



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

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



Monthly Update Highlights

Employee Updates

- Thank you and Congratulations to our new Accreditation Standard II Team Leads: Ailene Crakes, Karla Trutna and Markus Berrien
- The Transfer/Career/Evaluations welcomed Project Assistant Ayana Woods to the team. Ayana has a Bachelor of Science from Howard University and is currently taking courses to apply for the Medical Assisting program at Mesa.
- Thanks to the allocation of HEERF funding and in a partnership initiated by the Outreach Office three (3) Project Assistants were hired and are in training to assist students with the Promise Program requirements. We welcomed Delany Lizarraga, Lawson Hardrick and Wendy Lizarraga-Hidalgo.
- We welcome Maci Gerber to the Transfer Team.
- The Stand was sad to say goodbye to Basic Needs Ambassador Krystal Mucha, and excited to welcome Ariel Guzman as new Basic Needs Ambassador.
- Admissions' Dulce Arroyo celebrated her wedding and is taking an extended vacation in Africa.
- Laura Cormode, SAT, retired on 11/15/2021. She'll be missed.
- Jordan Frodente (SSA) has left SDCCD and the Admissions office to pursue his dream in the music industry. We wish Jordan well.

Events & Activities

- DSPS presented two workshops on Ableism as part of the Reflect, Restore & Unite Week and at the joint school meeting
- The Borderless Scholars Team held a Financial Aid CA Dream Act Application Workshop. The Financial aid workshop was tailored to current and prospective Undocumented Students. The workshop was presented by our Borderless Scholars counselor Clemente Ayala.
- The San Diego Mesa College 2022 Commencement Ceremony is planned to be held on campus this year.
- Outreach Staff, Karla Trutna, Joel Vera Gonzalez, and Daniela Castellanos took part in the first of a series of Mesa Information Nights/Mesa Noches de Información during the "EXPO 2021 PFLC Tijuana."
- Reflect, Restore, & Unite Week was presented by Student Affairs from November 1st to November 5th and designed to explore and expand upon the concepts of Restorative Justice in order to reflect, restore, and unite as a community. Events incorporated themes related to arts and media, social justice education, and interpersonal connection through the Black Student Forum, the Restoration and Inspiration Gallery Art Project, and the Mesa Reads Book Club.
- Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week: Mesa College Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Basic Needs Resource Center & Student Health Services, coordinated a week of events from November 15th through November 19th in honor of Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week! This week of events provided opportunities to get a seasonal flu shot, pick up a free pre-packaged meal for Thanksgiving, or join us for an afternoon tour of the San Diego Rescue Mission! There will also be opportunities to connect with the campus community through the Warm & Fuzzy gift package distribution and hygiene donation drive.
- Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway: Through a partnership with San Diego Mesa College Associated Students, San Diego Mesa Culinary Department, and The Stand: Basic Needs Resource Center, Student Affairs once again coordinated the now-traditional Associated Students Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway on Thursday, November 18th where we provided 300 individually-packaged Thanksgiving meals (made by Mesa Culinary) and more than \$5000 worth of grocery cards (provided by The Stand) free of charge to Mesa College students.
- CalWORKs provided a \$50 gas card to all CalWORKs students who participated in the Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway.
- Homecoming: Members of the Mesa College Associated Students encouraged and cheered Mesa Athletes with a festive environment by decorating the stands and handing out commemorative t-shirts to students who attended the game.
- The Dean of Student Development collaborated with Veterans Services team on the November 10th Campus Community Forum in honor of Veterans Week.
- Student Health Services invited Janel King, LMFT Chief Executive Officer & Co-founder of Urban Restoration Counseling Center to present about Managing Life and Many Challenges workshop in collaboration with Student Affairs Right & Responsibilities Week. Janel spoke to students and participants on the importance of taking care of their own mental health and practicing self-care.
- Veteran Services had a week-long of events celebrating student veterans at Mesa.

Innovations & Data

- The Assessment Office saw an increase in Live Chat this month as registration for the spring semester opened.
- The 2022 Winter and Saturday CRUISE will be held via Zoom. Data from Summer CRUISE revealed an interest to continue with an online session.
- CalWORKs has proactively reached out to current students who have not enrolled in Spring 2022 classes, support them find classes based on major and assist them with resources (e.g., food insecurity, housing, and legal services).
- As of 11/19/2021, students receiving financial aid received \$857,755 in direct funds to the students.
- In partnership with Student Services, the college and district awarded \$46,000 in Vaccination Incentive Grants and \$1,350,000 in HEERF Emergency Relief Grants. Additional campaigns will take place throughout the semester.
- Mesa Live Chat is now on our [Mesa home](#) page! This will allow students to quickly find this service and connect with Mesa personnel member. We have already seen our usage almost double!
- Two new tech tools have been added to the Student Services building (PaperCut Print station and KIC Bookeye scanner).
- The Stand is receiving 200 frozen meals per a week to hand out to students for free. The Stand has partnered with the Exercise Science Department to get 100+ meals out to student athletes. The Stand continues to supply Exercise Science with meals for the student athletes and just began stocking the freezer in the VSC with meals for our student veterans.

Policies & Procedures

- Early high school graduates entering Mesa College in Spring 2022 who are eligible for the San Diego Promise may now apply. They can visit our website for more information and the application link: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/promise>. The deadline to apply is January 24.

Student Success Stories

- An older student (in her late 70's) came by Admissions, thankful that the department was open to help her with an EW after knee replacement surgery. Admissions was able to help her submit an EW (fully online), and she is eager to continue taking classes in Spring 2022.
- Some of our intrepid Mesa students will start SDSU Main campus in spring of 2022. SDSU main campus opened up for Spring 2022. We had students complete the appeal process to apply and were later accepted. Congratulations!
- As a whole, students have commented to team members in the Veterans Success Center how they have appreciated the Center's continued availability to them during the pandemic and by offering the virtual and on-campus services and resources.

Admissions

Employee Updates

- Jordan Frodente (SSA) has left SDCCD to pursue his dream in the music industry.
- Dulce Arroyo celebrated her wedding and is taking an extended vacation in Africa.

Events & Activities

- In November, admissions staff attended several events, including the Joint School meeting, the Veterans Success Center Opening, Chancellor's Office System Webinars, Feel, Heal and Be Real, Classified Senate, and M&M events.

Innovations & Data

- We continue to support students via QLess face-to-face interactions (294), sdmesaadmissions@sdccd.edu email (597), phone tree (990), and google voice. We've also been supporting District with Cleared4 (155).

Policies & Procedures

- EW petitions are now entirely online petitioned. Students can go to mySDCCD Support Desk and submit their Excused Withdrawal with supporting documentation.

Student Success Stories

- An older student (in her late 70's) came by admissions, thankful that we were open to help with her with an EW after knee replacement surgery. We were able to help her submit an EW (fully online), and she is eager to continue taking classes in Spring 2022.

Special Recognition

- So thankful to all of our admissions staff as they have shouldered each other's workload so that our team could heal from surgery and be with family through hospice care.

Assessment

Events & Activities

- Ongoing Student Support (LIVE CHAT) - The Assessment Office saw an increase in Live Chat this month as registration for the spring semester opened up. Students were able to get real time information and they were very appreciative.
- Promise & Early High School Grads - Continued to collaborate with the Promise Program and Kearny Early-Grads to make sure that their milestones were updated and to ensure a smooth class registration process for them. • Challenge Exams for Spring semester
- Challenge exams are being proctored to help clear prerequisites for students.

Innovations & Data

| Transfer Center Data | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E-Chat: 67• ELAC: 1• Email: 39 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation: 17• Placement Assistant: 53• Challenge Exams: 4• Unduplicated Student Count: 152 |

AVANZA Student Engagement Center, Peer Navigator, and CRUISE Programs

Events & Activities

- **Scholarship and Financial Aid Workshop**
Hosted by the Peer Navigators, students received information on how and where to apply for scholarships, ask questions regarding the process, and discussed strategies to boost chances of receiving awards.
- **Game Night**
Peer Navigators continued with community building by engaging their mentees through online games!
- **Virtual Peer Navigator Help Desk**
Offered via Zoom, any student can drop by to ask questions pertaining to Mesa, receive a warm welcome, and connect with Peer Navigators.

Innovations & Data

- 2022 Winter and Saturday CRUISE will be held via Zoom. Data from Summer CRUISE revealed an interest to continue with an online session.

Student Success Stories

- The Peer Navigator team is thriving and doing their best to support students! The team is also in process of applying to transfer.

Special Recognition

- Lead Peer Navigator Dominic Jauregui is going the extra mile to support the team and making himself available. Dominic holds one-on-ones with each Peer Navigator to make sure they are supported.

CalWORKs

Events & Activities

- CalWORKs promoted the Nov. 18th Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway to all current students (individualized & packaged "to-go" Thanksgiving meals) provided from Student Affairs. As well as the Free Frozen Individual Meal pick-up from the Basic Needs Center. CalWORKs provided a \$50 gas card to all CalWORKs students who participated.
- Working with the Toys for Tots organization to provide toys for our current CalWORKs students children in December.
- Continuing the CalWORKs & HHS (Health & Human Services Agency) Workshops. It occurs every Mondays and Thursdays on Zoom from 11am-12pm. Workshop will assist with new or current CalWORKs students that may need assistance with either the CalWORKs program or the CalFresh program or the Medical application process. The HHS can assist with any questions or concerns students may have about their case. More information on Mesa CalWORKs website.
- Attended the CalWORKs Region X monthly meeting that included SD County Health Human Services Agency (HHS), and SD county contractors Public Consulting Group (PCG), ResCare, and Equus Workforce Solutions. With the goal being to continue strengthening pathways and support services for incoming and continuing CalWORKs students.
- Attended monthly meeting with SDCCD CalWORKs program leaders and SD county contractor's case manager from Public Consulting Group (PCG). In an effort to streamline the outreach and recruitment efforts with PCG Center, East, and South.
- Continued collaboration effort with EOPS/CARE Program for new or continuing CalWORKs students. This includes follow-ups and recruitment efforts.
- Grants are in the process of being distributed to all current CalWORKs students who are in good academic standing.

Innovations & Data

- CalWORKs has proactively reached out to current students who have not enrolled in Spring 2022 classes, support them find classes based on major and assist them with resources (e.g., food insecurity, housing, and legal services). CalWORKs has also reached out to students who did not enroll in Fall or Summer of 2021 classes. - Increased CalWORKs Drop-in Hours on Mondays & Thursdays (9am & 4pm) and Wednesdays (2pm)
- New and current CalWORKs student continue to thrive with the online CalWORKs counseling services
- Accepting appointments for Spring 2022 Individual Training Plan (ITP), Book/Material Request forms and educational plans.
- Continued posting State CalWORKs program updates through CalWORKs Canvas

Policies & Procedures

- All of our appointments are still being held via Zoom or over the phone.
- CalWORKs forms (CalWORKs Individual Training Plan (ITP) and Book/Material Request form) has the new CalWORKs States regulations.
- Workshop of New CalWORKs State regulation will be provided during Winter Intersession.

- CalWORKs is continuing accepting application for the academic year 2021-2022. Students can download PDF fillable Intake Form by visiting our CalWORKs website.

Special Recognition

- The entire Mesa College CalWORKs team: Pahua Vang, Grace Aumoeualogo, Van Pham, and Jennifer Vo

Career

Employee Updates

- The Transfer/Career/Evaluations welcomed Project Assistant Ayana Woods to the team. Ayana has a Bachelor of Science from Howard University and is currently taking courses to apply for the Medical Assisting program at Mesa. Ayana works closely with the Career Center but also supports our Transfer and Evaluations department. Please join me in welcoming Ayana to the TCE Family!

Events & Activities

- Career Counselor & Co-Coordinator, Raquel Sojourner, facilitated an MBTI Workshop for Mesa Outreach Ambassadors on November 5th.
- Career Counselor & Co-Coordinator, Kristy Carson, provided a Career Services Overview at the Promise Coffee Hours on November 18th.
- Career Counselor & Co-Coordinator, Kristy Carson, provided a CAP Cover Letter Resume for our new Career Peers on Nov. 9th.

Innovations & Data

- The San Diego Community College District is transitioning to a new online student job board powered by Handshake. The Career Center at San Diego Mesa College is no longer utilizing, JobNetwork. All student accounts have been closed, effective August 31, 2021.
- As a district-wide effort, the implementation team has decided to launch the tool in spring. Therefore, all students are expected to receive an email in February with instructions on activating their accounts. More details and marketing to follow. For the most up-to-date information, this will be included on the Career Center website here: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/career-center/job-internships/index.shtml>.
- For additional support and assistance with job searching and preparing application materials, please contact the Career Center at 619-800-3556 to schedule an appointment.

Policies & Procedures

- All Career Counseling and Career Ambassador appointments are being held via zoom format. Students can schedule Career Counseling and/or Career Ambassador appointments by emailing mesacareersdccd@gmail.com or by calling 619-800-3556.

Student Success Stories

- Recent Feedback from Students in our CAP Post-Assessment Survey - students are asked to complete this survey after their appointment with a Career Ambassador:
 - "I am very thankful for the great help and amazing learning experience."

- "Overall the helpful feedback on how to improve my resume by Mrs. Redding was very thorough and helpful. I got to see my work from a different perspective and realized what worked and what didn't. I am very thankful for the help that was given."
- "The video I received was very thorough and I appreciate all the feedback!"
- "Amazing feedback and willingness to help out at every opportunity"
- "Very grateful for Lara's help again. I am truly satisfied with both of my experiences with her. She is definitely awesome."

Special Recognition

- Sadie Wager for her role as the Career Ambassador Program Coordinator. She has stepped into this role with ease and confidence and continues to enhance the program and support her peers.
- To learn more about Sadie and our Career Peers Lara Napasa, Amy Redding, Jocelyn Dorantes, and Jose Ortega, please visit the Career Ambassador Program Website here:
<https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/career-center/career-peer-ambassadors.shtml>

Counseling

Innovations & Data

- Drop-Ins (only) (thru Nov 19) 1327
- Appointment (only) 253
- Face-to-Face Appointments 31

Special Recognition

- A thanks to be counselors Masuma Mohammadi and Kirsten Pogue-Cely for an awesome presentation at the CABSE site visit held at Kearny High School and at Mesa College, regarding Kearny Fast Track, Umoja and activities by the Black Faculty Counselors Collaborative.
- Puente Noche de Familia held on 11/17/2021 incorporated students sharing their native home dishes, and testimonials from past Puentistas who have transferred. Though presentations were done virtually, the time spent was very motivational. Thanks, Raul Rodriguez and Christie Allred

DSPS

Events & Activities

- DSPS presented two workshops on Ableism as part of the Reflect, Restore & Unite Week and at the joint school meeting
- Led by Counselor Dawn Stoll, DSPS collaborated with Anne Hedekin and the Transfer Center to host a transfer workshop for DSPS students
- Coordinator, Erika Higginbotham, attended the Region E DSPS Leadership meeting and the President Cabinet Retreat
- DSPS Project Assistant, Allison Crakes, collaborated with the STAND to present a workshop focused on DSPS students safely returning to campus

Innovations & Data

- DSPS processed 32 new student applications and assisted 32 students with our online appointment request form. DSPS proctored 74 exams during the month of November.

Policies & Procedures

- Counselor, Dawn Stoll, actively participated in district DSPS work group to update DSPS Visitor Agreement
- DSPS launched Clockwork (fully online student appointment and record system) and attended trainings on how to use the program

EOPS & Special Programs

Events & Activities

EOPS

- Nov. 3 & 4 | Spring 2022 EOPS Priority Registration Open Lab: EOPS students were able to drop-in to meet with an EOPS counselor for assistance with registering for Spring 2022 classes.
- 11/4/21 | Markus Berrien participated in the Mesa College Presentation to the SDCCD Board of Trustees Meeting. Markus wonderfully represented EOPS, NextUp, FAST Scholars and the FAST Center.
- 11/5/21 | EOP SDSU CAL STATE APPLY INFO SESSION: This workshop provided students who were applying for Fall 2022 term with information about the EOP program support services, CAL STATE APPLY application, and important dates for Fall 2022 admissions.
- Nov. 9 & 17 | CSU/UC Transfer Application Assistance Open Lab - EOPS and Special Programs hosted this workshop for students to drop-in and meet with an EOPS counselor or staff for assistance with completing their CSU/UC Fall 2022 applications for transfer!
- 11/10/21 | Meditation, Mudras and Mantras Workshop: EOPS Counselor, Hadassah Nations hosted this workshop. Students were able to learn about meditation, mudras, and mantras, their benefits, and how to apply them to your life.
- 11/15/21 | Coping with Stress in Times of Change Workshop: EOPS Counselor, Hadassah Nations this workshop. Students were able to identify the signs of stress, learn holistic methods of coping, and what to do when they're feeling overwhelmed.

CARE

- Outreach and recruitment through EOPS applications
- All students receive a gas card after 2nd contact appointment • Grants distributed to all students making 1st contact appointment
- Collaboration with "Soroptimist Live Your Dream Scholarship" opportunity
- Collaboration with CalWORKs
- CARE monthly Workshop Series-Wellness workshop and mid-semester check-in
- Fall 2021 CARE Circle Network meeting
- First CARE grant of semester sent out to students who completed two counseling contacts
- Advisory Board planning

NextUP & FAST Scholars

- November 1, 8, 22 29 - The FAST and NextUp scholars programs were chosen to receive free organic and fresh produce through collaboration with TerraMesa garden on campus. We are able to provide fresh produce such as spinach, tomatoes, potatoes, egg plants, squash and more to all FAST and NextUp scholars weekly.
- November 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 30 - Transfer App Case Management: Support student through transfer app process. Nearing the end of the Inaugural Transfer Academy.
- Foster Youth SDCCD Email- contacted 10 new potential FAST/NextUp

Rising Scholars

- Attend Rising Scholars CCC Counselor meetings and workshops
- Invitation to present at 2021 Counselor conference through Community College Career Ed Program
- CCCCCO Rising Scholars Cash for College training
- Collaboration meeting with Rising Scholars statewide network
- Connected with South Bay Community Service EXCEL Program
- Attend monthly Region X SDICCCA meeting
- Rising Scholars “Guiding Principles in Action” presentation
- Recruiting new students through EOPS applications
- Rising Scholars monthly Workshop Series-Wellness Workshop and mid-semester check-in
- Reflect, Restore and Unite Gallery Walk and project on-campus
- Assist Rising Scholars students with transfer applications through workshops with UCSD Underground Scholars and SDSU Project Rebound

Borderless Scholars

- 11/18/21 | Borderless Scholars in collaboration with JFS/HELs (Jewish Family Services/ Higher Education Legal Services) continue to promote FREE Immigration Legal Services to 451 Borderless Scholars Students. To learn more about this service, please contact the EOPS Office to speak to one of our Borderless Scholars Team members or access the following link to schedule an appointment: www.jfssd.org/HELs.
- 11/12/21 | Borderless Scholars Team held a Financial Aid CA Dream Act Application Workshop. The Financial aid workshop was tailored for current and prospective Undocumented Students. The attendees learned about the Dream Act Application, CCPG, Grants, and Scholarship opportunities. The workshop was presented by our Borderless Scholars counselor Clemente Ayala.
- 11/5/21 | Borderless Scholars Team held a Transfer Workshop. The workshop was tailored for current and prospective Undocumented Students. The attendees learned how to submit their transfer Application, what requirements are needed to apply, and how the process works. The workshop was presented by our Borderless Scholars counselor Rosa Palacios.
- 11/12/21 | Borderless Scholars partnered up with Work Based Learning and presented a workshop open to all students about learning and preparing for different types and forms of job opportunities. The event was facilitated and prepared by Pavel Consuergra and Shawn Fawcett.

STAR TRIO

- 11/2/21 & 11/9/21 – STAR TRIO hosted two “STAR TRIO Meet & Greet” workshops as part of the Bolster Your Confidence for a Safe Return” for participants to meet other students, staff, learn more about STAR TRIO services, requirements, and a community discussion for a safe and successful return to campus.
- 11/9/21 & 11/16/21 – As part of the Bolster Your Confidence for a Safe Return, STAR TRIO hosted two “Getting to Know Yourself” workshops. This workshop supported participants to identify their values, skills, motivations, and goals and ways to share what they learned in personal statements, scholarship essays, and university applications.

Innovations & Data

NextUp & FAST Scholars

- Fall 2021 enrollment numbers
 - FAST Scholars Enrolled 25
 - NextUp Scholars Enrolled 21
- Pre-Admitted New Potential FAST & NextUp Scholars
 - FAST & NextUp Scholars 17

STAR TRIO

- STAR TRIO welcomed around 15 new students this month by participating in the STAR TRIO Orientation.
- 25+ STAR TRIO Students have participated in workshops and tutoring services hosted by STAR TRIO.

Policies & Procedures

STAR TRIO

- STAR TRIO Coordinator and Counselor, Chris Kalck, outreached to learning communities such as UMOJA, Student athletes, and diverse personal growth classes to inform student about STAR TRIO services and program requirements.
- STAR TRIO Coordinator and Counselor, Chris Kalck, participated in the following trainings: WESTOP SoCal Professional Development Series, TRIO New Director's APR Training, and the TRIO Renaissance Legislation and Regulations Training.
- STAR TRIO is accepting application for the academic year 2021-2022. Students can apply online by visiting our STAR TRIO website.

Student Success Stories

EOPS

- EOPS and Rising Scholars student, Frank Garcia, thanked our EOPS program for sharing all of the wonderful resources available to students on campus. He attended the recent EOPS workshops and highly recommends them to other students. He also attended the Thanksgiving Feast hosted by Associated Students and Student Affairs and expressed his gratitude towards the Mesa community.

NextUp & FAST Scholars

- To date \$50,000+ have been returned to NextUp and FAST Scholars after successfully petition for their financial aid to be reinstated.

Special Recognition

- Thank you to Malik Shabazz for all they have contributed to EOPS, Rising Scholars and the Mesa Community. We hope you flourish in your next journey ahead in San Francisco. We will miss you!
- Happy Holidays to all our colleagues in Student Services!
- A special thanks to the awesome Mesa College teams that continuously collaborate with our Borderless Scholars Program. Thank you for the amazing teamwork, the support, and collaboration in facilitating meaningful and helpful information for Dreamer students.
- We are happy to announce that our Dream Resource Center will be hosting its grand opening Tuesday, December 7th from 11am - 3pm in room I4-204. Please stop by in person or over zoom to celebrate this grand event.
- STAR TRIO would like to thank Petra Montgomery for her authentic assistance to our STAR TRIO students and staff during her assignments at Mesa College.

Evaluations

Employee Updates

- The Transfer/Career/Evaluations welcomed Project Assistant Ayana Woods to the team. Ayana has a Bachelor of Science from Howard University and is currently taking courses to apply for the Medical Assisting program at Mesa. Ayana works closely with the Career Center but also supports our Transfer and Evaluations department. Please join me in welcoming Ayana to the TCE Family!

Events & Activities

- The San Diego Mesa College 2022 Commencement Ceremony is planning to be held on campus. The Commencement Team is working on logistics and will share with the campus as the event gets closer. In the meantime, students who wish to participate in the upcoming commencement must complete their degree and/or certificate requirements by fall 2021, spring 2022, or summer 2022 and have applied for graduation. Students can find more information on the Evaluations website here: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/evaluations/apply-for-degree.shtml>

Policies & Procedures

- Student Petitions
 - All student petitions and forms are electronic. However, most petitions require students to meet with a Counselor before submitting. Students can find the forms and submit them through our District's Form's and Document's site: <https://www.sdccd.edu/students/forms-and-documents.aspx>.
 - For more information on the types of petitions, please visit the Evaluations Student Forms/Academic Petitions here: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/evaluations/forms-and-petitions.shtml>
- Graduation
 - Please encourage students to apply for graduation - applying for graduation is a required step for students earning a degree and/or Certificate of Achievement. Below are the 2021-2022 Apply for Graduation deadlines:
 - February 15, 2022 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation for students transferring to a CSU in Fall 2022 who are completing an Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) or an Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T). Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT).
 - March 15, 2022 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and ensure your name will be included in the commencement program. **Students filing after this date, but before April 30, 2022 will still be Spring 2022 graduates, but their name may not be in the Commencement Program.**
 - April 30, 2022 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and be a Spring 2022 graduate. Students filing after this date will be a Summer 2022 graduate.

- July 31, 2022 - Deadline to Apply for Graduation and be a Summer 2022 graduate. Students filing after this date will be Fall 2022 graduates.
- Students apply for their degree/certificate through their mysdccd portal under the, "My Academics" tab. Students should follow deadlines above that align with their path. Please encourage students to meet with a Counselor and apply early. Student's can watch this quick tutorial on applying for graduation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI2S4GGSi7M>
- How to students check their graduation status? Students can apply and view their graduation status through their student portal. Under the "My Academics" tab on the College Student Dashboard, click "View Graduation Status". Students should meet with a Counselor if they are unclear of their status.
- The District Evaluator Alphabet (for internal use):
 - Thu Nguyen...A,H,V
 - Christina Hambrick...B,F,N
 - Daniel Borbon Ibarra...C,D
 - Mary (Maggie) Stone...E, G
 - Helen Houillion...I,K,M,Y,Z
 - Hilda Osuna...J,L,T,U
 - Ryan Zimmerman...O,P,Q,R
 - Christina Monaco...S,W,X

Financial Aid

Employee Update

- Laura Cormode, SAT, retired on 11/15/2021. She'll be missed.
- Thanks to the allocation of HEERF funding and in a partnership initiated by the Outreach Office three (3) Project Assistants were hired and are in training to assist students with the Promise Program requirements. We welcomed Delany Lizarraga, Lawson Hardrick and Wendy Lizarraga-Hidalgo.
- While we find a replacement for Brianna Garcia, the Cal Grant program processes are being completed by Julissa Samano who is also responsible for the monthly reconciliations of the Federal Direct Student Loan Program and by Pilar Ezeta (Supervisor), they are both going over extensive and intensive program refreshers of program processes at the CS and CSAC levels.
- Open positions update: completed the interview process for the SAT position (Laura's position) and the selected the candidates that will move forward to interview for the SSA (Brianna's position).

Events & Activities

- Provided students with two SAP Appeal's workshops; provided students with three "Call to Action" window times to meet with Pilar; four staff will be participating in the Federal Student Aid Conference for 22-23 processing updates and invited District Office staff responsible for the compilation and submission of the IPEDS report to attend a session on the subject.
- CSAC's Program Review for the 2019-2020 Cal Grant Program - Bachelor Level was completed with no findings.

Innovations & Data

- As of 11/19/2021, students received \$857,755 in direct funds to the students.
- We continue to find ways to stretch out and service our students in the midst of a diminished staffing levels. Laura's letter assignment were distributed to the Skyler Dennon (currently in an out of class assignment as a Tech after Florisel Guzman resigned last December) with the Techs completing the components that require access to federal websites and professional judgement decisions.

Policies & Procedures

- Pending 22-23 change notification as several of the administrative relief granted under COVID will not carry-forward.

Special Recognition

- To the SSA super team players, Lupe and Jessica going above and beyond to fill the staffing gaps helping students. To Sky, Julie, Pilar for taking an ever increasing work load and responsibilities to keep the students harmless to the best of our abilities. To Jacob for quickly learning and effectively completing the monthly Pell Grant reconciliation process. To Thuy and Randall for their timely review of the weekly files with a Return of Title IV calculation and the all the techs

who assist for cross-training. To Dean Victoria Miller and VPSS Hands for their fearless advocacy efforts presenting our need to be fully staffed. To Dean Victor DeVore for his valuable help, understanding and advocacy efforts with District Offices inter-related processes.

Outreach & Community Relations

Events & Activities

Outreach

- The Outreach staff continues to provide students services onsite and virtually via ZOOM and through our social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram. The staff have provided personalized sessions as well as group sessions to current students, prospective students, and community members. It's been great to connect with students in different modalities and we look forward to continuing this good work.
- November 3 (Hoover High School Visit): MT2C in collaboration with Outreach had the opportunity to host Hoover High School students who are currently enrolled in the Education Work 270 course. We saw over 45 students, Outreach Staff Van Chhum, Phoebe Truong, and Ami Lobue, Zain Almasarani were able to serve the students with a presentation (Kahoot), and campus tour. The visit was intentional and meaningful, students were elated to take part in an onsite visit.
- November 17 (SDUSD Presentation to Head Counselors): Outreach Staff, Van Chhum had the opportunity to present to the Head Counselors from San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Van was able to share on Mesa programs and services, SD Promise as well as campus updates. Overall the presentation went well and many of the attendees expressed interest in Mesa College.
- November 18 (Mesa Noches de Información: EXPO 2021 PFLC TIJUANA): Outreach Staff, Karla Trutna, Joel Vera Gonzalez, and Daniela Castellanos took part in the first of a series of Mesa Information Nights/Mesa Noches de Información during the "EXPO 2021 PFLC Tijuana." During this zoom meeting, we had students and instructors, all eager to learn more about Mesa College and all it has to offer its students. The reception was so great, we will be scheduling more sessions in the month of December.
- November 19 (District Ambassador Training): Mesa College Outreach participated in the quarterly Outreach training. This month's training was hosted by our District Outreach team. During this training, we discussed new innovations, tips/tricks, and ideas to better serve our students virtually.

Promise

- We hosted 2 Promise Coffee Hour sessions to connect with Promise students, provide program updates, and share information about Mesa College Student Services. We had the following special presenters: Olivia Picolla, Raquel Sojourner, and Kristy Carson join us at our two sessions to introduce Transfer, Career, and Evaluations and also provide updates about different services and events. Promise students also participated in our study sessions to be midterm ready!

Innovations & Data

Outreach & Promise

- Updated Promise cohort numbers—Year 1: 683; Year 2: 535

Policies & Procedures

Promise

- Students who did not successfully submit a financial aid application for 2021-2022 to Mesa College must do so by the end of Fall semester, or they may be dismissed from the program. Students in this situation have been notified via email.
- Early high school graduates entering Mesa College in Spring 2022 who are eligible for the San Diego Promise may now apply. They can visit our website for more information and the application link: <https://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/promise>. Deadline to apply is January 24.
- Students who were awarded funds in the campus bookstore have till the end of Fall semester to use the funds. Any funds remaining after the end of the semester will be disbursed via check or direct deposit to the students. Students with a remaining balance have been notified via email.

Student Affairs

Events & Activities

- **Restore Reflect Unite Week**
 - Reflect, Restore, & Unite Week was a collection of events presented by Student Affairs from November 1st to November 5th that was designed to explore and expand upon the concepts of Restorative Justice in order to reflect, restore, and unite as a community. Restorative Justice Practices embrace community building, empowerment, participation, and accountability. Events incorporated many different community-centered topics, including arts and media, social justice education, and interpersonal connection through the Black Student Forum, the Restoration and Inspiration Gallery Art Project, and the Mesa Reads Book Club.
- **Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week**
 - Mesa College Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Basic Needs Resource Center & Student Health Services, coordinated a week of events from November 15th through November 19th in honor of Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week! This is an annual program where people come together from across the country to draw attention to the nation-wide problems of hunger and homelessness through education, service, fundraising, and advocacy. This week of events provided opportunities to get a seasonal flu shot, pick up a free pre-packaged meal for Thanksgiving, or join us for an afternoon tour of the San Diego Rescue Mission! There will also be opportunities to connect with the campus community through the Warm & Fuzzy gift package distribution and hygiene donation drive.
- **AS Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway**
 - Through a partnership with San Diego Mesa College Associated Students, San Diego Mesa Culinary Department, and The Stand: Basic Needs Resource Center, Student Affairs once again coordinated the now-traditional Associated Students Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway on Thursday, November 18th. This collaboration enabled us to provide 300 individually-packaged Thanksgiving meals (made by Mesa Culinary) and more than \$5000 worth of grocery cards (provided by The Stand) free of charge to Mesa College students.
- **Mesa Homecoming**
 - Members of the Mesa College Associated Students were present at the Homecoming Game on Saturday, November 6th, to encourage and cheer our Mesa Athletes with a festive environment by decorating the stands and handing out commemorative t-shirts to students who attended the game.

Innovations & Data

- Our Reflect, Restore, & Unite Week! This was a new way in promoting and educating our campus on restorative practices. The week was engaging, informative and fun! It was a collaborative partnership with Student Services and Instructional Services

Special Recognition

- Thank you to Alex Napoles for all his help in getting our Student Affairs web cameras up and running! WE THANK YOU!!

Student Development

Events & Activities

- Dean of Student Development collaborated with Veterans Services team on the November 10th Campus Community Forum highlighting student veterans in honor of Veterans Week.
- Dean of Student Development, along with Vicki Hernandez, and Jordan Agricola were part of the SDCCD Board of Trustees Presentation on the tour of the Veterans Resource Center.

Special Recognition

- Many thanks to Vicki Hernandez and the Veteran Services Team for doing a fantastic job in this year's veterans weeks activities.
- Thanks to Jordan Agricola for organizing a wonderful panel of our student veterans alumni.
- Many thanks to Erika Higginbotham, Isaac Arguelles Ibarra, and Sandy Ricketts for presenting at the joint school meeting on Ableism 101.

Student Health Services

Events & Activities

- Student Health Services invited Janel King, LMFT Chief Executive Officer & Co-founder of Urban Restoration Counseling Center to present about Managing Life and Many Challenges workshop in collaboration with Student Affairs Right & Responsibilities Week. Janel spoke to students and participants on the importance of taking care of your own mental health and practice self-care.
- Active Minds club members provided mental health presentations to their peers about social anxiety during holiday gatherings, setting up boundaries, and time management with school and work.
- Suzanne Khambata, FNP and her nurse practitioner student provided Free Physical Fridays for students who needed a head to toe assessment/examination and education.
- Student Affairs and Basic Needs Resource Center invited Student Health Service registered nurse Renee Dean, to provide free seasonal flu shots to students for Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week.

Innovations & Data

- Free flu shots are provided daily to current students. Student Health provided 33 additional seasonal influenza vaccine for students.
- Front office staffs are working with Mediat electronic health record vendor to work out technical issues to improve workflow for providers who are working on and off campus. Mental Health counseling and medical services are fully using Mediat for charting on students.
- Student Health has fully transitioned over to the electronic health records. With data collected through Mediat, Student Health served 348 students this month. We are available for all students for in-person and tele health appointments until the end of the semester.

Policies & Procedures

- Linda Gibbins Croft LCSW attended the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services Transition Age Youth (TAY) Behavioral Health Services Council meeting provided by the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency about Adult Mental Health.

Student Success & Equity

Employee Updates

- The Stand was sad to say goodbye to Basic Needs Ambassador Krystal Mucha. We were excited to welcome Ariel Guzman as new Basic Needs Ambassador.

Events & Activities

- Presented to the BSSW on Student Services Call to Action
- Presented to CEL on Equity Institute

The Stand

- **Direct Student Support**
 - The Stand continued seeing students through our direct student support program and have been providing students with books, supplies, foods, and other resources to assist with basic needs.
- **Market distributions**
 - The Stand is continuing to host the Farmers and Mobile markets as a drive thru model on the third level of the campus parking garage. These events are typically held the First Monday and Third Thursday of each month. We continue to encourage everyone to volunteer to support these events either by volunteering or informing students about the events.
- **72 Fifty**
 - The Stand has continued to offer \$25 vouchers to 72 Fifty each week. To date have provided 183 individual students with vouchers for the fall 2021 semester.
- **Kitchens for Good**
 - The Stand is receiving 200 frozen meals per a week to hand out to students for free. The Stand has partnered with the Exercise Science Department to get 100+ meals out to student athletes. The Stand continues to supply Exercise Science with meals for the student athletes and just began stocking the freezer in the VSC with meals for our student veterans.
- **CalFresh Ambassadors**
 - The CalFresh Peer Ambassadors have been doing peer outreach through Instagram, Twitter, and Tik Tok. They can be followed at @SdMesaCalFresh
- **Workshops**
 - The Stand has continued a series of workshops under the theme of Bolstering Confidence for a Safe Return. In November the specific workshop included “Learning to Read Food Labels”. The workshop selection has expanded to include workshops being provided by EOPS, Star TRiO, DSPS and Financial Literacy. Additionally, The Stand has partnered with Feeding San Diego CalFresh team and SD City College to offer once a month CalFresh workshops where students can get hands on support and meet with county personnel to help get signed up for benefits on the third Wednesday of each month.

- **Special Events**

- The Stand partnered with Associated Students and Student Affairs to help support H&H week. We were able to secure \$5000 in funding from ECMC to provide \$25 grocery cards to pass out during events of the week. The Stand donated \$300 in gift cards to local eateries including the campus Cafeteria. Finally The Stand provided funding for the Thanksgiving meal to increase what AS was able to provide.

Transfer

Employee Updates

- Welcome Maci Gerber to the Transfer Team. She comes with a wealth of experience and has been a tremendous help with the Fall application open labs.

Events & Activities

- November is all about applications. We have application workshops 4 days a week except for Wednesday and Holidays. Students can also make 30 minute appointments for additional transfer application planning and support. There have been a full schedule of Transfer appointments hosted by CSUs and UCs all month long from application workshops, virtual transfer events to one on one sessions.

Innovations & Data

November data as of 11/19/21. Will change by the end of the month as November 30th is the application due date for most CSUs and UCs.

| Transfer Center Data | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counselor Drop-In Appointments: 54• Transfer Center Drop-ins: 221 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSU/UC Open Lab: 18• CSU/UC Open Lab Participants: 188• Chat Bot Conversations: 27 |

Policies & Procedures

- We ask students call in or join a workshop if they have transfer questions. We can provide immediate assistance and make that personal connection with our transfer students. Email questions can get cumbersome thus we prefer to keep it simple and provide the best and most accurate information through the phone or an open lab.

Student Success Stories

- Some of our intrepid Mesa students will start SDSU Main campus in spring of 2022. SDSU main campus opened up for Spring 2022. We had students complete the appeal process to apply and were later accepted. Congratulations!

Special Recognition

- Would like to thank our new student workers in the TCE for all their help with transfer season! Appreciate your teamwork. You make the Transfer Magic happen.

Veterans

Events & Activities

- Veteran Services had a week-long of events celebrating our student veterans at Mesa. We partnered with the Transfer Center to offer a workshop for veterans interested in transferring to four-year universities. We also had SDSU meet with our students for a presentation and then offered one on one appointments with student veterans. This year we offered a student veteran Alumni panel during veterans weeks which was a success. We had on average 15 students attend each of our zoom workshops we offered. We were also part of the Community Forum for November and highlighted our student veterans and program. We ended the week with our Soft Opening of our new Veterans Success Center and had approximately 70 students, staff and faculty stop by to see our new space.

Innovations & Data

- We have seen 59 students come into our Veterans Success Center for this month. We are continually marketing our space being opened for our students to utilize and hope to see a growth in usage next semester. We are certifying over 600 students and military affiliated for the fall term and have made contact with over 500 students via email, phone or virtual front desk.

Policies & Procedures

- As we move to on campus services, we are continuing to offer virtual services as well for students to contact us.

Student Success Stories

- As a whole students have commented to us in the Veterans Success Center how they have appreciated our continued availability to them during the pandemic and today by offering the virtual services and on campus services and resources. Our continued support assisted them with their success as a student at Mesa.

Special Recognition

- To our friends in The Stand for providing the meals in the Veterans Success Center for our students to have access to during the day. Thank you Johanna and your team!

Vice President Student Services

Employee Updates

- Thank you and Congratulations to our new Accreditation Standard II Team Leads: Ailene Crakes, Karla Trutna and Markus Berrien

Events & Activities

- Our November Mesa Student Services Council Meeting focused on Return to Campus, Integrated and Career Ed Planning and Year End Celebrations can be found on our [Agenda & Minutes page](#)
- Motivation & Morale (M&M) Committee
 - President Luster, the Student Services Leadership Team and the M&M Committee hosted a “Thankful Tuesday Taco Event” on Tuesday, November 30th at the Student Services Plaza. Student Services team members were invited to attend this celebration of our commitment to create conditions that matter for our students to succeed. We are grateful for everyone’s collective efforts in our transition to in-person services for our students. Happy Holidays!
- Student Services hosted our monthly Feel, Heal and Be Real dialogue series. This is a safe space for students, staff, and faculty to discuss issues of social justice and equity.
- Student Services hosted our Fall 2021 Principals Roundtable on Friday, November 7, 2021. SDUSD Principals from our Feeder High Schools are invited to join President Luster and others to discuss topics such as access and success pipeline data for SDUSD students, English and Math pipelines, San Diego Promise, and other updates. Generated great ideas and feedback for the future.
- VP Hands presented at the following events
 - Mesa College Campus Meeting for the SDCCD Board of Trustees
- VP Hands attended/participated in the following activities/events
 - Mobile Farmers Market
 - Mesa College Homecoming
 - Veterans Celebration Week Activities
 - Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week Activities
 - President’s Cabinet Retreat
 - Mesa College Holiday Luncheon
- VP Hands attended the following webinars/professional learning opportunities
 - Chancellor’s Office System Webinars
 - CCLEAD Fall Recognition Event 2021
 - Community College League of California (CCLC) Annual Convention

Innovations & Data

- Awarded \$46,000 in Vaccination Incentive Grants. We will hold monthly drawings through Fall.
- Awarded \$1,350,000 in HEERF Emergency Relief Grants. Additional campaigns will take place throughout the semester.
- Coordinated efforts to launch re-engagement activities through Motimatic
- Provided Constant Contact training to Outreach Department

- Mesa Live Chat is now on our [Mesa home](#) page! This will allow students to quickly find this service and connect with Mesa personnel member. We have already seen our usage almost double! Live Chat stats: 298 students assisted by Mesa Live Agents from Nov. 1 – 19.
- Two new tech tools have been added to the Student Services building (PaperCut Print station and KIC Bookeye scanner).
- Sent out e-marketing campaigns for H&H week and HEERF Funds
- QLess stats: 697 students served by our student service departments using QLess from Nov. 1 – 19.

Policies & Procedures

- In partnership with District, updated the following processes
 - religious and medical exemption
 - vaccination card & testing clearance