



Mesa Pathways Fellows

Spring 2021 Accomplishments

Overview: In a short time, the Fellows have established themselves as Pathways leaders who are knowledgeable, engaged, and trusted to help move projects forward. They are prepared and ready to contribute.

Professional Learning Highlights

The Fellows –

- Read *Won't Lose this Dream* and reflected on how this relates to their work at Mesa.
- Participated in two equity trainings with Dean Maxey, and some participated in an undocumented student ally training, and a SafeZone session.
- Participate in weekly activities that help them to think through and reflect on the work of Pathways and their contributions to it.
- Hosted the following at their weekly team meeting: the MP Leadership Team, workgroup leads, Katie Palacios (Canvas outreach), Charles Shimazaki (Mesa Journeys), Faby Beas (social media @ Mesa from a project assistant's perspective); the AS Green Group (moving projects from ideas to implementation; prioritizing funding); Karla Trutna (Outreach and CE). [Fellows Team Meeting Slides](#)
- Participate in weekly professional learning sessions led by members of the Research Office. The Fellows Research Team has a dedicated Survey Monkey account, received training on its use, and have independently created surveys for the Black Student Experience Study. Team members are part of the college's infrastructure for Pathways data coaching.

Campus, Regional, State Events

The Fellows –

- Participated in Mesa2030 activities, Return to Campus meetings, the Mesa College Community Forum, and President's Cabinet Retreat
- Presented at the Student Equity & Transformation meeting and at Veronica Gerace's Small Group Communications class which developed student Pathways projects.
- Hosted the RCC GP Ambassador team to talk Pathways - to share challenges and successes in working to bring the student voice into Pathways. [Slides](#) | [Jamboard](#)
- Participated in the CCCCO Foundation Office's Student Engagement Innovation Grant (SEIG) planning meetings.



Accomplishments (CONTINUED)

Workgroups

- **Guided Majors Mapping: The Fellows were instrumental in –**
 - forming a strong working relationship with GMM leadership.
 - developing a framework that largely appears in the ACPs we've adopted.
 - developing the [logic framework](#) for the website (flow chart/page logic).
- **Pathways Communications**
 - Most members of the Fellows' Social Media Interest Group serve on PC which, in part, has connected them to Communications Office expertise and support in establishing Pathways Fellows' Instagram and Facebook group/page in Mesanized ways. These are cross-promoted with Mesa's SM, and, in all, the Fellows' work is informed by student perspectives and Mesa practices and policies. In prep for the SM development and launches, the Fellows implemented a [SM Survey](#) that [161 students responded to](#).
- **OCE**
 - Fellows reps are distributed among subgroups and, in part, have established close ties to Charlie/Charles in their Mesa Journey's work. The Fellows are working with the MJ team to connect with students via the personalized MJ newsletter, and Charlie is enthusiastic about a role the Fellows can play in 21-22. The Fellows have also provided feedback about the student-facing initiatives and tools this group has developed.
- **PAIRS**
 - Fellows reps have been vocal participants in success team development conversations and their input helps steer discussion.
- **CE**
 - Members of the Fellows' outreach team have joined the CE workgroup and are working closely with Karla to develop ways to reach CE students and, through her expertise, Mesa students, too.

Interest Groups

- **Outreach:** The team has been proactively creating [connections](#) on campus with program and service leaders to assist with student outreach and has been instrumental in the distribution of surveys and information.
- **Research:** With the Research Office, the team has been leading efforts for the Black Student Experience study. They've developed and distributed surveys and participate in [ongoing training](#).
- **Social Media:** The SM team has led the effort to get Pathways and the Fellows active on SM.
 - Like the Fellows on [Facebook](#) | Join the Fellows [Facebook Group](#) | Follow the Fellows on [Instagram](#)



Accomplishments (CONTINUED)

Project Groups

Student Leadership Summit: Under Gaby and Alex's leadership, the Fellows held the first [Student Leadership Summit](#) on May 19 which included leaders from the AS, Peer Navigators, Peer Career Ambassadors, the AS Green Group, and Terra Mesa. Promise students also attended. The attendees were enthusiastic about holding monthly meetings in 21-22 to -

- Collaborate between leadership groups to empower student leaders.
- Work together more directly.
- Become a pipeline to MPC and other leadership and governance groups for information and input from student perspectives.

Some comments and insights from the first meeting (from [notes](#)):

- “! didn’t know this was a resource, and I think it’s really important to keep students connected to their schools like this.”
- “The platform is good to bring back feedback from different backgrounds to work together.”
- “It’s difficult learning things online. Good thing: a counselor checked in every month that helped [me] stay on track. Needs: Make events like these more accessible. Make counseling more accessible, as well, with a focus on planning for the future, not just the semester. Have more in-depth conversations and not just surface level.”
- “I’m a first year Promise student. I really appreciated having a Peer Navigator. She’s so helpful and having her there for me through navigating zooms and the new system was insanely important for my growth here.”
- “Peer Navigators are doing a pilot program next year for year 2nd/3rd-year Promise/Mesa students so they can get a peer navigator if wanted.”
- “ I think that would be super helpful for second- or third-year students! I had less help this year since I didn’t have a peer navigator and found that it was a much harder year.”

Planning for an ongoing Student Leadership Summit meetings in 21-22 continues.

Return to Campus: The Fellows have an interest and feel they have a role to play in supporting students as they return to campus. Lindy represents the team which wants to be sure that plans are informed by student input.

Video: Under Dani’s leadership, the Fellows have distributed a survey to students to learn more about what they’d like to know about different dimensions of Pathways. Their first introductory video is meant to respond to these interests. In addition, they are developing a plan to solicit student videos and feedback and to create “spotlight” videos.



Mesa Pathways Fellows' Spring 2021 Reflections

Stephen Alison: Working as a Mesa Pathways fellow has been one of the most productive student leadership roles that I have had in my four years at Mesa. Participating as the student voice in faculty and staff workgroups dedicated to improving equity outcomes has allowed me to share the voices of students that I formally mentored as a Peer Navigator. I feel that my hard work and contributions have not only been recognized but have also affected real change for the betterment of my fellow students. In meetings, faculty and staff have come to respect and support the ideas and work that myself and other fellows have contributed. It has been a wonderful growing experience in my own confidence as a solution maker.

Gaby Ibarra Aspe: This program has been a great way to amplify student voices from the fellows. Being part of the program has allowed me to look at Mesa from a different perspective, one where faculty and staff work hard to help students and create an equitable journey for all. Professionally, I have learned important skills regarding technology, collaboration, and data analysis. Personally, this program has helped me grow as an advocate for underrepresented students. As a student at Mesa, I had always had ideas about things that would improve the student journey, but I did not have an outlet for these ideas. As a pathway fellow, I can put forth projects that are catered to meet students where they are and create a more equitable experience for students who often get lost in higher education.

Jocelyn De Santiago: Being a part of the Fellows and then joining the Outreach and Social Media teams I've interacted with more faculty than I'd ever had in my 6+ years attending Mesa in only a couple of months. It has been a great learning experience being able to have one on one meetings with Karla Trutna and seeing behind the scenes on how Outreach interacts with the faculty and students. This program has taught me so much especially this being my first "educational" job and being in this kind of setting. I have gained skills that I haven't been able to utilize before which will make me a better candidate for future jobs. Being a part of this program has sparked an interest in me to pursue this kind of work and will meet with a career counselor to potentially go back to school and go for a Bachelors degree.

Lima Khalid: The Pathways Fellows program has allowed me to gain valuable experience both personally and professionally. I was able to meet lots of like-minded fellows virtually during the pandemic. We all shared our ideas, educational experience, and some important life lessons. Mesa Pathways allowed me to collaborate with students and faculty in order to improve college policies and students' educational journeys. The professional skills I have learned as a pathways fellow will always be of value to me. In the past few months, I have learned useful data analysis techniques, research methods, and professional communication skills. I am very grateful for the opportunities that Mesa Pathways provided me with and I am very passionate to help our fellow students to have a great experience at Mesa College and reach their educational goals.



Mesa Pathways Fellows' Spring 2021 Reflections (CONTINUED)

Dani Perez Padilla: I joined Pathways because it is a program that allows me to be a bridge between the students and the leaders on campus, to raise the voice of the student population, and bring power to those in need of guidance to achieve their life and academic goals.

Tiffany Rosenberg: This program has increased my confidence and taught me the importance of speaking up, asking questions, and showing a willingness to learn. The opportunity to provide student input for my fellow students at San Diego Mesa College is truly an amazing experience. I am a member of the Communications work group and the Social Media interest group. I was fortunate to be a member of the overlapping groups, which gave me the opportunity to talk about our idea of promoting Pathways through social media.

Nhi Vu: I'm participating in Guided Mappings and Majors, with the leadership of Dr. Ian Duckles, who has been showing all his supports through various meetings for our Pathways Fellows. I got a chance to be a part of a subcommittees that was in charge of organizing and outreach "Student Success Goals Poll" to students, alongside with 2 members of GMMWG - Christina Sanchez Volatier and Terrence Hale. This program, besides helping Mesa students, helps me understanding more of how our college works, the process from planning to execute any projects, and improving my professional skills, such as teamwork and making connection.

Robert Young: A few things that I really like is how organized each group from MPC is and concerned with working together as a team and how it collides all together. The fact that people get to participate is a huge takeaway, Involving people throughout Mesa for their input is a very huge deal. I'm starting to realize how much students' voices are being heard. It's really a breathtaking moment about how our voices are being heard and taken into consideration.