



*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

- Outreach welcomed Guadalupe Mendez and Nayra Cruz Lopez as new Promise Mentors. They will be providing direct support to Promise students and assisting with programming for our Year 1 and Year 2 Promise students.
- The Veterans office has hired seven additional VA work studies for Veterans & Records and the Veterans Success Center.

### Events & Activities

- Financial Aid was able to host several workshops in the Assessment office for Dream Act students. Assessment also collaborated with the Promise program to offer financial aid workshops specifically for Promise students.
- To help interested students learn more about what it takes to be a Peer Navigator, the program offered two sessions to ask questions, see what a "day in the life of a PN" entails, and hear from current PNs.
- The San Diego Promise program celebrated its fourth anniversary February 18, the date when the San Diego Community College District's (SDCCD) Board of Trustees unanimously implemented the America's College Promise initiative locally.
- Aurora San Pedro, LMFT set up an open workshop on Managing Financial Stress for students on campus, with guest speaker Benjamin Hewitt, financial advisor from Northwestern Mutual. Benjamin tailored his speech to college students. Students state that they lack the knowledge

about when to start save and what to save. Our ACHA survey revealed that students were very stressed about finances.

- SDSU is announcing admissions notices now! Please send students to the Transfer office fill out a pennant and submit their information our Transfer Acceptance Google Form.
- VP Hands participated in the Hope Center for College and Community College | San Diego Mesa College Partnership Meeting. This partnership is designed to elevate conversations about how we can create systems that meet the basic needs of our students including how we can be nimble, ready and organized as we expand our own efforts to provide timely and significant resources to students.
- Dean Crakes presented at the LEEP - Leaders Engaging in Equity Practice on Asian Pacific Islander Student Success. The presentation addressed the following topics: A Closer Look at AAPI Students, The Model Minority Myth, The Perpetual Foreigner Syndrome, Breaking Through the Bamboo Ceiling, and Challenges for AAPI Students to name a few.
- Dean Larry Maxey, Charlie Lieu, and Hai Hoang presented an equity minded Scholarship Workshop for Scholarship Reviewers. See here for the [PPT](#).

## Innovations & Data

- A total of 54 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/>
- Anthony Reuss (Honors Counselor) signed 18 UCLA TAP contracts in February.
- In response to student and departmental need, DSPS Instructor Amber Kuo and DSPS Instructional Assistant Pete Markall re-designed an online student request form for alternate media to be used in the DSPS High Tech Center.
- \$5.27M in Federal and State financial aid funds were disbursed to the Accounting Office for posting to eligible student records.
- In the month of February, Outreach has served over 3,000 students, prospective students, and community members. Outreach has provided campus tours to over 118 prospective students and their families.
- Outreach has established a dedicated and successful outreach efforts with four Middle Schools: Lewis Middle School, Marston Middle School, Creative Performing Media Arts Middle School and Correia Middle School.
- Applications for scholarships offered through the Mesa College Foundation were due through the online application system on February 18th. Mesa College received a total of 3174 applications from 604 students. The total number of applications submitted is even higher than last year, during which we saw the largest single increase of applications submitted in the history of the scholarship program; this year we enjoyed a substantial increase of about 19%, or 498 individual applications.
- For the fall semester Student Success & Equity/Direct Support has reviewed 111 applications for assistance and was able to provide direct support to 83 of those students, providing a total of \$9327.44 support to Mesa College Students.
- The Financial Aid [Chatbot](#) is ready to help. "Olympia" is a self-learning technology that searches our web pages for answers to questions. As more people use the tool and feed it with questions, the smarter the bot will be. Counseling, EOPS, Outreach, and Assessment are on deck to launch their bots....stay tuned.

- [Raza Grad](#) registration link is up. The form includes a cool new feature this year: it will allow students to upload a photo for the Raza Grad team to share during their ceremony.

## **Policies & Procedures**

- Admissions CCAP staff created a Docusign PPT and tutorial video to help high school students, their families and counselors with the new single application CCAP students will submit for the duration of their time as high school students at Mesa.
- Transcript evaluations are currently taking 60 business days. Please share this information with students so that they are aware and prepared on their next steps. In the meantime, students can clear prerequisites with General Counseling.

## **Student Success Stories**

- An EOPS/Borderless Scholar student needed financial assistance to buy a textbook and was referred to an EOPS counselor. During her intake, the counselor noticed she hadn't completed the Dream Act application and had paid full-time tuition out-of-pocket for two semesters in a row. The counselor helped her complete the paperwork and the student was able to use the funds she received to pay for her book. She brought her brother to the office the next day for similar assistance.
- Outreach Ambassador Hernica Judan has been accepted to San Diego State University. We congratulate her on this achievement and are rooting for all of our ambassadors as they await to hear back from schools!
- Peer Navigator Lara Napasa was accepted to the super-competitive Nursing Program at SDSU.
- Madison Goldman (Mesa Student) has accepted the position of President of the Active Minds student club. She has been proactive in gaining momentum and interest in the club and has a whole host of new ideas.
- Over 15 Mesa student veterans were offered spring admission to SDSU. According to the SDSU admissions liaison, this is one of the highest numbers of student veterans receiving spring admission she's seen.

# Admissions

## Employee Updates

- The staff has enjoyed the opportunity to attend workshops/seminars and presenting their takeaways from the professional learning opportunity with their fellow staff at staff meetings.

## Events & Activities

- On Saturday, February 1, 2020 five staff members helped clear residency, apply and enroll students into the spring 2020 term.
- Celine Ahearn attended the Situational Awareness training on Friday, February 21.
- Cesar Gaxiola visited La Jolla HS to begin CCAP orientations for Fall 2020.
- Trung Huyhn and Celine Ahearn represented SD Mesa at the Student Support Services Fair.
- Our International Team attended the PIER February meeting on February 26, 2020.

## Innovations & Data

- Lots of activity for Admissions in February due to our Feb 3 start of primary coursers for Spring 2020. We saw 202 students clearing their residency, 105 international students, 23 students needing to reset their MySDCCD portal accounts, 47 students inquiring on our Allied Health programs and 165 students needing to get verification of enrollment.
- We also processed many forms: 84 petitions to challenge processed, 6 petitions for late withdrawal, 68 SSN/Name updates, and 8 HS graduation forms.
- Enrollment: We processed 22 enrollment requests, 8 reinstatements, 47 pre-req or co-reqs, 12-course repetition, 6 DSPS enrollment, 70 late adds, 1 waitlist move, and 40 enrollment drops. We also enrolled 17 dual enrollment high school students, 9 JD students, 32 Kearny/MET students and ensured that the 1,704 CCAP/ACP students enrolled were still in the right class rosters. We also worked with 11 students doing SDSU Cross Enrollment.
- Front Desk: We also helped 63 students with directions, 309 with general information, we printed 591 new ID cards.

## Policies & Procedures

- Our CCAP staff created a Docusign PPT and tutorial video to help high school students, their families and counselors with the new process via AB30, "On or before July 31, 2020, the chancellor (sic) shall revise the special part-time student application process to allow a pupil to complete one application for the duration of the pupil's attendance at a community college as a special part-time student participating in a CCAP partnership agreement."

## Student Success Stories

- We encountered a student who had taken classes within the music families that conflicted with his applied music program. After researching with District, Counseling and our Dean, we were able to help the student get into his course. He was very thankful and has invited our office to his recital on May 13.

# Assessment

## Events & Activities

- The Mesa College Foundation Scholarship deadline was February 18, so several scholarship workshops were offered to students in order to help them complete their applications.
- As the March 2nd FAFSA deadline approaches, Financial Aid was able to host several workshops for Dream Act students and collaborated with the Promise program to offer financial aid workshops specifically for Promise students.
- Counseling's Valerie Ky continued to have a hot-spot counseling space available for first-year Promise students every Monday from 1:30-4:30pm.
- Pre-Enrollment Workshops for the high schools started earlier this year as Outreach and Assessment teamed up to visit both Patrick Henry and High Tech High to assist over 70 high school seniors with their application and placement steps and prepare them to enroll at Mesa.

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

## **Events & Activities**

- **Welcome Back Power Snack, February 3 - 4**  
Peer Navigators offered mentees quick snacks on their way to the first day of school. Morning and afternoon sessions helped all students feel welcomed and gave PNs the opportunity to provide words of encouragement.
- **mySDCCD and Canvas Info Sessions, February 3 - 5**  
The team hosted multiple one-hour, open sessions for students to get acquainted with mySDCCD and Canvas. The pilot was successful!
- **Peer Navigator Info Session, February 5 and 11**  
To help interested students learn more about what it takes to be a Peer Navigator, the program offered two sessions to ask questions, see what a "day in the life of a PN" entails, and hear from current PNs.
- **Peer Navigator Game Night, February 19 and 27**  
Continuing in the tradition of our monthly events, Peer Navigators hosted Game Night. Thanks in part to AS funding, retro board games are open to students and provide PNs the chance to connect with their mentees.

## **Innovations & Data**

- Data from last year's CRUISE session is being used to further this year's design. The program is also scaling back an hour each day to help with costs and to stay within budget.

## **Student Success Stories**

We are proud to share the following PNs were accepted to SDSU:

- Charlie Shimazaki
- Al'Asia Metaphor
- Serena Delleney (she was also accepted to CSU East Bay).

## **Special Recognition**

- Special shout out to Lara Napasa! She was accepted to the super-competitive Nursing Program at SDSU. She has worked tirelessly outside of work and school to complete her internship hours at a local hospital. Lara has worked the graveyard shift each weekend for the past couple of months. She is an inspiration to us all.

# CalWORKs

**No Report**

# Career

## Events & Activities

### Career Ambassadors

- Assisted The Stand with distributing fresh produce to students at the Mobile Market on February 3rd.
- Participated in Welcome Week Activities on February 5th & 6th. They created and facilitated fun games for students to learn about Transfer, Career, and Evaluations information.
- Participated in the Student Support Services Fair, hosted by the Financial Aid Office on February 26th. They shared helpful information about Spring events happening with Transfer, Career, and Evaluations.

### Presentations

- On February 5th, The Career Center participated in a Welcome Week Activity. Career Counselors and Work Based Learning Coordinators met with students to discuss career services and work based learning activities. Raquel Sojourner, Kristy Carson, Katlin Choi, and Alicia Lopez met with several students. We hosted 30 students and provided a boxed lunch during this activity.
- Raquel provided an MBTI workshop to students in Chris Sullivan's class on February 10th. Thank you Chris for inviting the Career Center to meet with your students.
- On February 19th, Kristy Carson and Shawn Fawcett collaborated to present in a health information technology and health information management classroom. They met with students and gave a resume and interview preparation workshop. In addition, they shared information about work based learning activities and career exploration activities for students.
- The Career Center and Work-Based Learning presented information about Career Services and Internships during the International Student Employment Workshop on February 21, 2020. Alicia Lopez and Pavel Consuegra shared information about how to pursue on and off campus internship and employment opportunities. Thank you Adrienne Dines for inviting us to this event.

## Innovations & Data

### Career Ambassador Program

- The Career Peer Ambassadors facilitate walk-in peer-to-peer coaching sessions with students on job search, resume writing, cover letter writing, and interview preparation.
- February total number of student sessions: 26 sessions
- Total hours spent on coaching sessions: 24.5 hours
- Number of completed assessments collected: 25 assessments
- Total number of hours in training sessions: 6 hours

Total of 21 new employer contacts were made during this month through our online job board, "Mesa Job Network."

- Aesthetic Dental Practice
- California Lifestyle Collective, Inc.
- City Record Services
- Coast Flight Training



- Daikoku US, Inc.
- Dream Delicacies
- Duke's La Jolla
- Fertility Center of California
- Flocke & Aovyer
- Global Connections to Employment (GCE)
- Hyped International Records LLC
- Kaminskiy Design and Remodeling
- Mutual of Omaha
- Salon LG
- Speedway LLC
- Sweetwater High School
- THE LIGHTHOUSE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
- Townspeople
- Truth Cleaning Services, Inc
- Viking Safety Consultants, Inc.
- Wolfenzon Rolle

A total of 54 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/>

### **Student Success Stories**

- Congratulations to our Veteran Work Study Student Aide, Cedric Cortinas, for being admitted to SDSU for Transfer (Spring 2020)! He is currently studying Business Administration. Our team is so proud of him for his achievement!

# Counseling

## Events & Activities

- The Promise Year II Program (Promise II ADVOC8) has been busy preparing and offering a series of workshops in the Spring.
- We have been privileged to have Valerie Ky offer her expertise on time management and Hollands Code.
- Amber Alatorre continues to work and refine our Academic Success workshops, while Terrence Hale has prepared MBTI workshops.
- Miriam Pacheco continues to work rigorously in both Promise Year I and II programs.
- Adam Erlenbusch will continue to provide the Building Rapport workshop this semester.
- Our team has planned the first ever “Career Mini Conference,” scheduled for March 13th from 10-2. We have worked with Shawn Fawcett and WBL to provide Career panelists and an alumni panel of former Promise students to offer their insights on Career exploration and the transfer process. Karla Trutna and the Outreach office have provided a great deal of support and collaboration in these efforts.
- Currently, the team is also working on reviewing applicants for the “Annette Benning Scholarship.” We are thankful for the whole administration team and look forward to this semester in the program.

## Innovations & Data

- Drop-In: 1825
- Appointments: 388
- Total: 2114
- Anthony Reuss (Honors Counselor) signed 18 UCLA TAP contracts in February.

## Special Recognition

- Counseling Supervisor: Andrew Tanjuaquio

# DSPS

## Employee Updates

- Elizabeth Mora, DSPS Student Services Assistant, was admitted to San Diego State University for the fall, 2020 semester. We are all so proud of all of Elizabeth's accomplishments and we wish her well as she pursues her Bachelor's degree at SDSU!

## Events & Activities

- DSPS has been actively engaged in the discussion around the 2030 Master Plan and have designated Counselor, Isaac Arguelles to represents DSPS
- Isaac Arguelles and Elizabeth Mora attended the scholarship reviewer workshop on February 19, 2020
- The DSPS department faculty and classified professionals participated in the Financial Aid Fair on February 26, 2020

## Innovations & Data

- In February, DSPS counselors had 431 scheduled student appointments and 1156 drop-in services were provided.
- The DSPS Test Proctoring Center proctored 103 exams and the DSPS High Tech Center processed 89 alternate media requests.

## Policies & Procedures

- In response to student and departmental need, DSPS Instructor, Amber Kuo, and DSPS Instructional Assistant, Pete Markall, re-designed an online student request form for alternate media to be used in the DSPS High Tech Center.

# EOPS

## Events & Activities

### EOPS

- 2/3 and 2/4- EOPS Open House- Students had the opportunity to learn about EOPS and Special programs.
- 2/26- UC Santa Cruz “Different by Design” admission presentation
- 2/10- Partnered with Student Affairs to offer Mesa College Scholarship Workshops

### CARE

- CARE Region X conference will be held at Miramar College on February 28th. A Mesa CARE student was a student speaker and Sade Burrell, EOPS/NextUp/FAST Counselor was the keynote speaker.
- NextUp and FAST-
  - Urban Beats: Biweekly workshop which focuses on mental health.
  - Master Keys Series: Motivational workshop focused on encouraging student- Every Thursday at the FAST Center. Everyone is welcome.
  - LIT Conference committee had its first meeting for the conference on May 8
  - Students went on an off campus trip to learn how to cook with Chef Chuey from The Good Seeds Company
  - FAST Center has seen an increase in foster youth receiving services in the center.

### Borderless Scholars

- 2/13- Borderless Scholars welcome back event for new and continuing students.

### Project Restart

- Workshop: “Only When We Know Where We Are Going Can We Know Where We Want to Go” presented by Michael Markulin
- Partnered with Work Based Learning to offer “Tech Talks and Training Series”. These workshops were developed based on the needs identified by our current Project Restart students.
- Bookstore cards and school supplies were purchased with the Foundation mini grant.

### STAR TRIO

- Provided snacks during the first weeks of classes, many students came by in between classes.

## Innovations & Data

### NextUp and FAST

- NextUp/FAST website has been updated and is more user friendly.

### Borderless Scholars

- FREE Immigration Consultations are available- contact the EOPS office to schedule an appointment with an attorney. Appointments take place on campus at the EOPS office.

## **Student Success Stories**

### **NextUp and FAST**

- All NextUp students attended their first EOPS appointment.
- Three students have been accepted into colleges and universities.
- One student has received academic scholarship from a community partner

### **Borderless Scholars**

- An EOPS/borderless scholar student; was referred to one of the counselors seeking financial assistance for one her books. After doing initial in-take, counselor noticed she hadn't completed Dream Act and that she had paid full-time tuition out of pocket for 2 semesters in a row. Counselor helped fill out the CA Dream Act and she is will now get reimbursed for those 2 semesters and student will utilize that money to buy her book. She shared that her brother also paid out of pocket, and she brought him to the office the next day and the counselor helped him with the same process.

# Evaluations

## Events & Activities

- The Evaluations team is now prepping for the 2020 Commencement ceremony occurring May 30, 2020! We have started distributing our commencement and degree marketing flyers to students, faculty, and departments on campus. Please encourage students to apply for their degree/certificate – the deadlines vary based on the students' award and can be found on the Evaluations website: [sdmesa.edu/evaluations](http://sdmesa.edu/evaluations)
- Save the Date: May 13th & 14th will be Grad Fest & Commencement Ticket Distribution - all eligible grads who have applied for graduation and the commencement ceremony will be able to pick-up their guest commencement tickets and purchase their cap & gown. More information coming soon!

## Innovations & Data

- Be on the lookout for our new “Apply for Graduation” and “Participate in the Commencement Ceremony” banners across campus. These banners will help students gain awareness of the deadlines and commencement ceremony and hopefully encourage students to apply by the grad deadlines and participate in commencement. Be sure to check them out and encourage students to visit the commencement website for more information on preparing for commencement: [sdmesa.edu/commencement](http://sdmesa.edu/commencement).
- In addition, if your department/programs are holding special graduation ceremonies, please contact our department so we can promote your event on the commencement website.

## Policies & Procedures

- Transcript evaluations are currently taking 60 business days. Please share this information with students so that they are aware and prepared on their next steps. In the meantime, students can clear prerequisites with General Counseling.
- The Evaluations department is assisting students with their ADT verifications. If you are working with a student who has a question or concern with their verification, please walk them over to our office so that we can check on their status. In the meantime, please confirm with the student that they have in fact applied for their degree/certificate

## Student Success Stories

- Our students amaze us every day! Congrats to all students being accepted to their transfer institutions and ones graduating with their degree/certificates!

## Special Recognition

- Deborah Salazar our Student Services Assistant for Evaluations. She always has a smile on her face when assisting our students, counselors, and staff with the various policies and procedures in regards to Evaluations. Thank you for all you do, Dee - it does not go unnoticed!
- Thank you to our amazing supervisor, Claudia Estrada-Howell. She proves her great leadership and determination to help all students every day. She truly supports the whole TCE team and inspires us all each day. Thank you, Claudia!

# Financial Aid

## Employee Updates

- Two office staff (wish to remain unnamed) accepted to take the early retirement option presented by the SDCCD. Two additional vacancies will become effective June 30th.

## Events & Activities

- We held weekly workshops for California Dream Act Application and hosted the Student Services Fair. Posted the hiring process for 2 S.A.T. (techs) open positions that are desperately needed.

## Innovations & Data

- \$5.27M in Federal and State financial aid funds were disbursed to the Accounting Office for posting on eligible student records.

## Policies & Procedures

- Under construction for the 20-21 academic year.

## Special Recognition

- Office staff, for riding a wave serving our students when short staffed.

# Outreach & Community Relations

## Employee Updates

We welcomed Guadalupe Mendez and Nayra Cruz Lopez as our new Promise Mentors. They will be providing direct support to Promise students and assisting with programming for our Year 1 and Year 2 Promise students.

## Outreach

- In the month of February, Outreach has served over 3,000 students, prospective students, and community members. Outreach has provided campus tours to over 118 prospective students and their families.
- Pre-Enrollment started early this year, Outreach Staff Van Chhum alongside Assessment Staff Amy Bettinger carried out two Pre-Enrollment Workshops (aka Pre-Enrollment Bundle) in the month of February. They visited Patrick Henry High School and High Tech High School. They saw over 70 students during these two visits. The Spring Pre-Enrollment Bundle, includes career and major information, assistance with the Admissions Application and the online orientation as well as the “Next Steps – Mesa presentation,” which focuses on programs that will assist them as they transition to Mesa. Additionally students have the opportunity to be supported when responding to Assessment questions that are embedded in CCCApply. Through our Pre-Enrollment Bundle students will have the ability to complete their SSSP steps through assessment with a Mesa staff person guiding them along the way.
- February 8th – Outreach staff Karla Trutna and Finn McDaniel hosted a workshop at Clairemont High School on a Saturday morning to be able to provide additional support and assistance to staff and students on the matriculation processes as well inform the prospective students support programs and services. In addition, Finn McDaniel and Samantha Ceron-Draeger hosted an additional workshop on February 25th.
- February 8th – Outreach student ambassadors Tiffany Quintero and Lulu Romero hosted a workshop at Madison High School Saturday morning to provide additional support for students that have yet to start their steps to attend Mesa College. The ambassadors that hosted the workshop serviced over 20 students in need of assistance.
- February 8th – Huge shout out to Student Affairs and President Luster on extending the invitation to have Outreach staff, Van Chhum to participate in the Vietnamese New Year festival hosted at the Mesa College gym. The event showcased traditional Vietnamese food, music, and awesome performances from a number of different organizations.
- February 20th – Outreach was fortunate enough to participate in the Lincoln Military Housing College Info Night. It was a night dedicated to showcase the college programs and services to our service members and their families. Student Ambassadors Tiffany Quintero and Lulu Romero took the lead to provide the 38 service members information regarding Mesa College.
- February 24th – 25th: With a number of different collaborations, Correia Middle School extended an awesome opportunity to Outreach to provide a series of fun and exciting college presentations to the 7th and 8th graders. It was a very important and vital time for these students to understand



the importance of college at an early age. Outreach staff Jessica Gaffney, Marcos Guzman, and Van Chhum took the lead to provide the stimulus for college to over 500 students.

- February 27th – Outreach has established a great partnership with one of our feeder middle schools, Lewis Middle. Outreach has continued to host a series of college and career tables during lunch to provide students information about college, their goals, and aspirations when they grow up. There are a number of interactive games and goodies to encourage students to think about what they want to be when they grow up. Outreach staff and Tiffany Quintero and Samantha Ceron-Draeger talked to over 200 students about their educational goals and dreams.

## **Promise**

- The San Diego Promise program celebrated its fourth anniversary February 18, the date when the San Diego Community College District's (SDCCD) Board of Trustees unanimously implemented the America's College Promise initiative locally. To commemorate such a momentous occasion all Promise students were invited to take part in a birthday celebration with cake and cookies. We want to thank everyone who has supported the Promise Program in its four years.
- In the month of February the Promise Program held a number of tours and workshops to support students:
- February 18 - 27 - Financial Aid Workshops to help support Promise students with their FAFSA and CA Dream Act submission and answered questions about eligibility.
- February 4 - 13 - The Tutoring department provided Promise students with a guided tour of MT2C and all it has to offer support wise. It was a first introduction to many of our Promise students and it served to connect our students with this vital resource.

## **Innovations & Data**

### **Outreach**

- Outreach has established a dedicated and successful outreach efforts with four Middle Schools: Lewis Middle School, Marston Middle School, Creative Performing Media Arts Middle School and Correia Middle School. We have programmed events at all four schools such as coffee with parents, college nights, lunch tabling, and classroom presentations. This intentional effort has allowed Mesa College to have a consistent presence in our middle schools and to connect with future Olympians earlier.

### **Promise**

- Total number of Promise students as of February 2020:
  - 990 Year 1 students
  - 460 Year 2 students
- A total of 60 early high school graduates were admitted into the San Diego Promise Program. They started to take courses this February.
- This Spring semester the Promise Program and Tutoring have collaborated thanks to special funding to support Promise students with tutoring support. The Tutoring and Computing Center (MT2C) will support the San Diego Promise's mission to ensure students maintain a 2.0 GPA, earn at least 12 units each semester, and complete their educational goals whether that be to earn a

certificate of completion and enter the workforce, complete an associate degree, or transfer to a university. The Avanza engagement room will serve as a hotspot for tutoring services specifically for Promise students in March. To prepare for March, we invited Promise students to tour MT2C and learn about tutoring services and how to sign up. Unanimously, all participants raved about this being the first time they visited MT2C and looked forward to meeting with a tutor. We anticipate this collaboration will support our Promise students in a big way and are looking forward to our March Study Halls with tutoring support.

- Promise staff and Counseling faculty will be working with students who are behind on units and/or GPA requirements as of Fall 2019 to ensure they maintain eligibility for the second year of Promise benefits.

## **Policies & Procedures**

### **Promise**

- The application for Class of 2020 high school graduates entering in Fall 2020 is now live! This will be the 2020-2021 cohort. High school seniors can visit <http://sdccd.edu/promise/getstarted> to find details and apply. Students must apply by June 11, 2020 for priority consideration. The district will verify student eligibility, forward the information of eligible students to Promise staff, and then Promise staff will reach out regarding next steps for enrollment.

## **Student Success Stories**

- Student Ambassadors are anxiously waiting for acceptance notifications from four-year universities. We are pleased to report, Hernica Judan has been accepted to San Diego State University. We congratulate her on this achievement and are rooting for all of our ambassadors as they await to hear back from schools!

# Student Affairs

## Events & Activities

### Welcome Week

- The 2020 Spring Semester Welcome Week took place one week later than it usually does, occurring on the first week of February rather than the last week of January. Instead of popsicles, the primary giveaway item this semester were granola snack bars with stickers. These stickers had information about how to apply for Scholarships through the Mesa College Foundation's scholarship program, and over 500 bars were given away at Welcome Week. This was a major contribution to our scholarship outreach efforts. We likewise offered free coffee and hot chocolate, provided the Mesa Culinary department, which "sold out" in record time on both days, probably due to the frigid temperature. Our Welcome Week info centers are still being staffed on by a collection of volunteers including Mesa College faculty, staff, administrators and student leaders, but the volunteers have shifted strongly away from faculty and staff towards student workers, in particular the Student Ambassadors from Outreach and the Peer Navigators from Cruise. It seems likely that this trend will continue, with an increasing reliance on students for our volunteering needs in the future. Finally, there was a heavier than normal presence of solicitors during Welcome Week, and they were unusually aggressive in their pursuit of student signatures. On several occasions they attempted to integrate with the Welcome Week event itself, and had to be moved. Their presence and aggressiveness had a definite dampening effect on engagement with the students passing through our Welcome Week areas; many departmental participants reported much lower than average attention during their times at the event.

### Club Rush

- The Mesa College Inter-Club Council hosted the on-campus Club Rush event on February 25th through the 27th. Many student groups were represented and, unlike last year, the weather was perfect for an outdoor fair! The clubs, many of which went above and beyond to provide activities and decorations that captured the nature of their groups, that attended enjoyed significant attention, but once again there were issues with solicitors attempting to mix in with the students at the event and use campus equipment. Their presence, even at the edges of the event, again had a definite dampening effect on student engagement.

### Club Orientation / Registration

- The Inter-Club Council hosted a Club Orientation presentation on Friday, February 28th, which was also the last day to submit club registration documents through the online system. 5 new clubs have so far signed up to be registered this semester; most clubs register in the Fall and continue to be active through the Spring. The Inter-Club Council expects to have about 45 total registered clubs on the roster for this semester.

### Scholarship Report

- Applications for scholarships offered through the Mesa College Foundation were due through the online application system on February 18th. Mesa College received a total of 3174 applications from 604 students. The total number of applications submitted is even higher than last year, during

which we saw the largest single increase of applications submitted in the history of the scholarship program; this year we enjoyed a substantial increase of about 19%, or 498 individual applications.

### **Scholarship Outreach**

- Student Affairs, in collaboration with MT2C Writing Center, EOPS and Assessment, offered nine scholarship workshops in the Assessment Lab. Led by representatives from Student Affairs and MT2C Writing Center, the workshops included an introduction to Mesa College Scholarships, a hands-on guided tour of the online application, tips on writing a strong personal statement and a Q&A session. Additionally, Student Affairs representatives visited eight classes and gave short presentations on the scholarships and scholarship workshops. During Welcome Week and other events throughout February, Student Affairs provided granola snack bars with stickers displaying information about how to apply for Scholarships through the Mesa College Foundation's scholarship program.

### **Student Success Stories**

- Congrats to the 604 Mesa College Students that submitted their Mesa College Scholarship Applications! We are so excited to review and award!!
- Huge Congratulations to Mikayla Delleney, Student Affairs Student Intern on her acceptance to CSU Long Beach and CSU Fullerton! She is an exceptional student and we are thrilled she is heading to her next chapter.

### **Special Recognitions**

- Special THANK YOU to Claudia Perkins for managing the multiple student conduct matters that come through our office. Claudia is caring, passionate, thoughtful and takes the time to connect with each student and faculty in an effort to come to a resolution that is fair, educational and keeps the student's well-being in mind. WE VALUE Claudia and thank you for the great work she continues to do!
- Special Thank you to Nathan Talo and Anthony Afluente for their support. They work closely with the Associated Students on managing our budget. They are both so patient and understanding! Great appreciation for both Nate and Anthony.
- Special Thank you for Courtney Lee with his excellent work leading Welcome Week. We had a successful and engaging week of activities. He was out and about making sure everything was set up and ready to go (even at 6am)! He continuously made sure students felt welcome and resource tables had what they needed! Much appreciation to Courtney.
- GREAT WORK to Jennifer Park for creating the Mesa College Scholarship Outreach initiative and putting the plan into motion. Jennifer facilitated over 30 workshops/ classroom presentations/ and hands on sessions assisting students with the Scholarship Application process. Jennifer did not just share information, instead she walked our students step by step through the entire process. She made the application process simple and fun with her sessions and the amount of applicants we have this year show forth!

# Student Development

## Events & Activities

- Dean Crakes presented at the LEEP - Leaders Engaging in Equity Practice on Asian Pacific Islander Student Success. The presentation addressed the following topics: A Closer Look at AAPI Students, The Model Minority Myth, The Perpetual Foreigner Syndrome, Breaking Through the Bamboo Ceiling, and Challenges for AAPI Students to name a few.

# Student Health Services

## Events & Activities

- Student Health Services participated in the Spring 2020 Welcome Week event to welcome the students with information about our medical and mental health services. Aurora San Pedro LMFT presented the student club Active Minds for students to sign up. Aurora also worked with students to create positive affirmation buttons (that students make for one another). Our main support for Welcome Week was the flu clinic supported by our friend Champions for Health and Danielle Lauria, B.S., MPH, PA-C Allied Health Program Director, Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy, and Renee Dean, RN. They provided 60 plus flu vaccinations to students.
- On February 12th, Student Health Services, Medical Director Dr. Calvin Wong, Student Health Director, Suzanne Khambata, FNP, and Nancy Bromma, FNP presented the Novel Coronavirus Covid-19 workshop to educate and de-escalate the fear about COVID-19. Special guest speaker Trista Collins RN, BSN Epidemiology/Bioterrorism San Diego County Public Health gave an in-depth talk to the attendees. Aurora San Pedro LMFT presented on avoiding hysteria and discrimination.
- Aurora San Pedro, LMFT set up an open workshop on Managing Financial Stress for students on campus, with guest speaker Benjamin Hewitt, financial advisor from Northwestern Mutual. Benjamin tailored his speech to college students. Students state that they lack the knowledge about when to start save and what to save. Our ACHA survey revealed that students were very stressed about finances. He also touched on credit score improvement, benefits of investing, money management, and retirement savings.
- On February 24th, our mental health counselor Linda Gibbins-Croft, LCWS, gave a presentation about strategies for mental wellness, recognizing when professional help is needed and how to self-refer or help someone else into care, and managing crisis to about 20 staff/faculty and students.
- The first Comfort Tent of the spring semester started off with 160+ student attendees for the 3 day event. Facilitated by Monica Woodruff, Registered Associate MFT over at the LRC Quad.
- At the Student Support Services fair Student Health Services was able to reach out to 300+ students with information about the free flu shots, mental health services including individual counseling, groups, Active Minds club and medical services.
- Aurora San Pedro, LMFT supported the Active Minds student club who started their weekly meetings in February. They are working on new ways to connect with students by collaborating with Student Health's events.
- Aurora presented mental health topics at a monthly meeting with Peer Navigators.
- February was focused on bringing awareness on medical updates to the campus, keeping the students informed with accurate information about the resources available at Student Health Services department. Accompanied by time and stress management.

## Innovations & Data

Student Health Services connected with 595 students in our office for February.

## **Policies & Procedures**

- Suzanne Khambata, FNP of and Aurora San Pedro, LMFT Met with San Diego County Behavioral Health Services to build community collaboration regarding mental health. Aurora stayed in contact with Sharp Mesa Vista to create a future MOU to provide a smooth transition for Mental Health Services for our students, including Outpatient and Intensive out Patient services.

## **Student Success Stories**

- Madison Goldman became a leader in the Active Minds student club. Her dedication to make Active Minds be more known to the campus, have more members, and create a safer environment for peer to peer contact about mental health help.

## **Special Recognition**

- Madison Goldman (Mesa Student) has accepted the position of President of the Active Minds student club. She has been proactive in gaining momentum and interest in the club and has a whole host of new ideas. Madison is a superstar!

# Student Success & Equity

## Innovations & Data

### Direct Student Support

- For the fall semester we have reviewed 111 applications for assistance and was able to provide direct support to 83 of those students, providing a total of \$9327.44 support to Mesa College Students.\* (please note that there is a discrepancy here from our November report due to an inadvertent duplicate count.)
- For the spring semester we have received 18 applications 11 students have received aid and are still finalizing amounts.

## Special Recognition

Congratulations to Johanna Aleman who was presented with the Social Services Advisory Board, 2019 Community Recognition Award! Well deserved!



# Transfer

## Events & Activities

- UC Berkeley Transfer Specialist is here! We are proud to host a UCB transfer specialist. Her name is Zefora Ortiz. She is meeting with students for 30 minute one on one appointments. Zefora is also available for workshops and other events as needed.
- Spilling the Transfer Tea: The Transfer Center hosted a FLEX event for faculty and staff on the transfer process for students, statistics, research, current trends, application process, supplemental, appeals, GE and academic renewal.
- SDSU is announcing admissions notices now! SDSU release transfer notification before freshman admission announcements. Please send students to our office fill out a pennant and submit their information our Transfer Acceptance Google form.

## Innovations & Data

<b>Transfer Rep Appts</b> 6	<b>Transfer Counselor Drop-in</b> 39	<b>Transfer Rep tabling Hours</b> 16 hours / 48 contacts
<b>Transfer Counselor Appts</b> 23	<b>Other Transfer Drop-In</b> 113	<b>Transfer Tabling event</b> 12 schools / 36+ contacts

- The Transfer Center secured a \$1000 per year scholarship for Woodbury Arch students attending the San Diego Campus
- Transfer Notification form on website: Please encourage students to visit the SD Mesa Transfer Web Page to complete Transfer Acceptance form. We will send emails regarding Admissions and Career Next Steps as well as Transfer Recognition Luncheon Invites.  
<https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/transfer-center/>
- SDSU@San Diego Mesa Microsite Online Bachelor Degree Completion program announced.  
<https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/transfer-center/>
- As of 2/14 the SDSU@Mesa Microsite interested page had 16 hits. 10 from SD Mesa College!

## Policies & Procedures

- SDSU@San Diego Mesa Micro-site program announced. Please refer students to the Transfer web page to complete the SDSU interest form.
- New tab to the transfer page: Please see "TRANSFER NEWS" for latest information on outside transfer opportunities such as scholarships, transfer related internships etc., including UC Berkeley's summer residence program for transfer students.
- Appeals labs will be open this spring.

## Student Success Stories

- Just found out a student who was denied for Fall of 2019 was admitted 5 days before schools started. Appeals work!

## Special Recognition

Thank you to the TCE staff, student workers and CAPs for making flyers and creating Google Forms! Amazing job! Thank you. It takes a village to transfer a student. You are appreciated thank you!!

# Veterans

## Employee Updates

- We have hired 7 additional VA work studies in Veterans & Records and the Veterans Success Center.

## Events & Activities

- Presented at the SD Financial Literacy Lincoln Housing event regarding the Post 9/11 GI Bill and other veteran education benefits.
- Hosted Veterans Region X quarterly meeting, Dr. Hands gave our Welcome. We had approximately 30 in attendance.
- Columbia University visited the VSC to meet with student veterans, approximately 5 met with the rep.
- SDSU met with 11 student veterans to discuss fall admission decisions and the process to appeal.
- The Veterans Success Center had Pop up with Prez Pam, where she provided pizza and conversation with students.

## Innovations & Data

- The VSC had a total of 1288 visits for the month of February, we changed our hours this semester to open at 8:00.our student veterans.

## Student Success Stories

- Mesa has had over 15 student veterans who were offered spring admission to SDSU. According to the SDSU admissions liaison this is one of the highest numbers of student veterans receiving spring admission she can remember.

## Special Recognition

- Andrew Tanjuaquio--Thank you for your patience and sharing your knowledge of SARS with me. You are a great teacher in the SARS world :)

# Vice President Student Services

## Employee Updates

- VP Hands will serve as a 2019-20 Mentor for the ACCCA Mentor Program

## Events & Activities

- The Motivation & Morale (M&M) Committee created a special Valentine's-themed Scavenger Hunt Bingo Activity for the Mesa Student Services family on February 11th. Over 25 employees played and 3 participants were randomly selected to win a pair of AMC movie tickets, sponsored by our Student Services Leadership Team and M&M. Congrats to our winners: Helena Hubbard (Admissions), Deborah Salazar (Evaluations), and Jessica Gaffney (Outreach)!
- Select Departments in the Student Services Center hosted special Saturday hours on February 1, 2020
- VP Hands participated in the Hope Center for College and Community College | San Diego Mesa College Partnership Meeting. This partnership is designed to elevate conversations about how we can create systems that meet the basic needs of our students including how we can be nimble, ready and organized as we expand our own efforts to provide timely and significant resources to students.
- This month's Mesa Student Services Council heard a special presentation from CTE regarding tutoring and student services, discussed Mesa 2030 Departmental Interviews, and gave our support for the creation of a Mesa Instructional Committee
- Dean Larry Maxey, Charlie Lieu, and Hai Hoang presented an equity minded Scholarship Workshop for Scholarship Reviewers. See here for the [PPT](#).

## Innovations & Data

- New NextUp Center has a new web page! Check it the services they offer, photos of their outstanding center, and see their staff pics. Visit the site here.
- The Financial Aid [Chatbot](#) is ready to help. "Olympia" is a self-learning technology that searches our web pages for answers to questions. As more people use the tool and feed it with questions, the smarter the bot will be. Counseling, EOPS, Outreach, and Assessment are on deck to launch their bots....stay tuned.
- [Raza Grad](#) registration link is up. Cool new feature this year, as it will allow students to upload a photo for the Raza Grad team to share during their ceremony.

## Special Recognition

- VP Hands attended/welcomed/presented at the following events/workshops and thanks the event coordinators for creating the conditions that matter for our students to engage and succeed:
- Black History Month Event: Rosa Parks Birthday Ceremony and Libations
- Black History Month Event: UMOJA Career Workshops
- Black History Month Event: UMOJA Regional Meet & Greet (Welcome)
- Black History Month: FORCED EXODUS: Coded Messages from the Underground Railroad Art Exhibit
- Buildings I/J Demolition Ceremony
- Promise Program turns 4 "Birthday" Celebration
- Mesa Foundation Scholarship Reviewer Workshop (Special thanks to Larry Maxey, Hai Hoang and Charlie Lieu)
- Region X Veterans Meeting (Welcome)
- Spring Student Services Fair