

Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 2:52 PM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of August 31, 2026



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*



Carrying Our HSI STEM and AANAPISI Work Forward

On September 30, 2026, our federal HSI STEM and AANAPISI grants will come to an end, marking the first time since 2014 that Mesa will begin an academic year without federal grant funding specifically supporting this work.

While I feel the weight of what we are losing, I am incredibly proud of what we have built and grateful to everyone who made this work possible. Mesa remains a Hispanic Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution—and our commitment to belonging, equity, and student success remains unwavering.

[Read my full message and reflections →](#)

*Thank you for
going above
& beyond.*



🔔 **New Professional Learning Opportunity: #RealCollege Curriculum Now at Mesa College! (FLEX#35460)**

Mesa College now offers the [#RealCollege Curriculum](#)—four asynchronous, on-demand courses from [Believe in Students](#) designed to help faculty and staff better support students facing basic needs insecurity.

What's Included:

- **Four-Course Series:** Basic Needs 101 plus specialized modules, including support for parenting students.
- **Flexible Learning:** Self-paced, practical, evidence-based tools you can use right away.
- **Campus Impact:** Help strengthen Mesa's basic needs support.

📌 **Access the courses** by creating an account and using campus code **Mesa2526**. *Please keep this code internal to Mesa.*

Please reach out to Janue Johnson, jjohnson001@sdccd.edu, if you have any questions. If you encounter technical issues please view this document for accessing the modules: [Guidance for RCC Partners 2026](#)

The Power in Your Position:
Showing Up with Purpose and Impact
with Dr. Pilar Nova Huffman

What changes when we stop seeing our positions as roles and start seeing them as spaces of influence, purpose, and possibility?

In this interactive session, Dr. Pilar Nova Huffman, a higher education leader and professional development strategist grounded in the belief that *what you nurture will rise*, draws on Maslow's principles of motivation and her own NURTURE Framework to explore how the environments we create shape how people grow and contribute. Through reflection, dialogue, and hands-on activities, participants will examine the link between their sense of purpose and their impact on institutional culture and student success, leaving with a powerful question to carry forward:

"What am I nurturing through the position I hold, and what could rise because of it?"

INSPIRE. INFLUENCE. Nurture. WHAT YOU NURTURE will rise.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
ZOOM: <https://sdccd-edu.zoom.us/j/82442746278>
Registration link!

YOUR POSITION. YOUR PURPOSE. Lasting Impact.

PURPOSE • PEOPLE • POSSIBILITIES • IMPACT

The Power in Your Position: Showing Up with Purpose and Impact

with Dr. Pilar Nova Huffman

What changes when we stop seeing our positions as roles and start seeing them as spaces of influence, purpose, and possibility? In this interactive session, Dr. Pilar Nova Huffman, a higher education leader and professional development strategist grounded in the belief that *what you nurture will rise*, draws on Maslow's principles of motivation and her own NURTURE Framework to explore how the environments we create shape how people grow and contribute. Through reflection, dialogue, and hands-on activities, participants will examine the link between their sense of purpose and their impact on institutional culture and student success, leaving with a powerful question to carry forward: *What am I nurturing through the position I hold, and what could rise because of it?*

📅 September 18, 2026 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
📍 ZOOM: <https://sdccd-edu.zoom.us/j/82442746278>
🔗 [Registration link!](#)



SAN DIEGO
Community College District
City College · Mesa College · Miramar College
College of Continuing Education

START@SDCCD

New CCCStart process
for an improved student
entry experience



Beginning **September 15, 2026**, CCCApply will transition to **CCCStart**, introducing a new Start@SDCCD process designed to provide students with an improved and more streamlined entry experience.

Learn more about the transition and why the change is being made by watching this brief video: [Why CCCStart?](#)



SAN DIEGO
Community College District
City College · Mesa College · Miramar College
College of Continuing Education

— Join me for the —

CHANCELLOR'S FALL FORUM

Charting the path together.



Thursday,
September 17, 2026



3:00–5:00 P.M.



Mesa College
Room MC 211A/B



College Flex
#35499



Join me for an open conversation about
the issues that matter to you and our District.

*Share your ideas, ask questions,
and help shape our future.*



SAN DIEGO
Community College District

NewsCenter



SAN DIEGO
Community College District

BOARD REPORT

Around the District: September NewsCenter

The latest SDCCD NewsCenter highlights the start of the fall semester, new affordable student family housing, Convocation 2026, and more from across the District. This edition also spotlights Mesa College's award-

The Board of Trustees of the San Diego Community College District met in person, with online participation available, on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

[Read or print](#) the full Board Report or share the Board Report on [social media](#).

winning Speech and Debate team, upcoming Gallery exhibit, and other opportunities and events happening throughout SDCCD.

[Read the full NewsCenter.](#)

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held in a hybrid format at 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2026. Meetings can be viewed on the [Board of Trustees YouTube Channel](#).

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

ENROLLMENT *update*

Fall 2026 FTES is 6,362 and our headcount is 22,318. For Fall 2026, we are 103.2% towards meeting our goals and anticipate being able to meet our targets even with changes in enrollment and fraudulent "bot" students being removed. As for Fall 2026, the numbers continue to increase, and we have 0.57% more students this week compared to last week. Please note that the data has not yet been calculated based on the new attendance accounting method.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

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



OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!

WELCOME TO THE **EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL**

Use this page to manage your event requests.

Create Event

Edit Event

Non Event Parking Permits

Click on the Non Event Parking Permits link to view the request and fill out the parking section.

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.

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.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

IE Office Hours

A DEDICATED TIME TO THINK
THROUGH YOUR DATA TOGETHER 🌟



QUESTIONS?

We're here to help.



DATA?

Let's explore it together.



IDEAS?

Let's work through them.

*We look forward to being
your data thought partner. ❤️*

Flex #34535

Every Tuesday
12:30–1:30 p.m.



1st & 3rd Tuesdays:

In person in the
IE Conference Room (A-109)



2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 872 4762 5082

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.



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.**



Spirit of Mesa

The Power of Us

SAVE THE DATE

Friday October 9, 2026, 4:30 pm
San Diego Mesa College Quad



Mark your calendar, the San Diego Mesa College Foundation's signature event, *Spirit of Mesa*, turns three this October, and we cannot wait to celebrate with you!

This year's theme, **The Power of Us**, is a celebration of the entire community that makes student success possible. This year's theme recognizes that our greatest impact happens when we come together, and we're putting that belief into action by shining a spotlight on the [Mesa Impactship Program \(MIP\)](#).

We're especially proud to spotlight the Mesa Impactship Program this year. MIP is Mesa's flagship initiative supporting our commitment to living-wage outcomes by connecting students with paid, hands-on internships that build professional experience, industry skills, confidence, and career networks. Together, we can turn opportunity into experience, experience into careers, and careers into a stronger San Diego.

Join us on the beautiful San Diego Mesa College campus for an evening of joy, gratitude, and community. Your presence will add to the joy of our event. Please save the date and join us!

Date/Time:

Friday, October 9, 2026

4:30 pm: Reception

5:30 pm: Seated Program and Dinner

Location:

San Diego Mesa College Quad

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](#)

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.

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](#)

