

Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: May 3, 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

The San Diego Mesa College family was blessed to send an amazing team of Mesa students who presented at the 2023 APAHE National Conference last week. Prof. Leland Simpliciano, AANAPISI Program Activities Manager and Grant Director, reported that it was a wonderful experience. The student team presented on Kapwa and API. *A few images from the conference that capture the student attendees' experiences can be seen on the right.*

We are so pleased to host the *Shining Light on Your Impact* event tomorrow from 11:00am to 12:00pm in K-105/K-106. This special event honors President Emerita Pamela T. Luster, and celebrates the generosity of our Basic Needs and Resiliency Fund donors.

This week, Mesa will celebrate several of our culminating ceremonies. Our RAZA Grad Celebration was held on Friday, the Veterans Recognition Ceremony took place last night, the AAPI Recognition Ceremony Banquet will be held this evening, the CalWORKs End of the Year Ceremony will be held tomorrow



Oakland Morning

Breakfast & Storytime at Cafe Gabriela

Black Panther Mural & Museum

Urban Farming at Oakland Freedom Farm

Mesa Family after Student Presentation

Student Poster Presentation

afternoon, the EOPS Achievement Celebration takes place tomorrow night, and the PTA Program Completion Ceremony will be held tomorrow evening. President Hands will be attending and/or speaking at each event.

### **Office of Instruction Updates**

Please check out our newest MT2C video [here](#).

Please join us in congratulating Prof. Cruz, Prof. Rao, and Prof. Torres, all of whom recently completed Foothill's Humanizing Online STEM Academy!

The Pacific Coast Athletic Conference recently released the 2023 Women's Beach Volleyball All-Conference Team. Eight San Diego Mesa College Olympians were named on the roster.

- Sophia Jarosz, Sophomore
- Austia Mendiola, Sophomore
- Maddie Harris, Sophomore
- Victoria Goff, Freshman
- Isabelle Bakken, Sophomore
- Nicole Eden, Sophomore
- Maya Jessee, Sophomore
- Emily Eltrich, Freshman

Congratulations to the following student-athletes named on the 2023 PCAC All-Conference (Mesa Softball) team!

#### **FIRST TEAM**

Hannah Anderson (CF)  
Ambria Guye (3B/SS)

#### **SECOND TEAM**

Arianna Izaguirre (P)  
Carissa Topolinski (C)  
Carlotta Gonzalez (RF)  
Jolene Giles (1B)

#### **HONORABLE MENTION**

Kori Joniilonis (DP/OF/C)  
Halle Sweiss (LF)  
Valeria Castro (SS/3B)  
Arianna Salazar (2B)

### **Student Services Updates**

Volunteers are still needed to assist with the 2023 Commencement Ceremony! We have various responsibilities and shifts. Please register to volunteer. We will have five Opportunity Drawings for all volunteers and the prizes include a \$100 Gift card. To sign up to volunteer at Commencement, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ayana Woods at [awoods002@sdccd.edu](mailto:awoods002@sdccd.edu).

*Parent Cafes* will continue every Monday in May (5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22) from 10:00am to 11:00am in K-105. Attendees can stop by to meet other Mesa student-parents and Mesa employees, and learn about

services and programs available parent students. There will also be a *Student Parent Spring Brunch* held next Tuesday, May 9, from 11:00am – 2:00pm in MC-211 A/B. Attendees will learn about resources available for student parents at the brunch.

The *This is What Grief Feels Like* group therapy session is still taking place every Thursday afternoon, starting at 2:00pm in room I4-207. Students can share their feelings as we discuss what grief is, the stages of grief, and the common symptoms of grief. Attendees will also learn coping skills and self-care tips. All are welcome to join.

### **Campus Events**

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, a time to acknowledge individuals who experienced or currently experiencing foster care. Please click [here](#) to view the flyer of events.

May is also Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. One of the events happening this month is taking place tomorrow, in room G-101 from 11:15am – 12:35pm. Ethnomusicologist Dr. Zoe Sherinian will speak and present on “Sustaining Indian Folk Music: Women and Outcastes Drum for their Liberation”.

Additionally, May is Jewish American Heritage Month. Mesa celebrates and honors the significant contributions that Jewish Americans have made to our country's culture, history, and society.

The Mesa College Music Department will host another Recital Hour this afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:20pm in room C-119, featuring the San Diego Mesa College Jazz Ensemble.

Tomorrow, the Black Student Union will host an Open Mic Night, from 5:00pm – 7:00pm in room G-102. This event will be hosted by National Award Winning Spoken Word Artist Greg McKnight Jr., and is co-sponsored by the Black Studies Department.

Also happening tomorrow, is the Spring 2023 Student Art Exhibition Reception. The Reception and Art Sale will be held in FA-103 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. The student art exhibition will be available to view through May 18.

This weekend, the Mesa College Theatre Company presents “Dog sees God: Confessions of a teenage blockhead”. Performances start on Friday and run through Sunday, with tickets available on Eventbrite. Click [here](#) for more info.

### **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!  
7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721  
[Mesa College](#) | [Student Support Services](#)

