practical experience in the program's hospital clinical affiliates. The program is an American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists (ABRET) recognized program, upon completion of the program graduates will be eligible to sit for the national credentialing board.

Student Services Updates

The Peer Navigators will host a Scholarship and Financial Aid Workshop today from 3:00pm to 4:00pm in room I4-202. Attendees will learn how to apply for available scholarships and financial aid, and how they are awarded. Amazon/gas gift cards will be given out to attendees on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last.

EOPS, NextUp, FAST Scholars, and Borderless Scholars, will be hosting a *Winter Wishes* event tomorrow, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm in K-101. Students will have the opportunity to reflect, celebrate achievements, and reconnect with other students and the team. Students will also have the opportunity to meet the California Community College Chancellor, Dr. Daisy Gonzalez, and special guests from the California Community College Governing Board and California Governor's Office.

The CARE/CalWORKs Holiday event will also take place tomorrow, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm in room I4-202. CARE/CalWORKs and their families will enjoy a delicious dinner, participate in activities, open gifts donated from Toys for Tots and the Mesa Community, and learn about different resources available on campus.

Administrative Services Updates

Computer Refresh has begun. Please keep an eye out for an email scheduling your computer replacement.

The wi-fi assessment is complete, and installation will take place during Summer 2023.

The San Diego Community College District will be installing dispensers to provide free feminine hygiene products in all women's and gender-neutral restrooms throughout our campuses and District Office. "Approximately 200 dispensers will be installed to provide free access to hygiene products to students and staff," said Angelo Pellegrini, the Director of Facilities Services for the District.

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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