



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

Admissions ♦ Assessment ♦ AVANZA Student Engagement Center, Peer Navigator, and CRUISE Programs ♦ CalWORKs ♦ Career ♦ Counseling ♦ DSPS ♦ EOPS & Special Programs ♦ Evaluations ♦ Financial Aid ♦ Outreach & Community Relations ♦ Student Affairs ♦ Student Development ♦ Student Health Services ♦ Student Success & Equity ♦ Transfer ♦ Veterans ♦ Vice President Student Services



Monthly Update Highlights

Employee Updates

- Sadie Wager is the Transfer/Career/Evaluations Center's new Senior Student Services Assistant! Before accepting this position, Sadie served as Career Ambassador Program Coordinator from August 2021 - January 2022 and a Career Peer Ambassador prior. Effective February 4th, please direct all career-related inquiries to Sadie.
- EOPS welcomes Angel Aguilar Garcia, who serves as the Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars Program Counselor Coordinator.
- EOPS also welcomes Melissa Zavala and Krystal Mucha who have joined NextUp and FAST as Adjunct Counselors.
- Jordan Nash has been hired to serve as a "Black Student Leadership Fellow." This will be a project-based position that will promote and recruit black students who will participate in various leadership roles including: Peer Navigators, Outreach Ambassadors, Basic Needs Ambassadors, and the Pathways Fellows, for example.
- Lucio Lira has been hired to serve as the Pride Center Coordinator.
- Veterans has hired 14 new VA work-studies across the campus, some of whom are working in the deans' offices for the School of Arts and Languages, Athletics and the LRC. This brings the department's total to 20 student work studies.
- VP Hands was honored as a Black History Month pioneer at UC San Diego's 20th Anniversary Black History Month Celebration & Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

Events & Activities

- On February 22, 2022, Student Services opened the doors of our Center to students and the community. Click [here](#) for more information about our hours and various ways to connect.
- Admissions staff attended Rosa Parks Birthday Recognition & Celebration.
- Peer Navigators continued to host open hours for any and all students to drop by and ask questions, redirected to the proper department/program, or receive a warm welcome.
- CalWORKs continued collaboration efforts with EOPS/CARE program to provide support to prospective, new, and continuing CalWORKs & EOPS/CARE students. Services include, but are not limited to application and eligibility process, academic counseling, and recruitment efforts.
- Career Center Team (Kristy, Raquel and Sadie) partnered with Work-Based Learning Coordinator (Katlin Choi) to offer a Welcome Week Activity – Career Chats: Got a Major? event on February 3rd.
- DSPS collaborated with General Counseling and EOPS to present a workshop titled: Getting to Know your Students and Increasing Engagement in the Classroom.
- Outreach Ambassadors have been supporting Welcome Week efforts as well as providing campus tours! We've had the opportunity to introduce prospective students and their families to our beautiful Mesa campus. Outreach is happy to be providing high-touch services.
- The Promise Program hosted two Virtual Spring Kickoff Sessions to share program updates and help Promise students prepare for the Spring semester. A total of 50 students attended. The program also distributed 18 free laptops and 162 \$250 emergency grants to current Promise students.
- The Stand returned to in-person services Tuesday Feb. 22 and will be at full service operations in March.
- Despite the unexpectedly remote start to the semester, Student Affairs hosted a welcome booth on campus, from Jan 31 to Feb 3, to serve those students who had classes in-person.
- Mental health counselor Aurora San Pedro, LMFT, provided Mental Health support to the academic support team from the AVANZA Center: The Peer Navigators. The theme was "uncertainty."
- VP Hands presented at the #RealCollegeCalifornia Basic Needs Summit. In addition to helping coordinate the event, VP Hands was able to participate in a [Mesa College Highlight video](#) on our Basic Needs services (start at 1:28:00).

Innovations & Data

- The Mesa Foundation, in collaboration with Student Affairs, has implemented a Scholarship Community Reviewer Outreach campaign through which Mesa community members serve as reviewers for various Mesa Foundation scholarships. The call-out was circulated during Convocation and we are pleased to share that we have 26 community members that have signed up to join!
- Financial Aid disbursed \$4,115,901.81 in direct refunds to 4,235 students.
- The in-house election application period for the Associated Students in spring 2022 closed on Feb 17, with eleven students ultimately submitting applications.
- Hai Hoang and Charlie Lieu created two new scholarship videos to guide reviewers.
 - [Scholarships & Equity: Using Data to Put Values into Action](#)
 - [Scholarship Review Training: Step-by-Step Guide](#)

Policies & Procedures

- Transfer students are encouraged to make 1:1 appointments with 4 year university reps through their respective links <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/transfer-center/university-representative-visits.shtml>
- SDCCD distributed the [Fall 2022 & Booster Mask Update to students](#)
- SDCCD distributed a Spring 2022 Student COVID-19 Guide for Faculty and Staff
- SDDCD announced that credit by examination fees will be eliminated effective immediately.

Student Success Stories

- Congratulations to all of our Borderless Scholars on the Dream Resource Center's Grand Opening. This space would not have been possible without your advocacy and bravery.
- Feedback from the “Saving and Budgeting” Peer Navigator workshop was positive –
 - “Friendly and relatable peer navigators. Learned a lot about saving and felt comfortable asking questions. I'm so happy I went to this workshop.”
 - “This workshop was really helpful. I learned a lot about the different programs Mesa offers like the stand, the career center, and a financing class. I also thought it was helpful to get a refresher on how to budget a paycheck.”
- Student Testimonials from Career Ambassador Post-Appointment Surveys:
 - “I learned a lot that I will take with me pass my time at Mesa College”
 - “Amy was wonderful and encouraging for working towards building my skills and confidence in my job search.”
- Mesa received commendation for the Veterans RFA final report, which helps to tell our student success stories, and was invited to submit a proposal for the veterans symposium scheduled for September 2022.
- Through the VA work study interview process, the department learned of a student whose goal is to do stats for a major league baseball team which then placed him with the Athletics department working with baseball and maybe basketball doing stats.

Admissions

Employee Updates

- Reflected on the Skype interview with Ms. Paone and the TED Talk regarding change. Imagine you are going to hire a new leader to manage an organization design, and you are going to post an online job advertisement for the design leader. What will be some of the most important characteristics you will look for?

Events & Activities

- Admissions staff attended Rosa Parks Birthday Recognition & Celebration on Friday, February 4, 2022.
- We attended the Joint School Meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.
- Karina Sandoval helped train the new Outreach Ambassadors on Admissions processes on Friday, February 11, 2022.
- We continue to participate in the Classified Senate and attend the President's cabinet and College Forums.
- We are looking forward to attending "Disrupting Racism Through the Lens of the Arts with Dr. Ron McCurdy"

Innovations & Data

- We continue to support students via our sdmesaadmissions@sdccd.edu email, where we replied to 1,195 emails. We cleared over 139 students via Cleared4 and certified 4 students' cross-enrollment applications. We processed 109 JIRA tickets and 105 enrollment verifications. We answered 935 phone calls via our Admissions phone tree and 584 Google Voice calls/voicemails and text messages.
- QLESS is back, which is exciting because our students are on campus. We saw 70 students on Tuesday, February 22, our first day back!

Policies & Procedures

- We are looking at our spring application, registration, and enrollment processes to evaluate our operations as we say goodbye to the spring peak. We have already begun our conversation with our sister campuses and district student services on improvements needed to JIRA and the block enrollment process.
- We are also looking to address the Change of Course Level with Discipline or Section form and process to best support students and faculty.

Student Success Stories

- We worked with Johanna Aleman to support a student who missed the refund deadline by a day. We reached out to the instructors to ensure that the student had stopped attending/was not participating in the course as of the refund deadline and could process a late drop with a refund. The student, faculty, and staff all collaborated to remove a financial barrier from the student!

Special Recognition

- Admissions would like to recognize Armando and Jocelyn, our new SSA's, for their flexibility, adaptability, and ability to enter admissions during peak to learn the role. We are so blessed to have you on our team!

Assessment

Events & Activities

- Assessment and Outreach created a group chat on Microsoft Teams this month. This allows us to improve our responses to students on Live Chat, since we can check and confirm information with staff in different departments.

Innovations & Data

February 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• E-Chat: 30• ELAC: 2• Email: 16• Orientation: 11• Placement Assistant: 28• Unduplicated Student Count: 87

AVANZA Student Engagement Center, Peer Navigator, and CRUISE Programs

Employee Updates

- All 13 Peer Navigators remain focused on starting the semester strong, supporting their students, and excited to transition back to being on campus. No new updates.

Events & Activities

- Online Spring Semester AVANZA Engagement Center Hours: Peer Navigators continued to host open hours for any and all students to drop by and ask questions, redirected to the proper department/program, or receive a warm welcome. Online hours held Monday to Thursday, Jan. 31 to Feb. 17 from 9:00a – 3:00p.
- Peer Navigator Hiring Application opened at the start of the semester, and the deadline was extended to March 4.
- Peer Navigator Info Sessions: To help interested candidates learn more about what it takes to be a Peer Navigator for the 2022-2023 academic year. PNs held 2 info sessions through Zoom on February 15 and 22, aimed at answering questions and providing a detailed overview of the job.
- Game Night: Peer Navigators continued with community building by engaging their mentees through online games! Two Game Nights held through Zoom on February 16 and 24.
- Monthly Workshop: Saving and Budgeting: In an effort to support students, PNs held a workshop and shared tips on how to save and budget as a college student. Two sessions held through Zoom on February 17 and 25.

Innovations & Data

- Peer Navigators recorded the info session to support those that were not able to attend or for those seeking more information.

Student Success Stories

- Feedback from the PN workshop was positive –
 - “Friendly and relatable peer navigators. Learned a lot about saving and felt comfortable asking questions. I'm so happy I went to this workshop.”
 - “It was very clear and a lot of details to ensure about financial literacy and the importance to learn about it.”
 - “Very helpful I learned a lot of helpful resources and got comfortable more with the financial services offered at mesa.”
 - “This workshop was really helpful. I learned a lot about the different programs Mesa offers like the stand, the career center, and a financing class. I also thought it was helpful to get a refresher on how to budget a paycheck.”

Special Recognition

- Shout out to the Peer Navigator team for staying consistent with all of their responsibilities, especially supporting their mentees!

CalWORKs

Events & Activities

- Preparation has been underway to provide an in-person Mesa College CalWORKs Welcome back Event for the first week of March
- CalWORKs continues to provide 1/week workshops through CalWORKs Canvas. This provides student with activity hours for those who need to provide any to their county case managers.
 - Time Management Strategies
 - Introduction to (MT2C)
 - How is Student Aid is Counted: CalWORKs rules to exclude most educational grants
 - CalWORKs Program: Results from the passing of SB 1232
- Outreach and recruitment through collaboration efforts with county contactors - Public Consulting Group (PCG), ResCare, and Equus Workforce Solutions.
- Continue to provide via zoom format CalWORKs Drop-in Hours: Mondays & Thursdays (9am & 4pm) and Wednesdays (2pm)
- CalWORKs Information Workshop, provided by the SD County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA). Topics includes Cash Aid, CalFresh, and Medical application, process, or issues. Workshop is open to the campus for prospective, or new, or current CalWORKs students. Workshop occurs every Mondays and Thursdays via zoom format from 11am-12pm. More information can be found on the Mesa CalWORKs website at <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/calworks/index.shtml>
- Attended monthly CalWORKs Region X meeting. SD County Health Human Services Agency (HHSA), and SD county contractors Public Consulting Group (PCG), ResCare, and Equus Workforce Solutions. The goals are to continue strengthening pathways and support services for incoming and continuing CalWORKs students.
- Continued collaboration effort with EOPS/CARE program to provide support to prospective, new or continuing CalWORKs & EOPS/CARE students. Services include, but not limited to application and eligibility process, academic counseling, and recruitment efforts.
- Continued to process Spring CalWORKs grants to all current CalWORKs students who are in good academic standing.
- Continuing to accepting CalWORKs applications and referrals

Innovations & Data

- Fall 2021 CalWORKs Students = 22
- Spring 2022 CalWORKs Students = 33 +
- Accepting appointments for Spring 2022 Individual Training Plan (ITP), Book/Material Request forms and educational plans

Policies & Procedures

- CalWORKs online fillable application (Intake Form) is available in the CalWORKs website at <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/calworks/index.shtml>

- Students can schedule a CalWORKs appointments by emailing mesacalworks@sdccd.edu or by calling program phone/Google Voice at 619-388-2709 or by filling out a online google form on the CalWORKs website: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGeRzRnAvYTNbFL-4gs7biz3HsfvsMr5bwvQwy_1oi01MTsQ/viewform

Career

Employee Updates

- Sadie Wager is our new Senior Student Services Assistant! Sadie has been with the Transfer/Career/Evaluations Center (TCE) for four years this April as a Project Assistant. Before accepting this position, Sadie served as Career Ambassador Program Coordinator from August 2021 - January 2022 and a Career Peer Ambassador prior. Beyond her experience in Career Services, Sadie is familiar with and trained on other services provided in TCE.
- As an alumna of Mesa, Sadie brings her expertise and unique perspective of the processes students go through and has a passion for supporting students with their academic and career journeys. We are excited to welcome Sadie to her new role and classification and look forward to the positive change she will bring to our office and how we serve our students!
- Effective February 4th, please direct all career-related inquiries to Sadie. Please join me in welcoming Sadie!

Events & Activities

- Career Center Team (Kristy, Raquel and Sadie) partnered with Work-Based Learning Coordinator (Katlin Choi) to offer a Welcome Week Activity – Career Chats: Got a Major? event on February 3rd
- Career Coordinators, Kristy and Raquel, presented in two of Anthony Reuss' PERG 120 courses to give an overview of Career Services on Feb. 22 and 23rd
- Raquel and Kristy established partnership with FAST Scholars to provide direct career services and counseling support to students and also added Career/Major Exploration and Job Preparation informational materials to the FAST Scholars Canvas Shell
- Career Center Team met with San Diego Workforce Partnership on Feb. 17th to discuss future campus partnership and collaborative efforts.

Innovations & Data

- The San Diego Community College District is transitioning to a new online student job board powered by Handshake. Student (spring 2020 - present) will receive an email by the end of February with instructions on how to activate their account. Students prior to spring 2020, and alumni, will have access to the platform. More details to follow.
- For additional support and assistance with job searching and preparing application materials, please contact the Career Center at 619-800-3556 to schedule an appointment.

Policies & Procedures

- All Career Counseling and Career Ambassador appointments are being held via zoom. Students can schedule Career Counseling and/or Career Ambassador appointments by emailing mesacareersdccd@gmail.com or by calling 619-800-3556.

Student Success Stories

- Student Testimonials from our Career Ambassador Post-Appointment Surveys:
 - “I learned a lot that I will take with me pass my time at Mesa College”
 - “Amy was wonderful and encouraging for working towards building my skills and confidence in my job search.”
- For more information on the CAP program, please visit our website here:
<https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/career-center/career-peer-ambassadors.shtml>

Special Recognition

- Sadie Wager! You've hit the ground running in your new role and have done a great job leading the CAP program. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Counseling

Events & Activities

- Career Center Team (Kristy, Raquel and Sadie) partnered with Work-Based Learning Coordinator (Katlin Choi) to offer a Welcome Week Activity – Career Chats: Got a Major? event on February 3rd.
- Kristy and Raquel will present in two of Anthony Reuss' PERG 120 courses to give an overview of Career Services on Feb. 22 and 23rd
- Raquel and Kristy established partnership with FAST Scholars to provide direct career services and counseling support to students and also added Career/Major Exploration and Job Preparation informational materials to the FAST Scholars Canvas Shell
- Career Center Team met with San Diego Workforce Partnership on Feb. 17th to discuss future campus partnership and collaborative efforts.

Innovations & Data

- For the month of February the number of drop-in and appointments were the following (unduplicated counts)
 - Drop-in 1287
 - Appointments 333

DSPS

Events & Activities

- DSPS collaborated with General Counseling and EOPS to present a workshop titled: Getting to Know your Students and Increasing Engagement in the Classroom
- DSPS was trained on the Cleared4 system so that we can authorize visitors in the classroom as a disability accommodation
- The DSPS Coordinator attended the Cloud Solutions for the Classroom in partnership with District IT, Microsoft and the CISC faculty.
- DSPS continued our work on department outcomes and is a participant in the Outcomes (beta tester) pilot project
- DSPS is excited to announce we are starting a Diverse_Ability Club for our DSPS students and allies

Innovations & Data

- DSPS processed 106 student applications in February and proctored 46 student exams.

Policies & Procedures

- DSPS has updated our DSPS Authorized Visitor process and forms.

Special Recognition

- DSPS would like to recognize our SDICCCA Counselor Fellow-Sandy Ricketts for all of the support she has provided in getting the Diverse_Abilities club up and running

EOPS & Special Programs

Employee Updates

- We want to welcome Angel Aguilar Garcia who will be serving as our new Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars Program Counselor Coordinator. We are excited to have you Angel, welcome to the team!
- Welcome to Melissa Zavala and Krystal Mucha for joining NextUp and FAST as Adjunct Counselors.

Events & Activities

EOPS

- 2/10/22 | Borderless Scholars in collaboration with JFS/HELs (Jewish Family Services/ Higher Education Legal Services) continues to promote FREE Immigration Legal Services to 454 Borderless Scholars Students. To learn more about this service, please contact the EOPS Office to speak to one of our Borderless Scholars Team members or access the following link to schedule an appointment: www.jfssd.org/HELs.
- 2/7 & 2/14/22 | The Mesa College Borderless Scholars Team hosted a Time Management Workshop featuring tips on how to make academic goals and properly manage them. These workshops were presented by our Borderless Scholars counselor Rosa Palacios and our Project Assistant Yolanda Granados.
- 2/14/22 | The Mesa College Borderless Scholars Team offered a Health Care Resource Workshop. Students received information and resources to access health care regardless of immigration status. This workshop was facilitated by Borderless Scholars Peer Mentor, Giovanni Sanchez.
- 2/23/22 | The Mesa College Borderless Scholars Team offered a virtual space for students to practice self-care. The series of Weekly Dose of Self-Care feature mindfulness and meditation techniques to help students be more present, build focus, stay relaxed and to take one breath at the time. This workshop was facilitated by Project Assistant Consuelo Orihuela.
- 2/24/22 | The Mesa College Borderless Scholars Team partnered with the Dreamer Support Programs at the District, City College, Miramar College, and CE to offer a series of virtual workshops to provide information, support, and advocacy for our undocumented students.
- 2/11, 2/17 & 2/25/22 Borderless Scholars Team held Financial Aid CA Dream Act (CADAA) Application Workshops. These Financial aid workshops are tailored for current and prospective Undocumented Students. The attendees learned about the Dream Act Application, CCPG, Grants, and Scholarship opportunities. The workshop was presented by our Borderless Scholars counselor Clemente Ayala.

CARE

- Outreach and recruitment through EOPS applications-outreach to potential students
- Welcome Week info session
- CARE Welcome Back Event

- Provide students with gas cards after each EOPS appointments
- Collaboration with CalWORKs
- Attend monthly EOPS/CARE statewide check-in meetings

NextUP & FAST Scholars

- NextUp and FAST Scholars programs are in the process of organizing several events for the Spring 2022 semester, both for our scholars and college professionals.

Rising Scholars

- Attend Rising Scholars CCC Counselor meetings and workshops
- Rising Scholars Welcome Back Event
- Collaboration meeting with Rising Scholars statewide network
- Monthly Region X SDICCCA meeting

Innovations & Data

- In order to offer assistance for our Borderless Scholars, the Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars Team issued a Spring 2022 survey for students to opt-in requesting specific supportive services such as: Book Service, School Supplies, Money for Food, Counseling Appointments, Immigration Consultations, and one-time Gas Card assistance. The questionnaire was distributed to 505 Borderless Scholars students. Please contact the Dreamers Resource Center at MesaDreamers@sdccd.edu, or phone our virtual office at 619.500.2053 if you have any questions.
- The Dream Resource Center, Borderless Scholars Team, and RISE Club continue to work together to support the RISE Club. RISE stands for Rising Immigrant Scholars through Education. The RISE Club is student lead and supports undocumented, AB 540, Dreamer, DACA, Non-DACA, students from mixed-status families, faculty/staff, and allies as well as the community at large. Any interested student in becoming part of this amazing club, either as a member or as an officer please contact Borderless Scholars Counselor Rosa Palacios at rpalacios@sdccd.edu for more information.

Student Success Stories

- Congratulations to all of our Borderless Scholars on the Dream Resource Center's Grand Opening. This space would not have been possible without your advocacy and bravery.
- Seven FAST and NextUp Scholars applied for transfer. So far, one of our scholars has been admitted to CSU Fullerton

Special Recognition

- A special thanks to all of the awesome Mesa College teams that continuously collaborate with our Dreamer Resource Center and Borderless Scholars Program. Thank you for the amazing teamwork, support, and collaboration in facilitating meaningful, and helpful information for our Dreamer students.
- To Jessica in Financial Aid for going above and beyond in support our NextUp and FAST Scholars.

Evaluations

Events & Activities

- The San Diego Mesa College 2022 Commencement Ceremony will be held on campus on May 27th, 2022. The Commencement Team is working on logistics and will share details with the campus as the event gets closer. In the meantime, students who wish to participate in the upcoming commencement must complete their degree and/or certificate requirements by fall 2021, spring 2022, or summer 2022 and must apply for graduation. Students can find more information on the Evaluations website here: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/evaluations/apply-for-degree.shtml>

Policies & Procedures

- Student Petitions
 - All student petitions and forms are electronic. However, most petitions require students to meet with a Counselor before submitting. Students can find the forms and submit them through our District's Form's and Document's site: <https://www.sdccd.edu/students/forms-and-documents.aspx>.
 - For more information on the types of petitions, please visit the Evaluations Student Forms/Academic Petitions here: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/evaluations/forms-and-petitions.shtml>
- Graduation
 - Please encourage students to apply for graduation - applying for graduation is a required step for students earning a degree and/or Certificate of Achievement. Below are the 2021-2022 Apply for Graduation deadlines:
 - March 15, 2022 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and ensure your name will be included in the commencement program. **Students filing after this date, but before April 30, 2022 will still be Spring 2022 graduates, but their name may not be in the Commencement Program.**
 - April 30, 2022 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and be a Spring 2022 graduate. Students filing after this date will be a Summer 2022 graduate.
 - July 31, 2022 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and be a Summer 2022 graduate. Students filing after this date will be Fall 2022 graduates.
 - Students apply for their degree/certificate through their mysdccd portal under the, "My Academics" tab. Students should follow deadlines above that align with their path. Please encourage students to meet with a Counselor and apply early. Students can watch this quick tutorial on applying for graduation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI2S4GGSi7M>
 - How to students check their graduation status? Students can apply and view their graduation status through their student portal. Under the "My Academics" tab on the College Student Dashboard, click "View Graduation Status". Students should meet with a Counselor if they are unclear of their status.

- The District Evaluator Alphabet (for internal use):
 - Thu Nguyen...A,H,V
 - Christina Hambrick...B,F,N
 - Daniel Borbon Ibarra...C,D
 - Mary (Maggie) Stone...E, G
 - Helen Houillion...I,K,M,Y,Z
 - Hilda Osuna...J,L,T,U
 - Ryan Zimmerman...O,P,Q,R
 - Christina Monaco...S,W,X

Financial Aid

Employee Update

- Cecilia Valdez our newest Student Assistance Technician and Joel Vera-Gonzalez have been with us for 2 months making good progress.

Events & Activities

- We began the system roll-over in preparation for 2022-2023 testing and loading aid applications loading to begin the 22-23 file processing.

Innovations & Data

- During the month of February we disbursed \$4,115,901.81 in direct refunds to 4,235 students.

Policies & Procedures

- We are reviewing the implementation of regulatory changes required for the 22-23 academic year.

Special Recognition

- Everyone in the FA Office, Delany for her excellent collaborative work between our Office and Outreach helping Promise Program students. To Joel and Cecilia for the energy and enthusiasm brought to the office. To the District FA Team (Tosh, Manolis and Lilibeth) for their work with the FA pages in the CS system, to the District Student Financials Team (Tony, Megan, Lili) for their help with refunds. To Dean Miller for her extraordinary leadership.

Outreach & Community Relations

Events & Activities

Outreach

- As we have transitioned back to onsite services, our Outreach Ambassadors have been supporting Welcome Week efforts as well as providing campus tours! We've had the opportunity to introduce prospective students and their families to our beautiful Mesa campus. Spring is here and Outreach is happy to be providing high touch services.
- 2/17 - Mesa Staff Van Chhum was invited to provide a Financial Aid workshop at High Tech High: Gary and Jerri- Ann Jacobs School. He was able to meet with over 50 students and to support with FAFSA and CA Dream Act completion.
- 2/25 -Mesa College Outreach participated in the monthly District Outreach training. All the campuses (City, Mesa, Miramar and the College of Continuing Education) had the opportunity to learn more about the College of Continuing Education and all it has to offer students. All in all it was a great opportunity for the Ambassadors to get to know their peers better throughout the District.
- 2/28 - Our Mesa Ambassadors were invited to participate in the "SDCCE Celebration of Health Art and Culture event" at the College of Continuing Education: Education Cultural Complex (ECC). Ambassadors: Phoebe Truong, Daniela Castellanos, and Guillermo Martinez Montalvo were able to meet with ECC students and to introduce them to Mesa College programs and services.

Promise

- We hosted two Virtual Spring Kickoff Sessions for Promise students to get program updates and prepare for Spring semester. A total of 50 students attended.
- We distributed 18 free laptops to current Promise students. 90 students entered the opportunity drawing.
- We distributed 162 \$250 emergency grants to current Promise students. 380 students completed the grant application.
- We participated in the San Diego Promise | College of Continuing Ed Information Session. We shared Mesa campus highlights and Promise program information. We had over 40 attendees.

Policies & Procedures

Promise

- Promise students had until February 11 to enroll in at least 12 units for Spring semester. Students who did not enroll in at least 12 units may submit a DSPS Waiver or appeal for a reduced unit load to remain eligible for the Promise program while enrolled in less than 12 units.
- The Promise program is now accepting applications for Class of 2022 high school graduates who will be starting at Mesa during Fall 2022. More information and the application can be found here: <https://sdmesa.edu/promise>

Student Affairs

Employee Updates

- The team is all back in person and we are so happy to be here!
- Our team includes the following:
 - Victoria Kerba Miller, Dean of Student Affairs
 - Claudia Perkins, Student Rights and Responsibilities Coordinator
 - Charlie Lieu, College Technical Analyst
 - Zulma Heraldez, Administrative Assistant
 - Courtney Lee, Senior Student Services Assistant
 - Jessica Atthowe, SDICCCA Student Affairs Intern
 - Chrystian Smith, Student Affairs Intern
 - Sahar Mohammadi, Student Affairs Intern
 - Joanna Duong, Student Affairs Intern
 - Baktash Olomi, Student Affairs Intern

Events & Activities

- **Scholarship Applications**

The 2021-2022 scholarship cycle closed the application period at midnight on Thursday, Feb 17. The results of this cycle indicates a robust amount of interest from Mesa College student, with 661 applicants submitting a total of 2870 individual applications. This works out to about 4.3 applications per student on average and, furthermore, only 8% of students (56) drafted a general application that they then failed to submit. Likewise, only 11% (321) of the individual scholarship applications were drafted and then not submitted. We thus have a 92% and 89% submission rate for general applications and individual applications, respectively. Although this data does not reflect demographic information and the important context it provides, these are good numbers!

- **Scholarship Outreach**

This scholarship season Student Affairs is excited to offer students the opportunity to receive \$100 for attending one (1) scholarship workshop and information session as well as submitting three (3) Mesa scholarships. Mesa Scholarship workshops and information sessions are a collaborative effort by Student Affairs and MT2C that delivers pertinent information about applying for scholarships and writing excellent application essays.

- **Scholarship Innovation**

Mesa Foundation in collaboration with Student Affairs has implemented a Scholarship Community Reviewer Outreach campaign! We are excited to offer the opportunity for our Mesa Community to serve as reviewers to various Mesa Foundation Scholarships. The call out was circulated during Convocation and we are pleased to share that we have 26 community members that have signed up to join!

- **Scholarship Review**

Student Affairs is collaborating with the Office of Communications and the Office of the Dean of Equity to host a workshop for scholarship reviewers. This workshop will seek to define existing equity gaps in our scholarship review process and explore methods for closing those gaps through compassionate action at every stage of the process.

- **Welcome Week & Welcome Booths**

Despite the unexpectedly remote start to the semester, Student Affairs hosted a welcome booth on campus, from Jan 31 to Feb 3, to serve those students who had classes in-person. Engagement with the booth was greater than expected, with a slow but constant rate of students approaching to ask questions. Predictably, many of these questions revolved around when campus would be reopening for the semester, but directions to buildings and classrooms still made up the majority of service provided to students. Data tracking was practically impossible under the circumstances, but at least 50 campus maps were handed out during Welcome Week. In addition, Student Affairs hosted an additional welcome booth during the soft start of in-person classes during the week of Feb 22. Special thanks must go to the Student Ambassadors and Peer Navigators, whose volunteer support was absolutely essential to the success of both these critically important events.

- **AS Elections**

The in-house election application period for the Associated Students in spring 2022 closed on Feb 17, with eleven students ultimately submitting applications. We look forward to mentoring those hopeful new members of the AS as they take on their new responsibilities.

- **Club Rush**

The Inter-Club Council persisted in hosting an in-person Club Rush for the beginning of the spring 2022 semester, with a total of nine student groups signed up to participate. Inclement weather drastically impacted the success of the event on Tuesday and Wednesday, but clubs and the ICC were still present on-campus to participate through thick and thin. Reports are that the event was quite engaging, with many students visiting the club tables even in their new storm-resistant location. In addition, students who attended Club Rush and completed a simple set of tasks were eligible to receive a \$100 grant, which generated a notably large amount of interest among students.

Special Recognition

- Our students are back! They want to be back and they are excited to be here!!

Student Development

Events & Activities

- Crakes and Maxey attended the SEP training through the Chancellor's Office.

Student Success Stories

- Mesa received commendation for the Veterans RFA final report and was invited to submit a proposal for the veterans symposium scheduled for September 2022.

Special Recognition

- Special recognition to Vicki Hernandez, Jordan Agricola, Alexandro Rodriguez, Gail Fedalizo, Adrian Tanjuaquio, Laura Rodriguez, and Ha Dinh for all their work supporting the student veterans.
- Many thanks to Bridget Herrin and Vicki Hernandez for their continued dedication to supporting us with our Military Friendly survey which resulted in a gold designation for San Diego Mesa College for 2022-2023.

Student Health Services

Employee Updates

- Linda attended Transition Age Youth (TAY) Behavioral Health Services Council meeting provided by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency about Adult Mental Health.

Events & Activities

- Mental health counselor Aurora San Pedro, LMFT provided Mental Health support to the academic support team from the Avanza Center: The Peer Navigators. The theme was “uncertainty”. Aurora explored how peer navigators take on extra stress as employees and students taking classes. She covered healthy coping skills, which included scheduling, exercise, being outdoor, community/connectivity, resources and support.
- Student club: Active Minds facilitated by Aurora started the spring semester book club. They are reading a #1 New York Times bestseller, Turtles All the Way Down by John Green. The officers in Active Minds agreed to still keep weekly meetings on a Friday at 2:00 pm.
- Student Health services brought back the Grief and Resilience was a weekly student support group for all students to talk about what is happening in our daily life dealing with grief. Topics include:
 - Remember that your way of grieving is yours alone
 - Honor your feelings
 - Give yourself special time to think about your loved one
 - Take care of your health
- Mental Health counselors, John Guinn, LMFT provided a safe place for students to speak their mind starting from February to May.
- Student Health welcomes back John Guinn, LMFT. John facilitated the Be Calm group last spring semester. John will help out every Thursday this semester with Linda and every Tuesday to provide weekly support to help students with stress management, anxiety reduction and coping skills.
- Come As You Are, weekly student support group is starting discussions every Wednesday at 2:00pm. Join our Mental Health Counselor Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW, as she creates a safe and inclusive support space for people who identify as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, queer, non-binary, intersex and asexual.
- Linda facilitated a workshop on How to Organize for a Successful Semester last semester. Both students, staff and faculty realized that this workshop is very useful to their daily schedule of balancing work, school and home life. Students were able to learn about setting up a calendar to organize projects, study time and exams, manage stress and anxiety, schedule time to relax, and control social media usage. Student Health ensures that this workshop will be available weekly starting this month until finals week for the spring semester.
- Connections through Jackbox games every Thursday at 3:00pm are one of the most popular weekly groups to join. This is facilitated by Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW. It is an entertaining interactive way to have students stay connected with one another during the hard transition time of college life.

- Linda will present at the Friday Afternoon Tutoring Sessions on Information about anxiety and depression and how to have access to psychological services at Mesa College. She will also discuss coping skills, along with questions including QPR feedback.

Innovations & Data

- Student Health is continuing to learn and update the electronic health records. With data collected through Mediat, Student Health served 194 students through telehealth mental health services. Medical services were available for all students for in-person and tele health appointments with 539 students served, including limited in-person services with Dr. Wong every Wednesday for Athletes and Allied Health students.

Student Success & Equity

Employee Updates

- Jordan Nash has been hired to serve as a "Black Student Leadership Fellow" This will be a project based position that will promote and recruit black students who will participate in various leadership roles including: Peer Navigators, Outreach Ambassadors, Basic Needs Ambassadors, Pathways Fellows, etc.
- Lucio Lira has been hired to serve as the Pride Center Coordinator.
- We were sad to say goodbye to Basic Needs Ambassador Mustaf Adde.
- Basic Needs Coordinator Johanna Aleman attended the Asilomar Leadership Skills Seminar in Pacific Grove.

Events & Activities

- SSE has served to support various Black History Month Events including:
 - Rosa Parks Recognition & Libation
 - The Activist in Me
 - Disrupting Racism Through the Lens of the Arts
- The Stand returned to in-person services Tuesday Feb. 22 and will be at full service operations in March.

Innovations & Data

The Student Success & Equity Office

- SSE has been partnering with Instruction to develop a Black Teacher Education Program in partnership with SDSU, Katrina Hamilton (SDICCCA Intern) has been supporting the development of the project.
- A Business Agreements was finalize with the district that will allow us, specifically Student Success & Equity, to partner with 211 San Diego | Community Information Exchange this Spring. The partnership will allow the development and training of our adjunct counselor(s); social work interns; basic needs ambassadors, etc. so that we can perform the functions that their associates/employees perform using 211 resources\databases to support our students.

The Stand

- **Direct Student Support**
 - The Stand continued seeing students through our direct student support program and have been providing students with books, supplies, foods, and other resources to assist with basic needs.
- **Market distributions**
 - The Stand continues to host the Farmers and Mobile markets as a drive thru model on the third level of the campus parking garage. These events are typically held the First Monday and Third Thursday of each month. We continue to encourage everyone to volunteer to support these events either by volunteering or informing students about the events.

- **Workshops**

- The Stand has continued a series of workshops under the theme of Bolstering Confidence for a Safe Return. We are partnered with EOPS, CalWorks, STAR TRiO in promoting workshops under this theme. The majority of workshops begin in March.

Transfer

Events & Activities

- We continue to offer daily transfer talks. We are working on dual goals of preparing students for Fall 2023 transfer as well as supporting our Fall 2022 immediate transfer students. This is a great time for students to get information on Transfer Admission Guarantees, Associate Degrees in Transfer and academic renewal.

Innovations & Data

Transfer Center Data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselor Drop-In Appointments: 49• Counselor Additional Contact: 216• Transfer Center Drop-ins: 129• Supplemental App Open Labs: 23• Supplemental App Open Lab Participants: 233	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Week presentation 3• Welcome Week presentation participants: 13• Transfer Talks: 10• Transfer Talks Participants: 10• Chat Bot Conversations: 21

Policies & Procedures

- Students are encouraged to make 1:1 appointments with 4 year university reps through their respective links <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/transfer-center/university-representative-visits.shtml>
- Please refer students to or transfer center page to update us on their admissions notifications. They can use our link to input where they have been accepted.
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnaXQjCuFC-ZGseUzNDJL1O9RdI18pBZMp6qqXaHK4ddgEcQ/viewform>
- Transcript Fee Grants: As students are admitted to four year schools one of the hidden costs is transcripts fees. This can be costly if they student has previously attended multiple schools. The Transfer Center is able to help students with an SD Mesa Foundation Innovation Grant to help defray the cost of transcripts. <https://forms.gle/zoSmLojnirubxEdb7>

Student Success Stories

- The TCE staff continues to share in the joy with students as they get accept into four year schools.

Special Recognition

- Welcome back to all the student workers and staff coming back to the TCE! We appreciate you.

Veterans

Employee Updates

- We have hired 14 new VA work-studies across the campus, including the Dean's in the School of Arts and Languages, Athletics and the LRC. This brings our total to 20 student work studies. We also have a request for 3-4 student work studies we are getting to fill for The Stand.

Events & Activities

- To welcome back our student veterans to campus and the Veterans Success Center, we offered light morning refreshments and coffee on Tuesday and Wednesday (Feb 22 & 23).

Innovations & Data

- This month we have had communication with 400 students regarding general information or their VA educational benefits.
- The staff has cleared over 500 students in Cleared4 this month.
- We have also assisted over 40 faculty regarding grade submission and other questions.

Policies & Procedures

- We are working on streamlining our VA benefit intake process to ensure a faster turn-around time for deferments to go on accounts. Making this change will give students the ability to make changes to their schedules without delay.

Student Success Stories

- Through our VA work study interview process we were able to find out from a student of his goal of doing stats for a major league baseball team. Because of this knowledge we were able to place him with the Athletics department working with baseball and maybe basketball doing stats. This is a perfect way to get real life experience and give back to his community.

Special Recognition

- To our students at Mesa who have the resilience and perseverance to come back after being remote for 2 years. Special thanks to all of the staff who are here to serve our students and letting them know they are not alone!

Vice President Student Services

Employee Updates

- VP Hands was honored as a Black History Month pioneer at UC San Diego's 20th Anniversary Black History Month Celebration & Scholarship Awards Ceremony.
- VP Hands has been re-appointed to serve on NASPA's James E. Scott Academy Board for a second consecutive term and participated on a NASPA Advisory Services Review Team for a California Community College.
- VP Hands attended an ACCJC Peer Review Training.

Events & Activities

- On February 22, 2022 we opened the doors of our Student Services Center to students and the community. Click [here](#) for more information about our hours and various ways to connect.
- Our February Mesa Student Services Council Meeting focused on Return to Campus, Call to Action, Restorative Practices @ Mesa College and Accreditation: Standard II.
- Motivation & Morale (M&M) Committee
 - M&M hosted a Super Sweet Mad Libs Contest in the month of February! We hope you had a fun time participating in this Valentine's themed activity. "Yoda Best!"
- VP Hands presented at the following events
 - #RealCollegeCalifornia Basic Needs Summit. In addition to helping coordinate Mesa's hosting of this event, VP Hands was able to participate in a [Mesa College Highlight video](#) on our Basic Needs services (start at 1:28:00).
 - EOPS & Special Program Virtual Retreat
- VP Hands attended/participated in the following activities/events
 - Mesa Pathways Spring Retreat
 - Mesa College Black History Month Events:
 - Rosa Parks Birthday Recognition & Libation
 - Activist in Me
 - Dr. William A. Smith - Community Keynote Presentation
 - Disrupting Racism Through the Lens of the Arts with Dr. Ron McCurdy
- VP Hands attended the following webinars/professional learning opportunities
 - 2022 System Webinars: Chancellor's Office
 - SCCC Student Forum Series

Innovations & Data

- The department helped coordinate Mesa College's March 17th Booster Clinic (open to all of SDCCD) and coordinated a incentives for Mesa College Students
- New scholarship videos to guide Scholarship Reviewers during the review cycle. Thank you to Hai Hoang from the Office of IE and Charlie Lieu in Student Services for producing these videos. For more assistance with scholarships, please contact the Student Affairs department.
 - [Scholarships & Equity: Using Data to Put Values into Action](#)
 - [Scholarship Review Training: Step-by-Step Guide](#)

- Live Chat stats:
 - 1697 Automated Responses provided by Olympia Virtual Chat
 - 378 Students assisted by Mesa Live Agents from Feb. 1 – 28
 - Mesa Journeys Newsletter February issues
 - [Feb. Issue #1](#)
 - [Feb. Issue #2](#)
 - Want to include your announcements in the Mesa Journeys Newsletter? Please send it to: mesajourneys@gmail.com
 - Contact Charlie Lieu at clieu@sdccd.edu if you have any questions
- Mesa College partnered with Motimatic to engage students who have not been enrolled since Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. At the completion of our partnership, 639 students re-engaged by registering in 2022 Intersession/Spring courses.

Policies & Procedures

- SDCCD distributed the [Fall 2022 & Booster Mask Update to students](#)
- SDCCD distributed a Spring 2022 Student COVID-19 Guide for Faculty and Staff
- SDDCD announced that credit by examination fees will be eliminated effective immediately.