

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: February 15, 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

President Hands will co-present on "Strategies for Scaling Dual Enrollment" at the Linked Learning Alliance Conference here in San Diego this week.

Mesa College sponsored and participated in the Village Demands *Black Resistance in Higher Education 2023* Black History Month Event last week.

Proud Alumni Moment: Mesa College Alumni, Stephen Adegoke, was selected by the San Francisco 49ers as their new Safeties Coach.

Office of Instruction Updates

We are pleased to announce that Cassandra Storey has accepted the role of Acting Dean of Health Sciences and Public Service for Mesa College. She will join us on February 27. Please join us in welcoming Cassandra.

Four students from Mesa's Pathway to Law School Program attended the statewide California Law Pathways Summit at USC Gould School of Law last week.

Last Friday, The DEBER Program at Mesa celebrated their first in-person orientation at the AVANZA Center. Vice President O'Connor, Counseling Department Chair Cynthia Rico, and DEBER Co-Director at SDSU and Associate Professor of Dual Language & English Learner Education, Saúl I Maldonado, attended the orientation as special guests, and shared inspirational messages with the DEBER Scholars.

MOST Assess cohort registration updates:

- MOST Assess Registration is up to 21 participants
- We are currently waiting on Dean approval for these participants; once approved, they will be enrolled into the Canvas shell
- The course begins on February 20 and goes through March 17

The Health and Wellness Clinic received a great review last week that we would like to share: *“It was a privilege to work with these young professionals. Courteous, kind, thoughtful, and patient. They had great supervision, and it did not feel like a cookie cutter session. I noticed that they had trained to work with brain-injured patients. I benefited tremendously and hope to attend another clinic soon.”*

To view images of the “Africa In Context” Reception last week, please click [here](#).

Administrative Services Updates

The Mesa2030 Facilities Planning Taskforce held their first meeting of the semester last week. Vice Chancellor Peterson was in attendance and shared the District’s timeline of bond planning and assured the taskforce that they will have input on the project list and priorities. In the coming weeks, the taskforce will review the projects listed in Mesa2030, and incorporate any new ideas that were captured through the breakout session and activity boards from Convocation. The taskforce also began the creation of a prioritization rubric that will assess projects based on factors such as the student experience, environmental sustainability, and fiscal impact. The taskforce’s next meeting will be March 8. Please feel free to reach out with any questions to the co-chairs Lorenze Legaspi and Blythe Barton.

Student Services Updates

Over \$180,000 in Mesa Foundation Scholarships are available for Mesa students now. Students with all majors, GPAs, and unit counts are encouraged to apply. The deadline to apply is February 16 at 11:59pm. Students can apply [here](#).

Jordan Nash started in his new position with General Counseling last week as an Adjunct Counselor to help support efforts with the Umoja-Mesa Academy program.

Student Health Services is offering free physicals for enrolled students. Open appointments are still available for today as well as next Wednesday. Students can call (619) 388-2774 or stop by I-400 room 209 to book their appointment.

Associated Student Leadership positions are now available. Please encourage students to make an impact on our campus by serving in a leadership position. For more information, please visit the [Associated Students](#) page. Applications are due February 17 at 11:59pm.

To view images of the Umoja x Black Leadership Fellows (BLF) “Welcome Black Sip ‘N’ Dip” event last week, please click [here](#).

Campus Events

The Mesa College Music Department is welcoming back the campus community to their weekly free recital hours, held each Wednesday starting at 3:00pm in C-119. To view upcoming events, click the link [here](#).

There will be a screening of the film “Till” today in G-102 from 12:45pm - 2:45pm.

The “Love Your Heart” free blood pressure screening event, a collaboration between Student Health Services, The Stand, The Allied Health Medical Assistant Program, and the County of San Diego, will be taking place next to the Farmer’s Market on Thursday, February 16, from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Club Rush is happening next week on the Mesa Quad from Tuesday, February 21, to Thursday, February 23, between the hours of 11:00am and 2:00pm. Participating students will be eligible to receive \$100 through their student portal by visiting booths at Club Rush and completing a few simple steps.

Join us at Mesa’s Pride Center Grand Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, February 22, in room D-102. The Grand Opening Ceremony starts at 11:00am. The Open House hours are from 10:00am to 2:00pm. For more information, contact Lucio Lira at LLira@sdccd.edu, or visit the Mesa Pride Center website [here](#). Everyone is welcome!

The second STEM Lecture Series Event of the semester will take place on Thursday, February 23, in G-101 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. The topic will be “The Last of Us? A Look at the Mycobiome in Human Health and Disease”.

An Honors Q&A Mixer will be held in K-108 on Friday, February 24 at 11:00am, to answer questions relating to flex credit, compensation for Honors Faculty, and collaborating with students. Honors students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

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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