

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: March 22, 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

Please see the story about our amazing student Wesley Renda, who invented a new cup: <https://bit.ly/CBS8ZevelyZoneWescup>. He studied both Communications and Business while at Mesa, and also utilized DSPS, which he states really helped him succeed. Wes is graduating this Spring.

### Office of Instruction Updates

Mesa faculty members, Dr. Veronica Gerace, Dr. Janue Johnson, Dr. Edeama Jonah, and Dr. Manuel Velaz presented at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Statewide Symposium on Equal Employment Opportunities in Anaheim, California on Friday, March 17th. Their presentations on ideas for hiring and retraining diverse faculty were shared with state senators to highlight funding imperatives.



Professor Kelly Spoon was invited as one of the keynote presenters for the U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS). USCOTS is a bi-annual conference held in odd-numbered years focused on enabling teachers of statistics to exchange ideas and improve their teaching. The theme for USCOTS 2023 is Communicating with/about Data and [Kelly's keynote presentation](#) will focus on course design choices to ensure students are ready to communicate

about data. Additionally, Kelly was selected as a member of the Desmos Classroom Fellowship program for 2023. Desmos Classroom is an interactive online tool that Professors Kelly Spoon and Rachel Russell (GIS) presented about at Catalyst 2021 in a workshop called [Doing the Desmos\(t\)](#). Of over 270 applicants, 25 were selected to be a part of the 2023 fellowship cohort where they will explore big ideas around learning, math, and technology.

At the recent joint conference for the Journalism Association of Community Colleges and Associated Collegiate Press in San Francisco, *The Mesa Press* earned the following honors:

- o Journalism Association of Community Colleges: Online General Excellence (state contest, best website)
- o Journalism Association of Community Colleges: Andrés Armenta, Honorable Mention, on-the-spot sports writing contest
- o Associated Collegiate Press: 9th place, Best Website, 2-year school (national contest)



### Student Services Updates

The tragic and often violent treatment of Persian women in the Middle East has caused trauma and worry for our valued students. Persian students are invited to join a Listening Circle tomorrow, from 3pm to 4pm in room I400 - 409. A Persian licensed therapist will moderate this group. This event is funded through the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Mental Health Grant. Free Persian lunch will be served.

Student Health Services is hosting an in-depth educational training on the use of Narcan. This can save a life from a fentanyl overdose. All are encouraged to attend tomorrow from 11:15am-12:00pm in room I4-207 or via zoom. Please RSVP [here](#).

The Student Veteran Organization (SVOO) will be hosting a Karaoke Night tomorrow from 5:00-7:00pm in K-104.

Counseling is excited to share [the video with Fabiola Beas, Mesa College Counselor promoting counseling services](#). (CCE Mesa Pathways)

Our last *Apply for Graduation Workshop* for the semester is being held on April 11, in room I4-202 (Mesa College Testing and Assessment Office) from 2:30pm-3:30pm. Please encourage your students to attend

and learn more about the process of earning their degree or certificate, as well as information regarding the commencement ceremony.

Students who applied for Fall 2023 Transfer Admissions can complete the [Transfer Acceptance form here](#). Students who complete this information 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 later in spring.

The Dreamer Resource Center recently launched its *UndocuDiaries* to provide a platform for undocumented students to share their stories. Please encourage your undocumented students to share their knowledge and wisdom to other undocumented students. The stories of our undocumented students matter, and we want to hear them. The *UndocuDiaries* are completely anonymous. We are accepting submissions here: <https://bit.ly/UndocuDiaries>

### Campus Events

In addition to celebrating Women's History Month, we are also celebrating Trans Week of Visibility. Please view the week of events here:

**Pride Center**  
SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

**TRANS WEEK OF VISIBILITY**  
Spring 2023

**Mon. 20th**  
Join us to kick off our week of events accompanied by **TransFamily Support Services**, who will be providing different resources and a presentation on the importance of **Trans Day of Visibility** and why trans voices matter. Following up that same day we are hosting our first-ever **MeeTea**: an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff at Mesa to network and continue building community among LGBTQI+ folk and allies.  
Time: 12:00pm

**Tue. 21st**  
**Exposition of Trans history throughout time and cultures event.** Join us for an **all-day** exposition inside the **Pride Center** that centers around some notable trans icons that have shaped history and the roots of trans identity across cultures.  
Time: 10:00am

**Wed. 22nd**  
**TranStories - Film, Boys Don't Cry**  
Join us with our friends of the GSA club here at San Diego Mesa College for a screening of the film **Boys Don't Cry** to continue highlighting trans stories with the intention of creating a broader consciousness of the struggles and realities trans folk face.  
Time: 2:00pm

**Thurs. 23rd**  
**Full Circle Art Moment Time**  
Stop by on our last day of events and join us while we make bracelets and continue the conversations that started throughout the week.  
Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm

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

