



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*



Our **Mesa College FamilyU Cohort** attended **Generation Hope's inaugural Hope Conference in New Orleans, LA!** This conference brought together student parents, direct service providers, higher education professionals, resource connectors, systems change experts, and policymakers from across the country to address structural barriers to student parents' economic mobility and focus on opportunities to accelerate their success.

Conference attendees also got to hear from President Hands, Johanna Aleman, and Jacqueline Collins about some of the work being done for our student parents and the challenges that lie ahead.

We thank Generation Hope for their confidence and support for the last two years as we participated in the FamilyU program!



Save the Date for our Mesa College Past Presidents Panel on Wednesday, April 17, at 11:00 a.m. in MC-211! We are bringing together Dr. Constance Carroll (1993-2004), Dr. Rita Cepeda (2005-2010), Ms. Elizabeth Armstrong (2010-2011), and Dr. Pamela Luster (2011-2022) to talk about their experiences, insights, and stories from their time leading San Diego Mesa College. You don't want to miss it!

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

On Wednesday, March 13, Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Program partnered with the Mesa College Humanities Institute, AANAPISI Grant Team and Kapwa Learning Community to organize an event entitled "**Nothing Follows - A Poetry Reading and Conversation with Lan Duong.**" The guest speaker, Dr. Lan Duong, an associate professor in Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Southern California and a founding member of the Critical Refugee Studies Collective read her debut collection of poetry, discussed her refugee girlhood experience and shared with the audience about the coordinates of memory and history that form the axes of her writing. About 40 people attended the events including students from Kapwa Learning Community, Mesa College faculty, and staff



On March 13, the Mesa Counselor Institute Team attended a Behind the Scenes Tour with Allied Health. Participants were able to see what a typical day in the life of a student pursuing a career in Allied Health might entail. From observing laboratory demonstrations to engaging with faculty, the tour provided an overview of the rigorous training and practical skills development integral to these programs. The Counseling Institute, a regional Strong Workforce project, is a unique professional development opportunity for Mesa College Counselors. The goals of the counseling institute are to:

1. Foster understanding and awareness of Career Technical Education/Career Education (CTE/CE)
2. Learn how to use labor market information (LMI) and career exploration in advising students.
3. Use inquiry, evidence-based decision-making, and continuous improvement to examine services provided to students.
4. Support counseling faculty in building relationships and collaborating with CTE/CE instructional faculty and institutional researchers and 5) Inspire counseling from a culturally inclusive perspective.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

On Saturday, March 9, Mesa College hosted over 300 prospective students and family members providing the inside scoop of everything Mesa College has to offer. Thank you to each of the workshop presenters, departments that hosted a resource table during the fair, all the faculty, classified professionals, administrators

On Friday, March 15th, we will be hosting **Madison at Mesa Day.** About 100 students from Madison High School will be coming to Mesa campus to learn about the campus, academic programs, and student support.

and student leaders that welcomed the prospective students with such kindness and enthusiasm. Great job Mesa College!

Mesa College in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District Indian Education Program is thrilled to invite you to an **upcoming Powwow** on **Saturday, March 16th from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Mesa College Upper Athletics Field**. This celebration of unity will consist of traditional Native American dance performances, food, drum circles, vendors, and arts & crafts! This is a **FREE** event and everyone is welcome!



OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*



We are so thrilled to welcome **Nancy Cortes** back to our Institutional Effectiveness team. Nancy previously served as the Acting Associate Dean of Research and Innovation in 2023 before taking a leave of absence for personal reasons. With her return, we are excited to have her resume her pivotal role where she will provide leadership in a wide range of research activities to support evidence-based decision-making and improvement across the college.

Nancy Cortes' passion for social justice led her to join SDCCD in 2016. In 2018, she joined our Mesa family in the role of Research & Planning Analyst. Nancy supported three HSI grants at Mesa, developing innovative ways to collect, analyze, and disseminate data with the goal of improving outcomes for our Latinx Students. Over the years, she has taken on a variety of projects, including the creation of numerous data dashboards, conducting Mesa's first Environmental Sustainability Survey, and co-leading the environmental scan for Mesa's Enrollment Management Strategic Plan. She holds a Masters of Arts in International Relations from the University of San Diego and a Bachelor of Arts in Business-International Political Economy and Spanish from The College of Idaho. She lives in University Heights with her husband and six-month-old daughter. Her favorite pastimes include salsa-dancing, traveling, sunset watching, and long walks at the beach.

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!

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