



*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 ♦ 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

- Amara Tang has been promoted to SST and began working in EOPS in February.
- The Veterans Office has hired four new VA work studies to assist with the virtual front desk in Veterans and Records.

### Events & Activities

- The Assessment Office assisted Outreach in the first of the Pre-Enrollment efforts with Mesa's feeder high schools. The office continues to look for Zoom-friendly ways to help students with their first steps at Mesa.
- Peer Navigators 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 for the semester are 9a - 11a and 1p - 3p.
- The SDCCD CalWORKs Programs (City College, Miramar College, SD College of Continue Education, Mesa College) and the San Diego County Health Human Services Agency (HHS), have been providing a Zoom Drop-in workshop to assist student in applying for Cash Aid, CalFresh, and Medical. Every (Mon. & Thur.) from 11am-12pm.
- The Career Ambassadors hosted "Tea Time with Career Ambassadors" to help students learn about career services, next steps for transfer, and applying to graduate.
- In keeping with the times, our spring 2021 Welcome Week was also a collection of online events, including info sessions, workshops, entertainment and more. The full schedule of events

stretched from Monday, February 1, to Friday, February 5, and featured 24 separate events, many of which extended across multiple days, put on by 20 individual Mesa College departments and service areas.

- February marks the last full month before scholarship applications are due, so Mesa Student Affairs has stepped up our outreach and assistance efforts
- In order to adapt to the changing educational environment, the Mesa College Inter-Club Council has decided to host the 2021 spring Club Rush as a "virtual posting board" where clubs can hang posters inviting students to attend their meetings and get engaged with campus life.
- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW provided three Pop-Up Be Calm events for the first two weeks of Spring 2021 semester. The attendees to all of the pop-up events were able to have individual appointment meetings with our mental health counselors.
- M&M hosted the "Next Level - Power Up!" Social Event on February 24th. The Mesa Student Services Community had the opportunity to meet our M&M team members through speed-zoom chats and community building!
- Student Success & Equity developed a partnership with Community Information Exchange (CIE) a part of the 2-1-1 Network. This collaboration will strengthen our capacity to make direct referrals of our students to community-based programs and services.
- Student Success and Equity also Initiated a partnership with Edquity as we piloted the use of their platform to distribute resiliency funds to students

## **Innovations & Data**

- San Diego Mesa College has been designated a Military Friendly School for the 2021-2022 Military Friendly cycle with a silver awards rank under the category of large community college.
- DSPS has started the implementation of Clockwork-an online office management system. The DSPS Coordinator and the DSPS Administrative Technician are the leads for Mesa and are working with the leads at City, Miramar, CE and the District Office.
- Students may now register for EOPS New Student Orientations through Zoom Registration. EOPS has converted from using Google Form to Zoom Registration to send Zoom link invites to eligible students and track attendance. District Office is also now sending automatic emails through CS every Saturday inviting new eligible student to sign up for an orientation.
- The Outreach team along with EOPS and Admissions are collaborating with Cesar Chavez CCE on a pipeline project. The intent of this collaboration is to assist over 100 students overcome the barriers that Immigrant-based students face upon applying for Admission, residency and financial aid.
- Student Health has provided over 130 flu shots and will continue to provide free flu shots until the end of the semester.
- The [Spring CARES Act: Student Financial Relief Grant](#) site is updated.
- Mesa Journeys Welcome email project is complete. Now, after each student completes Mesa Journeys they will receive an email from corresponding departments explaining their services and contact information. See Veterans [Career Center sample](#).

## Call to Action Updates

- Admissions participated in various Black History Month events as part of our first goal to gain knowledge on being actively anti-racist. We also continued to discuss what policies and processes our office has that are a barrier to our black students.
- After creating marketing materials (i.e. infographics) that highlight student support services with hyperlinks, the Assessment Office began distributing it to new students.
- Dean Maxey visited the Peer Navigator team to encourage the work supporting our Black / African American students. In addition, the team is looking into hosting their first focus group in March to ask how the programs (CRUISE and Peer Navigators) can better support Black / African American students.
- CalWORKs attended the “Equity-Grounded Counseling: Serving Black Students” webinar series and posted Black Lives Matter resources & workshops in the CalWORKs Newsletter.
- On February 1, all counselors sent "You Matter" emails to at least four Black students attending Mesa for the first time in spring 2021. Counseling also plans to distribute its 1st Edition of the Counseling Equity Committee newsletter.
- DSPS had the opportunity to present our Call to Action Update during the February Mesa Student Services Council meeting. Its presentation included: 1. Updates on collaborative efforts with other programs and departments; 2. It's “Words Matter” campaign (DSPS has changed its “intake” appointments to “welcome” appointments; 3. DSPS is working to break down the barriers to program eligibility while providing flexibility of services.
- Director of Financial Aid Gilda Maldonado and Student Services Analyst Victor Devore provided a list of 62 Black/AA students at Mesa that meet EOPS eligibility and that had yet to apply to our program. An email inviting them to apply to EOPS was sent to students.
- Evaluations department at San Diego Mesa College continues to address racial inequity by hosting our Apply for Graduation Parties this spring semester. The Evaluations Team held the third Apply for Graduation party of the 2020-2021 academic year on Feb. 10th with a total of 20 students in attendance. Students shared how helpful the event and resources were during their last year completing their degree
- Promise is working with the Black Faculty Counselors Collective to plan two workshops dedicated to Black Promise students for Spring semester.
- In order to reach our goal of increasing the engagement of Black students through the Mesa College Associated Students and the scholarship program funded by the Mesa College Foundation, Student Affairs has instituted a direct outreach campaign with the ultimate goal of building an ongoing relationship with Mesa College's Black student population.
- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW and Director of Student Health Suzanne Khambata FNP are currently very close to signing the contract with the Urban Restoration Center leadership for the mental health care of Black Students.
- The Transfer Center is hosting Workshop Wednesdays with Mary G and Mary E designed to be marketed to Students of Color. We will partner with EOPS and seek other collaborations with Umoja, Puente and BFCC faculty.
- The VPSS office worked with Charlie to create our CCC Equity Alliance website - <http://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/student-success-equity/california-community-college-equity-leadership-alliance.shtml>

## Policies & Procedures

- Collaboration efforts have been started with SDCCD CalWORKs programs to discuss changes to CalWORKs WTW Student Reform of 2021 (SB 1232).
- The 2021-2022 Promise application is now available for Class of 2021 high school graduates entering Mesa College in Fall 2021. Details and application information can be found here: <http://sdmesa.edu/promise>
- Student Health Services completed an MOA with the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS). This collaborative affords us the opportunity to utilize the County's extensive community partnerships for all types of care for our students.
- Veterans is currently working with campus and district staff to ensure full compliance of PL 116-315 regarding VA educational benefits.
- Student Services launched our Spring CARES Act: Student Financial Relief Grant Application Process.
- The Transfer Center has a link on the Transfer Center page to for students to share where they have been accepted. Please encourage students to share the good news [HERE](#).

## Student Success Stories

- Some students who participated in EOPS's Student Voices: Drive Thru School Supplies Distribution Event responded:
  - "I thought this was great. A lot of people have been experiencing dark times through COVID19, it really helped shine a light!"
  - "I have received the package in the mail. Thank you so much! I was not expecting all these excellent goodies. I needed everything that's in this bag!"
  - "Thank you so much for your support and all those efforts that EOPS TEAM had during this pandemic."
- Despite students continuing to learn online and navigating its challenges, our foster youth are reporting more now than ever how they are thriving and learning to focus their lives around their educational goals. FAST and NextUP are on target to graduate and transfer 10% of their population.
- Students who attended our last Apply for Graduation party were asked: "What is your WHY?" and one responded:
  - "My why is that I want to make a difference for people with disabilities, like me. I want to be a good role model for others with disabilities and show everybody that people with disabilities can be smart, capable, and good students and workers, and try to break down stigma about having disabilities. I also want to be visible in the Health Information field as a service dog handler."
- Students are starting to get accepted to various colleges and universities! The Transfer Center celebrates each acceptance as pathway to life changes experiences and economic independence.

# Admissions

## Employee Updates

- Jordan Frodente returned from a snowboarding injury and we are excited to have him back.

## Events & Activities

- The Admissions staff attended the following events:
  - February 2- Working with Different Personalities and Styles and Developing Accountability
  - Feb 3 - LGBTQ+ training Feb 4- Rosa Parks Memorial
  - February 9- All of the admissions attended the West African Healing Drums
  - February 10 & 24- Feel, Heal and Be Real
  - February 11-Tulsa Race Massacre Investigation and Latin CCC Virtual Mixer
  - February 16: Black Womxn Worthy: A Conversation with Ebony Janice Moore
  - February 23- SD Mesa College Campus Community Virtual Forum February 24- Joint School Meeting
  - Feb 25- Propelled by students
- Meetings:
  - Weekly staff meetings at 10 am, President Cabinet Meetings, SDCCD/SDUSD Joint Partnership Workgroup Meetings, Student Development Leadership Team, SD Mesa/SDUSD Monthly Meeting, Mesa Student Services Council, Classified Senate, M&M, Classified Professional Learning

## Innovations & Data

- As part of our goal to support students, we replied to 1,014 emails, 250 mySDCCD Support Desk tickets, 268 Residency reclassifications, 76 educational verifications, 29 transcript inquiries, 65 prospective student questions, 23 international student communications, 30 high school dual enrollment questions, and processes and hundreds of phone calls on both our Admission phone tree and Admissions Google voice. We have 2147 student interactions recorded on SARS for this month.
- The Admissions JIRA TEAM (Celine, Elizabeth, Jose, Rena) is currently working on a report of high school students who have fees for Spring 2021, Fall 2020 and Summer 2020. Our goal is to get these students corrected by the end of the Spring term to ensure no barriers for enrollment for Summer 2021.

## Call to Action Update

- We continued to meet and discuss our 3 calls to action items during our staff meeting and participated in various Black History Month events as part of our first goal to gain knowledge on being actively anti-racist. We also continued to discuss what policies and processes our office has that are a barrier to our black students, and how we can propose and bring change to these items. The admissions staff is open to hearing from new students on their experience through our application and registration processes.

## **Policies & Procedures**

- The JIRA team (Celine, Elizabeth, Jose, Rena, and Raquel) looked at the high school supplemental application process and submitted a request to District Student Services and the Admissions Supervisors at Mesa, City, and Miramar to look at the process and make changes. Recommendations include: creating a landing page in JIRA with checkmarks to ensure students are aware of academic policies (must have completed the 10th grade, # of units they can take, clearing prerequisites), adding the high school counselor name/email as well as data that would be helpful such as current grade, and potential graduation date.
- The admissions supervisors also submitted an inquiry to the SDCCD Student Services Council on a couple of high school policies and practices that vary between the colleges to streamline our process.

# Assessment

## Events & Activities

- Pre-Enrollment 2021: The Assessment Office assisted Outreach in the first of the Pre-Enrollment efforts with Mesa's feeder high schools. We continue to look for Zoom-friendly ways to help students with their first steps at Mesa.
- Student Services Chat Bot - Assessment staff continue to support the Student Services Chat Bot, helping to answer student questions and direct them to the appropriate student serviced department or academic program.

## Innovations & Data

- Unduplicated Student Count – 133
- Orientation - 16
- Email - 46
- E-CHAT - 48
- Placement Assistant – 43

## Call to Action Update

- After creating marketing materials (i.e. infographics) that highlights student support services with hyperlinks, the Assessment Office began distributing it to new students.

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

## Employee Updates

- All 13 Peer Navigators remain focused on finishing up the semester and support their students. No new updates.

## Events & Activities

- Online Spring Semester AVANZA Engagement Center Hours: Peer Navigators 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 for the semester are 9a - 11a and 1p - 3p.
- Peer Navigator Info Sessions: To help interested candidates learn more about what it takes to be a Peer Navigator for the 2021-2022 academic year, PNs held two info sessions aimed at answering questions and providing a detailed overview of the job.
- Monthly Workshop: Time Management and Self Care: In an effort to support students, PNs held a workshop aimed at prioritizing high-priority items, identifying what is urgent and important, share current practices, and took questions from attendees. .

## Innovations & Data

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

## Call to Action Update

- Dean Maxey visited the Peer Navigator team to encourage the work we are doing to best support our African American/Black students. In addition, the team is looking into hosting their first focus group in March to ask how the programs (CRUISE and Peer Navigators) can better support such students.

## Student Success Stories

- Feedback from the PN workshop was positive -
  - I was able to learn a little more on activities I could do to help destress myself with my workload
  - It was nice that they made it very clear that different things work for different people.
  - It was helpful because I was actually doing my schedule while listening to them and even though I have 5 classes I find out I can still have a lot of free time

## Special Recognition

- Peer Navigators are receiving their college acceptance letters! We look forward to sharing the names with the next monthly report.

# CalWORKs

## Employee Updates

- The CalWORKs department has 2 Adjunct Counselors, Leo Carrillo and Grace Aumoeualogo. Both have been doing amazing jobs in connecting and working with our Mesa College's CalWORKs students.

## Events & Activities

- The SDCCD CalWORKs Programs (City College, Miramar College, SD College of Continue Education, Mesa College) and the San Diego County Health Human Services Agency (HHSA), have been providing a Zoom Drop-in workshop to assist student in applying for Cash Aid, CalFresh, and Medical. Every (Mon. & Thur.) from 11am-12pm.
- Will be providing \$300 Spring 2021 grants to current CalWORKs students. As we did for Fall 2020.
- Conducted wellness check-ins to Fall 2020 student that had not enrolled for Spring 2021.
- The program have been reaching out to the different Mesa College programs and department to promote the CalWORKs program and services.
- Continued to accept and support the Spring 2021 CalWORKs application/Intake process. – Continue
- CalWORKs Drop-in session for new and continue students on Fridays from 9am-12pm.
- Continue attending CalWORKs Region X monthly meetings that included SD County Health Human Services Agency (HHSA), and SD county contractors (Public Consulting Group (PCG), ResCare, and Equus Workforce Solutions). With the goal being to continue strengthening pathways and support services for incoming and continuing CalWORKs students.

## Innovations & Data

- Spring 2021 - (20) Active CalWORKs students
- Still accepting and supporting the Spring 2021 CalWORKs application/Intake process.

## Call to Action Update

- Attended BLM - Addressing Disproportionate School Suspensions of Black Children & Youth
- Attended Equity-Grounded Counseling: Serving Black Students Webinar Series
- Collected Ethnicity from CalWORKs Exit CalWORKs Application/Intake forms.
- Sent outreach emails to Learning Communities and Black Studies Department.
- Posted Black Lives Matter Resources & Workshops in CalWORKs Newsletter.
- Promoting Sawubona Canvas shell in the CalWORKs Newsletter.

## **Policies & Procedures**

- Collaboration efforts have been started with SDCCD CalWORKs programs to discuss changes to CalWORKs WTW Student Reform of 2021 (SB 1232).
- Program will be able to support more activities hours on the San Diego County CalWORKs Individual Educational Plan (IEP)
- All current CalWORKs students attending a college will be given a FREE laptop and hotspots.
- Book grants will be disseminated by San Diego County in a large sum base on unit load to current CalWORKs college student. This will take place two weeks prior to start of classes. As well as have the opportunity to ask for more funding if needed.

# Career

## Events & Activities

- Spring 2021 welcome week, the Career Center and Work Based Learning hosted Career Chats on February 2nd for students online via Zoom 12:00 – 2:00 pm. The event supported students to chat with a Career Counselor and Work-Based Learning Coordinator about their major and planning needs.
- On February 19th, the Career Center and Work-Based Learning representatives, Alicia Lopez and Pavel Consuegra, co-presented information about Career Services, Internships, and Work-Based Learning during the International Student Employment Workshop. Thank you, Adrienne Dines, for inviting us to this event.
- On February 23rd & 25th, Kristy Carson and Raquel Sojourner, Career Counselors and Co- Coordinators, presented an overview of Career Services to Anthony Reuss' Personal Growth classes. Thank you, Anthony Reuss, for inviting us to speak to your students about the importance of career planning.

## Career Peer Program

- Spring 2021 Welcome Week events - Our Career Ambassadors hosted "Tea Time with Career Ambassadors." They hosted four events that week and met with students. Students had the opportunity to learn about career services, next steps for transfer, and applying to graduate.
- February 26th - Career Ambassadors attended a webinar training called "Maintaining an Equity Focus in the Face of Oppressive Structures" which is part of a webinar series sponsored by MiraCosta College and Career Ladders Project (CLP). The series is designed for those working in community college counseling offices to gain a deeper understanding of the experience of Black students in counseling and career environments, identify the currents of anti-Black racism in traditional structures, and discuss ways that we can individually and systemically effectively enact change.

## Innovations & Data

### New Employer Contacts Mesa Job Network

- A total of 6 new employer contacts were made during this month through our online job board, "Mesa Job Network."
  - 1. Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors 2. Comprehensive Glass Works 3. Evergreen Nursery 4. Filmetrics (a KLA company) 5. Penske Truck Leasing 6. Stone Brewing Job Postings on Mesa Job Network

### Job Postings on Mesa Job Network

- A total of 41 jobs were posted by employers on the online job board to hire Mesa students and alumni. Students can create an account on <https://www.collegecentral.com/sdmesa/> To learn more about the online job board and other career resources for students, visit the "Career Connect Newsletter." Newsletters are located on the Career website in the report's webpage.

### **Remote Career Center Data**

- Student Career Contacts reported on SARS: Total of 63 (point of contacts)
- Remote Career Counseling Appointments: Total of 57
- Live Chatbot Conversations with Students: 13

### **Career Peer Program**

- The Career Peer Ambassadors -
  - Completed 15 online student sessions, 8 resume sessions, 7 cover letter sessions; collected 9 post assessment surveys
  - Comments received from student participants:
    - Lara was so helpful!
    - Helen is so great! She literally perfected my resume. I think right now I just need an internship mock interview. After that, I would be so ready.
    - Sadie is so great!
    - Sadie - Great experience, my resume looks way more professional and formal now.
    - Sadie - Thank you for your help, I'll be making a follow up appointment to review the finished cover letter.
    - Helen - It was a great session! I learned a lot from Helen.

### **Call to Action Update**

- Our Career Peer Ambassadors hosted their first two workshops of the Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series! They created 5 career-related workshop presentations aimed to help students learn about job search strategies, interview preparation, and networking in a virtual environment.
- February 16th - Malik Shabazz presented Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series: So You Wanna Build a Resume?
- February 23rd - Malik Shabazz presented Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series: The One-Stop Cover Letter Shop

### **Special Recognition**

- Special thanks to Amara Tang for creating and coordinating such an amazing Career Peer Ambassador Program! Words can't describe our gratitude. We will miss you! The TCE team is very proud of you and is excited for you with your next adventure in EOPS. THANK YOU!

# Counseling

## Events & Activities

- On February 1, all counselors sent 'You Matter' emails to at least four Black students attending Mesa for the first time in spring 2021.

## Innovations & Data

- Drop-In students: 1199
- Student Appointments: 295
- Total: 1434

## Call to Action Update

- Plan to distribute our 1st Edition of the Counseling Equity Committee newsletter.

## Special Recognition

- Adam Erlenbusch for his efforts to get the Counseling Connection out by the end of Black History Month!

# DSPS

## Innovations & Data

- DSPS processed 87 new student applications and 86 online appointment requests in February. Our High Tech Center processed 49 alternate media requests.
- DSPS has started the implementation of Clockwork-an online office management system. The DSPS Coordinator and the DSPS Administrative Technician are the leads for Mesa and are working with the leads at City, Miramar, CE and the District Office.

## Call to Action Update

- DSPS had the opportunity to present our Call to Action Update during the February Mesa Student Services Council meeting. Our presentation included: 1. updates on collaborative efforts with other programs and departments; 2. Our words matter campaign-we have changed our intake appointments to welcome appointments; 3. We are working to break down the barriers to program eligibility while providing flexibility of services.

# EOPS

## Events & Activities

### EOPS

- 2/2-4/21 | EOPS & Special Programs Information Sessions - Our department participated in Spring 2021 Welcome Week Activities and shared ways EOPS can support students and the program services available.
- 2/8/21 | Mesa College Scholarship Information Session - Our department collaborated with Student Affairs and MT2C to provide support to students on how to apply for San Diego Mesa College Scholarships! Special thanks to Jen Park for welcoming and creating spaces for our students!
- 2/9-11/21 | Pre-Nursing Workshops - Our EOPS counselors presented to students about the different types of Nursing programs, program prerequisites, careers in the field, and how to be a competitive applicant.
- 2/18/21 | Drive Thru School Supplies Distribution - School supplies were assembled into packages and provided to EOPS, STAR TRIO, NextUp and Fast Scholars. For students who could not attend, items have been mailed. Note: Supplies provided are based on student eligibility and program funding. We had an amazing turnout - 90 EOPS students participated in the distribution event!
- 2/22/21 | Holistic Student Series: Courageous Communication - Students learned about effective communication skills to communicate with professors and to build professional relationships.

### CARE

- 2/17/21 | CARE Welcome Back Event- students met other CARE students, EOPS team, and receive
- 2/17/21 | Shipped school supplies to students
- CARE Circle Network Meeting with state coordinator
- CARE student outreach and collaboration with CalWORKs

### NextUP & FAST Scholars

- FAST & NextUp Scholars has continued to support students with activities and events while remote. Our ongoing event is our FAST Center Online which is hosted by our project assistant, Denise Arco. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have weekly support from emotional, to mental academic.
- 2/18/21 | FAST and NextUp, in collaboration with its EOPS program provided over 100 students with school supplies and food insecurity packages. Students were beyond excited and surprised with the amount of support received.

## Borderless Scholars

- 2/4/21 | Monthly Mesa College Dreamer Students Work Group Meeting. Everyone is welcome! The purpose of this workgroup is to link efforts that are happening across campus and collectively develop and strengthen support services for current and prospective Mesa Dreamer students. If you would like to become part of the Mesa College Dreamer Students Work Group please contact EOPS and Special Programs Director, Leticia Diaz at [ldiaz@sdccd.edu](mailto:ldiaz@sdccd.edu).
- 2/5, 02/19 & 02/26/21 | Borderless Scholars Team partnered with the San Diego Mesa College Financial Aid Office offered a CA Dream Act Application Workshop. The Financial aid workshop was tailored for current and prospective Undocumented Students. The attendees learned about the Dream Act Application, CCPG, Grants, and Scholarship opportunities.
- 2/5/21 | Borderless Scholars Team presented a Time Management Workshop. This workshop was presented by our Mesa Graduate student Yolanda Granados. This was a workshop designed to help our students on time manage, and prepare for the school semester. The attendees learned about techniques to maximize their time in an engaging and fun environment.
- 2/9/21 | Borderless Scholars partnered with the San Diego Mesa Student Affairs department to offer a “How to Apply for Scholarships” workshop for our Borderless Scholars Students. In this workshop, students will have the opportunity to get an overview of Mesa’s Scholarships as well as to get a guided tour of the online application.
- 2/11/21 | Borderless Scholars offered Opportunities in HealthCare Profession. A workshop designed to discuss opportunities in the healthcare field for undocumented students. Facilitated by Yvonne Silva, a Borderless Scholars student and Catalyst Fellow.
- 02/05, 2/19 & 02/26/21 | Borderless Scholars Team offered a RISE Club information session. 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](mailto:rpalacios@sdccd.edu) for more information.
- 2/26/21 | A weekly event held every Monday and Friday of Spring 2021. Undocu-Circles is a space for the undocumented community & allies to come together and share conversations around topics pertaining to current events, legislation updates, resources, feelings, and much more. Everyone is welcome
- 2/25/21 | San Diego Mesa College is hosting our first SDCCD Dreamer Support Services Virtual conference this Spring 2021. The planning committee met to determine the logistics and have collaborative efforts across the District. If you would like to be part of the planning committee please contact EOPS and Special Programs Director, Leticia Diaz at [ldiaz@sdccd.edu](mailto:ldiaz@sdccd.edu).
- 2/26/21 | Borderless Scholars offered a space to have a conversation and vision from the students about the new Dreamer Resource Center space coming soon. This conversation was based on the students needs about the planning, and implementations needed for the space once we go back in person. Students who participated in this conversation qualify to receive a \$25 dollars grocery e-card provided by the Associated Students.

## Project Restart

- 2/23/21 | Project Restart Welcome Back Event- students met other Project Restart students, EOPS team, and receive Project Restart updates.
- 2/17/21 | Shipped school supplies to students
- Rising Scholars collaboration meeting with CCCCCO Regional coordinator
- Continued collaboration with SDSU Project Rebound and currently working expanding network to include CSUSM

## Innovations & Data

### Borderless Scholars

- Students may now register for EOPS New Student Orientations through Zoom Registration. We converted from using Google Form to Zoom Registration to send Zoom link invites to eligible students and track attendance. District Office is also now sending automatic emails through CS every Saturday inviting new eligible student to sign up for an orientation.
- FREE legal immigration consultations with an attorney are available for students and employees! Mesa College and Borderless Scholars are partnering with Jewish Family Services to offer FREE legal immigration consultations! To learn more about this service, please contact the EOPS Office to schedule an appointment with a Borderless Scholars Counselor or visit our website at [www.sdmesa.edu/EOPS](http://www.sdmesa.edu/EOPS). <https://www.jfssd.org/our-services/refugees-immigration/higher-education-legal-services/>

## Call to Action Update

- EOPS Counselor and Counselor Chair Nellie Dougherty contacted Black/AA EOPS Continuing students to check-in with them and remind them of the 1st appointment if they had yet to complete it. Nellie also provided important updates such as scholarship opportunities and different ways to stay connected during this time that services are offered remotely such as following college's social media accounts and attending virtual workshops and events.
- Director of Financial Aid Gilda Maldonado and Student Services Analyst Victor Devore provided a list of 62 Black/AA students at Mesa that meet EOPS eligibility and that had yet to apply to our program. An email inviting them to apply to EOPS was sent to students.

## Student Success Stories

- EOPS Student Voices - Drive Thru School Supplies Distribution Event Survey Responses:
  - "Great. I wasn't aware of the NextUP program but now I am. I enjoyed all the things I got sent. Thank you very much."
  - "Great supplies that was mailed to me quick and fast needed everything that they gave" o "I thought this was great. A lot of people have been experiencing dark times through COVID19, it really helped shine a light!"
  - "I have received the package in the mail. Thank you so much! I was not expecting all these excellent goodies. I needed everything that's in this bag!"

- “Thank you so much for your support and all those efforts that EOPS TEAM had during this pandemic.”
- “Thank you all so much for everything. The items I received are awesome and useful!”
- “I just wanted to share that I received my school supplies on Monday. I love them all, especially the lunchbox. Thank you again for all your support.”
- Despite students continuing to learn online and navigating its challenges, our foster youth are reporting more now than ever how they are thriving and learning to focus their lives around their educational goals. FAST and NextUP are on target to graduate and transfer 10% of their population.

## **Special Recognition**

- A huge THANK YOU to our Communications Team for their ongoing support and assistance with promoting our EOPS events. Thank you to Hai Duong for coming out to the EOPS Drive Thru School Supplies Distribution and capturing awesome photos!
- Markus Berrien has continued to support foster youth and students across San Diego Mesa College. He has recently developed a Canvas page to better support our students as they enter into our programs and systems. Using the Canvas page Markus developed addressed an equity gap FAST and NextUp was experiencing, not having a seamless and simplified onboarding process that was accessible. Markus, we are grateful for your service, your willingness to develop and create systems, and most importantly, your commitment to students at Mesa College.
- Blanca (Melissa) Zavala serves as the NextUp Student Service Technician, but she is constantly proving that her duties go beyond her title. She's the person who keeps the NextUp and FAST Scholar programs organized and in compliance with local and state regulations. Melissa's leadership has allowed students to easily connect with their counselors and receive support. She's the first person our foster students meet when onboarding to our program and because of her genuine and compassionate heart to serve, students chose our program after engaging with Melissa. We are grateful for Melissa and look forward to continuing to support our students with her leadership.
- Thanks to Borderless Scholars Team for their amazing teamwork and collaboration in facilitating meaningful and successful virtual events to support our students. In this same note, a special recognition to Yolanda Granados for facilitating a series of Time Management workshops.

# Evaluations

## Events & Activities

- The Evaluations Team the first Apply for Graduation party of the spring 2021 semester on Feb. 10th with a total of 20 students in attendance. Students expressed their appreciation for information sessions like this one that helps them stay on track to graduate. In addition to explaining the graduation application process and promoting the importance of participating in the Commencement Ceremony, we shared the career services available to students and alumni and the value a degree on your resume has. We plan on hosting more Apply for Graduation Parties in the mid-late spring semester before the final spring 2021 graduation deadline on April 30th.
- The Evaluations Team is beginning to work on the Grant Completion Marketing Project: Phase 2. The purpose of the grant is to help students toward completion of their degree and ord certificate in selected CTE programs. On Feb. 9th and 11th, Counseling and Evaluations teamed up to hold Counseling Information Zoom Sessions, and invited students from the grant that were close to completing their degree/certificate in either Business Administration or Economics from Phase 1 of the Grant from fall 2020. The events were very successful, and some students were able to apply for graduation after meeting with a counselor who were not aware before. There will be more sessions held in the future.
- Mesa College 2021 Virtual Commencement Ceremony News!  
San Diego Mesa College is thrilled to celebrate hard work, dedication and success at Mesa College with a Virtual Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Please share this exciting news with your students! In mid-March, students will begin receiving email communications regarding the ceremony and details on how to register if they wish to participate. Students must apply to graduate in order to receive this information.

## Innovations & Data

- All student petitions and forms are now electronic. 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 here: <https://www.sdccd.edu/students/forms-anddocuments.aspx>
- The remaining 2020- 2021 Apply for Graduation Deadlines are as follows:
  - March 15, 2021 - 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, 2021 will still be Spring 2021 graduates, but their name may not be in the Commencement Program.\*\*
  - April 30, 2021 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and be a Spring 2021 graduate. Students filing after this date will be a Summer 2021 graduate.
  - July 31, 2021 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and be a Summer 2021 graduate. Students filing after this date will be Fall 2021 graduates.
  - Please note: Students must still apply for their degree/certificate through their mysdccc portal under the "My Academics" tab. Students should follow deadlines above that align with their path.

## Call to Action Update

- Due to historic and structural racism and other forms of systemic barriers for Black students including lower graduation numbers, the Evaluations department at San Diego Mesa College continues to address racial inequity by hosting our Apply for Graduation Parties this spring semester. The Evaluations Team held the third Apply for Graduation party of the 2020-2021 academic year on Feb. 10th with a total of 20 students in attendance. Students shared how helpful the event and resources were during their last year completing their degree. The Evaluations team is committed to closing the gaps between the number of students eligible for a degree and or certificate vs. the number of degrees and or certificates actually awarded.

## Policies & Procedures

- What is the process with ADT E-Verifications? E-verification is a process only for students who are in-progress with completing their degree (not awarded) for Spring 2021 who applied as an ADT pathway with their CSUs. Below are the three processes depending on the student's situation:
  1. Students who were awarded their degree in fall 2020 or prior, will send their official transcripts to their CSU campuses by their campuses ADT verification deadline. The students' degree details will be included on the official transcripts. If students are unsure of their status, please direct them to check the "View Graduation Status" tab through their mysdccc portal under the "My Academics" section. If their status shows "Degree Awarded", they are good to send their transcripts. Please note, if accepted to CSUs, students will need to follow those deadlines and send official transcripts again once and if requested to do so.
  2. Students in progress with their ADT for spring 2021, will be e-verified by our Evaluators as long as they have applied for their ADT degree before or by the deadline, February 14th. After this deadline, our Evaluators will begin electronically verifying student's ADTs with the CSU campuses. It is possible that some students whose degree was awarded in fall 2020 will also be e-verified.
  3. The third situation is the hard copy verification form. Generally, this is ONLY for students who chose an ADT major as their transfer pathway in their CSU apps, but forgot to include their ADT details under their "Extended Profile" on their CSU app.
- If students need assistance applying for their degree (ADT or non-ADT), please direct them to watch this quick tutorial video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIJr0mNvPUU&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIJr0mNvPUU&feature=emb_logo)
- How to submit an official transcript to SDCCD? Student must submit all official electronic transcripts to our Transcript Office email [tinquiry@sdccd.edu](mailto:tinquiry@sdccd.edu). Once transcripts are received and totaled in our system, students should request their transcript evaluation through JIRA.
- Please note that transcript evaluations are currently taking 90 business days. Please share this with students and encourage them they can clear their Pre-requisites with Counseling while their transcripts are being evaluate.
- Please remind students to check the status of their student petitions (Academic Renewal, Mod of Graduation Requirement, IGETC Cert, and more) through Advising Notes under the "My Academics" tab on their mysdccc portal.

- Update to the Evaluator Alphabet (by last name): Please do not share evaluator’s emails with students. If students have a question for their evaluator, always direct them to email evaluators@sdccd.edu.
  - Christina Hambrick.....B, F, N
  - Christina Monaco.....G, S, W, X
  - Helen Houillion.....I, K, M, Y, Z
  - Hilda Osuna.....J, L, T, U
  - Daniel Borbon Ibarra.....C, D, E
  - Ryan Zimmerman.....O, P, Q, R
  - Thu Nguyen.....A, H, V

## Student Success Stories

- Students who attended are last Apply for Graduation party were asked: “What is your WHY?” and we would like to share some of the responses:
  - “My son is my why, he is the reason why I have worked hard to succeed in school in order to receive my degree. Being a single mother comes with many challenges, but I know someday it will all be worth it, and I will be setting a good example for my son.”
  - “My why is that I want to make a difference for people with disabilities, like me. I want to be a good role model for others with disabilities and show everybody that people with disabilities can be smart, capable, and good students and workers, and try to break down stigma about having disabilities. I also want to be visible in the Health Information field as a service dog handler.”
  - “I always enjoyed being there for my friends and family, but it wasn’t until recently I discovered I enjoy helping people who are in need of help. Working as a CNA and being in the hospital as a patient myself made me realize that being in the medical field as a nurse is the right path for me. It allows me to provide care and comfort to those who are afraid and sick.”

## Special Recognition

- The entire TCE team! We all work so hard to support each other and our students. We are so lucky to have a great team and fearless leader, Claudia Estrada-Howell.
- We would also like to extend our gratitude for Amara Tang for supporting the Evaluations department during her time in the TCE Office. You have left a mark on us all and we are so proud of you for your new role. You are a superstar to us all and students. Best of luck in your new role!
- Special shoutout to Kristy Carson, Career Counselor and Coordinator, who supported the Apply for Graduation Party by meeting with students and sharing the importance of career and the value of earning a degree and or certificate. Students connect so well with you! We are lucky to have you apart of the TCE team.
- Thank you to Deborah Salazar and Alicia Lopez for working on the Phase 2 of the Grant Completion Project. We value your work and input on this project.
- Thank you to: Guillermo Marrujo, Cynthia Rico, Adam Erlenbusch, Kirsten Pogue-Cely, Raul Rodriguez, Anthony Reuss, Kari parker, Miriam Pacheco, and Chris Kalck for supporting the Counseling Information Zoom sessions. Students were so appreciative of the support and encouragement they received.

# Financial Aid

## Employee Updates

- Happy to report that a wonderful hiring committee has completed the process to select the top candidates for the SSA-Foster Youth position and 2nd interviews were completed.

## Events & Activities

- Pilar collaborated and represented the aid office at the Counseling Department BFCC.

## Innovations & Data

- On the first large Spring disbursement, students received \$3,495,977.00 in grant funds.

## Call to Action Update

- Began working an schedule for an FA BFCC, have requested 2 queries that can provide our office with information on incomplete files for underrepresented groups that can be further filtered to out-reach and resolve pending issues.

## Policies & Procedures

- As of 07/01/2021, we will cease to be an Experimental Site for Additional Loan Counseling after data reflected need for a change and The U.S. Department of Education activated a required Annual Loan Indebtedness Acknowledgment session required to be complete prior to receiving loan funds. This this procedure will be tested in the coming weeks.
- We continue to work with interrelated Offices and Departments in the implementation for the 20-21 exception of moving a portion of the FWS allocation into an COVID Related FSEOG Emergency grant that must be awarded, disbursed, recorded and processed apart from the FSEOG program during our year end fiscal report to the US Department of Education (FISAP). Once all the components are in place, we will make an announcement of the application process as it is required to be by circumstance merit and not a regular "need based" award.

## Special Recognition

- I would like to recognize the office staff with special kudos and recognition to Brianna, Lupe and Pilar for going above and beyond processing documents submitted via JIRA and DocuSign. To Jacob and Thuy, our newest team members in their 6 months anniversary handling files as experts matter, to Laura and Julie for their work with the Pell Grant and Direct Loan programs respectively. To Skyler for looking for ways to place students seeking FWS positions that are not available during COVID. To Natosha Susoeff (Tosh), Emmanouil Powell (Manolis) and Lilibeth Rodriguez (Lili) for their work ethics dedicating countless hours of personal time to research, identify, analyze and develop creative solutions to system problems resulting from erroneous set-up within all tables that feed elements of school data required to determine student aid eligibility. To all whom who work behind the doors allowing the Financial Aid Office to accomplish our job and last but not least to the great support system offered by all my direct supervisors, Victoria Miller, Ashanti Hands and college president, Pamela Luster.

# Outreach & Community Relations

## Events & Activities

### Outreach

- 2/9 & 2/23: The Outreach Department has officially launched the Pre-Enrollment efforts for high schools within the Mesa College service area. The first workshop Outreach offered was to High Tech High School. High Tech High School requested two workshops: February 9th and February 23rd. The Pre-Enrollment workshop provided students an in depth overview of Mesa College programs and services as well as the importance of understanding milestones, followed by a CCCApply workshop. The students found the information very beneficial. Outreach staff Amy Bettinger and Van Chhum provided the workshop and served over 30 students.
- 2/11: Outreach staff Van provided a Mesa College overview to students at High Tech High Media Arts on the importance of programs and student services. Van served over 40 prospective students.
- 2/18: As part of our Cesar Chavez CCE Pipeline Collaboration, Outreach staff provided a series of application workshops throughout the day to students currently enrolled at Cesar Chavez CCE. Van Chhum provided assistance to CCE students who intend to transition to Mesa in the fall. More are to follow!
- 2/19: Outreach staff Jessica Gaffney, Joel Gonzales, and Keysy Mendez offered a Pre-Enrollment workshop to a class at Madison High School. The staff members provided an overview of the application process as well information regarding the SD Promise Program to seniors who are Mesa bound. This is the first workshop with Madison High School and more sessions are to follow!
- 2/24: Outreach staff Karla Trutna presented to the CCE Immigrant Support Program: Global Student Community Forum. As part of the Cesar Chavez CCE Pipeline project, Outreach had the opportunity to share on programs and student services and concluded with a Q&A session. It was a great success, and the students look forward to starting in fall at Mesa!
- 2/25 - 2/26 - Outreach staff Joel Vera Gonzalez and Anthony Chhum provided two Financial Aid workshops to HTH. During these workshops, Outreach staff walked students through the process of completing a FAFSA application and responded to general FA questions. Following the workshop, the head HS Counselor and students will receive a FA Mesa Bundle which includes, the power point slides, session recording, as well as FA marketing materials.
- 2/26: The Outreach Department participates in a semester training hosted by District Outreach. Ambassadors had the opportunity to learn about Credit for Prior Learning, Credit by exam, DSPS, the Path program. Ambassadors look forward to sharing these opportunities and program information with their prospective high school students.

### Promise

- The Promise program hosted Year 1 and Year 2 Spring Kickoff events to welcome Promise students back for Spring semester and provide updates. A total of 100 students participated.
- Promise Coffee Hour for Spring semester began on February 24. Coffee Hour will be hosted virtual every other Wednesday from 2pm-3pm. Students participate in activities, check in, get program updates, and chat with Promise staff and fellow students.

## **Innovations & Data**

### **Outreach**

- Cesar Chavez CCE Pipeline Collaboration: The Outreach team along with EOPS and Admissions are collaborating with Cesar Chavez CCE on a pipeline project. The intent of this collaboration is to assist over 100 students overcome the barriers that Immigrant-based students face upon applying for Admission, residency and financial aid. Mesa's team will be working to provide direct onboarding support via Admissions application workshops, residency support, financial aid workshops, and Mesa student services presentations. Students from this effort will be provided hands on support throughout spring and summer to be ready for fall 2021!

### **Promise**

- Current Promise program numbers: 928 Year 1 students and 697 Year 2 students.

## **Call to Action Update**

### **Outreach & Promise**

- Promise is working with the Black Faculty Counselors Collective to plan two workshops dedicated to Black Promise students for Spring semester.
- Events and announcements from the Sawubona Canvas shell continue to be shared directly via email with Promise students who self-identified as Black or African American in the Fall Promise survey.

## **Policies & Procedures**

### **Promise**

- The 2021-2022 Promise application is now available for Class of 2021 high school graduates entering Mesa College in Fall 2021. Details and application information can be found here: <http://sdmesa.edu/promise>.
- Students who did not successfully submit a financial aid application were dismissed from the Promise program. Students with financial aid applications in suspense were granted extra time to resolve any issues with their financial aid applications.
- Students who did not enroll in at least 12 units by February 16 (and do not have an appeal or DSPS accommodation on file) were dismissed from the program.
- Year 1 Promise students who were dismissed from the program due to not submitting a financial aid application or enrolling in less than 12 units (without an appeal or DSPS accommodation on file) may appeal to be re-admitted for Fall 2021.

## **Special Recognition**

- We would like to give a special shout out to Darien Duong and Keysy Mendez for such a welcoming interview with KUSI news. Thank you for sharing your Olympian spirit!

# Student Affairs

## Events & Activities

- **Welcome Week**  
In keeping with the times, our spring 2021 Welcome Week was also a collection of online events, including info sessions, workshops, entertainment and more. The full schedule of events stretched from Monday, February 1, to Friday, February 5, and featured 24 separate events, many of which extended across multiple days, put on by 20 individual Mesa College departments and service areas.
- **Club Rush & 1st ICC Meeting**  
In order to adapt to the changing educational environment, the Mesa College Inter-Club Council has decided to host the 2021 spring Club Rush as a "virtual posting board" where clubs can hang posters inviting students to attend their meetings and get engaged with campus life. One expected benefit of this new format is the ability to extend Club Rush to be a more constant online presence, not simply limited to a few hours during a few days of the semester. February also has the first general ICC meeting of the Spring 2021 Semester, which is taking place on the last Friday of the month, as is typical now.
- **Scholarships**  
February marks the last full month before scholarship applications are due, so Mesa Student Affairs has stepped up our outreach and assistance efforts. Emails are being sent to constituent groups of students, such as those students that selected 'scholarships' when completing the Mesa Journeys survey, on a recurring basis to provide reminders about the availability of applications and the final submission deadline. Two scholarship videos have also been created, one developed by College Technical Analyst Charlie Lieu to promote the scholarship program and one by Senior SSA Courtney Lee to provide some guidance on how to register and begin applying; both of these videos are hosted on Youtube to take advantage of their auto-captioning feature, and links to them are available on appropriate Mesa College web pages. Finally, Project Manager Jen Park is hosting a series of workshops and info sessions each week in February and March to help students with their scholarship applications; this series also includes weekly 'scholarship office hours' for students to drop-in and ask their own scholarship questions.

## Call to Action Update

- In order to reach our goal of increasing the engagement of Black students through the Mesa College Associated Students and the scholarship program funded by the Mesa College Foundation, Student Affairs has instituted a direct outreach campaign with the ultimate goal of building an ongoing relationship with Mesa College's Black student population. We are specifically leveraging resources like student testimonials to create new promotional materials, such as the new scholarship video created by College Technical Analyst Charlie Lieu, that speak directly to Black students and invite them to participate. It is still too early to determine how successful these efforts have been so far.

## Special Recognition

- Huge appreciation to Karla Trutna and Agustin Rivera! They are the best, always show up, willing to roll up their sleeves, do the hard work with kindness and heart. Team Student Affairs values and appreciates both Karla and Agustin. Most recently on a moment's notice, they collaborated and served in time of need. On the first day of Welcome Week, they both coordinated for their student leaders (Darren, Noah and Keysy) to be up and TV ready at 6:40AM showcasing the awesome services Mesa College provides our students. WARM APPRECIATION TO KARLA AND AGUSTIN!!

# Student Development

## Employee Updates

- Amara Tang has been promoted to SST and will be working in EOPS in February.

## Events & Activities

- Dean of Student Development attended the ACCJC Mandatory Team Training.
- Dean of Student Development attended the 46th Annual ACCCA Conference.

## Innovations & Data

- San Diego Mesa College has been designated a Military Friendly School for the 2021-2022 Military Friendly cycle with a silver awards rank under the category of large community college.
- San Diego Mesa College received funds for the VRC one time funding and ongoing funding allocation, which will go towards expanding services provided to our student veterans and military dependents.
- Dean of Student Development has been working with Dean of Student Affairs to share about Project Success and Vita Navis. Presentations have been made to the following constituent groups: LRAS Leadership Team, Instructional Deans, Academic Senate, Associated Students, Chairs, Counseling, Classified Senate, Mesa Student Services Council, Student Services Division (School Meeting), Campus Employee Learning and Mesa Pathways (to occur in March).

## Special Recognition

- Many thanks to Dean Herrin and Vicki Hernandez for the support they provided in helping submit the Military Friendly designation.
- Many thanks to all the student services departments who continue to provide support to our athletic retention technicians as part of the OPP - Olympians Pathways Prototype.

# Student Health Services

## Events & Activities

- Aurora San Pedro, LMFT prepared a thoughtful presentation about Virtual Fatigue for Spring 2021 students during Welcome Week this semester.
- Student Health Mental Health Clinician Aurora San Pedro LMFT is currently hosting a book club, sponsored by Student Health Mental Health along with Active Minds student club members. They are finishing up *More Myself* by Alicia Keys, in the Active Minds Club. New members of Active Minds club changed their meeting time to every Wednesday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. We collaborated with Professor Veronica Gerace to provide her class with the book *More Myself*. Aurora will provide classroom presentations to provide a deeper meaning to the book.
- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW provided three Pop-Up Be Calm events for the first two weeks of Spring 2021 semester. The attendees to all of the pop-up events were able to have individual appointment meetings with our mental health counselors. Our department now offer weekly Be Calm groups every Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00pm with Linda Gibbins-Croft and John Guinn, LMFT.
- Come As You Are, LGBTQIA group is having different topic discussions every Wednesday at 2:00pm. Join our Mental Health Counselor Linda 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.
- Following zoom attacks Mental Health Clinicians provided debriefing with faculty and staff along with 3 sessions for students to create feelings of safety after the attacks.
- Our department wants an entertaining interactive way to have students stay connected with one another during the pandemic One of the ways are through games. Connections through Jackbox games every Thursday at 3:30pm are one of the most popular weekly groups to join, facilitated by Linda Gibbins-Croft.
- On February 23, Suzanne Khambata FNP provided a brief presentation during the President's Forum on how Student Health provides support to students post crisis. Suzanne also provided a brief presentation at this month's MSSC on COVID protective actions each one of us can take.
- Linda attended the California Community College Equity Leadership Alliance as a guest of Mesa College. The main discussion for February's meeting was Confronting Explicit of Racism and Racial Violence on Campus.
- Mental Health and Community Health met with the Dean of Athletics and Athletic Trainers to begin discussions on how to best support the mental health of athletes.

## Innovations & Data

- Student Health has provided over 130 flu shots and will continue to provide free flu shots until the end of the semester.
- Our implementation plan for Mediat, an electronic health record system is almost completed in the template builders for Mental Health. Suzanne successfully completed one of the main branches in the EHR system for the medical side of Student Health.
- Doxy.me, a HIPAA and FERPA tele-health system are in place and are in use.
- In February , we served 473 students with medical and mental health needs virtually.

## **Call to Action Update**

- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW and Director of Student Health Suzanne Khambata FNP are currently very close to signing the contract with the Urban Restoration Center leadership for the mental health care of Black Students.
- We are beginning work on the Black Student Mental Health project.

## **Policies & Procedures**

- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW, Aurora San Pedro LMFT, Suzanne Khambata FNP, Leslie Easton LCSW (City) and Judy Pitacil LMFT, PsyD (Miramar), completed an MOA with the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services (BHS). This collaborative affords us the opportunity to utilize the County's extensive community partnerships for all types of care for our students.
- Linda attended Transition Age Youth (TAY) Behavioral Health Services Council meeting provided by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency as a part of the MOU with the county.

# Student Success & Equity

## Events & Activities

- Initiated our partnership with Edquity as we piloted the use of their platform to distribute resiliency funds to students (see data below).
- Rolled out our calendar of events for the virtual Stand resource center.
- Held our first "Feel, Heal & Be Real, Student Version"
- Developed a partnership with Community Information Exchange (CIE) a part of the 2-1-1 Network. This collaboration will allow us to strengthen our capacity to make direct referrals of our students to community-based programs and services.

## Innovations & Data

- Key Insights for February Edquity Implementation (from the "Edquity x San Diego Mesa College February Insights Report")
  - 1276 applications were received
  - 38 students were awarded
  - 3% of applicants were awarded funds
  - \$19,000 has been disbursed from the fund to date!
  - 97% of applicants were rejected, more than half were due to insufficient funds available for the day
  - 64% of applicants were considered "high need"
- The Stand Update:
  - The Stand continued with providing drive thru versions of the Mobile Market and Farmers Market. Each event is providing 40-50lbs of produce and shelf stable food for free to those who attend. We are averaging 225 households at each event. Due to concerns of inclement weather, we have adjusted the location for the drive thru markets to the campus parking structure third level.
  - The Stand is providing Direct Student support in a virtual manner. For the fall semester we saw significantly less students than when we are on campus. We have received 44 applications for basic needs assistance. All 44 were scheduled to meet with basic needs team, students have been assisted with book/supplies purchases, referrals to campus programs and resources, and community resources.
  - The stand has reinstated its partnership with 72Fifty to provide hot meals to Mesa students. In the month of February, we provide 29 students with \$50 vouchers to 72Fifty.

## Special Recognition

- Special recognition to Vann Pham and Krystal Ramirez for their excellent work in developing the framework for our 21 Day Equity Challenge that will be implemented in March.

# Transfer

## Employee Updates

- The TCE said goodbye to Amara but we will always claim her as a TCE rock star!

## Events & Activities

- We are hosting Transfer Tuesdays, Workshop Wednesdays with Mary G and Mary E.
- We are setting up some Transfer Thursdays. These workshops will complement our recorded video workshops.

## Innovations & Data

### Transfer Center Data

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Counselor drop-in Appointments: 30  | • Chat Bot conversation: 30                   |
| • Counselor Appointments: 9           | • Student emails: 2                           |
| • Counselor's Additional Contact: 354 | • Email blast to all Journey and TCE students |
| • Transfer Workshops: 62              | • Microsite email list has over 3000 students |
| • Drop-ins: 158                       | •   |

## Call to Action Update

- Workshop Wednesdays with Mary G and Mary E were designed to be marketed to Students of Color. We will partner with EOPS and seek other collaborations with Umoja, Puente and BFCC faculty.

## Policies & Procedures

- We have a link on the Transfer Center page to for students to share where they have been accepted. Please encourage students to [share the good news](#).
- We encourage students to avoid sending transfer questions via email as they can be time sensitive. We ask that they come to a live zoom event for quick question or drop in/appointments.

## Student Success Stories

- Students are starting to get accepted to various colleges and universities! We celebrate each acceptance as pathway to life changes experiences and economic independence.

## Special Recognition

- Shout out to the entire TCE team who have been supporting all our Transfer Center efforts. Also to Mary E and Mary G for taking on Workshop Wednesdays.

# Veterans

## Employee Updates

- We have hired 4 new VA work studies to assist with the virtual front desk in Veterans and Records.

## Innovations & Data

- We have received over 300 requests to be certified for VA educational benefits this month which have all been processed and sent to the VA for payment.
- We have continued to use our paperless VA certification process and have made adjustments to better streamline the process to ensure better service for our students.

## Call to Action Update

- We are currently hiring and interviewing students for VA work study positions. We have offered an additional position to one of our black student veterans and we have another student who I will be reaching out to our partnering departments for VA work study students.

## Policies & Procedures

- We are currently working with campus and district staff to ensure full compliance of PL 116-315 regarding VA educational benefits

## Special Recognition

- To everyone involved with helping our program reach the Silver Status as a Military Friendly School for 2021-22.

# Vice President Student Services

## Events & Activities

- Motivation and Moral (M&M) Committee
  - M&M hosted the “Next Level - Power Up!” Social Event on February 24th. The Mesa Student Services Community had the opportunity to meet our M&M team members through speed-zoom chats and community building! The theme was video games and we created a fun flyer to share personal “strengths & weaknesses” that are fun facts about our M&M team members.
  - Our February Mesa Student Services Council meeting included presentations on Keeping it Safe During COVID, Project Success, Humanizing Tutor Data, HSI Stem Grant and Call to Action Updates
- VP Hands presented at the following events:
  - Honors Orientation
  - ACCCA 2021 Summit - Women Leaders Rising Up
  - Campus Community Forum
  - Advancing Access and Success for Transfer Students: A Case Study of SDSU
- VP Hands attended/participated in the following activities/events
  - Mesa Pathway's Retreat
  - Centennial Anniversary - The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Investigation, 2020 with Dr. Phoebe Stubblefield
  - Celebrating Black History Month, Unity Gathering
  - Served as Judge for the College Bound Poway Scholars' Black History Oratorical Contest
- VP Hands attended the following webinars/professional learning opportunities
  - CCC Webinar - Voices of Freedom - Stories of Hope from Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Rising Scholars Students
  - Chancellor's Office System Webinars
- Student Service supervisors and deans attended a demonstration of the Qless – Virtual Line Management platform.
- Charlie Lieu and Claudia Estrada-Howell presented Guided Pathways Office Hour event - Leading the Way: Classified Professionals Advancing Guided Pathways. They shared best practices and technology resources their work group uses to plan and stay organized while working on Guided Pathways work.
- Charlie Lieu attended Districtwide Investments in Instructional Software Workgroup Meeting. Collaborating with SDCCD campuses to learn common software and tech tools they use. District also shared draft of new Software Request form.

## Innovations & Data

- We participated in discussions on Mesa's role in the Rental Assistance - City of SD Program
- [Spring CARES Act: Student Financial Relief Grant](#) site is updated.
- New webinar content added to the [California Community College Equity Leadership Alliance](#) site.
- Student Affairs launched their [Mesa Scholarships video](#). To learn more about how to make videos for your department/program, contact Charlie Lieu.
- Mesa Journeys Welcome email project is complete. Now, after each student completes Mesa Journeys they will receive an email from corresponding departments explaining their services and contact information. See Veterans [Career Center sample](#).

## Call to Action Update

- At this month's MSSC meeting we highlighted Call to Action updates from Outreach, DSPS and Counseling
- Participated in discussions on Student Services role in the Longitudinal Study of Black/African American Student Experience. A result of a recent \$5000 Pathways grant.
- Student Services hosted two Feel, Heal & Be Real Dialogue sessions.
- The office worked with Charlie to create our [CCC Equity Alliance website](#) - and worked with Janue Johnson, Katie Palacios, Eva Parrill and others to create a registration and reporting process that will expand these opportunities to a larger cross section of campus. Our community can access downloadable materials from recent sessions at the site.

## Policies & Procedures

- Launched our Spring CARES Act: Student Financial Relief Grant Application Process

## Special Recognition

- Shout out to Kearny High School for their participation in the America's Best Urban Schools Virtual Symposium put on by the National Center of Urban School Transformation (NCUST). VP Hands was able to participate in the [College and Career Readiness portion which begins at 18:11](#).