



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

- Ashanti Hands, Vice President, Student Services

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Monthly Update Highlights

Employee Updates

- Alexi Balaguer was hired as the programs' new Senior Support Services Assistant in the AVANZA center!
- This month, 2 new adjunct counselors began in Counseling: Rebecca Contreras and Mary Eden. Welcome!
- Monica Demcho accepted the EOPS Faculty Coordinator position at Miramar College.
- With the end of the Spring Semester, the DSPS team said farewell to two of our adjunct counselors, Alyssa Vafaei and Camille Harris.
- Part-Time Financial Aid staff member Alex Tanon was accepted to SDSU Graduate MSW program and Brianna Garcia graduated from SDSU with her Counseling MS Degree.
- We are so proud of our past and current Graduate Assistants! Both Shanelle Watkins and Chantal Hernandez have graduated from University of San Diego Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership.
- Laura Milligan FNP safely arrived in the Kapupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh and is working in the medical tent with children. Her Facebook posts are of beautiful children excitedly playing, doing yoga with Laura and just being kids. Laura is assigned to pediatrics and is providing medical/nursing care in the camp.
- Danielle Short has left us to practice law! Her shoes will be hard to fill. We thank her for her amazing contributions to the TCE and 11 years of service. The Transfer Center is welcoming two new adjuncts, Mary Eden and Rebecca Contreras.

Events & Activities

- Admissions' International Student staff helped to host the Departure Workshop for 53 transferring International Students.
- Mesa's inaugural Raza Grad Celebration was hosted on Saturday May 5th. We honored over 40 of our Chican@/Hispanic/Latin@ graduating students. Thank you to all of those who volunteered their time to make it happen. It was a stellar event, led by the Raza Grad Celebration Committee comprising counseling and instructional faculty.
- The 11th Annual STAR Awards Ceremony on May 8th honored several teams, individual student-athletes, and former dean Dave Evans. There were 300 or so guests.
- On Thursday, May 10th, DSPS hosted a graduate recognition event in honor of our graduating students. This year, 147 DSPS students completed their degree programs.
- 31 EOPS students attended the Annual Achievement Ceremony and 67 total family guests arrived! We had 12 Honors students, 4 high honors students, and 4 highest honors students (Valedictorians)! Our special guest speakers Brandy Sutton and Natchel Bello Luna were fantastic.
- There were 738 student registered to participate in commencement this year and from that list we had 669 attend the ceremony. This is our largest event to date!
- Mesa College participated in the Rites of Passage ceremony, which recognizes the achievements of African-American graduates from the San Diego Community College District. This event is a joint collaboration between all three sister campuses—City, Mesa and Miramar—and each is granted an opportunity in turn to host the ceremony. Last year was Mesa College's turn, and this year it was Miramar College's turn to host. Nearly half of the students attending this ceremony, 21 out of a total of 43, were from Mesa College. Go Mesa!
- The AS performed a "Passing of the Gavel" ceremony, as is their tradition, to symbolically transfer leadership to the incoming student administration. Members of the out-going administration shared the depth of their experience in student leadership and other words of wisdom with their imminent replacements.
- Student Health Peer Educator and Mesa Student Emily Hanes designed the launch of Active Minds, a student led organization to reduce the stigma of mental illness and provide resources. On May 16th, 150 students attended the event and more than 100 made lavender sachets, learned deep breathing for relaxation, talked about their "stressors" and ways to reduce stress. The Comfort Tent was erected for a week May 14th to 18th followed by a week of the Comfort Cart. In all, over 1,000 students were served. Counselors attended the Comfort Tent and Comfort Cart daily interacting with students and providing snacks and freebies.
- Our second Stand Farmers Market was held on May 17th & 18th, we were able to distribute over 10,000 pounds of fresh produce to 705 individuals, 551 identified as students.
- Veterans Graduation Ceremony 5/18/2018 was held in MC 211A/B where we had approximately 50 people in attendance including the honorees, their families, faculty, staff and administrators.

Innovations & Data

- The Admissions staff assisted 904 students with Residency, International Students, Allied Health and Challenge tests in person. 4,446 phone calls were handled and 227 forms were processed.
- Assessment has partnered with Counseling to offer "pop up" counseling in the Assessment office for a few hours a day during the week.
- For the first time, the Career Center hosted a mini career fair for students looking for summer opportunities. We partnered with the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for this event.
- 18-19 FAFSAs were loaded into Campus Solutions, totaling over 23,000 FAFSAs.
- Promise students completed over 1,300 hours of community service in fall.
- Knowledge Base in Ask Mesa tool has been updated. Over 200 questions were reviewed.

Policies & Procedures

- STAR TRIO updated the 2018/19 application to allow Asian students to indicate their family's country of origin. This data will be used to help identify potential equity gaps in our Asian-American student population.
- Spring 2019 admission is an option. UC Riverside, UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz will be open for Spring admission.
- On Tuesday, March 15th, Presidents Cabinet approved the formation of the Mesa Pathways Committee (MPC). MPC will use an integrated, equity-minded, student-centered approach to facilitate student success. Through structured educational experiences, MPC will work to close equity gaps, improve student outcomes and guide students into and through college to the completion of personal, academic and professional goals. MPC is made up of 1 vice president, 8 faculty, 4 classified professionals, 5 students, 3 administrators and ex officio representation from the office of communications and institutional effectiveness.

Student Success Stories

- After Commencement concluded, the Outreach department realized that two more Promise students from the 2017-18 cohort completed their educational goals and walked and/or will be transferring in the Fall. Cole Vanderhoof, Adrian de la Cerda, and David Evelo were transfer-ready within one year of entrance into the college with the support of the Promise. Cole will be transferring to the University of Hawaii and David will be transferring to SDSU.
- All the students at our TRL had unique stories to share about their educational path. We congratulate all transfer students at Mesa. A student shared the true power of education as it not only supports one person but can serve as a role model for extended family members and bring generations into a new level of earning power through education.
- 30 CalWORKs students received a CalWORKs Certificate of Accomplishments. They were recognized for their participation, good standing with the CalWORKs program, and/or their academic accomplishments during the Spring Semester of 2018.

Admissions

Employee Updates

Ivonne Alvarez participated in the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA) conference in Philadelphia.

Events & Activities

Our International Student staff helped to host the Departure Workshop for 53 transferring International Students.

Innovations & Data

The Admissions staff assisted 904 students with Residency, International Students, Allied Health and Challenge tests in person. 4,446 phone calls were handled and 227 forms were processed.

Assessment

Innovations & Data

Assessment provided the following services:

- English Assessments: 74
- Math Assessments: 86
- Placement Assistant: 326
- ESOL: 16
- Orientations: 255
- Total Students Served: 531

Assessment has partnered with Counseling to offer "pop up" counseling in the Assessment office for a few hours a day during the week. The service won't begin until June, but we are excited to be able to provide our students with the opportunity to meet with a counselor directly after receiving placement levels and course recommendations to get their questions answered and to leave with an abbreviated ed plan. We are excited to be able to collaborate with other departments to offer innovative services to students that meets students where they are.

Policies & Procedures

An update to the Placement Assistant was launched on May 30th that included the following changes to student placement and procedures:

- ALL students will use the Placement Assistant in order to generate placement levels and course recommendations (including international students, CE students, and students who did not graduate from high school or who do not have a GPA).
- The US high school question was updated so that students could choose: Yes; No; No, but I passed a HS equivalency exam (HiSET or GED); No, but I graduated from a foreign high school. The logic was updated to direct students to specific and appropriate questions from there to determine placement levels and course recommendations. Students who indicate that they passed a HS equivalency exam will be able to enter their scored to generate placement
- Mesa English and math courses were added to the math and English course lists to allow high school students who have participated in CCAP/Legacy the ability to choose their current-level English or math course. Students who select a college-level math or English course will receive placement levels that correspond to the levels required to take that particular course (e.g. students who respond by selecting English 47A will receive a Placement Level of R3/W3)
- The math logic tree was updated so that all students will receive placement levels and course recommendations instead of being directed to take the Accuplacer exam.
- A question was added to gauge a student's self-identified proficiency in English. Based on the student's response, an advisory recommending that the student consider taking the ELAC (formerly ESOL) test will be generated along with the placement level and course recommendations once they have completed the Placement Assistant.

- Two additional questions regarding the student's perception of the accuracy of placement were added - one each for English and math. If a student indicates that they feel the placement generated is too low, an advisory is generated that provides the students with information on how to take an Advancement Exam (formerly Challenge Test) to be placed into a higher level/course. If a student indicates that they feel the placement generated is too high, and advisory is generated that encourages the student to meet with a counselor to further explore their course options.
- A login was put in to the Placement Assistant requiring Assessment staff to input user credentials in order to access the tool. This was done to mitigate the number of students who were being directed to utilize the PA outside of the Mesa Assessment Office and will help us better manage the administrative end as well as the flow of students.

Additional procedural changes implemented this month are as follows:

- Virtual proctoring of the Placement Assistant may be available to students who reside out of the San Diego area. Virtual proctoring is determined on a case-by-case basis. Students who may need this option must contact the Assessment Office to determine eligibility and next steps.
- Retest Policy: Students who need to retest may do so using the Placement Assistant.
- Students who need to petition using the Exception to the Course Repetition Policy through the Academic Review Committee will need to go to the discipline faculty chair who will then make a recommendation regarding the best route for the students - Placement Assistant vs. Advancement Exam (formerly Challenge Test).

Special Recognition

Kudos to Joel Arias for all his work on getting the Placement Assistant up-and-running for our students and for all the support he has given to the Assessment office and staff as we continue to adjust and transition ourselves and our students to this new, amazing tool.

AVANZA Student Engagement Center, Peer Navigator, and CRUISE Programs

Employee Updates

We finally have full time help! Alexi Balaguer was hired as the programs' new Senior Support Services Assistant! She will provide the necessary support to all three programs, serve as a liaison, and facilitate campus requests. We are happy to have her on the team!

Events & Activities

May 14 - May 17 *De-Stress Fest*

Peer Navigators set up board games in MC-151 to encourage students to take a break from their finals. In addition, light snacks were provided. CRUISErs also used the opportunity to connect with their PNs and close out their assignments. Events and activities are kept to a minimum as the end of the semester winds down.

Innovations & Data

Peer Navigator Program updated their end of the year survey to include: overall program efficacy; Coordinator and Project Assistant feedback, and suggestions to improve CRUISE. Feedback is evaluated and considered when implementing changes to programs. Summer, Winter, and Saturday CRUISE students were asked to complete an anonymous survey on how Peer Navigators connected with them.

Student Success Stories

From our survey, CRUISErs provided the following:

- “When there were times I didn't believe I couldn't persevere she helped me get through it. She even would always check up on me knowing I was always stressed.”
- “Thank you guys for such an amazing first year! I made it through mostly because of my peer navigator and this program! I had access to things other people didn't even have and I felt so blessed thank you!”
- “Being a part of [CRUISE] helped make my first year less scary on campus by having somewhere to go”
- “This is a great program and I'm thankful it helped me through my first year of college I do not know what I would of done without it”

Policies & Procedures

The Peer Navigator program is currently in the process of updating the Peer Navigator handbook. This guide will be used to train the new team and guide the on-boarding process, support the team, and lay the foundation for the new team.

Special Recognition

Our eight Peer Navigators who stuck it out and demonstrated perseverance as they successfully met the program's GPA and unit requirements, balanced their academic and personal responsibilities, and led by example. We are especially proud of our three PNs from our inaugural CRUISE (2015): Marlana Gonzalez will be attending CSUSF to pursue Nursing, Toviya Trejo has decided on Point Loma Nazarene University to focus on Media Communication, and Natchel will be at SDSU. #npnpride

CalWORKs

Employee Updates

CalWORKs Logistical Coordinator, Lupita Fernandez, graduated from City College with an ADT in Political Science.

Events & Activities

- Attended the monthly CalWORKs Region X Meeting
- Attended monthly meeting with EOPS/CARE Program
- Attended the Ensuring Transfer Success (ETS) Conference. ETS is a collaborative project of the University of California (UC) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) that provides a one day institute for new and veteran counselors with comprehensive information about UC transfer admission policies and practices.

Innovations & Data

- For 2017-18 Academic year we have 78 active students
- 21 out of 78 students have been with us for the entire academic year
- 19 student just attended Fall Semester
- 38 student join Mesa CalWORKs in the Spring semester
- Out of our 78 student, 25 are part of the EOPS/CARE program
- To date since our grand opening of Spring 2017 we have had 91 participants in the CalWORKs program

Student Success Stories

30 CalWORKs students received a CalWORKs Certificate of Accomplishments. They were recognized for their participation, good standing with the CalWORKs program, and/or their academic accomplishments during the Spring Semester of 2018.

Policies & Procedures

- Summer office hours are limited.

Special Recognition

Very happy to be recognizing many departments that have been contributing to the growth and success of the San Diego Mesa College CalWORKs program (Students Equity, EOPS/CARE (Project Restart, FAST Scholars), STAR TRIO, General Counseling, DSPS, Outreach, Financial Aid, Admissions, Jumpstart, and Continuing Educations (CalWORKs Department)

Career

Events & Activities

We were invited to classrooms by faculty members and we presented an in depth overview of the services provided by the Career Center as well as information about the online resources available. Thank you to faculty members Lori Contreras from Continuing Education and Andy Concors from the Allied Health for inviting us to meet your students. Also, thank you Adrienne Dines, International Student Advisor/Counselor, for inviting us to meet with your students and share Career Center resources as well as information on pursuing employment opportunities.

Innovations & Data

Spring 2018 Summer Opportunities Mini Job Fair:

For the first time, we hosted a mini career fair for students looking for a summer opportunity. We partnered with the Veterans Chamber of Commerce for this event.

Mesa "Job Network" New Employer Contacts:

- City of San Diego Lifeguard Service
- Cheesy Express Gourmet Grilled Cheese
- Crownair Aviation
- Family Matters In-Home LLC
- InterContinental San Diego
- KB Way Supported Living Services, LLC
- Plural Publishing, Inc.
- San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center

Special Recognition

Thank you to faculty members Lori Contreras from Continuing Education and Andy Concors from the Allied Health and Adrienne Dines from General Counseling for inviting us to meet your students.

Counseling

Employee Updates

This month, 2 new adjunct counselors began: Rebecca Contreras and Mary Eden. Welcome!

Events & Activities

- Inaugural Raza Grad Celebration on Saturday May 5th, where we honored over 40 of our Chican@/Hispanic/Latin@ graduating students. Thank you to all of those who volunteered their time to make it happen. It was a stellar event, led by the Raza Grad Celebration Committee, which comprises of counseling and instructional faculty.
 - 2nd Annual Veterans Graduation Ceremony, where we honored our veterans earning a degree or certificate. Thank you to all of those who made this event possible, including yourself Leroy. Counselor participation at commencement. Always an amazing turnout.
- The 11th Annual STAR Awards Ceremony on May 8th, 2018 We honored several teams and individual student-athletes, we honored Dave Evans and received a wonderful message about love and accountability from Coach David Acheron. There was 300 or so guests.
- We oriented 100 new Kearny Fast Track students at Kearny HS this spring. Also, we are in the process of selecting fall 18 classes for 200 incoming KFT students.

Innovations & Data

- Drop-Ins for May: 2514
 - Appointments for May: 773
- Total Unduplicated Contacts: 3138**

Special Recognition

I'd like to thank the Outreach office for their collaboration in setting up our pilot registration workshops in the high schools. To date we have had 5 workshops at Madison and High Tech High and have met with 117 students. Students previously attended Pre-Enrollment and Pre-Assessment workshops through Outreach and after the Registration workshop they walked away with an Abbreviated Education Plan. The workshops provided the opportunity to be advised and become fully matriculated before they finished high school. I would also like to thank the Outreach folks Van and Nina and counselors who went out with me, Nick, Patty, Terrence, Teresa, Adam and Taneisha. We have one more workshop scheduled for Clairemont high school in June.

DSPS

Employee Updates

With the end of the Spring Semester, the DSPS team said farewell to two of our adjunct counselors, Alyssa Vafaei and Camille Harris.

Events & Activities

- On Tuesday, May 1, 2018, Mesa DSPS attended a Transition Resource Fair focused on sharing information about our program and services with San Diego Unified School District students, parents and teachers. It was a great opportunity to network with other providers in the community and to engage with prospective students.
- On Thursday, May 10th, DSPS hosted a graduate recognition event in honor of our graduating students. This year, we had 147 students complete their degree programs.

Innovations & Data

The end of the semester is always a busy time in DSPS and this year was no different. Our test proctoring center administered 518 exams for the month of May. This is an increase of 12% year over year. DSPS Counselors saw 270 students for scheduled appointments and met with another 91 students for drop-ins.

Special Recognition

We would like to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of our students and specifically highlight that we had 147 students complete their degree requirements.

EOPS/CARE

Employee Updates

Monica Demcho accepted the EOPS Faculty Coordinator position at Miramar College.

Events & Activities

EOPS Achievement Ceremony--31 EOPS students attended the Annual Achievement Ceremony and 67 total family guests arrived! We had 12 Honors students, 4 high honors students, and 4 highest honors students (Valedictorians)! Our special guest speakers Brandy Sutton and Natchel Bello Luna were fantastic.

Student Success Stories

Our work-study Veteran, Kevin Brown, graduated from Miramar College and was accepted into UC Berkeley and will be attending in the Fall 2018 as a mechanical engineering major! Our Project Assistant, Blanca Zavala, an EOPS Alumna, graduated from SDSU with a bachelors in Communications!

- FAST Scholars Update:
- 3 students graduated
- 2 Transferring
- Students were accepted to UCLA, SDSU, UCSD AND CSUSM
- FAST Scholars applied and were awarded \$50,000 from Angell Foundation to serve foster youth
- FAST Scholars attended SDSU Guardian Scholars graduation

Special Recognition

Our EOPS grads--Twelve Honors students, 4 high honors students, and 4 highest honors students

Evaluations

Events & Activities

The evaluations office participated in commencement 2018. The team worked very diligently in checking graduates into the event. All of the teams work paid off and it was a very successful event.

Innovation & Data

There were 738 student registered to participate in commencement this year and from that list we had 669 attend the ceremony. This is our largest event to date!

Student Success Stories

We are so proud of ALL of our graduates!

Special Recognition

Thank you to our entire commencement student check-in Volunteers!

Financial Aid

Employee Updates

Alex Tanon was accepted to SDSU Graduate MSW program and Brianna Garcia graduated from SDSU with her Counseling MS Degree.

Events & Activities

- Classified Awards Ceremony for several of our staff members. Gilda Maldonado 15 year service, Pilar Ezeta 10 yr service, Randall Gambill 5 yrs, Florisel Guzman 5 yrs and Skyler Dennon 20 yr service.
- We had SDCCD Auditors in our office on 5/9 and 5/10, there found no findings however final report will be given to Gilda within next month.

Innovation & Data

- 18-19 FAFSA loaded totaling over 23,000 on Campus Solutions. We have begun taking in documents. District sent out over 50,000 emails with 18/19 information.
- We paid \$10,439,271 in BOG Fee waivers for 13,334 students.
- We paid \$2,061,146 in State Aid for 1,799 students.
- We paid \$70,497 in DACA Emergency Fund to 143 students.
- We paid \$18,386,507 in Federal Pell Grant and SEOG for 5,287 students.
- We paid \$1,188,334 in Federal Loan Program to 336 students and 9 parents..
- We paid \$600,705 in Alternative Education Loan to 64 students.
- We paid \$ 159684 in miscellaneous and Osher Scholarship to 218 students.

Outreach & Community Relations

Events & Activities

Outreach:

May 4 –

Outreach staff, Van Chhum, and Student Ambassadors, Joshua Quiroz hosted an application workshop at the Educational Cultural Complex and assisted Continuing Education students with completing their admissions application so that they are ready to attend Mesa in the fall semester.

Student Ambassadors, Jordan Nash and Maia Wakefield, provided a tour for twenty students from Valley High School. All students are planning to attend Mesa College in the Fall and were impressed with our athletic fields and facilities as well as the Mesa Commons.

May 10 –

Outreach Staff and Testing personnel hosted a pre-enrollment workshop at High Tech High School. Staff assisted students with the Placement Assistant and provided information regarding CRUISE, FYE, and classes offered.

May 16 –

Outreach Staff and Testing personnel hosted a pre-enrollment workshop at High Tech High School. Staff assisted students with the Placement Assistant and provided information regarding CRUISE, FYE, and classes offered.

May 17 –

Student Ambassadors, Jordan Nash and Beatrix Stark, provided a tour for sixty students from Sweet Water Middle School. The students were very engaged and asked a lot of questions regarding our support programs and services. The students got a feel for the "college life" through the campus tour and were also given the opportunity to talk about what they wanted to pursue when they got older and how college could help them.

Student Ambassador, Maia Wakefield, provided a tour for fifteen students from John Mayer School whom were all interested in Mesa College. Students were very engaged and asked a lot of questions regarding our support programs and services. We may seem them attend Mesa College in the fall.

May 23 –

Student Ambassadors, Karen Villanueva and Maia Wakefield, provided a tour for thirty-five students from The Global Vision Academy. The students in attendance were middle school students on their annual college field trips to see which colleges best fit them and their academic goals.

May 29 –

Student Ambassadors participated in the African American Achievement Summit and served as mentors to over 600 high school students. The event was held at City College and was a joint SDCCD event with San Diego Unified and UCSD. Outreach also provided a resource table at the resource fair.

SD Promise:

4 Study Halls before finals – 26 students attended

Total Promise-specific events held this semester: 10

- 2 Time Management Workshops
- 4 Study Hall Sessions
- Promise Spirit Day
- Promise Meet-up at Canyon Day
- Promise End of Year Celebration
- Spring Orientation

Innovation & Data

Outreach:

The Outreach Pre-Enrollment Bundle was extended due to popular demand, we offered additional dates in May. On May 10th, Outreach and Assessment conducted a pre-enrollment workshop for HTHMA and HTHI students. On May 14th, our final pre-enrollment workshop took place in La Jolla High School. Every student that went through the pre-enrollment process completed their admissions application, online orientation, and placement. Working in unison with Testing, we were able to see approximately 375 students and speak to them about pre-enrollment as well as their next steps.

The last workshop of the Pre-Enrollment bundle is a registration workshop offered and facilitated by Counseling faculty. This pilot feature of the Pre-Enrollment bundle was offered to Madison, Clairemont, and High Tech High. Outreach staff and Student Ambassadors lent support to Counseling faculty during the registration workshops and we were able to offer two workshops at Madison and one each at Clairemont and High Tech High. During these registration workshops, students attended the earlier pre-enrollment workshop with Outreach and Assessment were eligible to participate in the registration workshop. During this workshop students were able to sit with a Mesa Counselor, complete an abbreviated semester education plan and learn about counseling services. Attendance at this registration workshop takes the place of the on-campus registration workshops that student would have otherwise attended and has allowed us to literally meet the students where they are and support them through their SSSP steps, from orientation through completion of an abbreviated ed plan, all before they leave high school. We are hoping that we will be able to offer the registration workshop as part of our Pre-Enrollment Bundle as we move forward.

SD Promise:

Our Promise students have done their part to give back to the communities in which they live, work, and play and the community service data tells a wonderful tale:

3 students helped support The Stand Farmers Market in May

1 student helped support The Stand in May

Total community service hours

- Fall 2017: ~1382 hours
- Spring 2018: ~708 hours
- 2017-2018 total: ~2090 hours

Student Success Stories

After Commencement concluded, we realized that two more Promise students from the 2017-18 cohort completed their educational goals and walked and/or will be transferring in the Fall. Cole Vanderhoof, Adrian de la Cerda, and David Evelo were transfer-ready within one year of entrance into the college with the support of the Promise. Cole will be transferring to the University of Hawaii and David will be transferring to SDSU.

STAR TRIO

Employee Updates

Petra Montgomery was reclassified from Telephone Operator to Clerical Assistant

Events & Activities

Hosted a Finals Week Study Hall

Innovation & Data

Lab log-ins 596 (704 hrs); Appointments 155; Requests for supplies 173. Total Lab log-ins increased 2% from the previous year.

Student Success Stories

We would like to recognize all of our students who have graduated and/or will be transferring to 4-year universities.

Policies & Procedures

We've updated the 2018/19 application to allow Asian students to indicate their family's country of origin. This data will be used to help identify potential equity gaps in our Asian-American student population.

Special Recognition

We would like to recognize the 13 STAR TRIO students who logged in over 100+ hours in the STAR TRIO lab over this past academic year: David Alonso-Cruz, Deeana Castro, Prince Casyao, Priscila Cervantes, Vanessa Cervantes, Jadifaye Dineros, Yen Hoang, John Magana, Rosemary Ramon, Peter Santos, Katherine Solchaga, Andre Tsai, and Amalia Villagran.

Student Affairs

Employee Updates

We are so proud of our past and current Graduate Assistants! Both Shanelle Watkins and Chantal Hernandez have graduated from University of San Diego Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership.

Events & Activities

AS Elections & Passing the Gavel

The Mesa College Associated Students held their online election across the boundary between the months of April and May; this election was unusual in that there was significant competition for the AS President's seat, and a remarkably subdued period of campaigning with very little physical advertisement on campus (i.e. banners, posters, etc.). Subsequently, the AS performed a "Passing of the Gavel" ceremony, as is their tradition, to symbolically transfer leadership to the incoming student administration. Members of the out-going administration shared the depth of their experience in student leadership and other words of wisdom with their imminent replacements.

2018-2019 ASG

President: Sofia Castellani-Staedler

Vice President: Nhung Hong Nguyen

Treasurer: Vacant

- Senator: Timothy Ackerson
- Senator: Kasra Askari
- Senator: Jennifer Ayala
- Senator: Baktash Olomi
- Senator: Toan Cong Phan
- Senator: Iman Shamseldin
- Senator: Leslie Zubieta

Caps, Gowns, and Honors Regalia

The Student Affairs office maintains a modest supply of caps and gown for students that we offer to students in need of financial assistance rather than making them purchase one from the Mesa College Bookstore. The caps and gown must be returned to Student Affairs after the ceremony. Most notably, our simple system for authorizing and tracking the number of caps and gowns we loan out, and to whom, functioned especially well this year and we hope to maintain this level of ease. As usual, Student Affairs offers honors grad regalia for sale through our office, which consists of gold cords and tassels for students graduating with honors in a degree, and white cords to accompany the white tassel they receive with the cap and gown for those student graduating with honors in a certificate. Regrettably, the cost per unit for the cords and tassels has risen since last year, and we were forced likewise to raise our prices in order to balance the additional expense. We are exploring options for some way to defray this extra cost to the students for next year.

Commencement 2018

Student Affairs Staff participated at nearly every level of planning and implementation for the Mesa College Commencement Ceremony, including participating on commencement committees, establishing logistics for the

event, providing students with honors grad regalia, loaning caps and gowns to students in financial need, organizing volunteers and working on the stage crew. Student Affairs works closely with many student leaders

on campus, and it was especially gratifying to witness these students that we have worked with and instructed for, in some cases, years take that long walk across the stage.

Grad Fest / Grads, Goodies & Grub

For Grads, Grub and Goodies we showed our appreciation to all of Mesa College's graduates by providing food, opportunity drawings and supplies for them to decorate their graduation caps. This event was a successful two-day event that provided many Mesa College graduates with an opportunity to enjoy themselves and show off their creativity.

ICC Movie Day

The Mesa College Inter-Club Council celebrated the end of the semester with a movie and free snacks. Our selected film this year was National Treasure, starring Nicholas Cage and Sean Bean, which is an enjoyable action-adventure released in 2004 about a secret treasure hidden behind a wall of cryptic clues woven into the fabric of our nation's founding. Basically, they steal the original Declaration of Independence and use it as a treasure map on a whimsical romp through our national history. Also starring Harvey Kietel as a living conspiracy theory and Jon Voight as one of the most chill dads imaginable.

Rite of Passage Ceremony

Mesa College participated in the Rites of Passage ceremony, which recognizes the achievements of African-American graduates from the San Diego Community College District. This event is a joint collaboration between all three sister campuses—City, Mesa and Miramar—and each is granted an opportunity in turn to host the ceremony. Last year was Mesa College's turn, and this year it was Miramar College's turn to host. Nearly half of the students attending this ceremony, 21 out of a total of 43, were from Mesa College. Go Mesa!

Student Rights & Responsibilities Workshop

Victoria Miller, Dean of Student Affairs, and Claudia Perkins, the Campus Compliance Officer, presented a workshop at the beginning of the Month of May aimed at Faculty and Administrators and focusing on a student's rights, responsibilities and the importance of civility in every interaction.

Self-Love Workshop

The Mesa College Associated Students sponsored a presentation by Jeremy M. Vasquez, a San Francisco-based author and activist. His message is that only self-love can overcome the self-doubt and self-hate that lingers in the hearts of so many young men, and women. Not loving oneself can affect every aspect of one's life, but to many people the concept of self-love still elicits definitions like narcissism, conceit, vanity, selfishness, and even the knee-jerk response that one is not worthy of love in the first place. This powerful presentation was specifically focused on the African-American and Latino communities, but the vital message is not exclusive to any one or two groups, and the Mesa College audience as a whole was very diverse. Everyone was invited to participate, and most even found an opportunity to speak on their reflections during the interactive portions

Student Success Stories

Congratulations to all of our Graduating Student Leaders! We are thrilled that you made an impact at Mesa and will continue that journey of equity and excellence!

Special Recognition

Congratulations to TEAM FINANCIAL AID! They have successfully reached another incredible milestone with the implementation and roll out of the Financial Aid component of Campus Solutions. The Mesa College Financial Aid Team is pretty fantastic! They have been working so hard with multiple demands. THANK YOU to all of our Financial Aid Super Heroes.

Student Development

Events & Activities

The department is proud of all the events and activities that were executed this month celebrating students' successes.

- May 1 – Summer Opportunity Job Fair
- May 3 – Transfer Recognition Ceremony
- May 4 – Kearny Fast Track Orientation at Kearny High School
- May 5 – Raza Grad Ceremony
- May 8 – STAR Awards
- May 18 – Veterans Graduation Ceremony
- May 19 – Commencement
- May 21-24 - Refreshments in the Veterans Resource Center to help our student veterans during finals week

Special Recognition

Kudos to the Career Center Team for partnering with the Veterans Chamber of Commerce and offering a Summer Opportunity Job Fair at Mesa that was recently held on May 1st. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for Mesa students to connect with employers and learn about both full-time and part-time positions. I am happy to hear about veteran the friendly companies represented to include Disneyland, The Arc of San Diego, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, The US Customs and Border Patrol, and ACE Parking to name a few.

Thanks to Mesa's Transfer, Career, and Evaluations team for another successful Transfer Recognition Ceremony that was held on May 3rd. I appreciate the team's attention to detail in ensuring that we celebrated Mesa's transfer students' successes and for making this event special.

Kudos to Kirsten Pogue-Cely, Andrew Tanjuaquio, and Abimaliel Rosario for providing orientation services to over 100 incoming Kearny Fast Track students at Kearny High School on May 4th.

May 5th was Mesa's first Raza Grad Ceremony. Thanks to the Raza Grad Planning Committee to include Ramiro Hernandez, Miriam Pacheco, Amber Alatorre, Raul Rodriguez, Cesar Lopez, and Manuel Velez, along with the sponsors – Associated Students, Chicano Studies, Student Success & Equity, HSI Title III Grant, and the decoration subcommittee – Guadalupe Gonzalez, Cynthia Rico, Cristina Carrillo, Patty Rodriguez, and Karla Trutna for making the event special for our students.

A special thanks to the STAR Awards Committee for another successful event on May 8th recognizing the successes of Mesa College's student-athletes. Many thanks to the committee members to include Kristy Carson, John Crocitti, Aaron Hartsock, Thuan Le, Dawn McClelland, Travis Nichols, Travis Phelps, Thalia Prum, Nathan Resch, Melissa Rockey, and Bobbie Jo Stall.

Thanks to the continued collaboration efforts between Counseling and the Exercise Science, Health Education, Dance, and Athletics.

Kudos to Ramiro Hernandez and support from Student Success and Equity, along with Mesa's Veterans and Records Office for another successful Veterans Graduation Ceremony held on May 18th. Everything was beautiful from start to finish, from the National Anthem performed by Mesa's Vocal Ensemble, along with this year's student veteran highlight. Simon Sandoval's story was inspirational.

Thanks to our counseling chair Leroy Johnson for the words of encouragement and closing remarks.

Thanks to the Commencement Committee, along with the TCE Staff and volunteers, for another successful commencement held on May 19th. Their "can do" attitude and hard work, made this year's commencement even more special.

Thanks to Mesa College's Veterans and Records Office for providing snacks and goodies for our student veterans during finals week. Doing so allowed the students to feel supported and gave them one less thing to worry about, while helping them focus on their finals. Thanks to LaWanda Foster for her willingness to try something new in support of our student veterans.

Many thanks to Judy Sundayo for supporting our Mesa Cares Efforts and leading the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing that occurred on May 24, 2018. Her willingness to share her counseling expertise, provide immediate assistance and support, and show concern during a critical time was appreciated by all. She provided some useful suggestions based on the feedback that was received as a result of the session. Thanks for caring Judy!

Many thanks go to Dean Maxey and Michael Temple for working in collaboration with San Diego City College and San Diego Unified School District to support this year's SDUSD/SDCCD African American Achievement Summit. Over 700 high school students attended this event. Additional thanks and appreciation goes to Anthony Reuss, Judy Sundayo, Raquel Sojourner, and Kimberly Williams-Kee for being a part of the event and supporting our students.

Student Health Services

Employee Updates

Laura Milligan FNP safely arrived in the Kapupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh and is working in the medical tent with children. Her Facebook posts are of beautiful children excitedly playing, doing yoga with Laura and just being kids. Laura is assigned to pediatrics and is providing medical/nursing care in the camp.

Events & Activities

- Suzanne Khambata FNP attended the District Threat Assessment meeting where progress is being made toward improving safety on all of our campuses.
- We celebrated Nurses Day on May 8th with RN's and NP's sharing stories from their hearts about their journey to become a nurse and their practice as Nurses. The event was attended by Ashanti hands, Larry Maxey, Victoria Miller and Aileen Crakes.
- Student Health Peer Educator and Mesa Student Emily Hanes designed the launch of Active Minds, a student led organization to reduce the stigma of mental illness and provide resources. On May 16th, 150 students attended the event and more than 100 made lavender sachets, learned deep breathing for relaxation, talked about their "stressors" and ways to reduce stress. The Comfort Tent was erected for a week May 14th to 18th followed by a week of the Comfort Cart. In all, over 1,000 students were served. Counselors attended the Comfort Tent and Comfort Cart daily interacting with students and providing snacks and freebies.
- On May 30th we participated in the Evacuation Drill.

Innovations& Data

On May 24th, Suzanne Khambata FNP hosted a conference of the Directors of Student Health from all San Diego and North County SHS centers along with the County of San Diego Immunizations Branch lead to learn about and discuss increasing immunization rates among community colleges. This meeting followed a state-wide webinar on the same topic. Directors shared strategies for mass vaccinations that are rooted in research and best practices.

SHS recorded 454 visits with students in May.

Student Success Stories

Fredy Dominguez Peer Educator/Student has decided to attend UC Riverside in Fall 2018. Our Mesa Medical Assisting student Ashley Ayala was precepted by Vanessa Gambala FNP during Spring. Ashley told us about her new exiting job as a Medical Assistant in a busy Doctor's Office. Kennedy Corruthers Office Assistant/Student is enjoying her Baccalaureate Nursing program at National University and has joined the Naval Nurse Corps.

Special Recognition

Laura Milligan FNP for her devotion to children throughout the world. I also recognize Sue Shrader Hanes LMFT who worked tirelessly this semester serving many students in need and attending to the students in the Comfort Tent with her comfort dog Snippy-Snippy Ch-Cha.

Student Success & Equity

Employee Updates

Alexi Balaguer began her contract assignment on May 2nd, serving as a Senior Student Services Assistant in the Avanza Student Engagement Center. Congratulations Alexi!

Events & Activities

Our second Stand Farmers Market was held on May 17th & 18th, we were able to distribute over 10,000 pounds of fresh produce to 705 individuals, 551 identified as students.

There were a number of year end events that we had the privilege of attending:

- Honors Luncheon
- Transfer Recognition Ceremony
- EOPS Achievement Ceremony
- STAR Awards
- Classified Awards
- Rite of Passage Ceremony

Attended the first Region X, Restorative Justice Summit at Southwestern College

Mesa Contributed to the success of the first annual African American Achievement Summit designed to support the post-secondary success of African American students in the San Diego Unified School District. This year's event was hosted by City College, next year Mesa will serve as host.

Held our final joint SSE & SSSP School meeting for the year.

Innovations& Data

Farmers Market Data: 10,000 pounds of fresh produce to 705 individuals, 551 identified as students.

Policies & Procedures

Beginning Fall 2018, the office of Student Success and Equity will no longer be approving revolving reimbursements for food and/or snack purchases related to events/meetings, revolving reimbursement purchases will only be considered in cases of an emergency per district policy.

Special Recognition

Special thanks to Jacqueline Collins and all facilities personnel along with Frank Fernandez and his crew for their hard work and support of the farmers market. Without these hard working individuals it would not be possible to facilitate this larger, complex initiative. Thanks to all of you for your willing spirit.

Transfer

Employee Updates

Danielle Short has left us to practice law! Very excited for her. Her shoes will be hard to fill. We thank her for her amazing contributions to the TCE and 11 years of service. Transfer Center is welcoming two new adjuncts, Mary Eden and Rebecca Contreras.

Events & Activities

- Transfer Recognition Luncheon. We had a total of 139 attendees. 58 were students and 77 were invited guests.
- UC Riverside Admit Celebration 5/16/18
- Posse Veterans Visit 5/4/18

Innovations & Data

- We received a foundation mini grant for TRL and our SDSU Career Next Steps collaboration. 123 drop-ins
- 54 appointments
- First ever Career Next Steps (standing room only) 70 students.
- Transfer Recognition Luncheon, 139 attendees
- Over 699 students accepted to SDSU
- 99 students accepted to UC Riverside
- Mary Garcia was able to present at the San Diego Mesa College Information Nights Spanish Version in March and April of 2018.

Student Success Stories

All the students at our TRL had unique stories to share about their educational path. We congratulate all transfer students at Mesa. A student shared the true power of education as it not only supports one person but can serve as a role model for extended family members and bring generations into a new level of earning power through education. Upon meeting Tranica, she shared with me that she has felt the support of Mesa Students Services and Faculty over her time at Mesa. Tranica is transferring to Azusa Pacific University. She is the first person in her family to graduate from high school or college. She fully embraces her place as a role model; blazing the trail for family members to begin pursuing higher education. Congratulations to Tranica! We have successfully advocated for two ADT students who had their initial offers of admission rescinded by SDSU. With our advocacy efforts one student's offer of admission was completely reinstated; we are waiting for the final review of the new appeals packet for the second student.

Policies & Procedures

Spring 2019 admission is an option. UC Riverside, UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz will be open for Spring admission. Please refer students to the transfer center. Time for appeals is running out if you have students express interests please send them to the transfer center for more information. Transcripts and GE certification

time... Encourage students to read their admissions letters closely and follow the timelines accordingly. CSUs, UCs and Privates have varying deadlines.

Special Recognition

Thank you to the TCE Staff for a great TRL. Also thank you to counselors and Transfer Advisory Board Members who volunteered to help, Kirsten Pogue-Cely, Miriam Pacheco and Gabriel Adona. Thank you to the Transfer Advisory Board members for a great year: Gabriel Adona, Miriam Pacheco, Joe Prichett, Adrienne Lopez (recent graduate of Mesa College), Tracy Tuttle and Maria Salgado our UCSD Representative.

Veterans & Records

Employee Updates

Capped off a great year with the Veterans Graduation Ceremony, where we had 11 of our graduating veterans participate, honoring them and their families.

Events & Activities

Veterans Graduation Ceremony 5/18/2018 was held in MC 211A/B where we had approximately 50 people in attendance including the honorees, their families, faculty, staff and administrators.

Innovations & Data

Looking forward to remodeling the VRC and bringing in new ideas to create a more student success oriented space and a place they can be proud to call their home.

Student Success Stories

Simon Sandoval-Mesa Grad, Veterans Grad, Raza Grad who spoke at the Vet Grad Ceremony and delivered a powerful message to all of those in attendance. As his counselor, I have seen his journey up close. He will be transferring to USD as a History major and plans to be a History teacher in the San Diego area.

Special Recognition

Veterans thanks Professor Richard Chagnon and his vocal ensemble for performing the national anthem at our Veterans Graduation Ceremony. It was a great start to a new tradition.

Vice President Student Services

Employee Updates

- Vice President Hands received a certificate of Appreciation from the Committee for Diversity Action, Inclusion & Equity.

Events & Activities

- May was a season of celebration. Vice President Hands attended and/or participated in the following ceremonies/activities: our 1st ever Raza Graduation, the District Wide Rite of Passage Ceremony and our DSPS, Transfer, HIM Baccalaureate Completion and Dinner, Veterans, Honors, EOPS and our annual Golden Scissors, Classified Appreciation, Scholarship and Commencement Ceremony.
- VP Hands attended the Chicano Federation Luncheon and Union of Pan-Asian Communities (UPAC) Annual Leadership Awards Gala with District representatives.
- VP Hands and Dean Maxey conducted 2 workshops at the first ever African American Achievement Summit held at College. See below for more information.
- Dean Crates, Genevieve Esquerra, Thuan Le, and Charlie Lieu presented to MSSC the key insights and take away points from the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) conference.
- M&M team hosted a Dip Party in May .
- The Student Services Center participated in an alarmed building evacuation on May 30. The building was full evacuated in about five minutes.

Innovations & Data

- Placement Assistant - A new version of Mesa's Placement Assistant went live on May 29th. Improvements included updates to our Math and English logic trees, options for use by Continuing Education and International students and advisories that provide students with clarity on next steps.
- The Mesa Journeys Team has two new co-leads -Leroy Johnson, Co-Chair Mesa Journeys (Program expert) and Charlie Lieu, Co-Chair Mesa Journeys (Technology expert). The group finalized the collection of the student services cohort program surveys and is in the process of analyzing data. Next steps include creating a sample "student online information intake" form using the data that was collected. This form will be used to inform students of the programs available to them. The form would also direct students to a webpage that will display a calendar of all of the activities that are happening within the programs. The established goal for the group is to have a sample form created and ready for demonstration at an MSSSC meeting in the Fall.
- Knowledge Base in Ask Mesa tool has been updated. Over 200 questions were reviewed. Thank you to everyone who contributed to updating and revising the questions and answers. The next step will be to add the Ask Mesa tool to some of our most used Student Service web pages.
- Student testimonial videos added to STAR TRIO site.

Policies & Procedures

- On Tuesday, March 15th, Presidents Cabinet approved the formation of the Mesa Pathways Committee (MPC). MPC will use an integrated, equity-minded, student-centered approach to facilitate student success. Through structured educational experiences, MPC will work to close equity gaps, improve student outcomes and guide students into and through college to the completion of personal, academic and professional goals. MPC is made up of 1 vice president, 8 faculty, 4 classified professionals, 5 students, 3 administrators and ex officio representation from the office of communications and institutional effectiveness. The committee met on May 24th and is excited to begin our work with the greater campus. Stay tuned for an official campus launch in the fall. Many opportunities will exist for the campus community to engage this important work. [Click here](#) for up to date information regarding MPC's efforts. Student Services representatives include Ashanti Hands (student services), Suzanne Khambata (student health), Cynthia Rico (counseling), Nellie Dougherty (EOPS), Trina Larson (student services|classified professional), Olivia Picolla (career|classified professional).
- The Serenity Room, presented by CDAIE and approved by Presidents Cabinet in 2017, has been officially placed under Student Affairs for Administrative oversight. A group will meet during the summer to plan for a Fall 2018 launch.

Special Recognition

- On Tuesday, May 29th the San Diego Unified School District, San Diego Community College District (City & Mesa), San Diego Workforce Partnership and UCSD partnered to host the first ever African American Achievement Summit. The event was hosted at City College and served 700 African American seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshman. I would like to thank Michael Temple and Dean Larry Maxey for their vision and planning of this incredible effort. We look forward to hosting this event next year.