

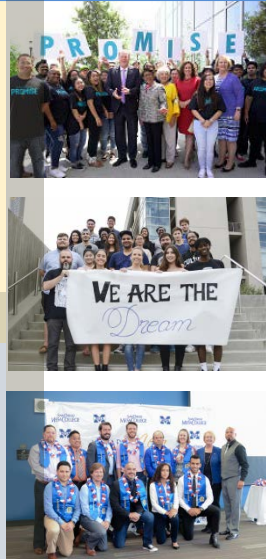


*Student Services Monthly Updates are designed to tell our story of providing pathways that inspire, engage and empower our diverse students to learn and succeed. These updates also track our support of Mesa's journey of becoming the leading college of equity and excellence. We encourage you to review our highlights and dig deeper into departmental updates to learn about new employees, innovations, data, events/activities, student success stories, special recognitions and new Policies & Procedures impacting the way we serve students. Thanks to our incredible Student Services Team for their tireless efforts in creating the conditions that matter for our students to succeed.*

*- Ashanti Hands, Vice President, Student Services*

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## Monthly Update Highlights

### Employee Updates

- In December and January, Student Services welcomed 1 administrator, 2 faculty and 6 classified professionals (including new hires, promotions and interim positions) into our community:
  - Leticia Diaz, EOPS/STAR TRIO Director
  - Linda Gibbins-Croft, Coordinator of Mental Health
  - Valerie Pallares-Herrera, Assistant Professor/Counselor for Student Athletes
  - Celine Ahern, SSA, Admissions
  - Rena Alspaw, SSA, Admissions
  - Alexis Calderon, SST, Admissions
  - Tavaris Franklin, SST, Outreach (interim)
  - Olivia Picolla, SST, Evaluations
  - Lilibeth Rodriguez, SST, Financial Aid
- New NANCE employees include Joshua Quiroz in Assessment, Kylie Ozols in DSPS, Ivonne Meza and Renee Alvarez in EOPS.
- DSPS welcomed Rebecca "Becky" Snow who will be our Adjunct Instructor in the DSPS High Tech Center.
- We are proud to report that all PN's met their academic qualifications for the semester and have continued to the spring semester!

- Outreach partnered up with the EOPS NextUp program to hire Yesenia Jacobo as our newest student ambassador. Yesenia will promote Foster Youth Services both on campus and off campus.
- We said goodbye to Rebecca Lee LMFT and Dr. Mark Malebranche RN, PhD. Mark is now retired with many travel plans ahead. Both will be missed!
- Student Success & Equity attended the Real Talk 114 at Compton College January 16 to 18
- Welcome back to Gity in TCE!
- Financial Aid initiated the process to hire open SSA position and Borderless Scholars program is currently hiring peer mentors.
- Vice President for Instruction **Dr. Isabel O'Connor** and Mesa Pathways Co-coordinators **Toni Parsons and Howard Eskew** officially started their work with Mesa Pathway's this January.

## Events & Activities

- Orientation was held for the new International Students January 7 - 10. The International staff equipped 31 students with important information as they began their Mesa College journey.
- The Evaluations department is currently assisting students with their Petition to Graduate for Spring and Summer 2019 graduates. Go Olympians!
- Mesa College participated in the 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade alongside sister campuses City College, Miramar College and Continuing Education. Mesa's theme this year was Dream, Believe, Achieve and the float was a refined version of the float used last year, featuring photo collages depicting Mesa College students, faculty and staff on a series of vertical panels.
- The Career Center collaborated with Outreach Office for a middle school engagement event coordinated by Outreach. Our Career Peer Ambassadors joined Outreach Student Ambassadors for multiple middle school engagement events at Marston Middle School and Lewis Middle School. It was a great experience where our Career Ambassadors shared information about career services and career education programs.
- Welcome Week was an excellent time for the Student Health Services Nurses to provide free flu vaccinations, Peer Educators promoted our services with free give-away items and Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW networked with students and encourage participation in the psychological counseling program.
- Mesa's final CUE Advisory Committee Meeting, hosted by Vice President Hands, was a successful summary of the committee's progress. The meeting included an overview of our edited Equity Crosswalk, an activity on putting the Crosswalk to use, a commitment to put the Crosswalk into practice and a group reflection on our 2 year project. Next Steps include soft implementation of the Crosswalk during Spring 2019, additional editing and campus-wide implementation Fall 2019.

## Innovations & Data

- Mesa Journeys team participated in Meet and Greet event at Winter CRUISE. We had the chance to introduce the "Your Mesa Journeys" tool to students and gave them an opportunity to use the application. We have currently served close to 500 students!
- 86 % of Kearny Fast Track HS students received a grade of an 'A' or 'B' fall 2018!
- STAR TRIO is producing engaging student videos for its website.
- During the Fall 2018 semester The Stand provided services to 1217 individual students, giving out 21,888 items of food and 766 items of clothing.

- Our High Tech Center has processed 78 alternate media requests since December 1, 2018 and our test proctoring staff has proctored 434 exams since December 1, 2018.
- Outreach *Remind* text messages have become extremely popular as a means of communication. Students currently subscribed to receive Promise announcements via text message.
- San Diego Mesa College has been designated as a Military Friendly institution for 2019-2020. Many Thanks to Dr. Bridget Herrin and LaWanda Foster for working with the School of Student Development to complete the survey and supporting this effort.
- The Transfer Center has a plan to put students' wait time to use in the counseling center. The Transfer Center has invited our local SDEC schools other 4 year university partners to host tables during peak times. This allows students to use their waiting time productively as they learn about transfer opportunities.

## **Policies & Procedures**

- Public Consulting Group, one of the county's CalWORKs contractors, has taken over the central region of San Diego and helping CalWORKS strengthen Pathways and support services for incoming and continuing students.
- The district has awarded a \$300 book grant to 454 Year 1 Promise students for Spring semester, in addition to the \$100 book grant these students received last semester. The book grant can be used for textbooks, instructional materials, and school supplies.

## **Student Success Stories**

- A current CalWORKs student was affected by homelessness and acquired permanent housing. A continuing student has applied to 4 CSUs, 1 UC, and 1 out of state university.
- A number of students stopped to share their appreciation of our career peer ambassador program by communicating their positive feedback with the Career Center supervisor.
- During the Transfer, Career, and Evaluations/Grand Canyon University *Fuel for Finals* event one student commented that the bagel and coffee provided (on a Monday) were the first he had eaten over the weekend. This is a bitter sweet success story but the GCU and TCE staff were happy to provide some form of comfort and support to a student who was clearly in need.

# **Admissions**

## **Employee Updates**

The Admissions welcomed new employee, Rena Alspaw to our office on January 7th. Welcome aboard!

## **Events & Activities**

Orientation was held for the new International Students January 7 - 10. The International staff equipped 31 students with important information as they began their Mesa College journey.

## **Innovations & Data**

In December 478 students were assisted in person with Residency, International and Allied Health. We helped 2,177 students over the phone and manually processed 315 forms. In January, 671 students came to the office for help with Residency, International and Allied Health and 353 forms were processed manually and the staff handled 3,043 phone calls.

# Assessment

## Employee Updates

We welcomed Joshua Quiroz to our Assessment team. Joshua will be working with us as a NANCE to better assist students.

## Events & Activities

Student placement during International Student Orientation was carried out successfully. We assessed 30 international students during their orientation week.

## Innovations & Data

### December 2018

- Placement Assistant: 236
- ELAC: 12
- Orientation: 97
- Total Students Served: 277

### January 2019

- Placement Assistant: 430
- ELAC: 35
- Orientation: 199
- Total Students Served: 509

# AVANZA Student Engagement Center, Peer Navigator, and CRUISE Programs

## Employee Updates

We are proud to report that all PNs met their academic qualifications for the semester and have continued to the spring semester!

## Events & Activities

### December 4

To celebrate the holidays, the Peer Navigator programmed held a movie night to connect with students. Snacks and drinks were offered to students.

### January 7 – 12

In collaboration with the International Student Orientation, Winter CRUISE welcomed 50 new, incoming international and domestic students to Mesa. CRUISErs were offered a campus tour, academic workshops, a personal growth component, financial literacy and a department meet-and-greet. As a result of Winter CRUISE, Saturday CRUISE was established to help support early high school graduates. Over 60 students attended the session.

### January 24

Kearny high school early graduates arrived for an after-school CRUISE session. Thirty students arrived and were welcomed by Peer Navigators. They were offered a campus tour, connection with a PN and Promise orientation.

### January 31

Peer Navigator Info Session was offered for interested candidates to learn more about the program and ask questions. We are expecting a good turnout during the application process.

## Innovations & Data

Our student outcomes report should be ready in March.

## Student Success Stories

The Peer Navigator program asked mentees to answer a quick, three-question survey. The results have been beyond positive.

*" My peer navigator was awesome. He did a great job. He encouraged me to finish this semester with A."*

*" You guys have done absolutely amazing!!!...The support I've received has been more than anything I could wish for and I feel like it definitely would not be the case at a University"*

## Special Recognition

Combining Summer, Winter, Saturday and our after-school session, the Peer Navigators have welcomed over 950 students! The team is remarkable and continues to set the bar!

# CalWORKs

## Employee Updates

Our Logistic Coordinator, Lupita Fernandez, has moved on to a full-time employment with the San Diego County.

## Events & Activities

- The Mesa Holiday Celebration: In collaboration with ASG and EOPS/CARE, the CalWORKs students and family had their first Holiday Celebration. We had tons of arts and crafts including gingerbread ornament and house cookies and some games that the kids can play. We had learning stations for the three holidays (Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa) set-up and decorated for the children to learn about the different holidays. We had 20 CalWORKs/CARE students participant.
- Markus Berrien and Sasha Verastegui attended the monthly CalWORKs Region X meet to continue to collaborate with regional partners.
- Collaboration with Mesa Outreach department and with the CalWORKs Continuing Education departments to develop workshops/presentations that have been set-up for the Spring 2019 semester. The goal is to bring onboard SDCE CalWORKs students in an efficient and supportive way.

## Innovations & Data

- Fall 2018: 47 Students | Spring 2019: 52 Students
- 16 New CalWORKs Students 2 | Former CalWORKs Students Returned to Mesa College
- 13 Students did not return to Mesa College
  - 3 out of the 13 students are at City College
  - 3 out of the 13 students are on Academic Probation
  - 3 out of the 13 students are on Progress Probation
  - 1 out of the 13 students is on Academic Disqualification
  - 3 out of the 13 students are not enrolled at SDCCD

## Student Success Stories

A current student was affected by homelessness and acquired permanent housing. A continuing student has applied to 4 CSUs, 1 UC, and 1 out of state university.

## Policies & Procedures

Public Consulting group, one of the county CalWORKs contractor has taken over the central region of San Diego and we are working on strengthening Pathways and support services for incoming and continuing students.

## Special Recognition

- To ASG for time and effort in the support and collaboration with the Mesa Holiday Celebration.
- To Outreach for facilitating recruitment efforts with San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) CalWORKs students.

# Career

## Events & Activities

### *Career Presentations:*

- In December 2018, we were invited to provide a brief presentation about Career Center services and job preparation to international students during a workshop hosted by Adrienne Dines from the Counseling Department. Thank you for inviting us to connect with your students.

### *Events:*

- In January 2019, The Career Peer Ambassadors along with our staff member, Gity Nematollahi, participated in “Winter CRUISE’s Meet and Greet” on Thursday, January 10 and shared information regarding Career, Transfer, and Evaluation services to students.
- The Career Center collaborated with Outreach Office for a middle school engagement event coordinated by Outreach. Our Career Peer Ambassadors joined Outreach Student Ambassadors for multiple middle school engagement events at Marston Middle School and Lewis Middle School. It was a great experience where our Career Ambassadors shared information about career services and career education programs.
- In January 18, 2019, the Career Peer Ambassadors were invited to share information regarding career services and peer-to-peer walk in resume reviews. Kudos to Career Peer Ambassador, Malik Shabazz, for leading a fun ice breaker activity for the STEM Peer Mentor Orientation. Career Center Senior Student Services Assistant, Alicia Lopez, attended as well and shared information regarding our career services and events.
- The Career Center Supervisor, Claudia Estrada- Howell attended an event on January 17th at Hoover High School to assist their FACES/AHHC program students with career preparation and mock interviews along with Employers from Rady Children's hospital and Sony.
- During “Welcome Week,” the Career Peer Ambassadors volunteered for Welcome Center/Information Booths on January 28th, 29th, and January 30th.

## Innovations & Data

Mesa “Job Network” New Employer Contacts: A total of 32 new contacts were made this month through our online job board.

- Caledonian Inc.
- Center for Autism and Related Disorders
- Chatmeter
- ChildCare Careers
- Curology
- Double Tree San Diego Hotel Circle
- Eco Minded Solutions
- Family Health Centers of San Diego
- Floor & Décor
- Fuse Integration
- San Diego Community Living Services
- High Flying Foods
- I Love A Clean San Diego
- Imperial Beach Community Clinic
- Janie’s Draperies
- JobWorks, Inc.
- Mama’s Kitchen
- Minecract Mania
- NextGen Global Resources
- Ocean Discovery Institute
- Prism Behavioral Solutions
- Three Treasures Cultural Arts Society



- San Diego County Library
- San Francisco International Airport
- SSP America
- St. Paul's Senior Services
- The Salvation Army Family Thrift Stores
- Tire's Warehouse Inc.
- Top Gun CRE, Inc.
- UC San Diego
- Westside Veterinary Innovation

For January 2019, employers have posted 60 jobs in our online job board called Mesa Job Network which means there are a variety of employment opportunities for Mesa students.

### **Student Success Stories**

A number of students stopped to share their appreciation of our career peer ambassador program by communicating their positive feedback with the Career Center supervisor.

### **Special Recognition**

Thank you Leticia P. López, HSI Grants Program Manager, for inviting the career team to help out with the STEM Peer Mentor Orientation.

# Counseling

## Employee Updates

A warm welcome to our new athletic counselor, Valerie Pallares-Herrera.

## Events & Activities

- Provided add code assistance for instructional faculty
- Successfully enrolled continuing Fast Track students for spring 2019 with the help of Jose Aranda in Admissions (a huge thank you to Accounting for taking care of these students as well!)
- Launched PERG 130 online for spring 2019!

## Innovations & Data

86 % of Kearny Fast Track HS students received a grade of an 'A' or 'B' fall 2018!

Department Stats:

Drop-Ins:	4,138
Appointments:	<u>619</u>
Total:	4,589

## Special Recognition

Everyone!

# DSPS

## Employee Updates

DSPS welcomes Rebecca "Becky" Snow who will be our Adjunct Instructor in the DSPS High Tech Center and Kylie Ozols who is a NANC working with our classified professional staff.

## Events & Activities

- DSPS Counselors Rebekah Corrales and Liz Wilke participated in the Winter CRUISE activities.
- DSPS faculty Erika Higginbotham and Dawn Stoll presented on DSPS at various school/department meetings as part of the FLEX week.
- DSPS Coordinator Erika Higginbotham participated the Catalyst teaching conference on January 23, 2019.
- DSPS faculty and classified professionals attended the spring convocation

## Innovations & Data

In the month of December, DSPS Counselors had 214 student appointments and an additional 1,038 drop-in DSPS services were provided. In the month of January, DSPS counselors had 419 student appointments and an additional 1,362 drop-in DSPS services were provided. Our High Tech Center has processed 78 alternate media requests since December 1, 2018 and our test proctoring staff have proctored 434 exams since December 1, 2018.

## Special Recognition

A huge thank you and special recognition goes to Erick Escalante and Lizette Espinoza for all their efforts in proctoring over 325 final exams for DSPS students.

# **EOPS/CARE**

## **Employee Updates**

We are excited to have two new Project Assistants on board. Ivonne Meza and Renee Alvarez joined the EOPS team this semester.

NextUp SST position posted and closing January 31, 2019.

## **Events & Activities**

- CARE/CalWORKs Kids Holiday Party
- EOPS STAR TRIO Retreat at Balboa Park
- "Know Your Rights" Event for Borderless Scholars hosted by EOPS and Alliance San Diego
- Currently accepting EOPS applications for special populations: CARE, NextUp, FAST, Borderless Scholars and Project Re-Start

## **Innovations & Data**

Borderless Scholars program is currently hiring peer mentors. EOPS is continuing to improve social media presence and is also in the process of updating the website.

# Evaluations

## Events & Activities

2019 Commencement is upon on and we are working with departments across campus to ensure everything is on track! The Evaluations department is currently assisting students with their Petition to Graduate for Spring and Summer 2019 graduates. Go Olympians!

## Student Success Stories

We are assisting students everyday with graduation petitions and preparing for our upcoming commencement ceremony being held on Saturday, May 18th, 2019 .

## Special Recognition

We would like to say thank you to Paula Christopher and all of the evaluators from the district evaluations office for always providing us support. We really appreciate all that they do for our students. THANK YOU!

# **Financial Aid**

## **Employee Updates**

Initiated process to hire open SSA position

## **Events & Activities**

Financial Aid Office hosted an informational table during Welcome Week.

## **Special Recognition**

Special Recognition goes out to several office staff: Cathy Spring for her exceptional work on Program Review as well as processing a higher than normal amount of stop payments on financial aid checks. To all the Techs (Flor, Randy, Julie, Laura and Manolis) for their exceptional work processing aid files so that no student whom had submitted documents for review that met all other eligibility requirements were processed before leaving for the holidays and their tenacity figuring out and learning troubleshooting in CS (especially Manolis). Also to Michael Ledesma, Thu Trinh (Finance), Scott Cho, James Blair and Natosha Susoeff for the role they played making it possible that student loans were disbursed and refunded to students and parents during the 1st week of classes.

# Outreach & Community Relations

## Employee Updates

Outreach partnered up with EOPS - NextUp program to hire Yesenia Jacobo as our newest student ambassador. Yesenia will promote Foster Youth Services both on campus and off campus. We are excited about this partnership!

## Events & Activities

### Outreach:

#### *December:*

- In the month of December, student ambassadors provided over 10 families with campus tours, showcasing the new buildings and all that Mesa has to offer.
- 12/5 - San Diego Continuing Education hosted a food drive called Farm to Family providing students and their families the opportunity for free fresh produce and food. Outreach staff Van Chhum was invited to host a resource table showcasing the opportunities at Mesa College. Van serviced over 50 prospective students and parents.
- 12/1 - 12/14 - In partnership with Student Affairs and ASG, Outreach ambassadors coordinated and hosted the "Season of Giving Donation Drive" to collect food, toiletries, and clothes to support students on campus through The Stand as well as other community organizations. The Donation Drive concluded on December 14th and Student Ambassadors donated all food items to The Stand and clothing items were sorted and hand delivered them to the Alpha Project in Downtown San Diego.

#### *January:*

- In the month of January 1st-31st, student ambassadors have provided over twenty tours and serviced over forty potential and prospective students. The ambassadors guided students through the entire campus showcasing the new buildings and all that Mesa College has to offer.
- 1/1 - Outreach Ambassador Jordan Nash and Nicolas Irving provided a campus tour to Audeo Charter School for over 20 people. The ambassadors guided students through their areas of interest such as the Culinary Arts Department, athletic fields, and the Exercise-Science Department.
- 1/7 - 1/10 - Outreach Ambassadors provided assistance to the Admissions Department with their annual International Student Orientation, servicing over forty students throughout the whole week.
- 1/15 - 1/17 - Outreach in collaboration with the Work-Based Learning Team and the Career Center were invited to Marston Middle School during their college and career week. During this week, the Mesa team presented to over 200 students and hosted a series of informational tabling to showcase the programs and services offered at Mesa College as well the career and job opportunities.
- 1/13 - Outreach was invited by Winter CRUISE to present to Spanish speaking parents. During this workshop, Outreach was able to introduce parents to the vast resources available to their students while at Mesa College and also share with them valuable tips to help ensure their students excel academically.
- 1/23 - Yesenia Jacobo, Outreach's NextUp ambassador participated in "The Promises to Kids," event providing a presentation to 25 students regarding the services provided through NextUP.

- 1/24 - Outreach was invited to participate at Montgomery Middle School's college fair. Ambassador Karen Villanueva hosted a resource table providing information to parents regarding the programs and benefits of attending Mesa College and how Mesa is the perfect fit for them. Karen serviced over fifty students and parents. 1/28 - Victor Cenicerros provided a Mesa College presentation to the Charter School of San Diego and met with 15 students.
- 1/29 - Jordan Nash provided a Mesa College presentation to Audeo Charter School in La Jolla to 10 students. Jordan also attended the Black College Expo hosted at the Bayview Baptist church.
- 1/30 - Samantha Ceron-Draeger provided a Mesa College presentation to The Charter School of San Diego located on Genesee regarding the programs and services of Mesa College and serviced over 10 students.
- 1/31 - Karla Trutna attended a Student Success Programs Campus Visit held in Georgia State University, along with the Mesa Student Success Team composed of Susan Topham, Leticia Diaz and Michael Temple. The Mesa team along with High Tech High's team had an opportunity to learn about Georgia State's student success initiatives for higher education, learn about their improved academic advisement, and tour their advisement center.

#### **Promise:**

##### *December:*

- We hosted 3 Coffee & Cookies Study Hall Sessions to give Promise students a dedicated space to study for Finals.

##### *January:*

- We hosted 14 Spring Kickoff sessions with the help of Alexi in Avanza to ensure Year 1 Promise students are on track to remain eligible for Spring semester and the second year of Promise funding.

#### **Innovations & Data**

##### **Promise:**

- Year 1 (18-19) Cohort: 669 Promise students
- Year 2 (17-18) Cohort: 138 Promise students

Our Remind text messages have become extremely popular as a means of communication. Students currently subscribed to receive Promise announcements via text message:

- 558 Year 1 students
- 112 Year 2 students

#### **Policies & Procedures**

##### **Promise:**

- The Promise application process for 2019 high school graduates will begin on February 1.
- Together with Miriam Pacheco and Charlie Lieu, we have revamped the internal process of collecting progress reports for Year 1 students. Our new processes will be more efficient and easier for students, staff, and faculty.



- The district has awarded a \$300 book grant to 454 Year 1 Promise students for Spring semester, in addition to the \$100 book grant these students received last semester. The book grant can be used for textbooks, instructional materials, and school supplies.
- About 25 early high school graduates will be admitted in the Year 1 cohort of Promise students.
- The service learning requirement for Year 1 students has been moved from Spring 2019 to the 2019-2020 academic year.
- We are always in search of volunteer opportunities for Year 2 students. Please feel free to email Donnaly Atajar (datajar@sdcd.edu) if you have any departmental or outside community service opportunities.

## **Special Recognition**

### **Outreach:**

- Special shout out to Jordan Nash for leading the effort to hold the "Season of Giving Donation Drive," for a second year! His leadership and commitment have once again made this donation drive a great success.

### **Promise:**

- Promise Student Samantha Ceron-Draeger was interviewed by the local news regarding her experience as a Promise student.
- Special shout out to Donnaly Atajar for going above and beyond to ensure Promise students are successful at Mesa. Donnaly's commitment is commendable.

# STAR TRIO

## Events & Activities

Held Finals Week Study Hall in December

## Innovations & Data

- Dec: 134 students visited 301 times for 294 hours. We had 97 supply requests.
- Jan: 69 students visited 148 times for 133 hours.

## Special Recognition

We'd like to recognize student worker Qasim Hussaini for the great student videos he's produced and new ones that he continues to work on. The videos can be viewed on the STAR TRIO webpages.

# Student Affairs

## Events & Activities

### *Welcome Week (Spring 2019)*

- Welcome Week is currently still ongoing as of this writing, but all major portions of the program have concluded successfully. Data from the series of events is still being calculated as a result, but so far volunteers at the Info Booths are estimated to have made about 1000 points of contact with students.

### *Annual MLK Parade*

- Mesa College participated in the 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade alongside sister campuses City College, Miramar College and Continuing Education. Mesa's theme this year was Dream, Believe, Achieve and the float was a refined version of the float used last year, featuring photo collages depicting Mesa College students, faculty and staff on a series of vertical panels. The parade itself was rescheduled from Sunday to Monday this year.

### *Blast from the Past*

- After the conclusion of the 2018 Fall Semester Mesa College's current Associated Students administration invited former AS members to a panel discussion on campus in order to provide them with a forum for relating the lessons they learned and the wisdom they gained as a result of their service. Light refreshments were served, and the event had a lively and informal feeling.

### *CalWORKs / CARE Holiday Celebration*

- The Associated Students partnered with the CARE and CalWorks team to host the first annual Mesa Holiday Celebration. The event kicked off with a warm welcome from Vice President, Ashanti Hands as well as a few words from Dean, Larry Maxey. At the event we had three learning stations to teach the children about the holiday season, including Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. We also had a variety of arts and crafts, one of which included a gingerbread house decorating station, as well as a book drive. In addition, we had a variety of free food, beverages and an opportunity drawing, including gift cards to Target, Starbucks and Vons. The event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication from each of the departments involved. We hope this event continues for future students at Mesa College!

### *ALL-USA Scholarship*

- The Student Affairs office called for submissions for the Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Academic Team scholarship and formed a Mesa College review committee who selected two students to advance to the national level. We are thrilled to share that Sofia Castellani-Staedler and Hong Nhung Nguyen have been selected as the Mesa College Nominees for 2019!

## Innovations & Data

Graduate Interns: Kylie Ozols, Jennifer Park and Beatriz Barron have coordinated several Mesa College Foundation Scholarship Informational Sessions promoting the scholarships and providing assistance on the application process. This is an exceptional idea and which students are utilizing!

## **Special Recognition**

Charlie Lieu has been an incredible addition to Team Student Affairs. Due to his brilliance we have created a much more student friendly system. Charlie is a go getter! If he sees something could be better and more simplified ...he will find a way to make it better. All of us in Student Affairs value his insight, commitment, kindness and brilliance of making things happen. THANK YOU CHARLIE! We are so happy you are a part of Team Student Affairs!

# Student Development

## Employee Updates

The School of Student Development is pleased to announce the Valerie Pallares Herrera has been hired as a full time counselor for Mesa's student-athletes. We are pleased to welcome Rena Alspaw (50% SSA) Amara Tang (SSA Transfer, Evaluations, and Career).

## Events & Activities

The Spring 2019 International Students Orientation was held from January 7-10, 2019. Thanks to the International Student Team for their continued efforts to support our students: Ivonne Alvarez, LaKeita Platts, Alexis Calderon, Jose Aranda, Adrienne Dines, and Abimaliel Rosario.

## Innovations & Data

San Diego Mesa College was awarded the 2017-2018 Regional Strong Workforce Program Pathway Navigation Project in the amount of \$225,000.00. The Project Name/Title is the Adoption and Integration of Onboarding Practices with Guided Pathways, SSSP, and Student Equity. The performance period goes from January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2021. Thanks to Leroy Johnson, Claudia Estrada-Howell, Charlie Lieu, Karla Trutna, Agustin Rivera, Hai Hoang, Shawn Fawcett, Kaitlin Choi, Olivia Picolla, and Alicia Lopez for working together to submit the request for funds.

The General Counseling Department started implementing add code tables to provide instructional faculty with an opportunity to meet with students and help promote courses. This is a wonderful opportunity that allows for further collaboration and partnership with instruction. Many thanks to Leroy Johnson, Judy Sundayo, Anne Hedekin, Kristy Carson, and Raquel Sojourner for their idea.

San Diego Mesa College has been designated as a Military Friendly institution for 2019-2020. Many Thanks to Dr. Bridget Herrin and LaWanda Foster for working with the School of Student Development to complete the survey and supporting this effort.

## Special Recognition

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Thanks to Leroy Johnson for his continued service as counseling department chair, and for his "can do" attitude!

Shout out to Kristy Carson for serving as our Mesa Academics and Athletics Counselor for the past twelve years. Thank you for helping coordinate the program and for supporting our student athletes. Your many

contributions, including the coordination of the Mesa College Student Athletes Recognition Ceremony is appreciated

Special thanks goes out to the Student Development Supervisors: Ivonne Alvarez, Cheri Sawyer, Lawanda Foster, Barbara Plandor, and Claudia Estrada for their continued dedication to supporting and leading their areas.

Special recognition goes out to Jacqueline Collins for her tireless efforts supporting the institution and for assisting the Dean of Student Development with planning for the VRC remodel.

San Diego Mesa College has been designated as a Military Friendly institution for 2019-2020. Many Thanks to Dr. Bridget Herrin and LaWanda Foster for working with the School of Student Development to complete the survey and supporting this effort.

Many thanks to Barbara Plandor for providing SARS training sessions to areas who use this scheduling system. Her willingness to share her knowledge and expertise is appreciated by many!

# Student Health Services

## Employee Updates

We are so happy to announce that John Guinn LMFT is working on his Adjunct Faculty Counselor HR paperwork. John will be likely starting in February.

We had to say goodbye to Rebecca Lee LMFT and Dr. Mark Malebranche RN, PhD. Mark is now retired with many travel plans ahead. Both will be missed!

## Events & Activities

### *December:*

Our annual holiday party included appetizers and (of course) dessert at the Prado restaurant in Balboa Park. We celebrated birthdays, a retirement and said goodbye to one of our counselors who resigned to spend more time with her preschoolers.

Suzanne Khambata FNP attended the Nurse Family Partnership meeting which pairs newly pregnant parents with free Nursing visits throughout pregnancy and the first 18 months of the baby's life. Suzanne also attends the Pathways committee meetings and bubble meetings.

Sue Shrader Hanes LMFT presented on Transgenerational Transmission (psychosocial aspects of development) to Personal Growth courses.

Rebecca Lee LMFT presented to Peer Navigators on how to talk to students about suicide or difficult situations.

### *January:*

Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW and Mimi Vu, Event Coordinator, attended the fabulous Winter Cruise meet and greet. They met many students, provided free give-aways and promoted our services.

Mimi Vu has been attending the excellent Barbara Plandor SARS courses to strengthen our ability to gather data for service planning.

Welcome Week was an excellent time for our Nurses to provide free flu vaccinations, Peer Educators to promote our services with free give-away items and Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW to network with students and encourage participation in the psychological counseling program. Although we had rain on the second day we were able to connect with students on the 4th floor of the Student Services building on Thursday afternoon.

Student Health Services held their twice yearly retreat. We learned team building skills as we practiced medical office emergency training with San Diego Heartbeat. Our guests included a Shaman who practices energy healing, Joy Givers from Resounding Joy, Tap Dancer Pat, an 80 year old tap dancer. We know that dance along with focused concentration relieves the mind of stress and worry. We aim to provide alternatives to our students for stress relief to ward off anxiety and depression. Mesa Student and Peer Educator Phuong taught us "the Floss" and Hip Hop dancing. Phuong is learning to lip read English and is taking ASL (she is HOH). We are so proud of her courage! Phuong learned lip reading in her home country of Viet Nam. She recently emigrated to the US and became a Mesa student and Peer Educator.

We know that an important part of our students' lives is exercise and we keep ourselves aware of the many ways we and our students can get exercise. There was lots of bonding during the dancing part of the retreat.

At the retreat, we learned from a farmer and former Astrophysicist/Special Needs Attorney about the high nutritional value of micro-green plants that can be grown inexpensively in your indoor garden. Students can grow high vitamin yield greens in very small containers at home.

Suzanne Khambata FNP presented at the recent International Student orientation regarding services provided in our office.

Monica Woodruff AMFT is collaborating with the Black Studies Department to provide psychological services in the classroom.

### **Innovations & Data**

We have started the American College Health Assessment. Students will be offered a \$10 gift certificate for completing a survey. We plan to collect 500 surveys. This will provide data for our future planning.

Data: In December 2018 we had 231 office contacts and January, despite the holiday, we had 218 visits.

### **Student Success Stories**

Phuong Nguyen, Peer Educator has grown from a very withdrawn, almost non-verbal Peer Educator to an active collaborator in our Community Health program. She talks with students and has presented at our recent retreat.

Shayne Hayslip is a Mesa College student who is a member of the Workability program at the District. Shayne worked in our office in Fall of 2018 as an Office Assistant. Shayne was able to quickly learn professional conduct while at work while proving his ability as an office assistant. Shayne recently wrote to me and said that he was very grateful for the opportunity to work in our office because it gave him the experience and expertise to move forward in his career. Shayne explained that because of his work in our office he was able to secure a full time position with the County of San Diego.

### **Special Recognition**

Phuong Nguyen for her inspiration and courage to become a leader.



# Student Success & Equity

## Events & Activities

December 5

- Joint School Meeting December 6
- Real Talk 114 at Compton College January 16 to 18
- Attended CERT Training

## Innovations & Data

### *Direct Student Support:*

For the Fall 2018 semester SSE reviewed 94 applications for assistance and was able to provide direct support to 67 of those students. In total SSE gave out \$10,551 in support (an average of \$158 per a student) \$7800 was in book support, \$1850 in food support, \$881 in transportation support (in addition to semester passes given out by EOPS) and \$20 in printing support.

In January we have received 35 application, seen 16 students and provided Direct Support to 15 students to date. In total we have given out \$2478 in support. \$1800 for books, \$500 for food and \$178 for transportation (This is in addition to the semester bus passes for EOPS students.)

### *The Stand:*

During the Fall 2018 semester The Stand provided services to 1217 individual students, giving out 21,888 items of food. We gave out 766 items of clothing.

The Stand: Farmers Market provided 57,349 pounds of free food to the campus community serving in total 3834 households averaging 766 households per an event.

In January The Stand has provided services to 470 individual students, giving out a total of 2416 items to date. We have given out 125 items of clothing.

The Stand: Farmers Market held its first event on January 31st, we gave out 7,616 pounds of produce and nearly 3725 pounds of shelf stable goods.

The Stand: Pop-up Market began in January as the campus was connected through Feed San Diego with Smart & Final and The Ronald McDonald House. This allowed for more access to free food for our students. We have on provided an additional 591 pounds from Smart & Final and a van full from The Ronald McDonald house. Because we are a secondary receiver from The Ronald McDonald house we do not weigh that food.

Additionally in the month of January we received a donation of approximately 360 pounds of bacon from Smithfield Farms via our partnership with Feeding San Diego.

# Transfer

## Employee Updates

Gity has returned to the TCE. We are so happy to have her. If you have not stopped by to welcome her back please do so!

## Events & Activities

The Transfer Center has offered workshops the SDSU supplemental application and provided one on one support. We continue to assist with the CSU update, the UC Transfer Academic update and other updates/supplemental required by individual schools. Private school application deadlines are fast approaching thus we are still supporting application questions.

We are hosting College Mini Fairs in the Spring as well as some exciting events described in the "Innovations and Data" section of this report.

## Innovations & Data

We are trying utilize waiting time in the counseling center. The TC has invited our local SDEC schools other 4 year university partners to host tables during our peak times. This allows students to use their waiting time productively as they learn about transfer opportunities

Grand Canyon University hosted a "FUEL for FINALS" student break the first week of finals. They returned in January for a Spring Welcome back. GCU also has an online program which may prove to be a great option for our students. We look forward to some more collaborations with our 4 year partners.

We have also invited some of our SDEC schools to host tables during the registration peak time to give students some productive and informative use of time while they are waiting to see a counselor.

Alliant will host a 2 part event. They have welcome back table and will host a Psychology Major Info session with an Alliant Professor in February.

SDSU was able to come out to the TC and provide assistance with the SDSU supplemental application.

The TC will host it's first, "Tapas and Transfer," an open house style informative transfer session with light snacks as a part of the Welcome week activities.

- Transfer Workshops: 38
- Counselor Drop-ins: 66
- Counselor Appointments: 34
- Rep Visits: 6
- Staff Drop-in: 587
- Transfer Tapa: 20 to 30 students

## **Student Success Stories**

During the GCU fuel for finals event one student commented that the bagel and coffee provided (on a Monday) were the first he had eaten over the weekend. This is a bitter sweet success story but the GCU and TCE staff were happy to provide some form of comfort and support to a student who was clearly in need.

## **Special Recognition**

Many thanks to the TCE staff including the Career Ambassadors for there excellent customer service during the SDSU supplemental application period. They did a great job helping students resolve issues and complete the supplemental on time as well as troubleshoot issues which could have prevented successful transfer.

# Veterans & Records

No Report.

## Vice President Student Services

### Employee Updates

This January, Student Services welcomed 1 administrator, 2 faculty and 6 classified professionals (including new hires, promotions and interim positions) into our community:

- Leticia Diaz, EOPS/STAR TRIO Director
- Linda Gibbins-Croft, Coordinator of Mental Health
- Valerie Pallares-Herrera, Assistant Professor/Counselor for Student Athletes
- Celine Ahern, SSA, Admissions
- Rena Alspaw, SSA, Admissions
- Alexis Calderon, SST, Admissions
- Tavaris Franklin, SST, Outreach (acting)
- Olivia Picolla, SST, Evaluations
- Lilibeth Rodriguez, SST, Financial Aid

### Events & Activities

Our final CUE Advisory Committee Meeting, hosted by Vice President Hands, was a successful summary of the committee's progress. The meeting included an overview of our edited Equity Crosswalk, an activity on putting the Crosswalk to use, a commitment to put the Crosswalk into practice and a group reflection on our 2 year project. Next Steps include soft implementation of the Crosswalk during Spring 2019, additional editing and campus-wide implementation Fall 2019.

Hosted by Compton College, Vice President Hands attended the Real #114 Housing & Food Insecurities Conference which focused on housing and food insecurities for college students throughout the country and in the communities we serve, and how faculty can support students and provide the basic necessities they need to be successful. Topics included: What is the profile of our student community? What are students struggling with? How does the struggle impact students and create barriers to their educational success? Other challenges including enrollment changes based on a shift in demographics; retaining students who have pressing economic needs; and serving students adequately when the college itself has limited resources.

Vice President Hands worked with Ben Daley, Provost at High Tech High, to coordinate a Mesa College Team to join them on visit to Georgia State University. The purpose of this trip is to learn more about the well regarded work that Georgia State is doing to increase college graduation rates, especially for African American students, and to consider how schools in our region (K12 and postsecondary) might work together or on our own to make similar progress.

At the Spring 2019 Convocation Vice President Hands presented Student Services Updates and Mesa Colleges Journey to become the Leading College of Equity and Excellence.

Vice President Hands attended a Regional Strong Workforce Program Meeting to discuss current efforts, participated in a campus-wide Tabletop Exercise to prepare for campus emergencies, volunteered at our Welcome Booth during Welcome Week, engaged our Title V 2019 Grant Planning process, presented Student Services Administrative Unit Outcomes to the Committee on Outcomes and Assessment, attended the YMCA

Human Dignity Awards Breakfast in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, marched in the 329<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, co-led a Mesa College Tour for one of our new Board Members Sean Elo and attended our first Retail Rescue meeting with Feeding San Diego and our local Smart and Final ( a partnership allowing us to secure and distribute FREE produce, meat, deli, grocery and other items to our campus community, once per week.)

In December the M&M team hosted a holiday baking contest and ugly sweater contest. In January M&M team host the bi-annual New Employee Meet and Greet.

## Innovations & Data

- New [Student Services Events](#) page. All tagged Student Service events on the Mesa Calendar will appear on this page.
- Mesa Journeys team participated in Meet and Greet event at Winter CRUISE. We had the chance to introduce the “[Your Mesa Journeys](#)” tool to students and gave them an opportunity to use the application. We have currently served close to 500 students!
- Mesa Journeys team members Charlie Lieu and Claudia Estrada-Howell conducted trainings to program coordinators, managers, and staff on how to download and use data collected on the “Your Mesa Journeys” tool.
- [Umoja/Mesa Academy](#) site has been updated and revised.
- We currently have 287 students who have submitted an application to a scholarship. Please continue to encourage students to apply at: <https://sdmesa.academicworks.com/> . Deadline is February 19, 2019.

## Student Success Stories

Professor Lisa Shapiro shared a [video](#) created by students, featuring Mesa college students sharing what diversity means to them. The video was the final presentation for work in Professor Shapiro’s Business Communications course. #equitysighting

## Special Recognition

Special thanks to all of the Student Services departments and programs that submitted the initial draft of the program reviews by the deadline.

Special thanks to Student Equity, specifically Johanna Aleman and Dean Larry Maxey for expanding or partnership with Feeding San Diego allowing us work with Smart & Final to provide FREE produce, meat, deli, grocery and other items to those in need on campus.

## Guided Pathways

- Vice President for Instruction **Dr. Isabel O’Connor** and Mesa Pathways Co-coordinators **Toni Parsons and Howard Eskew** officially started their work with Mesa Pathway’s this January.
- The Mesa Pathways Committee hosted “Mesa Pathways: The Game” at **Convocation**. The room was broken down into four teams. Each team was able to support a student as they walked in their unique pathways, encountering challenges and relying on their teams to help them towards the finish line. The game was interactive, informative and fun. Special thanks to activity planners Shawn Fawcett, Brianna Kuhn and Trina Larson and student participants Robyn Bolden, Marie Saint Luis, Tim Ackerson and Nicolas Irving. Attendees were encouraged to continue their efforts by joining a Pathways Bubble and

participating in our **Friday, February 8, 2019 Pathways Retreat** with a focus on Guided Major & Career Exploration and Clear Program Requirements. Click [here](#) to request more information.

- Our **Leading from the Middle Academy** Team, including Leslie Shimazaki, Howard Eskew, Cynthia Rico, Yolanda Catano and Nancy Cortes will begin their work this semester. Our team will focus on middle leadership, taking risks, disrupting patterns and transformational leadership with a focus on Guided Pathways.
- Mesa Pathways Committees and Bubbles will resume their meeting schedules in February.
- Faculty, staff, students and Administrators are invited to **learn more and get involved** with our [Mesa Pathways efforts](#).