

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: February 1, 2023  
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!

### **Office of the President Updates**

We are excited to share that the [Mesa Impactship Program \(MIP\): Interning with a Purpose](#) funded by Perkins and LAEP will **support 70+ students** during the Spring 2023 semester! MIP is designed to promote workforce training & employment opportunities with a focus on underserved student populations. Eligible MIP students may receive a one-time payment of \$1000 or hourly compensation for unpaid workplace training & enrollment in a Work Experience or Directed Clinical Practice (DCP) course. Funding is intended to support students with reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket expenses such as childcare, equipment, fees, meals, professional attire, & more. MIP students will be part of a cohort community supported by Mesa faculty to help them prepare for career pathways while completing their training in the field. This program was created to support minority and underserved students.

Photos from the Spring 2023 Convocation have been uploaded and may be viewed [here](#).

A team of employees recently attended the *Family U Policy Convening: Crafting and Refining Campus Policies for Student Parent Success* event. Approximately 22.9% (6,564) of Mesa College students are parents.

This weekend, for the first time ever, Mesa College will serve as a “jam site” for the world's largest game jam event, taking place around the world at various physical locations. [San Diego Global Game Jam 2023](#) is a hack-a-thon that focuses on game development. We are creating space for guests to come together for 48 hours to create games around a central theme revealed at the start of the jam. Participants will watch a short video keynote with advice from learning game developers, and then a secret theme will be announced. All jammers worldwide are then challenged to make games based on that same theme with games to be completed by Sunday evening. Guests will be on campus from Friday evening through Sunday night, with the exception of overnights.

Mesa College student-athlete Ezra Christensen has received over 20 offers to mostly D-1 football programs throughout the country. He will be making his final choice this week.

Congratulations to Michael Harkin, who was selected by the National Football Foundation as a 2023 Scholar Athlete Leader Scholarship winner! Michael will be celebrated by the NFF at their 50th Anniversary Gala on April 14, 2023.

Correction to last week's announcement: The State Chancellors Office recently awarded Mesa College **\$1,500,000 for 5 years** to establish a Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (Mesa) Program.

### **Campus Events**

Celebrate Black History Month with your Mesa College campus community! A list of events can be found [here](#).

Student Health Services is coordinating a *Mesa Cares: Healing Circle* in response to the tragic beating and death of Tyree Nichols. To share your thoughts and feelings, please join in via Zoom tomorrow, Thursday, February 2, from 1:00pm to 1:50pm. The Zoom Meeting ID is 870 7087 8997 and the password is "connect".

### **Office of Instruction Updates**

Our [two day Catalyst program](#) was held last week. On Monday the program was held online, and on Tuesday it was held in the LOFT. There were 33 attendees total with some attending both sessions. Catalyst is Mesa's one-day teaching conference. It's an opportunity to share ideas with colleagues and have conversations about teaching before the semester begins.

### **Office of Institutional Effectiveness Updates**

We are pleased to announce that Hai Hoang has been appointed the Acting Dean of Institutional Effectiveness. Hai has been in various roles in the Mesa Institutional Effectiveness Office since 2017, most recently as the Acting Associate Dean, Research and Planning. Hai holds a Master of Liberal Arts in Organizational Psychology from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UC Berkeley. In Hai's time at Mesa, he has been an integral part of the research team and college-wide efforts, assisting with various projects including Accreditation Steering Committee, Asian Pacific Islander American Advisory Committee, Equity Taskforce, Scholarship Committee, and others. In this role, Hai will oversee research, planning, and accreditation areas. Please join us in welcoming Hai Hoang as the Acting Dean of Institutional Effectiveness.

### **Administrative Services Updates**

We are currently accepting student requests for laptops during the Spring 2023 semester. Students can request using the form here: <http://Bit.ly/MesaLaptopCheckout>. There is a limited supply, and equipment requests are processed and fulfilled in the order they are received. Please contact the San Diego Mesa College Library for more information: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/library/>.

### **Student Services Updates**

Please join us in celebrating our New Hires, Promotions, and Acting Positions:

- Larry Maxey, Promotion, Vice President of Student Services

- Pahua Vang, Promotion, Student Services Technician (Basic Needs Resource Center)
- Caesar Gaxiola, Promotion, Student Services Technician (Outreach)
- Nicole Judd, Promotion, Student Services Technician (EOPS)
- Jose Hueso, Acting, Student Services Supervisor I (Veterans/Records)
- Karla Trutna, Acting, Director of EOPS & Special Programs
- Trina Larson, Acting, Coordinator of Outreach & Assessment
- Charlie Lieu, Welcome Back, Technical Analyst, Student Services
- Cesar Zamora, New Hire, Senior Student Services Assistant (EOPS/Borderless Scholars)
- Jennifer Park, New Hire, Student Services Technician (Outreach/Promise)
- Roddrick Brisson, New Hire, Student Services Assistant (Admissions)
- Claudine Castagna, New Hire, Student Services Assistant (Counseling)
- Elizabeth Wilke, New Hire, DSPS Counselor (DSPS)
- Liza Abuyo, New Hire, Administrative Assistant (Student Success & Equity)

Transfer Specialist Gity Nematollahi, has accepted an Acting assignment with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, through the end of the spring semester. During this time, Transfer, Career, & Evaluations staff are supporting with transfer duties and event planning.

The Career Ambassador Program (CAP) will start promoting available positions for the 2023-2024 academic year in March 2023.

Student Affairs and Student Services are thrilled to welcome our new and returning students back to campus with our engaging Welcome Week of activities. Click [here](#) for the list of activities.

The Outreach Promise Team, in conjunction with the Assessment Center, are thrilled to host the Welcome Center for our Promise Students. Students will have access to a computer lab to complete assignments, attend online classes via Zoom, or just use the space to study. The Welcome Center will be available on Tuesdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm, Wednesdays from 3:00pm-5:00pm, and Thursdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm. For more information on Promise activities, sign up to access our Canvas shell at <https://bit.ly/promisecanvas>.

EOPS will be hosting an “EOPS Meet and Greet” from January 30th through February 1st at the EOPS Office in I4-309 between the hours of 8:30am-10:00am. Stop by to learn about EOPS and Special Programs, meet the team, and enjoy some food. EOPS and Special Programs is accepting applications at [www.sdmesa.edu/eops](http://www.sdmesa.edu/eops).

Transfer students who applied for Fall 2023 Transfer Admissions will need to complete the [Transfer Acceptance form here](#). Students who complete the form will be contacted with transfer updates and an invitation from Mesa College to be included in the Transfer Recognition Luncheon and Spotlight Video this year.

Evaluations' “Apply for Graduation” Workshops are back! These workshops are open to students, faculty, and staff interested in learning more about the 2022-2023 graduation steps and Commencement ceremony. The workshop dates are: 02/14/2023, 03/08/2023, and 4/11/2023, in I4-202 (Mesa College Testing and Assessment Office) from 2:30pm-3:30pm.

The Apply for Graduation Workshop will cover the [Steps necessary to obtain a degree/certificate at Mesa](#) as well as the [Deadlines to apply for graduation](#).

The upcoming 2023 deadline for CSU ADT transfer students is February 15, 2023. Additionally, March 15, 2023, is the deadline for graduates who would like their name included in the Commencement ceremony

booklet. Students can visit these links to learn [How to Apply for Graduation in the mySDCCD portal](#) and to learn more about the [2023 grad fest and commencement ceremony information](#).

### 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

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**Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.**

**President | San Diego Mesa College**

*Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!*

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