



*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*

<p>SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE  <b>ACCJC SITE VISIT</b>          FEBRUARY 26 - 28, 2024</p>		<p><b>CAMPUS OPEN FORUM</b>          FEBRUARY 26, 2024   9:30 AM - 10:30 AM          MC 211 A/B</p>	<p>MESA ACCREDITATION WEBSITE</p>
		<p><b>EXIT REPORT</b>          FEBRUARY 28, 2024   12:00 PM          MC 211 A/B</p>	
			<p><a href="http://www.sdmesa.edu/accreditation">www.sdmesa.edu/accreditation</a></p>

San Diego Mesa College will undergo an ACCJC Peer Review Team visit from February 26 - 28, 2024 as part of our comprehensive evaluation process.

The team will focus on five core inquiries that relate to areas of clarification, improvement, or commendation:

- Identification of student learning outcomes, particularly in the case of CTE courses and programs
- Regular assessment of learning outcomes
- Student-centered scheduling approach
- Innovative equity efforts that empower people, not position
- College-level governance processes and policies

The campus community is invited to meet and interact with the Peer Review Team at the **Open Forum** on **February 26, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in MC-211 A/B.**

The team will present preliminary findings at a brief **Exit Report** on **February 28, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. in MC 211 A/B.**

Last week, SDCCD representatives, including our own Associated Student President, **Ixchel Valencia**, took a trip to the Nation’s Capital to advocate for Community Colleges. Click [this YouTube video](#) to learn more about the trip.

San Diego Mesa College was selected as part of the 2024 Agricultural Export Market Challenge by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service in cooperation with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Dr. Waverly Ray, Geography Professor is mentoring the following Mesa students for the 2024 Spring semester with this immersive learning experience:

- Carson Brumfield, Chemistry major
- Aidan Middleton, Business major
- Jenny Tong, Economics/Business Administration major
- Victoria Velasquez, Business Administration major

During the five-week Challenge, teams of students from 19 different Minority Serving Institutions will develop and present a market entry strategy for a fictitious American company seeking sales opportunities for a U.S. food or agricultural product in an overseas market. The team that completes and wins the Challenge receives an opportunity to meet with USDA leaders in Washington, D.C. More information about the challenge is available at <https://fas.usda.gov/market-challenge>.

**USDA** Foreign Agricultural Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**HACU**  
HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

**Join the Agricultural Export Market Challenge**

The USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), in partnership with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is pleased to announce that the 2024/2025 FAS Agricultural Export Market Challenge applications will open September 29.

We are looking for administrators/faculty from minority-serving institutions to serve as team mentors/instructors for the Challenge.

**Why participate in the Challenge:**

- All Fall Teams participate in an immersive learning experience to gain knowledge in policy, economics, geography, and more.
- We provide all the materials. Administrators/faculty are needed to form teams, apply for the Challenge, and guide students through the process.
- Students and administrators/faculty receive access to and connect with USDA experts and mentors.
- Teams compete against other teams nationwide by showcasing their abilities to solve real-world trade problems.
- The winning team of the Challenge receives an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with USDA FAS Leadership.

Use the QR code to fill out the Interest Form to receive more information.

**Virtual Info Sessions**

**Friday, September 29**  
3 pm - 5:30 pm ET

**Wednesday, October 11**  
3 pm - 5:30 pm ET

**Thursday, November 9**  
3 pm - 5:30 pm ET

Visit us online or email us to learn more:

[www.fas.usda.gov/market-challenge](https://www.fas.usda.gov/market-challenge) | [exportmarketchallenge@usda.gov](mailto:exportmarketchallenge@usda.gov)

**Good luck to the Mesa team in competing in the 2024 Agricultural Export Market Challenge!**

**Fall 2024 Promise applications are now open.** The Priority deadline is April 5, 2024 and the application deadline is August 5, 2024. Applications are available at [www.sdccd.edu/promise](http://www.sdccd.edu/promise).

The first of District Promise Info Nights occurred on February 13, 2024. All events are scheduled 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on March 5, April 16, May 14 and June 25 via Zoom. Register here: [RSVP for District Promise Info Nights](#).

**RSVP Now! JUMPSTART YOUR SUCCESS AT SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**  
Visit the webpage to RSVP & get details  
[www.sdmesa.edu/jumpstart](http://www.sdmesa.edu/jumpstart)

[mesaoutreach@sdccd.edu](mailto:mesaoutreach@sdccd.edu)  
SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Learn about the San Diego Promise Program offering free tuition.  
[www.sdmesa.edu/promise](http://www.sdmesa.edu/promise)

We are thrilled to present **Jumpstart Your Success on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** This is a time that we invite prospective students to our campus and showcase what we have to offer and how great we do it! The program will include student support services, academics, department resources, clubs, and the lively community fees all create at Mesa. We encourage you to host a table for your department or service area so that you can provide information, share a demonstration, make connections with prospective students, and showcase what your department offers. Follow this link to the online registration form, which is due by Friday, March 1, 2024. For more info on JumpStart visit [www.sdmesa.edu/jumpstart](http://www.sdmesa.edu/jumpstart).

**Financial Literacy Workshop focused on Understanding Taxes:** The FAST Scholars and NextUp team will be hosting Cal Coast on Thursday, March 7 from 12:00-1:00 pm to lead a workshop on taxes at the FAST Center, K-101. Food will be provided to all attendees.

**Mesa Peer Navigator applications** are now open! Encourage students to join a great team of leaders to mentor new Mesa College Olympians! Deadline to apply is February 27, 2024. Apply at <https://www.sdmesa.edu/pn-app>.

Jillian Ventrone, Veterans Counselor, and Adrian Tanjuaquio, Veterans Student Services Technician, represented Mesa Veterans and attended **Dinner and a Class**, sponsored by Liberty Housing. The program provides educational funding opportunities for military families. They provided information on military benefits and services. Information can be accessed [through this link](#).

**SDSU Guardian Scholars for a Day:** The NextUp & FAST Scholars Team will be attending Guardian Scholars for a Day at San Diego State University (SDSU) with students on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided to students from Mesa College to SDSU and from SDSU to Mesa College.

**Scholarship applications are still available!** Please encourage your students to apply to the Mesa College Foundation Scholarships by going to [sdmesa.academicworks.com](http://sdmesa.academicworks.com). Our [Scholarships webpage](#) has all the information you might need!

**The final deadline to apply is Tonight, February 15th, at 11:59pm!**

**How does it feel to get awarded a scholarship?**

**Apply to find out!**

[sdmesa.edu/scholarships](http://sdmesa.edu/scholarships)

Over 250 Scholarships | Awards from \$250-\$5000 | FREE to apply

Open to all admitted Mesa College students | All GPA's encouraged to apply

**Applications open Dec. 7, 2023. Deadline to apply is Feb. 15, 2024.**  
For more information or additional questions, please contact [mesascholarship@sdccd.edu](mailto:mesascholarship@sdccd.edu)

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*



# MS Teams Phone



The new Teams phone system is in the midst of being installed throughout campus! Currently the Learning Resource Center and Exercise Science buildings have been upgraded. Please be on the lookout for more information on our new Teams phone system, and if you'd like to get ahead, scan the QR below for more training information.

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## OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

We are thrilled to announce that a familiar team member is embarking on a new journey with us as a Research and Planning Analyst – Adriana Caetano Fournier. Adriana, a proud Mesa alumna and former Mesa tutor, graduated with a master's degree in Computer Science from CSUSM, ranking in the top 15% of her class.

Adriana brings a wealth of strong technical experience, having taught computer science at MiraCosta College and conducted market analysis for the Asset Management Team at Clearway Energy, a Green Tech company. We are especially proud of her previous role as a Research Assistant in IE as she mastered the intricacies of enrollment management and has been leading the alignment effort with the district's dashboard. Outside of work, Adriana is a wife and a mom of two and two stepchildren. In her spare time, Adriana loves going to Yoga, enjoys baking, and in the winter, you might find her on the mountain snowboarding.



In her new role, Adriana will primarily be supporting HSI and AANAPISI initiatives.

Fun fact, in her previous life, Adriana was an architect, and she has seamlessly brought her creativity, design expertise, problem-solving skills, technological proficiency, teamwork, project management, and attention to detail into her research role. I am confident that she will continue to achieve great things with us.

Let us extend a warm welcome and congrats to Adriana with open arms to her new role.

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*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](#)

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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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[Mesa College](#) | [Student Support Services](#)

