



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

- The Peer Navigator program is currently screening applications for next year's team.
- Financial Aid welcomed Jessica Gaffney as its newest member to the FA staff. She is the office's Student Services Assistant - Foster Youth Liaison and began her office training as well as initial training sessions with Sade Burrell and Marcus Berrien with the EOPS Office.
- Lucio Lira (He/They/Él) and Wil Thai (He/Him/His) are two new adjunct counselors at the STAR TRIO Program this spring 2021 semester. We are excited that they joined the team!
- The Transfer, Career, and Evaluations office has hired student worker, Ndeye Powell through the work-study program. Ndeye will be a huge help with the office's live chat bot.
- Student Success and Equity welcomes Mustaf Adde and Michael Sanders as new project assistants. They will support efforts to provide direct in-reach to our Black and Latinx students as well as to those negatively impacted by COVID and or with basic needs insecurities.

Events & Activities

- The Work-Based Learning and the Career Center teams presented on the topic of "SD Mesa WBL & Employment Assistance Mapping" to the region of San Diego & Imperial Counties Community Colleges-Career Education.
- The March 9th Campus Community Forum: "Finding Joy... in the Moments" featured a Student Panel with presenters from EOPS, CARE, NextUp, FAST Scholars, STAR TRIO, Project Restart and Borderless Scholars. The Q&A panel was facilitated by NextUp and FAST Scholars Program

Coordinator and Counselor, Sade Burrell. It was an opportunity for our students to share their valuable experiences taking classes and accessing services remotely/online.

- FAST and Nextup provided over 27 students with free printers and food to sustain them as they prepare for midterms.
- 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 fourth Apply for Graduation party of the 2020-2021 academic year on March 10th with a total of 15 students in attendance.
- As part of the Cesar Chavez CCE Pipeline project, Outreach had the opportunity to share about Mesa 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!
- During the first week of March, Student Health Services presented two rounds of its COVID Listening Circle: Open Conversations presentation to Mesa campus: Dr. Calvin Wong, Medical Director, and Renee Dean, RN, talked about why getting vaccinated is important and myths and facts about the COVID vaccine. Aurora San Pedro, LMFT, presented information about COVID fear, fatigue and how to regain calmness.
- Please don your Transfer Gear on Tuesdays. Let's support our transfer students!
- M&M hosted two fun activities to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th and 18th. We had 29 participants play our "Guessing Game!" and 17 participants share fun stories on the St. Patrick's Day Padlet. Congrats to our lucky winners: Charlie Lieu, Jennifer Park, Melissa Zavala, Mary Garcia, Johanna Aleman, and Erika Higginbotham!
- In collaboration with the President's Office, the Vice President of Student Services office hosted the Spring 2021 Principals' Roundtable for principals from our feeder high schools. Topics included Partnership Highlights, What's New on the Mesa, Data Sharing and the High-School to College Pathway.

Innovations & Data

- Admissions helped District to update the supplemental application for high school dual enrollment. This will streamline the process for high school students, high schools, and the college.
- DSPS is working on the implementation of Clockwork, a fully online office management system. This has been a cooperative effort with District IT, District DSPS, City, Mesa, Miramar and CE. The program is set to launch in Mid-August.
- All Evaluations-related 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 Stand continued 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 with an average of 200 households at each event.
- Student Health is implementing Medicat, an electronic health record system. The demographic upload will be ready to test run a soft opening for Mental Health. Student Health is also getting ready to set up San Diego Regional Immunization Registry (SDIR).

Call to Action Updates

- Admissions continued its professional development in becoming Pro-Black by attending the Racelighting Webinar and discussing how it can support our black students. They spend time discussing articles, webinars, books as part of our staff meeting every Tuesday during staff meetings. Admissions has also started contacting its new black students to gather if there were barriers to their application/registration for those who enrolled in spring 2021 courses and touching base with those who did not enroll to ask if there are still barriers preventing them from registering.
- Assessment staff continues to participate in workshops focused on supporting our Black/African American students and actively seeks ways to better support students.
- AVANZA created a flyer and shared with CRUISErs to join focus group in April. Effort will help program make necessary adjustments to CRUISE to better support students and facilitate genuine conversation to reinforce programs' commitment to students.
- Career has completed its [TCE Antiracism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan](#).
- Counseling faculty send follow-up emails to the Black students again offering counselor assistance and connection.
- DSPS continues with its language matters and "you belong here" campaigns, changed intake appointments to be welcome appointments in the SARS scheduling system, and have been working with other departments across campus to update language used when referring to DSPS.
- The Financial Aid Check-In webpage was created for our African-American/Black students to sign-on for one-to-one assistance to help them gain understanding of remaining financial aid procedures to be completed.
- Outreach is working with the Black Faculty Counselors Collective to promote workshops for Black Promise students.
- Student Affairs' goal remains increasing the engagement of Black students through the Mesa College Associated Students and the scholarship program funded by the Mesa College Foundation. Towards that goal, the department continue leveraging available resources in an attempt to speak directly to Black students and invite them to participate in these important programs. This past month, Student Affairs has individually emailed all Mesa Students that identify as Black, encouraging them to apply for scholarships, participate in workshops, join in the Writing Center scholarship workshops and participate in our office hours
- Linda Gibbins-Croft, LCSW, and Director of Student Health Suzanne Khambata, FNP, successfully set up the Urban Restoration Center to be an additional service for the mental health care of Black Students.
- The Veterans department has hired an additional three Black students as VA work studies in and is placing students in TCE and Admissions.
- At this month's MSSC meeting, Student Services highlighted Call to Action updates from Outreach, DSPS and Counseling
- Student Services also hosted two Feel, Heal & Be Real Dialogue sessions

Policies & Procedures

- Progress has been made on improving the high school dual enrollment supplemental application.
- The Dean of Student Development collaborated with Business Services to complete the VRC RFA Semi-Annual Report due to the state in March.
- 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 have already applied will begin hearing back with next steps via email beginning May 1.
- Transfer hs created a link to collect information student admission offers. Please direct students who have been accepted to a four-year school to our main page to sign up.

Student Success Stories

- Mei Han (Jen) Khor studied Interior Design here at Mesa finishing in Spring 2018. Jen recently won the Grand Prize at a very prestigious national student design competition. She was up against 900 entries from 65 different universities. Besides winning a scholarship and gifts from sponsors, she's being offered internship opportunities from the top design firms in the US.
- 642 Mesa Students submitted Mesa College Scholarships!
- It is smile season! Students are getting accepted to four year schools!

Admissions

Events & Activities

- The Admissions staff attended the following events:
 - March 3- Racelighting Webinar
 - March 8- City Women Rock 2021 Conference
 - March 9- Undocu-Ally Training, Campus Community Forum , Racelighting discussion
 - March 10- Feel, Feel and Be Real March 11- Time to heal our Women
 - March 17- Mentoring Women: Hiring Equity and Excellence for Women in Higher Education
 - March 18- Courageous Leadership
 - March 19- Abolitionist Book Club- We Want To Do More Than Survive
 - March 22- Began 21 day equity challenge
 - March 23- Financial Literacy, Campus Community Forum
 - March 24- Feel, Heal and Be Real
 - M&M Event
 - Equity Challenge
 - Chancellor Humanities Lecture
 - Zooms celebrating Black Women

Innovations & Data

- We helped District to update the supplemental application for high school dual enrollment. This will streamline the process for high school students, high schools, and the college.
- Ivy Chat from Jan - March 2021 – 157 verified responses from our inbox zero updated. 311 student interactions among Allied Health Programs Handled 545 calls from our phone tree- 619-388-2682.
- Responded to 481 emails. Supported 15 high school dual-enrolled students and 16 international students. We processed 71 JIRA tickets, and an additional 33 updates of names, date of birth, and SSN updates. Communicated with 69 prospective students. Replied to 57 residency inquiries and completed 69 verifications.

Call to Action Update

- We've continued our professional development in becoming Pro-Black by attending the Racelighting Webinar and discussing how we can support our black students. We spend time discussing articles, webinars, books as part of our staff meeting every Tuesday during our staff meetings. We have also started contacting our new black students to gather: if there were barriers to their application/registration for those who enrolled in spring 2021 courses and touching base with those who did not enroll to ask if there are still barriers preventing them from registering.

Policies & Procedures

- Progress has been made on improving the high school dual enrollment supplemental application.

Student Success Stories

- Mei Han (Jen) Khor studied Interior Design here at Mesa finishing in Spring 2018. She has been studying at Cal State Long Beach since being accepted into their Interior Design program. At Mesa she was active in the Honors Society, International Students Club, and ASG. She has a GPA of 4.0 for 68 units earned. Jen was the third of three sisters, including Ashley and Gwen, who came here as International students from Malaysia a year apart. Each of them thrived and excelled here (and at their subsequent universities) and each has expressed how much they loved their Mesa experience. It was announced two weeks ago that Jen had won the Grand Prize at a very prestigious national student design competition. She was up against 900 entries from 65 different universities. Besides winning a scholarship and gifts from sponsors, she's being offered internship opportunities from the top design firms in the US. Please take a moment to read about her accomplishment. What a great ambassador for Long Beach State and Mesa:
- <https://www.steelcase.com/research/articles/topics/collaboration/students-design-next-hybrid-workplace/>
- <https://www.csulb.edu/design/article/jen-khor-wins-2020-steelcase-next-competition-grand-prize-design-students-earn-three>

Assessment

Events & Activities

- Assessment Infographics - Creation of useful infographics that contains specific information for each student's next steps. The Assessment Office now has graphics for Milestones, Challenge Exams, Counseling Contact Info, and Next Steps (for students who have completed the Pre-Enrollment workshops).
- Live Chat - In collaboration with the Outreach Ambassadors, we continue to assist students via Live Chat, and have now started documenting all questions received from students to note trends.
- Assessment continues to support the Outreach Department in their Pre-Enrollment workshops, helping graduating seniors from Mesa's feeder high schools to complete their matriculation steps and be Mesa ready!

Innovations & Data

- Unduplicated Student Count – 138
- Orientation - 30
- Email - 50
- E-CHAT - 12
- Placement Assistant – 73

Call to Action Update

- Assessment staff continues to participate in workshops focused on supporting our Black/African American students and actively seeks ways to better support students.

AVANZA Student Engagement Center, Peer Navigator, and CRUISE Programs

Employee Updates

- The Peer Navigator program regrets to share Nayra Cruz has stepped down due to personal reasons.
- The PN program is currently screening applications for next year's team. Will introduce new team via upcoming report.

Events & Activities

- Online AVANZA Engagement Center Hours continue Monday through Thursday from 9a - 11a and 1p -3p. Finances: Budget and Savings
- March 23rd and 24th: Peer Navigators created and presented workshop to help students budget, invest and refer to current campus resources

Innovations & Data

- Designed activities to support second round of PN interviews. Online event will take place at the end of the month and help the program identify candidates to join next year's PN team.

Call to Action Update

- Flyer created and shared with CRUISErs to join our focus group in April. Effort will help program make necessary adjustments to CRUISE to better support students, and facilitate genuine conversation to reinforce programs' commitment to students.

Student Success Stories

- Happy to announce Peer Navigators are receiving acceptance letters! Look forward to reporting out their decision with next report.

Special Recognition

- Gloria Gonzalez, Lead Peer Navigator. She has supported the program's screening and interview process, while simultaneously maintaining her full-time status and strong grades. She has been punctual and consistent. We are grateful for her leadership and support.

CalWORKs

No report

Career

Events & Activities

- On March 1st, the Career Center Coordinators, Raquel Sojourner and Kristy Carson, presented about the importance of Career Ready Guide and also provided an overview of career services. Thank you, Raul Rodriguez, for inviting us to meet your students in the PUENTE program.
- On March 23rd, Kristy Carson, Career Co-Coordinator, presented an overview of Career Services to DSPS. Thank you, Erika Higginbotham, for meeting with us.
- On March 25th, the Career Center Coordinators, Raquel Sojourner and Kristy Carson, presented about the importance of career planning and also provided an overview of Career Services. Thank you, Candace Katungi, for inviting us to meet your students in the Black Studies class.
- In a joint effort on Wednesday, March 17th, the Work-Based Learning and the Career Center teams presented on the topic of “SD Mesa WBL & Employment Assistance Mapping” to the region of San Diego & Imperial Counties Community Colleges-Career Education.
 - The presenters were Monica Romero, Claudia Estrada-Howell, Melanie Baeza-McCray, Raquel Sojourner, Pavel Consuegra, and Katlin Choi.
 - The presentation was created by Monica Romero, Claudia Estrada-Howell, Melanie Baeza-McCray, Raquel Sojourner, Kristina Carson, Pavel Consuegra, Katlin Choi, Alicia Lopez, Sadie Wager, Helen Ma, Megan Boquet, Carina Hernandez-Carrillo, and Olivia Picolla. The design of the presentation was created by Olivia Picolla.

Career Peer Program

- Our Career Peer Ambassadors hosted their 4 final workshops of the Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series! Last workshop of the series was on March 23rd. Career Peer Ambassadors created 5 career-related workshop presentations aimed to help students learn about job search strategies, interview preparation, and networking in a virtual environment. These are the workshops held during March.
 - March 2nd – Lara Napasa presented Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series: Land that Internship!
 - March 9th – Sadie Wager presented Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series: Creating a Career Portfolio
 - March 16th – Helen Ma presented Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series: Dressing and Networking in a Virtual Environment
 - March 23rd – Lara Napasa presented Spring 2021 Career Peer Workshop Series: Virtual Interview Essentials
- Next, we will provide a newsletter with recordings of all sessions and presentation slides for those who could not attend the live virtual workshops.
- Career Peer Ambassador Helen Ma attended the UndocuAlly Training on March 16th provided by the Mesa College Borderless Scholars Program. The training provided the opportunity to learn about laws and policies affecting undocumented students, resources available at Mesa College and effective Allyship strategies.

- Career Peer Ambassadors Helen Ma and Sadie Wager attended planning meetings between the Career Center and Work-Based Learning. The teams met to prepare for a presentation to the region.

Innovations & Data

New Employer Contacts Mesa Job Network

- A total of 7 new employer contacts were made during this month through our online job board, "Mesa Job Network."
 - 1. All Pro Demo, Inc. 2. Bang Energy 3. Chick-fil-A Clairemont 4. Priya for Senate 5. Two Hands Four Paws 6. Valley Veterinary Hospital 7. Voice of San Diego

Job Postings on Mesa Job Network

- A total of 28 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 reports webpage.

Remote Career Center Data

- Student Career Contacts reported on SARS: Total of 57 (point of contacts)
- Remote Career Counseling Appointments: Total of 37
- Live Chatbot Conversations with Students: 15

Career Peer Program

- The Career Peer Ambassadors -
 - Completed 14 online student sessions: 7 resume sessions & 7 cover letter sessions
 - Collected 6 post assessment surveys. Comments received from student participants:
 - Lara provided a really good experience!
 - I love Helen she's such a nice person to talk to and I appreciate her collaborative approaches to writing a cover letter.
 - Malik was super amazing!!! They was so accommodating and patient with me. I had so many questions but they was kind enough to reply to all of them. Also, they gave great input/feedback that I plan to implement in the future. Thank you Malik!!!

Call to Action Update

- We have completed our TCE Antiracism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan: sdmesa.edu/student-services/evaluations/TCE%20Antiracism%20Diversity%20Equity%20and%20Inclusion%20Plan%202021.pdf.pdf

Special Recognition

- A huge shout-out and THANK YOU to Helen Ma and Sadie Wager for the CTE month posters they created for social media all month for February. They were great! They even created a flyer

version for Monica Romero and WBL so they can be shared with faculty by Work-Based Learning.

- Congratulations to Sadie Wager on her acceptance to SDSU! Sadie will be transferring to SDSU as a Political Science major. We are so proud of all of Sadie's accomplishments!

Counseling

Events & Activities

- The Personal Growth Work Group held a great training session on Course Learning Outcomes, and how to use them in canvas for our PERG instructors.
- The Counseling Equity Committee continues planning for the next newsletter and for our fall 2021 Equity Open House.
- UCLA TAP enrollments are progressing at a good rate.

Innovations & Data

- Drop-In students: 738
- Student Appointments: 341
- Total: 1039

Call to Action Update

- We had our counselors send follow-up emails to the Black students that we reached out to on February 1, again offering counselor assistance and connection.

Student Success Stories

- Just a note that we can always learn from following up on student complaints

Special Recognition

- Amber Alatorre for her needed work with our Asian American population.

DSPS

Innovations & Data

- DSPS produced a introduction video to be shown at the virtual Jumpstart event
- All of the DSPS Counselors have been attending the CTE/Counselor Conversations workshop series
- DSPS Classified Professional, Shanelle Changotra, attended the SDSU Transfer Workshop, the Equity-Grounded Counseling event and the Title IX training. Shanelle continues to represent DSPS on the Black Faculty Counselors' Collaborative (BFCC)
- DSPS Counselor, Dawn Stoll, attended the PTA and CACM advisory meetings
- DSPS Counselor Isaac Arguelles and DSPS Coordinator/Counselor Erika Higginbotham have been working with Instruction to strengthen professional learning opportunities for faculty supporting DSPS students in their classes
- On Friday, March 12th DSPS Coordinator/Counselor presented to the MT2C tutoring about DSPS services and Universal Design
- DSPS Coordinator/Counselor, Erika Higginbotham, collaborated with other state DSPS leaders on the programing for the Vision for Success systems webinar on March 17, 2021. This included provided resources and examples for collaboration across the campus
- DSPS participated in the monthly DSPS field and CCCCCO meeting
- DSPS participated in the Region E DSPS meeting
- DSPS Coordinator/Counselor, Erika Higginbotham, presented to EOPS at their meeting on March 23rd
- Kristina Carson from the Career Center/General Counseling presented at the DSPS team meeting on March 23rd
- DSPS continues to be active in Mesa Pathways meetings and the Mesa 20/30 planning and equity work including the 21-day challenge

Innovations & Data

- DSPS is working on the implementation of Clockwork-a fully online office management system. This has been a cooperative effort with District IT, District DSPS, City, Mesa, Miramar and CE. The program is set to launch in Mid-August.
- DSPS processed 43 new student applications, assisted 30 students who used the online appointment request form and processes 17 new alternate media requests.

Call to Action Update

- DSPS continues with our language matters and "you belong here" campaigns. We have changed intake appointments to be welcome appointments in the SARS scheduling system and have been working with other departments across campus to update language used when referring to DSPS. This month we worked with the CCAP program to edit the information being provided to faculty on their CCAP Canvas Shell.

EOPS

Employee Updates

- Lucio Lira (He/They/Él) and Wil Thai (He/Him/His) are two new adjunct counselors at the STAR TRIO Program this spring 2021 semester. We are excited that they joined the team!

Events & Activities

EOPS

- 3/3/21 | Energy Session - This session served to help students relax in the present moment and receive an energetic upgrade. Facilitated by EOPS Counselor, Hadassah Nations.
- 3/4 & 3/10 | Learn about the Transfer Process Workshop - Students were able to learn about University transfer requirements, General Education Options for Transfer, and Tools to assist them with transferring, learning about guarantee programs and the timeline to transfer to a university. Facilitated by EOPS Counselor, "J" Kontos.
- 3/5 & 3/18 | CTE Faculty & Counselor Conversations - EOPS Counselors attended this virtual event to explore the different Career Education programs and dialogue with colleagues in support of our students. They also provided counseling insights and brought forth student needs with CTE faculty. • 3/8 - 3/10 | WESTOP Conference - EOPS and Special Programs Director, Leticia Diaz and EOPS Counselor, Nellie Dougherty attended the WESTOP conference.
- 3/8/21 | Energy Session - This session served to energize students through engaging in an interactive multiplayer online drawing and guessing game. Facilitated by EOPS Student Services Technician, Amara Tang.
- 3/9/21 | The Holistic Student Series: Sunshine Stroll - Students learned about the importance of getting sunlight and how this will improve mental health and even academic success! Facilitated by Denise Arco, Ivonne Meza, and Isacc Flores.
- 3/9/21 | Campus Community Forum: "Finding Joy... in the Moments" - Featured a Student Panel with presenters from EOPS, CARE, NextUp, FAST Scholars, STAR TRIO, Project Restart and Borderless Scholars. The Q&A panel was facilitated by NextUp and FAST Scholars Program Coordinator and Counselor, Sade Burrell. It was an opportunity for our students to share their valuable experiences taking classes and accessing services remotely/online.
- 3/11/21 | Region X EOPS, CARE, & NextUp Staff + Counselor Retreat - This Region X event brought together a community of EOPS, CARE, & NextUp Staff and Counselors to virtually connect and share best practices, going above and beyond to support our students and each other. Thank you to our NextUp and FAST Scholars Counselor, Markus Berrien & EOPS Project Assistant, Ivonne Meza for serving on the planning committee!
- 3/22/21 | The Holistic Student Series: Take Care of Your Time - Students learned from about how managing time and planning ahead can improve academic success.
- 3/22 & 3/24 | Learn about the UC San Diego University Link Guarantee Program Workshop - The Mesa College Transfer Center presented information about a unique transfer opportunity for first time high school students (sign up within one year of graduation), former foster youth,

veteran students or active duty students. This is the closest program to a Transfer Admission Guarantee that UC San Diego offers local transfer students.

- 3/25/21 | Study Break Session - Students took a break from their studying and joined our EOPS Team Members, Amara Tang, Consuelo Orihuela, and Isacc Flores, to play a fun Online Multiplayer Drawing and Guessing Game!

CARE

- Hosted monthly CARE Check-in.
- CARE Circle Network meetings (statewide).
- Student needs survey sent to collect data/info on immediate needs for students.
- CARE students who attended first contact and received an educational grant.
- All students attending first appointment received a gas card.
- Collaboration with CalWORKs for recruitment purposes

NextUP & FAST Scholars

- FAST and NextUp continue to host a series of events. We are also collaborating with our community partners. Most recently, Chef Tonya allowed our students to create their own ice cream flavor. We are so grateful for Culinary Arts teaming up with us to allow our foster youth an opportunity to create a new ice cream flavor! Students will be able to receive a free pint of ice cream as well!
- Tran Fong, an activist, hosted a poetry workshop for students online. Students were able to learn about poetry and wrote their own poems.
- FAST also recently collaborated with ARC. A.R.C (Active, Resolute & Connected) collaborated with us to provide students (specifically women) who experienced foster care with an opportunity to physically, mentally, and emotionally reclaim their loves for themselves through running. Running can be intimidating for some, but this program, along with weekly support from FAST and NextUp was able to support students and get them to a point where they can run.
- FAST and Nextup provided over 27 students with free printers and food to sustain them as they prepare for midterms.

Borderless Scholars

- Ongoing | 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!
- 3/5/21 | Borderless Scholars Team offered a 2020 Taxes and ITIN Workshop. This workshop was led by Alejandra Orozco, a certified tax preparer. She assisted the students to learn how to file for an ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) & Taxes to get the most out of the refund, if applicable. The attendees learned about the forms, resources, and where to file their taxes for free.
- 3/5/21 | 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.

- 3/9 & 3/16/21 | Borderless Scholars Counselors: Rosa Palacios and Clemente Ayala offered two UndocuAlly Trainings. The UndocuAlly Training took place on Tuesdays and the same information was presented in both training sessions. The UndocuAlly Training was emphasized on Educators interested in cultivating a safe and welcoming space for current and prospective Mesa College Undocumented, AB 540, Dreamers, DACA Recipients, Non-DACA, and students from mixed-status families.
- 3/11/21 & 3/25/21 | 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.
- 03/12 & 3/26/21 | 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 for more information.

Project Restart

- Hosted monthly Project Restart check-in.
- Student needs survey sent to collect data/info on immediate needs.
- Collaboration meeting with Rising Scholars network.
- Collaboration with Project Rebound at SDSU.
- Applied for funding through the Guided Pathways grant.
- Meeting with Restorative Therapy Project

STAR TRIO

- STAR TRIO tutors assisted 40+ students with tutoring services for various class subjects.
- As of this month, STAR TRIO is providing services to over 185 students.
- STAR TRIO is excited to announce that two adjunct counselors have joined the team. Lucio Lira (He/They/Él) and Will Thai will be assisting STAR TRIO student with counseling and workshops to support students this spring semester.
- STAR TRIO would like to recognize the participation of STAR TRIO students Adrianna Low, Isacc Flores, and Marquita Scott for representing our program with their personal stories at the Mesa College Community Forum on Tuesday March 9th.
- The STAR TRIO team is developing and planning recruitment strategies to support more students with our services this semester with classrooms presentation, events, and informational workshops.
- The STAR TRIO staff members. Leticia Diaz, Thuan Le, and Nellie Dougherty attended to WESTOP Conference to represent the STAR TRIO Program from March 8th to the 10th.

Innovations & Data

EOPS

- Offered 30 New Student Orientations for new approved EOPS students.

Borderless Scholars

- 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. <https://www.jfssd.org/our-services/refugees-immigration/higher-education-legal-services/>

Call to Action Update

- Collaborated with the District to add ethnicity to EOPS Query.
- Called continuing AA/Black Students that are missing 1st EOPS appointment.
- Called new AA/Black Students that may be eligible for EOPS and invited them to apply.
- Called new AA/Black Students approved for EOPS to invite them to attend an EOPS orientation.

Student Success Stories

EOPS

- March Mailed School Supplies - Student Survey Responses:
 - “This event was beyond helpful. This event helped a lot of students in need especially due to the circumstances that have been happening due to COVID.”
 - “Thank you so much! The first aid kit really came in handy today after I went hiking! Thank you for the school supplies!”

3/9/21 CAMPUS FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

- “Giving back and helping gives an opportunity for the person who's actually helping a chance to grow and also the person that you're helping to grow. It builds memories and moments that some certain moments you remember for a lifetime.” -Marquita Scott
- “STAR TRIO has definitely helped me with all the emails that they send me.” -Adrianna Low o
“EOPS has been a blessing in my life, more than words can ever explain...I went to college after probably 10 years and I have kids that are adults now.” -Yvonne
- “What brings me joy is the fact that some professors take the time to actually reach out to you when even though you don't necessarily tell them you're needing help, somehow they realize that and reach out to you.” -Giovanni Sanchez
- “Something great that came out of this is the educational packages, it made me appreciate it even more. I never thought I would care about spices until I got that package, I am now going to the kitchen and putting things together...this helped bridge the gap with food so that I don't have to pay as much which helps with expenses.” -Isacc Flores

- “Majoring in Psychology...I want to help anyone and everyone that I can, it’s my love, my passion....that’s what I want to be remembered as.” - Sara Pischinger

Special Recognition

EOPS

- THANK YOU to our Student Panelists for sharing their powerful stories at the Campus Community Forum on 3/9/21: Isacc Flores (EOPS, STAR TRIO, and NextUp), Adrianna Low (STAR TRIO), Yvonne Pina (EOPS, Project Restart and FAST Scholar), Sara Pischinger (EOPS and CARE), Giovanni Sanchez (EOPS and Borderless Scholar), and Marquita Scott (EOPS, STAR TRIO and FAST Scholar).
- Thanks to Borderless Scholars Team for their amazing teamwork and collaboration in facilitating meaningful and successful virtual events to support our students.

Evaluations

Employee Updates

- We have hired student worker, Ndeye Powell through the work-study program. Ndeye will be supporting all three departments: Transfer, Career, and Evaluations and will be a huge help with our live chat bot.

Events & Activities

- The Evaluations Team held the Apply for Graduation party, March 10 with a total of 15 students in attendance. 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 one more graduation party before the final spring 2021 graduation deadline, April 30th.
- 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! Students who applied for graduation by March 15th, began receiving emails on how to register. The Commencement Team will continue to email students through mid-April.

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 fourth Apply for Graduation party of the 2020-2021 academic year on March 10th with a total of 15 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 mysdccd 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
- How to submit an official transcript to SDCCD? Student must submit all official electronic transcripts to our Transcript Office email 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 mysdccd 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 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.”
 - “My major is Interior Design and the reason WHY I want to be an Interior Designer is to help people feel as comfortable as possible in their own space by designing their spaces accordingly to their needs.”

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.
- Special shoutout to Alicia Lopez, who supported the Apply for Graduation Party by presenting on Career Services.
- Thank you to Mary Garcia & Mary Eden for meeting with students during the Apply for Graduation Party to ensure they were on the path to graduate.
- Thank you to Deborah Salazar for continuing to support students – you are a Rockstar!

Financial Aid

Employee Updates

- We welcomed Jessica Gaffney as the newest member to the FA staff. She is our SSA - Foster Youth Liaison and began her office training as well as initial training sessions with Sade Burrell and Marcus Berrien with the EOPS Office for the collaborative work for our students.

Events & Activities

- System testing for the 2021-2022 academic year began on 03/29/2021 and will end on 4/19/2021.

Innovations & Data

- While maintaining compliance, 20-21 have been simplified to the extent possible. During the month of March students received \$1,014,030 in financial aid refunds.

Call to Action Update

- The Financial Aid Check-In webpage was created for our African-American/Black students to sign-on for one to one assistance understanding remaining procedures to be completed.

Policies & Procedures

- U.S. Department of Education's Experiment on the Direct Loan Subsidized Loan Financial Awareness (Financial Literacy) Counseling session will end when the 20-21 academic year closes. The experiment led to the implementation at a national level of the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment process for any student who wishes to borrow from the Federal Student Loan program. This new procedure is expected to become effective for the 2021-2022 academic year. The final effective date is yet to be determined by the Dept. of Education. Testing of the electronic consent procedure (required to provide any service and/or communication by electronic means) was tested during Spring Break.

Special Recognition

- Special thanks to Sade Burrell, Marcus Berrien and Leticia Diaz in EOPS for their immediate disposition and availability for training Jessica with our processes for former foster youth. Thanks to Zulma Duran and Jennifer Park for their valuable assistance during the on-campus check distribution (checks returned by the post office) to our students.

Outreach & Community Relations

Events & Activities

Outreach

- March 2: Outreach staff Karla Trutna presented to the CCE Immigrant Support Program: Global Student Community Forum (Spanish Session). As part of the Cesar Chavez CCE Pipeline project, Outreach had the opportunity to share about Mesa 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!
- March 8 – 11: The Outreach team hosted a series of Pre-Enrollment workshops dedicated to Mission Bay High School. The workshops were offered all week long at various times. During these sessions, students were able to complete CCCApply, Online orientation and received a Next Steps - Mesa presentation that covered the following: Counseling, CRUISE, SD Promise Program, DSPS, EOPS, TCE, and milestones. The Outreach team served over 100 students assisting them with their matriculation steps and covered how to navigate their MySDCCD student portal.
- March 9 & 17: Outreach hosted their first “Journey to Mesa College” for the spring semester. The information session provided students all the necessary information regarding Financial Aid, SD Promise, EOPS, DSPS, TCE, and Career Education. It is a very in depth overview showcasing what Mesa College can do for students and prospective students.
- March 16: The Outreach team hosted Clairemont High School for a Pre-Enrollment Workshop. During this session, students were able to complete CCCApply, Online orientation and received a Next Steps - Mesa presentation that covered the following: Counseling, CRUISE, SD Promise Program, DSPS, EOPS, TCE, and milestones. The Outreach team served over 40 students assisting them with their placement assistant, application to Mesa College, and navigating through the MySDCCD student portal.
- March 17: Outreach staff Karla Trutna was invited to present at the Districtwide SD Promise (Spanish) Night. During this session, parents and prospective students had the opportunity to learn more about the SD Promise program: eligibility, benefits, and requirements. Following the presentation, students were able to apply to the SD Promise program with the support of an ambassador.
- March 23: The Outreach team hosted Patrick Henry High School for a Pre-Enrollment Workshop. During this session, students were able to complete CCCApply, Online orientation and received a Next Steps - Mesa presentation that covered the following: Counseling, CRUISE, SD Promise Program, DSPS, EOPS, TCE, and milestones. The Outreach team supported students with the matriculation process and how to navigate their MySDCCD student portal.
- March 24: Outreach staff Van Chhum served as a co-presenter during the first College & Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Parent Night session. This first session introduced Clairemont High School students and their families to the benefits involved in taking a Mesa College course. More sessions are scheduled this spring!
- March 26: The Outreach Department participates in a semester training hosted by District Outreach. Mesa served as the host for the month of March and invited Dean Romero to share on CTE programs and opportunities for students. In addition, Ambassadors had the opportunity

to get the latest updates in regards to the SD Promise program. Ambassadors look forward to sharing CTE and SD Promise info with their prospective high school students.

Promise

- **Promise Coffee Hours:** We hosted two Coffee Hour sessions during the month of March with over 30 students in attendance. Students participated in icebreakers, discussion topics, and journaling activities. MT2C and Peer Navigators also presented information about how to utilize their services and resources.
- **Promise Midterms Study Sessions:** We hosted two virtual study sessions for students to get together and make time to study, write papers, and work on projects. Students set goals for what they wanted to accomplish by the end of the study session.

Innovations & Data

Outreach

- The Outreach team has been asked to co-present during the annual College & Career Access Pathways (CCAP) along with the Admissions Office. CCAP is the formal partnership between SDUSD and SDCCD to offer or expand dual enrollment opportunities. The goal of this partnership is to develop seamless pathways from high school to community college for career technical education, preparation for transfer, improving high school graduation rates and helping high school pupils achieve college and career readiness. College courses are offered at various high school campuses as part of the regular school day and students may earn college credit and high school credit for up to 10 college courses.
- During these sessions, CCAP students and their families will have an opportunity to learn more about the benefits of taking a class with Mesa College. Outreach and Admissions will share the following online resources available to students who participate in CCAP w/Mesa: MT2C, Counseling, and LRC. Outreach and Admissions look forward to meeting and welcoming these future Olympians!

Call to Action Update

Outreach & Promise

- We are working with the Black Faculty Counselors Collective to promote workshops for Black Promise students. Our team shared survey responses from students containing information such as educational goals, types of events they would like to attend, and types of skills they would like to refine.

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 have already applied will begin hearing back with next steps via email beginning May 1

- 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.
- All students who were dismissed due to units or financial aid application requirements may submit an appeal to have their fees waived for Spring 2021 if they are experiencing financial hardship. Students may email Donnaly Atajar (datajar@sdccd.edu) for more information about the appeal process.

Special Recognition

- Promise Ambassador Makayla Srioudom was accepted to SDSU, CSU Monterey Bay, and CSU Long Beach so far. Any school is lucky to have her, and we are excited to hear where she decides to attend!

Student Affairs

Events & Activities

- Scholarship Recap
- We had an exceptional submission rate to our Mesa College Foundation Scholarships! For the 2020-2021 scholarship cycle Mesa College offered more than \$180,000 in awards through 137 separate scholarship opportunities funded by the Mesa College Foundation. During the application period, from December 2020 to March 2021, 641 students submitted a combined total of 2310 scholarship applications. Reviews are currently underway and the winners will be announced when we honor our student awardees during the Virtual Scholarship Awards Celebration on May 12.

Call to Action Update

- Our goal remains increasing the engagement of Black students through the Mesa College Associated Students and the scholarship program funded by the Mesa College Foundation. Towards that goal, we continue leveraging available resources in an attempt to speak directly to Black students and invite them to participate in these important programs. This past month we have individually emailed all Mesa Students that identify as Black encouraging them to apply for scholarships, participate in our workshops, join in the writing center scholarship workshops and participate in our office hours. It is still too early to determine how successful these efforts have been so far, but with the recent close of the scholarship application period and the beginning of the review period we will soon be able to examine the results of our scholarship outreach efforts. General elections for the incoming 2021-2022 Associated Students executive board are scheduled to conclude in May.

Student Success Stories

- 642 Mesa Students submitted Mesa College Scholarships!

Special Recognition

- Special THANK YOU to Team Student Affairs - including Zulma, Jen, Charlie, Courtney and Claudia for their overwhelming amount of creativity, support, hard work, dedication and awesome attitude in promoting scholarships. The brilliance of this dynamic team is filled with creativity, compassion and excellence. Thank you, Team SA!

Student Development

Events & Activities

- Dean of Student Development and Dean of Exercise Science, Health Education, Dance, and Athletics presented on the Olympian Pathways Prototype data, outcomes, and student experiences during the 3/23/21 Campus Forum.

Policies & Procedures

- Dean of Student Development collaborated with Business Services to complete the VRC RFA Semi-Annual Report due to the state in March.

Special Recognition

- Special recognition to the Transfer, Career, and Evaluations team for working together to create the TCE Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan.
- Many thanks to all the ARTs, especially to those who participated in the webinar: Taylor Genuser (Football), Careth Herron (Women's Basketball), Talib Mahdi (Men's Basketball), Jake Portugal (Baseball), and Wes Williams (Track & Field and Cross Country).
- Much appreciation goes to all the coaches for building a community of student-athletes during this critical time, especially to Travis Nichols (Men's Basketball), Sean Ricketts (Track & Field and Cross Country), Lindsay Samaniego (Women's Basketball), Steve Sanchez (Baseball), and Gary Watkins (Football).
- Many thanks to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness - Dr. Bridget Herrin and Hai Hoang for the support provided with the Olympians Contact Tracker.

Student Health Services

Events & Activities

- During the first week of March, Student Health Services presented two rounds of our COVID Listening Circle: Open Conversations presentation to Mesa campus: Dr. Calvin Wong, Medical Director and Renee Dean, RN talked about why getting vaccinated is important, role played on myths and facts about the COVID vaccine. A familiar guest invited to present on COVID fear, fatigue and how to get back your calmness, Aurora San Pedro, LMFT.
- Suzanne Khambata, FNP, Linda Gibbins-Croft, LCSW and John Guinn, LMFT met with the Dean of Athletics and Athletics trainers on multiple occasions to support the Athletic department with a mental health wellness plan for all Mesa athletics.
- Mark Manasse from the Tutor Center invited John Guinn, mental health counselor and Mimi Vu, community health coordinator to Friday Afternoon Tutor Training Sessions, to present on our services Student Health has to offer, along with the yin and yang balance between physical health and mental health. John also talked about the common mental health problems students' encounter: anxiety, depression, and lack of time management.
- John was invited to The Asian Pacific Diversity (APD) Club to provide a mental health presentation on recent violence against the AAPI community. John addressed how different cultures/ethnicities respond to mental health and information about Mental Health services within the college and outside in the community.
- Linda Gibbins-Croft and John Guinn, LMFT responded quickly to provide student support in response to the senseless violence that happened in Atlanta towards the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The mental health counselors addressed feelings, connection and resilience to everyone who needed support in the forum.
- Aurora provided Mental Health support to the academic support team from the Avanza Center: The Peer Navigators. Topics were discussed: How to create a conducive routine to maintain healthy patterns, managing mental health issues while conducting virtual interactive learning. Peer Navigators were very responsive to this discussion and would like Aurora to come back soon
- Active Minds leaders and members are working with Aurora to find different ways to advertise for Student Health on a major event happening in April to other alumni members and outreach to their classes. Active Minds finished reading "More Myself" by Alicia Keys and now seeking another upcoming read for the book club.
- Linda attended the California Community College Equity Leadership Alliance as a guest of Mesa College. The main discussion for March's meeting was equity minded support services.
- Monica Woodruff, AMFT attended Mesa's Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Committee and Asian Pacific Diversity (APD) Club for a conversation centering the APIA student voices on both historical and systemic motivations behind the increase violent hate crimes against the APIA community and the needs of the APIA students

Innovations & Data

- Our implementation plan for Mediat, an electronic health record system is almost completed on the demographic upload and will be ready to test run a soft opening for Mental Health.

Student Health is currently working on setting up a patient portal for students to use as an online service through Mediat.

- Student Health is getting ready to set up San Diego Regional Immunization Registry (SDIR), after doing training. When Student Health staff are fully trained for SDIR, Mediat will be able to intertwined EHR system with SDIR, so information will be easy to access and secure.
- In March, we served 480 students with medical and mental health needs virtually.

Call to Action Update

- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW and Director of Student Health Suzanne Khambata FNP successfully set up Urban Restoration Center to be an additional service for the mental health care of Black Students.
- We are currently working on a Black, Indigenous and People Color community event focused on enlightening mental balance, instilling resilience and hope for the future.

Policies & Procedures

- 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 on the last Wednesday of each month.

Student Success Stories

- Alejandra Espinoza, our office assistant at Student Health Services will be heading off to the University of her choice from California State University, Chico to California State University, Sacramento. She received an acceptance letter from all five universities. The Student Health Services team is really happy and excited to witness her growth in communication and leadership. Any university will be very lucky to have Alejandra as their student.
- Xochitl Bravo, our peer educator who spearheaded in all of our community health and mental health events while on campus. Now she is getting ready to graduate by the end of the semester. Student Health Services is joyful for having Xochitl grace our office with her great personality and wholeheartedness towards ever student she encountered through all of our events.
- We wish you the best of luck and much success in the near future.

Special Recognition

- Thank you so much to Veronica Gerace and her class to allow Aurora to speak and present to her students. Many wonderful feedback to Aurora San Pedro, one of the best comments was, "I was so surprised that she seemed so genuine and relatable. That has just not been my experience in the past with therapists that I have seen."
- Thank you to Victor DeVore, Student Services Analyst at the district. He is working non-stop with our representative at Mediat to intergrade demographic information from Peoplesoft to our EHR system. He is working out all the details with Mediat and truly are grateful for his help to make this new EHR system run smoothly when it goes live.

Student Success & Equity

Employee Updates

- We would like to welcome Mustaf Adde and Michael Sanders as new project assistants, they will support our efforts to provide direct in-reach to our students to our black and Latinx students as well as those negatively impacted by COVID and or basic needs insecurities.

Events & Activities

- Implemented the 21 Day Equity Challenge which will run through mid-April.
- Co-presented at the League of Innovations Conference: Inspecting What We Expect: An Equity Analysis of Scholarship Processes
- Co-facilitated two scholarship reviewers' workshops

Innovations & Data

The Stand March 2021 Update

- The Stand continued 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 200 households at each event.
- The Stand is providing Direct Student support in a virtual manner. For the fall semester we saw significantly fewer students than when we are on campus. We have received 45 applications for basic needs assistance. All 45 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 March we provide 60 students with \$50 vouchers to 72Fifty.

Student Success Stories

- EOPS and sub programs presented a wonderful student panel, "Finding Joy in the Moments" highlighting the resiliency of our students.

Transfer

Innovations & Data

Transfer Center Data

- Counselor drop-in Appointments: 22
- Counselor Appointments: 21
- Counselor's Additional Contact: 417
- Transfer Workshops: 15
- Drop-ins: 143
- Chat Bot conversation: 27
- Microsite email list has over 3000 students

Call to Action Update

- We have started Workshop Wednesdays and have done two transfer workshops with EOPS. Through Claudia's leadership, the TCE has created an Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan for the three areas.

Policies & Procedures

- Please don your Transfer Gear on Tuesdays. Let's support our transfer students!
- We have created a link to collect information student admission offers. Please direct students who have been accepted to a four-year school to our main page to sign up.
- For student who have been denied from their four-year college of choice we have a video on our webpage and YouTube channel of the appeals workshops.
- The workshop PowerPoint and other resources are also on the Transfer Center webpage.

Student Success Stories

- It is smile season, students are getting accepted to four year schools!

Special Recognition

- Thank you to Claudia for leadership on the TCE Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan.

Veterans

Employee Updates

- We are all doing well and healthy.

Events & Activities

- Vocational Readiness & Employment (aka VA Voc Rehab) counselor met with students regarding the benefit and their eligibility.
- Did a workshop regrading using GI Bill benefits to the SD Pride Military Dept group. This event was a live event with SD Pride.

Call to Action Update

- We have hired an additional 3 black students as VA work studies in Veterans and Records. We have also placed or in the process of placing students in TCE and Admissions.

Policies & Procedures

- We are continuing to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the changes to PL 116 for any changes that need to be done.

Vice President Student Services

Employee Updates

- VP Hands is now serving as an Ex Officio Board Member of Mesa's Fermentation Foundation.
- Accreditation Liaison Officer News: ALO Hands submitted Mesa's 2021 Midterm Accreditation Report to ACCJC

Events & Activities

- In collaboration with the President's Office, the Vice President's office hosted our Spring 2021 Principals' Roundtable for principals from our feeder high schools. Topics included Partnership Highlights, What's New on the Mesa, Data Sharing and the High-School to College Pathway.
- President Luster, VPs and Senate Presidents hosted a special meeting with SDCCD Trustee, Geysil Arroyo
- Our February Mesa Student Services Council focused on Call to Action Updates and Mesa Journey Enhancements
- Motivation and Moral (M&M) Committee
 - M&M hosted two fun activities to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th and 18th. We had 29 participants play our "Guessing Game!" and 17 participants share fun stories on the St. Patrick's Day Padlet. Congrats to our lucky winners: Charlie Lieu, Jennifer Park, Melissa Zavala, Mary Garcia, Johanna Aleman, and Erika Higginbotham!
- VP Hands presented at the following events:
 - Innovations Conference:
 - Inspecting What We Expect: An Equity Analysis of Scholarship Processes
 - Sustaining Excellence Pivoting a Statewide Mentoring Program to a Virtual Environment
 - NASPA AVP Precon Institute: Leading from the Unique Role of the Associate/Assistant Vice President
 - NASPA Conference: The Role of Student Affairs in Leading Justice, Equity, Diversity, and inclusion (JEDI)
- VP Hands attended/participated in the following activities/events
 - Mesa College Theater Production: Dear 2020
- VP Hands attended the following webinars/professional learning opportunities
 - CORA: "Racelighting Webinar"
 - Chancellors Webinar
 - Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome and Healing as a Country, Presented by Dr. Joy DeGruy (sent by Judy S.)
 - SDUSD & SDCCD Joint Board Meeting
 - Women's History Month Events
 - California Community College Racial Equity Leadership Alliance eConvening Description: Equity-Minded Student Support Service
 - Constance M. Carroll Humanities Institute Lecture Series
 - ACCJC Initiatives

- ACCCA Webinar: Reimagining our Community Colleges Post-COVID
- Celebrating the Black Woman and The Black Family
- Silence is Violence: Unpacking and Addressing Anti-AAPI Violence

Call to Action Update

- At this month's MSSC meeting, we highlighted Call to Action updates from Outreach, DSPS and Counseling
- Student Services hosted two Feel, Heal & Be Real Dialogue sessions

Special Recognition

- Special thanks to the LOFT, in particular Janue Johnson and Eva Parrill for working to automate California Community College Racial Equity Leadership Alliance eConvening interest, reservation and reflection process.