



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*

KUP Unity Village Turns One Year Old!



Last Friday, we celebrated one year since our grand opening of the KUP Unity Village, and it has been a fantastic year! The space has had its doors open by **5,811 students (duplicated count)** as of yesterday. The Village has hosted over 60 events to include study jams, workshops, peer mentoring sessions and Puente, UMOJA, APD club meetings.

All of you have been instrumental to the success of this space, more importantly to how this space has impacted students' campus engagement, persistence, retention and **sense of belonging**. **Sense of belonging**--is the number one response that students have shared of what this Village has meant to them.

Over the summer months, the learning community team will do an evaluation and review of our "glows and grows." Come August we are excited to open the school year with new murals in the center, and we hope to count on your continued support. *Literally it took a Village!*



Measure HH Update

The latest Measure HH update highlights the growing focus on *Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E)*—the elements that make new and renovated spaces fully functional and ready for use. The district is taking a more intentional, early-planning approach to ensure classrooms and facilities are equipped with integrated technology, accessible design, and flexible furnishings. Alongside this, logistics planning will support smooth transitions during construction, ensuring campus operations remain uninterrupted while projects move forward

Click [here](#) to read more.

Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities

Please remember that our district has an official immigration policy, [AP 3415](#). This policy directs all inquiries regarding immigration enforcement to the District Chancellor and District General Counsel. If you receive a confirmed report of immigration enforcement on campus, please contact:

- SDCCD Chancellor's Office (Greg Smith): 619-388-6957 | chancellor@sdccd.edu
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | lkostic@sdccd.edu

You are not expected to engage with immigration enforcement or place yourself or others at risk. If approached by immigration officials, you may respond: "I am not authorized to speak with you, answer your questions, or provide access to any people or facilities per SDCCD policy. Only the District Chancellor and General Counsel have authority to assist you." To stay informed and prepared:

- Update your emergency contact information in the [MySDCCD portal](#)
- Download the [SDCCDsafe App](#)
- Refer to the [District's Immigration Resources page](#)
- Continue to read campus emails and official updates

San Diego Mesa College has a clear, coordinated Immigration Enforcement Response Plan centered on our Emergency Management Response Team, led by the President and including College Communications, Vice Presidents, Facilities and Operations, OEHS, and the Campus Community Emergency Response Team, in coordination with SDCCD Police. Recognizing that every incident is unique, this structure ensures we are prepared to act quickly and compassionately with clear communication, coordinated safety measures, and robust support for students and employees should an incident occur.



We're proud to share that INTE110 student April Pascasio received an Honorable Mention in the 2026 Koroseal Textile Competition for her class assignment turned wall covering design. Competing alongside professional designers and firms, April's recognition highlights the creativity and talent of our Mesa students. Congratulations to April on this outstanding achievement!

[Click here to read about the Koroseal Textile Competition 2026](#)



We're excited to share that four Mesa IIDA students were selected to compete in the annual student charrette at LPA Design Studios, collaborating with peers from across Southern California in a fast-paced, four-hour design challenge. We're especially proud of Elisa Constant, whose team earned 2nd place and a \$4,000 award. The team will be recognized at the 2026 Calibre Design Gala in Los Angeles—congratulations on this impressive achievement!

[Click here for photos from the event](#)



We're thrilled to share that Mesa's MIDC students earned "Best Student Ensemble" at the annual IIDA San Diego Fashion Show after months of designing and fabricating their custom piece inspired by *24K Magic* by Bruno Mars. Competing against top regional design schools and sharing the runway with leading professional firms, our students stood out for their creativity and craftsmanship. Congratulations to the team on this outstanding achievement!

[Click here for photos from the Fashion Show](#)



Recap | Inaugural PATH Student Art Symposium - April 23 (Thursday) | Mesa College

The SDCCD PATH Program launched its first PATH Student Art Symposium. Student participants (including AANAPISI PATH Interns - Angel Sotelo, Jaelyn Sassady, and Luis "Ruben" Jacabo) across all campuses got to showcase their art while sharing their next steps. Congratulations to all PATH Interns! We wish you the best on your next endeavors.

ENROLLMENT
update

Since last week's report, there have been no major changes to headcount or FTES for Spring 2026. The headcount is 21,200 and our FTES is 5,975. Summer 2026 priority registration has begun, and we already have 1,292 individual students enrolled in a summer course. The final

headcount for Summer 2025 was 7,665 and we are planning on an increase in both headcount and FTES for Summer 2026. Fall 2026 priority registration begins May 4!



Golf Tournament Basket Donations from Departments

The Athletics Department is seeking donations for the first Annual Olympian Open Golf Fundraiser. If you have any gift cards, season tickets, sports memorabilia, or other desirable donations, please drop them off with Ryan Shumaker in the Athletics Department (ES Building, 2nd Floor).

Thank you for supporting your Mesa College student-athletes.



Save the Date!

Golden Scissors Fashion Show Friday, May 22 at 5:00 PM on campus

Tickets are **on sale now** with early bird pricing:

<https://sdmesafashion.ludus.com/>

Golden Scissors is our signature annual runway show and student showcase, featuring original student designer collections, a full-scale production, and an incredible collaboration across our Fashion, Culinary, Hospitality, and Music programs. It is always a highlight of the year and a truly special event for our campus community.

We would love to see you there and truly appreciate your support of our students!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
ALMA
Alliance for Latine Mesa Achievement

As the Leading College of Equity and Excellence, Mesa College is proud to be designated a Hispanic Serving Institution. We embrace the cultures, life experiences, and diverse perspectives that our Latine community brings to the institution. We are intentional and unapologetic in the development of programs and practices that strive to meet the various needs of our Latine students and employees. As an HSI, Mesa College is committed to equity and excellence for Latine students in access, success, degree attainment, transfer, career education, and overall experience.

MEETING DAYS, TIME, & LOCATION:

Second Thursday of Every Month
2nd and 4th Thursdays at 8:30am-9:30am

Zoom
<https://sdccd-edu.zoom.us/j/86914261390>

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In celebration of Asian American Pacific Island Heritage Month, the following events will take place the first week of May

THE ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY-AANHPI Display in LRC Foyer

- Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 11:00 to 12:30 p.m. Remembering The Nakba: 1948 -Present Screening and Panel ; BT 101
- Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. LUNAR: The Jewish-Asian Film Project Screening; G101
- Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. AAPI Men of Color Meeting Resume Writing Workshop; KUP Village I4-201A
- Thursday, May 7, 2026, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Asian Pacific Diversity Cultural Night; Mesa College Quad

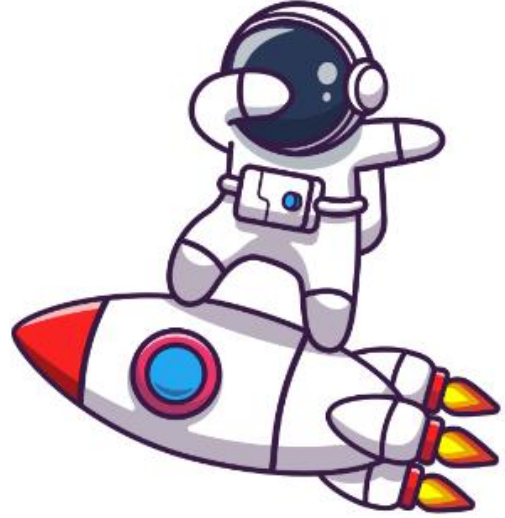
OFFICE OF *Student Services*



Finding Belonging Beyond Campus

Students from CARE & CalWORKs, the Dreamer’s Resource Center, Pride Center, NextUp & FAST, and Rising Scholars visited the University of San Diego campus on April 17, 2026, and felt a sense of possibility unfold, reminding them that they belong in academic spaces that nurture their growth, honor their journeys, and reflect the futures they are working toward.

New Issue Alert



[Click here for the latest Mesa Journeys Newsletter!](#)

The Mesa Journeys newsletter gives a more in-depth look at all the great things that are happening on our campus. We encourage all faculty and staff to pass this along to our students, and also to sign up to receive these newsletters straight to their inboxes! Click below to sign up and for more information about Mesa Journeys: <https://linktr.ee/mesajourneys>

Click on the flyer to enlarge

The grid contains the following flyers:

- San Diego Mesa College DSPS:** Graduation Celebration, May 5, 1:30-3:00 PM.
- San Diego Mesa College:** Lavender Celebration for Honoring Mesa Students, May 19, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM.
- San Diego Community College District:** Black Professionals Day, May 8, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- San Diego Community College District:** Remembering The Nakba: 1948-Present, May 5, 11:00AM-12:30 PM.
- San Diego Mesa College:** Fall Priority Registration & Special EOPS Programs, May 4, 9 AM - 12 PM.
- San Diego Community College District:** Military-Connected Priority Registration Workshop, One Stop Registration Board.
- San Diego Community College District:** Monarch Celebration, Thursday, May 7, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.
- San Diego Community College District:** Rite of Passage, Monday, May 11, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.
- San Diego Community College District:** Transfer Recognition Luncheon, May 14th, 11 AM - 1 PM.
- San Diego Community College District:** Interested in attending college? / Interesado en asistir a la universidad?, May 13 and 14, 3:00pm - 3:30pm.
- San Diego Community College District:** DSPS Priority Registration, Monday, May 4, 2026, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM.
- San Diego Mesa College:** Asian & Jewish The Asian-American Jewish Experience, May 6th, 2:00 - 3:30 PM.

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

WELCOME NICK UNDERWOOD

Acting Director of College Facilities and Operations



I am excited to share that Nick Underwood will be serving as the Acting Director of College Facilities and Operations.

Nick brings a strong background in facilities management, construction coordination, and leadership. In his current role as District Facilities Supervisor for Buildings and Grounds, he has overseen maintenance and operations across multiple campuses, leading skilled trades teams, managing projects, and ensuring work is completed safely, efficiently, and in compliance with all applicable regulations. His experience managing budgets, coordinating with contractors, and supporting complex operational needs positions him well for this role.

Throughout his career, Nick has demonstrated a commitment to maintaining safe, functional, and high-quality environments that support students, faculty, and classified professionals. He is also known for his collaborative approach and ability to work effectively across departments and with external partners.

Please join me in welcoming Nick to this role!

SAFETY TRAINING WEEK

A Safer Campus Starts with You

Join us for a single session or the full series—morning and afternoon options available

MAY 12 **FIRE SAFETY TRAINING**
 9:30-11:30am
 2:30-4:30pm






MAY 13 **FIRST AID TRAINING**
 9:30-11:30am
 2:30-4:30pm



MAY 14 **BREATHLESS CPR AND AED**
 9:30-11:30am
 2:30-4:30pm




A Safer Campus Starts with You!

We are pleased to announce Safety Training Week, a series of hands-on workshops designed to equip our campus community with essential emergency skills. Join us for a single session or the full series; morning and afternoon options are available to fit your schedule.

Fire Safety: Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Education, and Fire Prevention

May 11th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

First Aid: Basic Aid Techniques, Bleeding Control, and Evacuation Chair


May 12th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

Breathless CPR and AED Demonstrations and Trainings

May 13th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

[Safety Training Week Sign Ups – Fill out form](#)

First come first serve, 25 participants per session.



FIRE SAFETY TIP

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE · ADMIN SERVICES

WEEKLY SAFETY TIP

KNOW YOUR NEAREST FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Take a moment this week to locate the nearest fire extinguisher in your work area. Remember the **P.A.S.S.** technique – **P**ull the pin, **A**im at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the handle, and **S**weep side to side. In an emergency, alert others and call 911 before attempting to fight a fire.

3
SECONDS

is how fast fire can double
Act fast – know your exit
before you need the

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM



This form can be used for parking permit requests that are **NOT** related to an event and do not require additional resources or a space/room (i.e. community clinic, meetings in dept. conference rooms, guest speakers during a class, etc.)

- Must be entered two weeks in advance
- Requests require manager approval, similar to Event Requests
- Can be used for single or group permits

Parking related to events will need to be entered as part of an Event Request.

NEW!

WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS

Reminder regarding parking permits for events, guest speakers, and meetings.

Event Parking:

All parking for events should be included as part of your Event Request in the [Events & Reservation Portal](#). Please keep in mind that all event requests must be submitted at least three weeks before the date of your event (longer for large events). More information can be found in the [Event & Reservation Portal FAQs](#).

Non-Event Individual/Group Permits:

Requests for non-event parking can be submitted via the [Non Event Parking Permit Request Form](#) now available on our [webpage](#), within the [Events & Reservations Portal](#). These would include requests that are not part of an “event,” such as guest speakers, departmental meeting attendees, etc. that do not require any other support.

Notice: Effective Monday, April 6, the Business Services Office will close at 12:00 PM daily for walk-up service to accommodate year-end processing. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this busy time.

[Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#) | [Consolidated Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#)

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

New Resource: Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office has published a new [Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary](#) on our website to support a shared understanding of the terminology used across Mesa College. Whether you're reviewing reports, navigating dashboards, or interpreting campus communications, this resource is designed to clarify common data definitions and acronyms in one central place. You can find it on the [IE website](#) under the **Data Dictionary & Acronym Glossary** section. We invite you to explore it and reach out to the IE Office with suggestions for new additions, updates, or corrections as we continue to build and refine this tool together. For feedback, please contact **Adriana Caetano** at acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu.

IE Office Hours – A Dedicated Time to Think Through Your Data Together

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office is launching weekly Office Hours to serve as a partner for your data questions and ideas. Whether you're exploring data for program review or accreditation, thinking through how to use our dashboards, or simply trying to make sense of what the data is telling you, we welcome the opportunity to work alongside you. During the Spring semester, **from January 20 (Flex Week) through June 1**, we will pilot these new office hours. Join us **Tuesdays from 12:30–1:30 p.m.** in the IE Office (A-109). We have a conference room for collaborative conversations—and yes, there's coffee too! We look forward to being your data thought partner.



FOUNDATION CORNER

A space to learn about our latest efforts to connect partners who share our passion for education with opportunities to give. See how fundraising can help you, our students, and Mesa's mission.

[Learn More](#)

**BREAKING BARRIERS.
EMPOWERING MINDS.
TRANSFORMING FUTURES.**



Want to learn more about grant seeking?

View the flex workshop hosted by Dr. Michael Lettieri, who is leading grant writing efforts, and Krista Stellmacher, CFRE and Director in service to the Office of Resource Development and Foundation.

[View Recording](#)



Join us for the San Diego Mesa College Olympian Open on **July 24, 2026**, at 12 p.m. as we tee off to support our incredible student athletes. This signature golf fundraiser brings together community leaders, alumni, and champions of education for a day of fun, connection, and purpose. Your participation, whether through sponsorships, donations, or in kind gifts, directly fuels athletic equipment and academic support that help our Olympians succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

[▶ Register and Donate](#)



Our **annual Mesa College Giving Day** will take place on the eve of our graduation commencement, Thursday, May 28th. This is a day where we join together to build community and support for Mesa and our students. With the help of Maria Teresa Rodriguez Rivera (Mesa Impactship Program Intern), Kiana Kikuchi, and Amanda Brown, we are elevating our efforts this year. Here's our timeline:

- April 20: Ambassador Toolkit Available
- May 4: #MesaGivingDay Kickoff
- May 28: #MesaGivingDay
- May 31: Deadline for #MesaGivingDay donations

We are seeking Ambassadors to help spread the word about #MesaGivingDay - anyone can support!

[▶ Join our Ambassador Interest List](#) for updates on how you can get involved

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!

7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721

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

