



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

Contents

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



Monthly Update Highlights

Employee Updates

- Leticia Abril Díaz was appointed as our new Director of Extended Opportunities Programs & Services and STAR TRIO programs. Leticia will join the Student Services Team and Mesa College Community on November 13, 2018.
- This month we bid farewell to Genevieve Esguerra as she started her new role as Associate Dean for Outreach at City College. We wish her the absolute best! Karla Trutna will be serving as the Acting Outreach Coordinator, Assessment Supervisor, and Promise Coordinator through Spring 2019.
- LaKeita Platts and Alexis Calderon attended the UCSD English Language Institute College Fair for International Students and they also attended the PIER (Professional International Educators Roundtable meeting).
- Markus Berrien attended the monthly CalWORKs Region X meet to continue to collaborate with regional partners.
- Marichu Magana was awarded the Southern California WESTOP Doreen De Los Santos Dynamic Service Award in "Recognition of her Dedication and Everlasting Support towards the overall development of WESTOP SoCal."
- **Guided Pathways:** We are pleased to announce that Professors Toni Parsons, faculty from Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and Howard Eskew, faculty from Business and Technology, were selected as our first ever Mesa Pathway's Co-coordinators. In conjunction with the Mesa Pathways Committee, our

coordinators will oversee implementation of the Mesa Pathways work plan, develop yearly work plans and make recommendations.

Events & Activities

- Through collaboration with Counseling, Pop-Up counseling began again in November and will run until December in the Assessment office.
- Peer Navigators Al'Asia Metaphor and Quintin Wortham presented a workshop on how to research and apply for scholarships. With the upcoming scholarship season, Peer Navigators encourage their mentees to take advantage of what Mesa has to offer. Al'Asia and Quintin led a step-by-step workshop and provided students laptops to follow along and offered to send out reminders when scholarships become available.
- This month, the Career Ambassador Team celebrated a huge achievement. Between the ends of the months of June and November 2018, Career Ambassadors offered a total of 618 hours for résumé building sessions, conducted 136 student sessions, and collected 115 sets of completed pre- and post-surveys! Based on participants' experiences with the Career Peer Ambassadors, 92% of 115 survey responses show participants "Strongly Agree" and "Agree" they would recommend their services to other students.
- Career Peer Ambassadors continued to host "Résu-MANIA" peer-to-peer walk-in résumé building hours at the Career Center; assisted staff in helping an overwhelming number of students at the Transfer Center with transfer applications; and continue to volunteer to distribute fresh produce every month at the San Diego Mesa College Farmers Market, hosted by the Stand and Feeding San Diego.
- The Internship Coordinator, in collaboration with Work-Based Learning Coordinators met with Mesa faculty to collaborate in the implementation of partnerships and Service Learning activities for Spring 2019. He also held five individual Internship meetings for students, including a new student who was seeking to complete an internship as an Industrial Engineer. Students were coached in the internship preparation and searching process.
- This year's Veterans Celebration Week was highlighted by the various events taking place the week of Veterans Day, including a Veterans Appreciation Memorial in the Student Services building where students, staff and faculty had the opportunity to share their sentiments and post photos of loved ones, and a flag dedication fundraiser supporting the Veterans of Mesa Scholarship.
- DSPS faculty and staff have been participating on the Guided Pathways Inquiry Teams.
- Project Re-Start hosted a panel of formerly incarcerated students who presented personal stories on incarceration and the transition after being released. Many faculty, staff and students attended this interactive presentation.
- This month the Evaluations Department collaborated with the Transfer Center to assist student with their CSU and UC Transfer applications. Part of their work included final application reviews. The evaluations department also assisted in training the office student workers in this process.
- Outreach participated in San Diego Continuing Education's first "Farm to Family Fair." Ambassador Jordan Nash and Student Services Assistant Van Chhum hosted a table providing all attendees information regarding the programs and services available at Mesa College. Outreach was also attended Urban Corps Charter School's Career Fair. Urban Corps Charter School provides young adults with a high

school education combined with job training and community service in the fields of conservation and recycling. They connected with over 80 students on the opportunities available at Mesa College.

- Student Affairs and the Associated Students contributed notably to the calendar of events for Homelessness Awareness Month through Days of Service, the Associated Students Thanksgiving Feast, the Season of Giving Donation Drive, and through direct support at the Farmer's Market set up by the Office of the Dean of Equity. In addition, Student Affairs collaborated with the AS to put on a student resource fair called "Sweets and Support," and representatives from Feeding San Diego and Legal Aid Society of San Diego were present during the fair to give more information about their own programs and support services.
- Veronica Gerace and 32 of her Intercultural Communication students presented "Get Real Inside and Out" to students, staff and faculty on November 28th and 29th in partnership with Student Health Services. Students made interesting interactive poster and mask exhibits focused on a variety of mental health issues. The Active Minds Club presented an art activity that tie in with the student exhibits. Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW created a safe space to discuss feelings and decompress from the exhibits.
- Larry Maxey and Robyn Bolden participated in the presentation to the Board of Trustees during their annual campus visit. Larry and Robyn highlighted the partnerships that have been established to assist us as a community to eliminate food insecurity.

Innovations & Data

- The Admissions Office assisted 579 students in person and responded to almost 2,500 phone calls.
- Financial Aid began evaluating Fall Cal Grant recipients to determine which students can be offered the Student Success Completion Grant.
- Mesa College's Serenity Space, a quiet place for students to relax away from the usually busy campus environment, opened to the public amidst general acclaim on Nov 6. This program is supported by the Student Affairs office in collaboration with Dr. Judy Sundayo and the Committee for Diversity Action, Inclusion & Equity (CDAIE).
- The School of Student Development is working on the Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) website. Stay tuned for its launch!
- The Transfer Center piloted the CSU Application workshop sessions this Fall. Sixteen workshops held with over 200 attendees.
- In partnership with EOPS (Sade Burrell) and Dean Maxey, VP Hands worked with campus leadership to secure a temporary and permanent space for our NextUP Program which serves former foster youth.

Policies & Procedures

- SDCCD will resume Drop for Non-payment in Spring 2018

Admissions

Employee Updates

LaKeita Platts and Alexis Calderon attended the UCSD English Language Institute College Fair for International Students and they also attended the PIER (Professional International Educators Roundtable meeting).

Innovations & Data

The Admissions Office assisted 579 students in person. This includes Residency, International Students and Allied Health along with processing 207 forms and handling 2,434 phone calls.

Assessment

Employee Updates

Karla Trutna, will be serving as the Acting Outreach Coordinator/Assessment Supervisor/Promise Coordinator through Spring 2019.

Events & Activities

Through collaboration with Counseling, Pop-Up counseling began again in November and will run till December in the Assessment office.

Innovations & Data

Assessment provided the following services:

- Placement Assistant: 246
- ELAC: 11
- Orientation: 110

Student Success Stories

Many students still come in to the office expecting to take an exam, so Placement Assistant continues to be considered good news for students! The fact that the Placement Assistant is simple, easy and quickly processed is very beneficial for students who feel an urgency to get a prerequisite cleared in order to register for a class right away.

Special Recognition

We welcome Karla Trutna as our Acting Supervisor for the Assessment office!

AVANZA Student Engagement Center, Peer Navigator, and CRUISE Programs

Employee Updates

Peer Navigators and SSSA are complete. No new changes to report.

Events & Activities

11/7 and 11/27: Peer Navigator Monthly Workshop: Scholarship Opportunities

Al'Asia Metaphor and Quintin Wortham presented a workshop on how to research and apply for scholarships. With the upcoming scholarship season, Peer Navigators encourage their mentees to take advantage of what Mesa has to offer. Al'Asia and Quintin led a step-by-step workshop and provided students laptops to follow along and offered to send out reminders when scholarships become available.

11/15 and 11/28: Game Night

Piloted as a "stress reliever," Game Night has grown in popularity. Quintin brought his Wii to share with students and many have brought friends and their controllers to play. Retro-board games are also provided for nostalgia.

Innovations & Data

- Student Outcome Report for 2017-18 will be available January 2019.
- Data for Program Review reflects positive outcomes for CRUISE participants. Persistence, retention and academic success tend to be higher when compared to the general campus. Formal report is pending.

Student Success Stories

The following feedback is from the Peer Navigator workshop:

"The Peer Navigators were really helpful in explaining how the process to apply for scholarships works.

"I gained a greater knowledge and confidence about scholarships and how to apply for them on the web."

"I learned a lot about where and how to get the scholarships I need."

Special Recognition

We requested a presentation on Student Equity by Dean Maxey to reinforce our work with students. The Peer Navigators were very engaged and motivated to continue promoting the values of the program and Mesa. The information presented solidified their work as mentors and efforts at CRUISE. Due to time, a follow-up presentation will take place in the spring. Thanks, Larry!

CalWORKs

Events & Activities

- Markus Berrien attended the monthly CalWORKs Region X meet to continue to collaborate with regional partners.
- Markus collaborated with Mesa Outreach department and with the CalWORKs Continuing Education departments to develop best practices to foster the transition from Continuing Education programs to Mesa College Programs. Workshops/presentations have been set-up for the Spring 2019 semester.
- The CalWORKs and EOPS/CARE students will be have a Holiday Celebration on December 13th. This will be CalWORKs students' very first Holiday Celebration event.

Innovations & Data

- Fall 2017: 38 Students
- Fall 2018: 47+ students

Special Recognition

To the ASG Department and EOPS/CARE....the CalWORKs program would not have a CalWORKs Holiday Celebration without these two AWESOME programs working hard in making it happen!

Career

Events & Activities

Career Presentations:

We were invited to provide MBTI Personality, Social Media, and Resume Workshops in classrooms. Thank you to Carolina Gonzalez, Amber Alatorre, and Mary Garcia for inviting us to connect with your students.

Events:

- A representative from Gorjana company visited the Mesa campus to share information about open positions within the company on November 14th. Gorjana is a socially conscious jewelry brand that is known for their consistency in quality and aesthetic.
- Career Peer Ambassadors continued to host “Résu-MANIA” peer-to-peer walk-in résumé building hours at the Career Center.
- In addition, Career Ambassadors assisted staff in helping an overwhelming number of students at the Transfer Center with transfer applications.
- The Career Ambassadors volunteer to distribute fresh produce every month at the San Diego Mesa College Farmers Market, hosted by the Stand and Feeding San Diego.
- The Internship Coordinator in collaboration with Work-Based Learning Coordinators met with Mesa Gallery Director and Museum Studies Professor Alessandra Moctezuma. This initial meeting was the starting point to facilitate a community partnership between San Diego Fleet Science Museum and Mesa College to potential host interns from the Museum Studies Program.
- Internship Coordinator, in collaboration with Work-Based Learning Coordinators met with Mesa faculty Christie Allred to collaborate in the implementation of Service Learning activities for next Spring 2019.
- He also held five individual Internship meetings for students, including a new student who was seeking to complete an internship as an Industrial Engineer.
- Students were coached in the internship preparation and searching process.
- The Internship Coordinator, in collaboration with Work-Based Learning presented Mesa CTE Programs and Work-Based Learning at De Portola Middle School Career Fair.
- Work-Based Learning collaborated with The Career Center, The Stand, and Mesa CalWORKs to facilitate an initial conversation with Feeding San Diego about implementing an Internship Program for CalWORKs students.

Innovations & Data

Mesa “Job Network” New Employer Contacts:

Total of 21 new contacts were made this month through our online job board.

- American Fashion Accessories
- Aztec IP Solutions, LLC.
- Crown Bioscience Inc.
- Furaat Incorporated
- Go Chiropractic
- Lindgren Financial Services, Inc.
- Salk Institute for Biological Studies
- San Diego Gymnastics
- San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
- Solar Turbines
- SpaceSaver Intermountain
- Volt Workforce Solutions

- Lyft
- MazonTech, LLC
- Montessori School of San Diego
- Paws Play
- Providential Real Estate
- Wag! Walking
- Wahupa Upward Bound
- XIFIN
- YMCA

Career Ambassador Program:

- In November, Career Ambassadors offered a total of 137 hours for peer-to-peer walk-in résumé building sessions at the Career Center.
- The Career Ambassadors conducted a total of 21 student sessions for résumé building help in the month of November while also providing 143.4 hours “on-deck” to assist staff in supporting students with transfer applications.
- In October, Career Ambassadors provided 74.5 hours “on-deck” to assist staff in supporting students with transfer applications.

Internships:

- In November, the Internship Coordinator (IC) facilitated an Internship Workshop for students who are part of the Mesa Veteran Internship Program (VIP). Students learned about internship definition, benefits, general requirements, searching process, and career readiness.
- In collaboration with Work-Based Learning Coordinators provided a presentation about Portfolium and Work-Based Learning to the School of Business/Tech, Counseling Department and Allied Health. Faculty and staff learned about this new program that will help our students maximize their potential at the time of searching and applying for internships and employment. Likewise, they visualized how to incorporate this teaching media in their classes and support students in creation of their e-portfolios
- The Internship Coordinator joined the Guided Majors & Career Exploration and Pathway Navigation discussion groups to contribute with the academic and professional success of our students.
- The Internship Coordinator collaborated with Work-Based Learning Coordinators provided a FLEX Workshop presentation about Mesa Work-Based Learning.
- The Internship Coordinator collaborated with Work-Based Learning Coordinators on a recording a Portfolium Flex Workshops (2) to facilitate this faculty training online.

Student Success Stories

This month, the Career Ambassador Team celebrated a huge achievement. Between the ends of the months of June and November 2018, Career Ambassadors offered a total of 618 hours for résumé building sessions, conducted 136 student sessions, and collected 115 sets of completed pre- and post- surveys! Based on participants’ experiences with the Career Peer Ambassadors, 92% of 115 survey responses show participants “Strongly Agree” and “Agree” they would recommend their services to other students.

Participants of the Peer-to-Peer Walk-In Résumé Building sessions shared these positive comments about their interactions with the Career Peer Ambassadors.

“Sadie was amazing! She helped me phrase my words into a more professional manner. She was super kind and sweet! Love her! I hope I can get more help from her often!”

“Carolina was a very helpful and understanding helper, who explained the purpose of every move and allowed me to do it with guidance.”

“Helen was very open, understanding and quick to help me build up a résumé for a specific position.”

“Malik was amazing and insightful.”

“Awesome!”

Carolina Chavez, Career Peer Ambassador, participated in a special recording segment, provided by Univision, for #GivingTuesday TV coverage at Mesa College. In this Season of Giving, Carolina shares with the audience how The Stand, a year-round free food pantry and professional clothing closet, has positively impacted her and Mesa College students. Thank you Carolina for representing our college! This broadcast is in Spanish and can be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNP1SN7yMZY&feature=youtu.be>

Special Recognition

The Career Center would like to give special recognition to all of our Career Peer Ambassadors, Malik, Sadie, Flora, Helen, Carolina, and their project assistant Amara.

"It's generally believed that it is the students who derive benefit by working under the guidance of professionals. In reality, the professionals benefit greatly from their association with their gifted students" -unknown

Counseling

Events & Activities

The Committee for Diversity Action, Inclusion & Equity (CDAIE) hosted or co-sponsored the following:

- The opening of the Serenity Space in I4-404, a place for student relaxation, meditation, prayer, reflection and tranquility, along with AS and Student Affairs.
- A workshop on “Assumptions, Stereotypes & Bias” along with the Student Diversity Club
- A Holiday Display in the LRC atrium, to provide a festive and informative focal point for diverse religious and cultural celebrations
- “Voices from the LEFT” a diversity of riveting voices performing personal skits, poems or spoken word having to do with real experiences of rape, sexism, racism, ageism, bias, etc. Over 300 people attended and approximately 50 people had to be turned away.

One counselor assisted former GEAR UP students with their Cal State Apply applications in the Transfer Center, helping them succeed and accomplish their goals.

This year's Veterans Celebration Week was highlighted by the various events taking place the week of Veterans Day. We started the week with the Veterans Appreciation Memorial in the Student Services building where students, staff and faculty have the opportunity to share their sentiments and post photos of loved ones. Also, the flag dedication fundraiser took place where all the proceeds go to the Veterans of Mesa Scholarship. AS sponsored the flags. Our Men's and Women's basketball teams provided free entrance to veterans/active duty military for home games throughout the month of November. Student veterans were greeted with a bbq sponsored by the Culinary Arts Department, and Swag bags and pizza were given out by the Veterans Office as well. In partnership with Jennifer Derilo, there was Veterans Writers Reading that focuses on bringing the stories of some of our veterans to light. There were Soldiers and Students Who Salsa Flash mobs. We had the Supporting our Deported Veterans Panel where the Founder and Director of the Deported Veterans Support House was our keynote panelist. Some partnerships have been formed with the Support House through our SVO and Puente students. Student Health Services sponsored a Relaxation tent. We had a Benefits Q&A at the VRC, where representatives from SD Vet Center, Wounded Warriors Project, VA Regional Office San Diego, Fort Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemetery. Pavel, our Internship Coordinator, presented to our Mesa VIP students about their upcoming internship experience and how to prepare. Kim and Anne from Counseling had a transfer workshop at the VRC to help answer any questions our student veterans had.

Innovations & Data

- Drop-Ins: 2618
- Appointments: 237
- Total: 2800

Student Success Stories

November is still a major part of the current transfer cycle, and I hope that the successes will be many

Special Recognition

The whole counseling team!

DSPS

Employee Updates

DSPS NANCE employee, Chantal Hernandez, accepted at full-time position at Miramar College in their Outreach department. Congratulations Chantal. We wish you well in your new role.

Events & Activities

The DSPS Coordinator and Administrative Technician attended the President's Cabinet retreat on November 13, 2018.

DSPS faculty and staff have been participating on the Guided Pathways Inquiry Teams.

DSPS Counselors Dawn Stoll and Rebekah Corrales held their monthly group on November 16, 2018 for students who are on the Autism Spectrum.

The DSPS Coordinator attended the Region 10 DSPS Directors meeting on November 30, 2018 hosted by UCSD where program updates and best practices were shared.

Innovations & Data

In the month of November, there were 325 Counseling appointments attended and 1,370 drop-in services were provided to students in DSPS. Our proctoring center administered 263 exams. The DSPS High Tech Center received fourteen alternate media request and 96 students logged into the HTC for a total of 500 hours.

EOPS/CARE

Employee Updates

EOPS hired a NANCE to assist with program applications and to support program technicians.

Events & Activities

- Project Re-Start hosted a panel of formerly incarcerated students who presented personal stories on incarceration and the transition after being released. Many faculty, staff and students attended this interactive presentation.
- Lorena Malo, EOP Representative from SDSU, presented a student workshop on applications, SDSU requirements, and EOP requirements. She also met one-on-one with students.
- EOPS counselors and technicians attended an initial training on Campus Solutions specific to EOPS.
- CARE program has partnered with CalWORKs and Associated Students for the CARE/CalWORKs Kids Holiday Party to take place on December 13th.

Innovations & Data

Over 100 students have attended the EOPS exit session so far. Students are completing EOPS contact requirements for the semester and are securing their participation for the Spring semester.

Evaluations

Events & Activities

This month the Evaluations Department collaborated with the Transfer Center to assist student with their CSU and UC Transfer applications. Part of their work included final application reviews. The evaluations department also assisted in training the office student workers in this process.

Innovations & Data

Early in the month of November the Evaluations Department staff met with the commencement work group to start planning for the 2019 event. Innovations for this upcoming event were discussed.

Financial Aid

Employee Updates

Began working on the newly vacated SSA position when Lilibeth was promoted to a SAT/ FA-Tech.

Events & Activities

Provided 3 SAP Appeal Workshops; Fall 18 Appeals closed on 11/16/18 and students began submitting Spring 19 Appeals on 11/26/18.

On 11/6/18, the FAO's had a special meeting with auditing firm.

Innovations & Data

Began evaluating Fall Cal Grant recipients to determine which students can be offered the Student Success Completion Grant.

Policies & Procedures

SAP Policy was updated to include changes resulting from CS implementation and has been approved by DSSC

Special Recognition

Florisel Guzman and Emmanouil Powell (Manolis) for their part in processing manually over 100 Return of Title IV (Federal Funds) calculations to maintain compliance with federal guidelines. To Laura Cormode for the extraordinary effort and many extra hours of work to close the 17-18 Pell Grant Program on an unsustainable system.

Outreach & Community Relations

Employee Updates

Karla Trutna, will be serving as the Acting Outreach Coordinator/Assessment Supervisor/Promise Coordinator through Spring 2019.

Events & Activities

Outreach:

Outreach conducted over 15 individual campus tours in the month of November and serviced over 50 prospective students and their parents. Students took the opportunity to visit the campus before the campus closed for the holiday season.

11/2 – Outreach hosted E3 Civic High School for a campus tour. Outreach Ambassadors Jessica Gaffney, Samantha Ceron-Draeger, and Victor Cenicerros provided a tour to over 120 students. The ambassadors guided the students through various buildings and different areas of the campus while showcasing our programs, services, and all the available sport teams we have. The students were engaged and asked the ambassadors tons of questions regarding Mesa College and their student experiences.

11/7 – Outreach was invited to San Diego Continuing Education’s first “Farm to Family Fair.” Ambassador Jordan Nash and Student Services Assistant Van Chhum hosted a table providing all attendees information regarding the programs and services available at Mesa College.

11/8 – Mesa College Outreach was invited to attend the Latino College Expo hosted at Southwestern College. The Latino College Expo hosted over forty different colleges ranging from public to private institutions. Ambassadors from all three sites: Mesa, City, and Miramar, were in attendance providing attendees with vital information on their respective programs and services. It was a successful event in which the ambassadors got to connect with over 1,000 in attendance.

11/29 – Outreach was invited by Urban Corps Charter School to attend their Career Fair. Urban Corps Charter School provides young adults with a high school education combined with job training and community service in the fields of conservation and recycling. They connected with over 80 students on the opportunities available at Mesa College.

Promise:

11/15 – Promise hosted a Board Game Social in collaboration with the AVANZA Center and Peer Navigators.

Innovations & Data

Promise:

- Year 1 (18-19) Cohort: 665 Promise students
- Year 2 (17-18) Cohort: 133 Promise students

We are working with IT to improve the progress report process and make it easier for faculty, staff, and students. We have also received positive feedback from other departments regarding our online process and hope to share this in the future.

We are always in search of volunteer opportunities for Year 2 students to complete their community service requirement. If you have a need for student volunteers for your department or group, please reach out to datajar@sdccd.edu!

Policies & Procedures

Promise: We are accepting early high school graduates into the Promise program for the 2018-2019 Cohort. Students were removed from the program for not completing a financial aid application or not being enrolled in 12 units at census. We have referred these students to other services on campus and continue to connect them to resources to ensure their success. Winter Intersession enrollment fees are covered by the Promise program. Students have until Summer 2019 to complete 24 units for the 2018-2019 academic year. It is required for students to be enrolled in at least 12 units by census during Fall and Spring semesters. If students do not complete 12 units during Fall or Spring, they are able to make up the units during Winter Intersession or Summer.

Special Recognition

Promise: Big thanks to Financial Aid for supporting students in resolving their financial aid application issues so eligible students can be reinstated in the program. Another big thanks to Accounting for supporting us with student holds and applying Promise payments on student accounts.

STAR TRIO

Employee Updates

Marichu Magana was awarded the Southern California WESTOP Doreen De Los Santos Dynamic Service Award in "Recognition of her Dedication and Everlasting Support towards the overall development of WESTOP SoCal."

Events & Activities

Held Meet & Greet for students. Activities included: Transfer Application assistance; FAFSA completion; Progress Report follow-up; Vision statements

Student Success Stories

Have received several requests from prior year participants for recommendation letters for graduate school.

Student Affairs

Events & Activities

AS Legislative Retreat

The Mesa College Associated Students Leadership Retreat was held over the first weekend of November; this two-day, overnight community-building event featured presentations by a variety of Mesa College faculty, administrators as well as special guests such as Dr. Carl Luna and Dr. Tanis Stark.

Opening of the Serenity Space

Mesa College's Serenity Space, a quiet place for students to relax away from the usually busy campus environment, opened to the public amidst general acclaim on Nov 6. This program is supported by the Student Affairs office in collaboration with Dr. Judy Sundayo.

Homelessness Awareness Month

Student Affairs and the Associated Students contributed notably to the calendar of events for Homelessness Awareness Month through Days of Service, the Associated Students Thanksgiving Feast, the Season of Giving Donation Drive, and through direct support at the Farmer's Market set up by the Office of the Dean of Equity. In addition, Student Affairs collaborated with the AS to put on a student resource fair called "Sweets and Support," and representatives from Feeding San Diego and Legal Aid Society of San Diego were present during the fair to give more information about their own programs and support services.

Days of Service

Student Affairs organized several opportunities for Mesa College students to provide community service through Days of Service, a program that aims to connect students to organizations dedicated to the good of the public. Two opportunities were organized; a day at Kitchens for Good on Nov 11, and a day at the Jeff & Deni Jacobs Child Development Center on Nov 29.

Thanksgiving Feast

The Thanksgiving Feast, a traditional holiday event presented by the Associated Students of Mesa College, was held in MC-211A/B on the afternoon of Nov 15; more than 300 guests, mostly students, are estimated to have attended and, most importantly, the food provided by Mesa's Culinary Program was delicious.

NCRC ArtIC Sessions

Successfully hosted an NCRC Art of Inclusive Communication training presentation on the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov 13. Seven students attended, most of who reported being encouraged to participate in the training by their instructors, which is excellent news. A special note must be made on how cooperative and accommodating the staff at NCRC has been with organizing these sessions this semester; we are fortunate to have a partnership with such an exemplary institution.

LEAD Series Final Meeting

LEAD series wrapped up with a graduation ceremony on Nov 27; the following students received their certificates for attending each of the five LEAD:

Shyla Day Blanchard

Nadia Pisano

Baktask Olomi

Sol Botello

Julian Nguyen

Aliaksei Lensk

Max Tuttle

Danna Smith

Reva Joyce

Matthew Domanguera

Special Recognition

Claudia Perkins has been an exceptional member of the Student Affairs Team! Her commitments to supporting students succeed and her commitment to the Student Affairs Team is remarkable. She is a gift to our office. Her insight and philosophy on student conduct, student development and providing students and opportunity to learn from their mistakes is such a value to our community. The entire team of Student Affairs is so grateful to have Claudia on our team! Plus we love her enthusiasm and the spirit she adds to all of our events.

****THANK YOU CLAUDIA!!****

Student Development

Events & Activities

This was a big month for the Transfer Center as they work hard to support students with transfer applications. On November 6th, the Transfer Center hosted Transfer Night to support working students and provide them with an opportunity to meet with representatives from various four year colleges and universities. Additionally, there was a UCSD visit held on November 13 to reach out to prospective students.

The Veterans Celebration Week was held from November 5-9, 2018 to honor all those who served. There were many wonderful activities to support our veterans to include a Veterans Appreciation Wall, a Flag Dedication Fundraiser, and Free admission to the men's and women's basketball games during the month of November, in addition to many events. These events included a veterans BBQ, a swag bag giveaway, a Veterans Writers Reading, and Flash Mob highlighting soldiers and students who salsa.

Additionally, we had a relaxation tent, Benefits Q & A Workshop, and Internship Workshop, and Transfer Application Workshop. This year's event highlighted our deported veterans and ways to support them. We had the pleasure of hearing from our veterans' panel with the hope of bringing them home. Ramiro Hernandez, Veterans Counselor has been working with Trustee Zschiesche on this critical issue and took a trip to the Deported Veterans Safe House in Tijuana.

Innovations & Data

The School of Student Development is working on the SEA Website. Stay tuned for the launch of the website! Check out the video on Supporting Our Deported Veterans - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fsc96KKzUHc>

Special Recognition

- Thanks to all the individuals who helped make the Veterans Celebration Week a success:
- Veterans Services Office: LaWanda Foster, Helen Dinh, Gail Fedalizo, Laura Rodriguez, Sibel Sahebjamei, Adrian Tanjuquio for providing the Veteran Swag Bag, and pizza for the Benefits Q & A, along with this year's commemorative t-shirt.
- Ramiro Hernandez for coordinating this year's events with the Veterans Celebration Week Planning Team
- Associated Students for continuing to support the Flag Dedication Fundraiser. Proceeds raised will go towards the Veterans of Mesa Scholarship.
- Thanks to the Kelsey Graham and the Exercise Science, Health Education, Dance, and Athletics Department for helping us get set up with providing free admission to the basketball games.
- Tonya Whitfield for her continued support for our student veterans and events.
- Alex Napoles for continuing to provide support through the Soldiers and Students Who Salsa, for organizing and leading the Flash Mob.
- Thanks to Suzanne Khambata for helping with this year's Relaxation Tent
- Jennifer Derilo for the Veterans Writers Reading Session
- Transfer Center for facilitating a Transfer Application Workshop.

- Thanks to the Transfer Center and Counseling teams for continuing to provide support during the application filing period.
- Special thanks to Jacqueline Collins and her team for ensuring that the Veterans Week Activities and request for facilities set up were taken care of.
- It is peak registration time, and departments under the School of Student Development continue to provide services and support for students as they get ready for intersession and spring registration. Thanks to all the faculty and staff for assisting our students: Admissions, Veterans Services, Counseling, Transfer, Evaluations, Career.

Student Health Services

Employee Updates

- Rebecca Lee LMFT is leaving at the end of the Fall semester to spend more time with her family.
- Mark Malebranche RN, PhD is retiring the end of the Fall semester.

Events & Activities

- The Active Minds Club participated in the International Fair on November 13th.
- Our staff and faculty gathered on November 20th for a brainstorming and Program Review writing session.
- Veronica Gerace and 32 of her Intercultural Communication students presented "Get Real Inside and Out" to students, staff and faculty on November 28th and 29th. Students made interesting interactive poster and mask exhibits focused on a variety of mental health issues. The Active Minds Club presented an art activity that tie in with the student exhibits. Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW created a safe space to discuss feelings and decompress from the exhibits.
- Erkia Higginbotham DSPS Counseling Coordinator volunteered to assist at the event. She also encouraged other faculty to attend.

Innovations & Data

We had 554 contacts in our office in November.

Student Success Stories

Veronica Gerace and her Intercultural Communication class are outstanding! We are amazed and impressed with your presentations. Thank you for all of your efforts to educate your fellow students.

Special Recognition

Our greatest heartfelt thanks to Rebecca Lee LMFT and Mark Malebranche RN, PhD for their many years of dedicated service to our students. We will miss you both!

Student Success & Equity

Employee Updates

We welcomed Leticia Diaz as our new Director of EOPS/STAR TRIO

Events & Activities

Larry Maxey and Robyn Bolden participated in the presentation to the Board of Trustees during their annual campus visit. Larry and Robyn highlighted the partnerships that have been established to assist us as a community to eliminate food insecurity.

Innovations & Data

- 1388 transactions at The Stand for November
- 15,658 pounds of food provided at the Farmers Market to 638 households
- To date, Direct Student Support Program has reviewed 86 Applications, provided \$9617 in financial assistance to 65 students.

Transfer

Events & Activities

- Transfer Application season ended for the UCs on 11/30/18. Some extensions include: UC Riverside has extended their admissions to January 4th. CSUs are open to the wildfire victims to December 15th.
- UC San Diego Day Tritons for Transfer student run transfer panel: former Mesa and regional transfer students hosted a panel discussion for Mesa students.
- STEM Conexiones bus trip to USD.

Innovations & Data

The Transfer Center piloted the CSU Application workshop sessions this Fall. Sixteen workshops held with over 200 attendees. A huge thank you to the Avanza center for opening up the computers and conference room and all the counselors from the Transfer Center, General Counseling, EOPS and STAR TRIO. It was a group effort! It takes a village to transfer students and we are thankful to all the support. The TCE staff was AMAZING! They diligently assisted over 1000 students.

- October: 696 students
- November: grand total 1046, (over 500 during the last week of classes)
- TCE16 CSU Application Workshop Sessions (new this year) we reviewed over 300 applications

Student Success Stories

We received our first admissions success story. A Mesa student was accepted to USD in the business program for Spring of 2019!

Policies & Procedures

Brand new CSU Application Workshops were a success we had over 200 attendees

Special Recognition

Thank you to Avanza Center for letting us use their space for the CSU apply workshops! Thank you to all the TCE staff including CAPs for your excellent application assistance! Thank you to all the counselors in the TCE, General, EOPS, STAR TRIO and DSPS for your support with the Fall 2018 application season.

Veterans & Records

Employee Updates

- Coordinated Vet Celebration Week along with the Veterans Office.
- Attended the Mesa Foundation meeting to discuss the different veteran accounts and being able to divide them to accurately fund different activities.
- Transition to the Mesa VIP and help our student veterans be prepared for internship opportunities.

Events & Activities

This year's Veterans Celebration Week was highlighted by the various events taking place the week of Veterans Day. We started the week with the Veterans Appreciation Memorial in the Student Services building where students, staff and faculty have the opportunity to share their sentiments and post photos of loved ones. Also, the flag dedication fundraiser took place where all the proceeds go to the Veterans of Mesa Scholarship. AS sponsored the flags. Our Men's and Women's basketball teams provided free entrance to veterans/active duty military for home games throughout the month of November. Student veterans were greeted with a bbq sponsored by the Culinary Arts Department, and Swag bags and pizza were given out by the Veterans Office as well. In partnership with Jennifer Derilo, there was Veterans Writers Reading that focuses on bringing the stories of some of our veterans to light. There were Soldiers and Students Who Salsa Flash mobs. We had the Supporting our Deported Veterans Panel where the Founder and Director of the Deported Veterans Support House was our keynote panelist. Some partnerships have been formed with the Support House through our SVO and Puente students. Student Health Services sponsored a Relaxation tent. We had a Benefits Q&A at the VRC, where representatives from SD Vet Center, Wounded Warriors Project, VA Regional Office San Diego, Fort Rosecrans and Miramar National Cemetery. Pavel our Internship Coordinator presented to our Mesa VIP students about their upcoming internship experience and how to prepare. Kim and Anne from Counseling had a transfer workshop at the VRC to help answer any questions our student veterans had.

Special Recognition

Everyone involved in Vet Celebration Week.

Vice President Student Services

Employee Updates

- On November 13, 2018, Leticia Diaz joined the Mesa College community as the new Director of Extended Opportunities Programs & Services and STAR TRIO programs.
- This month we bid farewell to Genevieve Esguerra as she started her new role as Associate Dean for Outreach at City College. We wish her the absolute best! Karla Trutna is now serving as Acting Outreach Coordinator.

Events & Activities

- President Luster, Vice Presidents Hands, Legaspi and Shimazaki shared our personal stories with 50+ student leaders at the annual Student Leadership Retreat hosted by Associated Students in Mission Valley.
- Vice President Hands, Dean Maxey, Johanna Aleman and Claudia Estrada-Howell presented on “The Stand: Addressing Food Insecurities-Data Driven Solutions” at the Community College League of California 2018 Annual Convention in Rancho Mirage, CA.
- Vice President Hands and members of the Student Services Team participated in the Special Board of Trustee Meeting hosted by Mesa College on of November 8, 2018. Student Services presentations included: Mesa Journeys (Charlie Lieu), Placement Assistant (Bridget Herrin) and Expanded Basic Needs Partnerships (Larry Maxey and Robyn Bolden).
- Vice President Hands attended SDCCD and SDUSD’s Welcome Reception for SDSU’s new president, Dr. Adela de la Torre.
- President Luster, Vice President Hands and Dean Crakes met with Barry Chung, SDSU’s new Dean of the College of Education to lay the foundation for new partnerships, collaboration, dialogue between Mesa College and SDSU.
- In a campus-wide effort, Trina Larson, with fellow tri-chairs from the Classified Equity Taskforce, Cloris Johnson and Yolanda Cataño, coordinated a gathering of classified professionals to begin work on Caring Campus @ Mesa. Caring Camps is a statewide initiative for classified professionals kicking off in the San Diego and Inland Empire regions, based on work done at colleges like Amarillo. It is an opportunity for classified to work with a consultant from the Institute for Evidence Based Change (IEBC) throughout the year to imagine and implement strategies to make students feel more welcome and engaged on campus. All classified are welcome to join this effort which kicks off on December 12, LRC435, 9:00-12:00.
- Charlie Lieu and Trina Larson attended the Teaching Men of Color for Classified Professionals (The LOFT) which focused on identifying and redirecting micro-aggressions.
- Mesa Library Textbook Donation Program. The library will accept textbook donations from students and staff. Books can be dropped off at the LRC - Front Counter (1st floor). Donated books will be placed on Course Reserves for students check out.

Innovations & Data

- Student Equity and Success (Dean Maxey and Johanna Aleman) and VP Hands worked in partnership with campus leadership to secure access to a campus vehicle to support our impending Retail Rescue partnership with the San Diego Food Bank. Special thanks to Lorenze Legaspi from Administrative Services for making this such a smooth process.

- In partnership with EOPS (Sade Burrell) and Dean Maxey, VP Hands worked with campus leadership to secure a temporary and permanent space for our NextUP Program which serves former foster youth.
- The Serenity Space opened this month through a joint partnership with Student Affairs, CDAIE, Student Services and support from Associated Students. The space is a place for meditation, reflection, relaxation and tranquility.
- 2018/19 Scholarship cycle is now live. Student can begin apply for Mesa College Scholarships at: <https://sdmesa.academicworks.com/>
- New Counseling and STAR TRIO Events pages.
- Online Raza Grad registration form open.

Policies & Procedures

- SDCCD will resume Drop for Non-payment in Spring 2018

Special Recognition

VP Hands attended exceptional events this month. Kudos to the following for creating such sacred spaces on our campus for all to share, learn and engage:

- Veterans Celebration Week: Veterans Writers Reading, Veterans Panel (Ramiro Hernandez)
- Formerly Incarcerated Student Panel (ReStart Scholars)
- Getting Real Inside and Out: Students Reveal Their Inner Self (Student Health Services)
- Voices from the Left (CDAIE)
- Teaching Men of Color for Classified Professionals (The LOFT)

Guided Pathways

We are pleased to announce that Professors Toni Parsons, faculty from Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and Howard Eskew, faculty from Business and Technology, were selected as our first ever Mesa Pathway's Co-coordinators. In conjunction with the Mesa Pathways Committee, our coordinators will oversee implementation of the Mesa Pathways work plan, develop yearly work plans and make recommendations. They will coordinate and provide leadership for Guided Pathways work, Mesa Pathways Committee and Quad Chairs; oversee and serve as a liaison for inquiry teams/bubbles, identify and arrange for professional learning opportunities to support MPC efforts, oversee budget and financial request, provide Pathways reports, serve as the committee liaison at campus, district and community meetings and events and assess outcomes. Professors Parsons and Eskew will report to our new Vice President for Instruction and will assume responsibility in Spring 2019.

Mesa Pathways Committee members presented at the Fall 2018 Presidents Cabinet Retreat on November 14, 2018. Our [presentation](#) included a re-introduction and commitment to our Pathway's "Why," framework and vision. Bubble Leads provided updates on work that has been completed, current efforts, what they hope to accomplish by Summer 19, and how their plans have evolved. We then hosted a group activity in which retreat participants selected a Bubble of interest and shared information about what excites them most about that work, additional information needed to do the work, how best we can communicate with the campus, and how we can engage students in this work. A summary of sharing will be posted on the Mesa/Guided Pathways website on the Presentation & Events tab.