



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



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



## Monthly Update Highlights

### Employee Updates

- Several Admissions staff members are taking college courses via SD Mesa this fall semester, this speaks to our desire to understand and experience life as an SD Mesa Student and being a part of this community. The staff are avid learners and are wanting to grow.
- Barbara Plandor has retired after being the Counseling Supervisor for 42 years. We wish her well in retirement.
- Tyler Reuss is serving as a new adjunct counselor for STAR TRIO, Co Ly is a new tutor for STAR TRIO and Lauren Huey is a new office staff member for STAR TRIO!
- Outreach Ambassador Janelle Brown Peters has successfully developed relationships with community organizations to ensure our foster youth at Mesa College are a priority with receiving services, outreach efforts consist of and are not limited to the following:
  - Members of the Borderless Scholars team, Rosa Palacios, Danna Ley Arreola and Leticia Diaz, along with two students attended the Immigrants Rising CA Catalyst Annual Convening. This was an opportunity to gather resources and ideas to strengthen the support for our undocumented students.
  - We welcomed Jessica Gaffney as our new Promise Ambassador. She will be providing direct support to Promise students and assisting with programming for our 1,400 Promise students.
  - Student Success and Equity welcomes its new SDICCCA Intern Naomi Jordan.

## Events & Activities

- Starting September 30, Hot Spot Promise Counseling will be available in the Assessment Center for year-one Promise students. Hot Spot counseling is available Mondays in Assessment from 12:30-3:00pm and Fridays 12:00-3:00pm. Please let your year-one Promise students we welcome them!
- The fall 2019 Career Fest was held from September 23rd to the 26th. This week long event included the Majors @ Mesa Fair, a Resume Review and FREE Clothing Closet Tent, Employer Meet and Greets, a Networking Mixer, an Internship Fair and a Job Fair. Career Peer Ambassadors participated in Career Fest activities including two Resume Review Tents where they facilitated one-on-one student sessions, and assisted with carrying out the Internship Fair and Job Fair events.
- Thank you to all that joined us in celebrating EOPS' 50th Anniversary! EOPS was conceived as a way to help students, who were both educationally and economically disadvantaged, successfully cultivate a future through academic and personal development.
- Thanks to team Pilar, Brianna and Kesia, we had a very successful Fall 19 Financial Aid Information Fair. Over 400 students attended the activity, 306 completed the activity survey, the highest percentile ever.
- The Transfer Center is moving to CSU Application mode in October. Appointments will be limited.

## Innovations & Data

- To date we have 40 CalWORKs students enrolled in Fall 2019 courses. We are still receiving new students every day for both Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.
- DSPS students attended 218 counseling appointments and 472 drop-in services were provided. The DSPS test proctoring center administered 194 exams and the DSPS High Tech Center processed 20 alternate media requests.
- The Mesa Evaluations team created an Apply for Graduation tutorial video to assist students with the process of applying for their degree and/or certificate. Take a look on the Evaluations website here: [sdmesa.edu/evaluations](http://sdmesa.edu/evaluations). The Evaluations team shared the video with the district evaluators and sister campus and received kudos – it is a big hit!
- The Mesa College Inter-Club Council (ICC) has embarked on a transition from our traditional policies of managing the student clubs on campus towards a more equitable mindset. This includes proposing changes to the way that the ICC distributes funds through Vending 5000, how a club maintains its active status throughout each semester, and how the ICC will go about offering additional support services like trainings and workshops. This transition is an ongoing process and the ICC is dedicated to providing the best possible support to its constituent groups through collaborative development of our policies and procedures.
- The new monthly Comfort Tent (along with Rockin' Mini Horses) hosted 739 students. Students commented how the calming effect of the Comfort Tent eased their nerves at the beginning of the semester.
- In collaboration with Hai Hoang and the Office of Institutional Effectives, the Student Services Leadership Team engaged in an equity analysis of Mesa's 2019 Mesa Scholarship process with an equity lens. Our conversation will lead to long and short term process and outreach changes with the intention of leading to equitable outcomes for students.

## Student Success Stories

- Although the PN application won't be out until February 2020, current mentees are asking how they can become mentors. This is a direct result of the impact PNs have on their mentees. The Peer Navigator program expects a larger than expected pool of candidates for next year.
- We also wanted to share that through the efforts of our Athletic Counselor: Valerie Pallares-Herrera, and other EXSC personnel, one of our athletes has become an NCAA Qualifier!
- Counselor Markus Berrien was able to assist a homeless foster youth with housing and she will move into her first apartment on October 2, 2019.
- Many students are requesting letters of completion right now for their degree and/or certificates for employment matters! Earning an Associate Degree and/or Certificate is helping our students gain employment :)
- Veterans personnel met with VA work-studies in the VRC to solicit feedback from students regarding what type of veteran related services they would like to see at the VRC, including both on-campus and off-campus veteran-related services. Because of these conversations we will have the Mobile Vet Center and Vocational Rehab on campus this semester along with STEM related internship opportunities with DoD contractors.

# Admissions

## Employee Updates

- Several Admissions staff members are taking college courses via SD Mesa this fall semester, this speaks to our desire to understand and experience life as an SD Mesa Student and being a part of this community. The staff are avid learners and are wanting to grow.

## Events & Activities

- Cesar Gaxiola, Jordan Frodente, Elizabeth Jones, LaKeita Platts, and Raquel Aparicio attended the first Joint School Meeting for the year, where Raquel shared what Admissions does, who the staff are and how to contact them. Alexis Calderon and Dulce Lopez joined the Onboarding and Career Explorations workgroup. Admissions and Records had a bonfire on Friday, September 27 as part of our team-building initiative.

## Innovations & Data

- We enrolled 1,854 high school students into 81 class sections at 11 High Schools.
- We also handled 535 calls, saw 91 international students, 115 students wanting to clear their residency and 83 students needing to update their name/ssn/dob, verification of attendance, cross-enrollment and prospective inquiry.
- Health Information Technology started their application process for Fall 2020 on August 1 and we have 47 applications so far. The application is open until January 31, 2020.
- There were 12 petitions to challenge and 6 petitions for late withdrawal. We also processed 614 forms including 70 late add registrations, 13 change of course level within a discipline and 156 petitions to certify.

## Policies & Procedures

- We met with Karla Trutna to discuss Testing and Assessment proctoring challenge test. We are working on the final details to make this handoff. This will give students a quiet and designated space to come to for testing and will ensure that the challenge test can be proctored at all times that the building is open.

## Student Success Stories

- At the beginning of September, we had a little over 200 CCAP and ACP students with a discontinued application, this did not include the many who had not applied. Outreach went into the schools to help students and together we got all of the students active and registered.

## Special Recognition

- Cesar Gaxiola and Celine Ahearn took on the high school CCAP/ACP program. They reached out to the high school counselors and communicated with the faculty on updates on their rosters. They have created a timeline for future enrollment and are currently working on a CCAP/ACP SD Mesa Orientation and booster to present to the high school counselors and potential CCAP/ACP students. We also want to thank Dulce Lopez for her contribution at the beginning of the registration process.

# Assessment

## Events & Activities

- Collaboration with the Transfer Center and offering TAG workshops – The Assessment office collaborated with Mesa’s Transfer Center to offer nine UC/TAG workshops. These workshops covered the basics of filling out the University of California Transfer Admission Guarantee (UC TAG) application and answered students’ questions regarding the application and admission process.
- JobSpeaker workshop offered by CTE –As part of a regional Strong Workforce pilot program, Mesa’s Work-Based Learning held two student testing sessions of JobSpeaker (an online job search and career exploration platform).
- Counseling’s MBTI workshops – 40 Promise students joined counselor Terence Hale in the Assessment office for a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator workshop. The MBTI helped students understand their psychological personality type and learn what job tasks and work environments suit different personalities.
- Hot Spot Promise Counseling in Assessment - Starting September 30, Hot Spot Promise Counseling will be available in the Assessment Center for year 1 Promise students. Hot Spot Counseling hours are Mondays in Assessment from 12:30-3:00pm and Friday’s 12:00-3:00pm. Please let your year 1 Promise students we welcome them!
- Santana High School Visit - Assessment hosted 30 sophomores from Santana High School in their computer lab. They were provided with a Kahoot that showcased all that Mesa College has to offer and heard from Assessment and learned about the new CCCApply application.

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

## **Employee Updates**

- All Peer Navigators and SSSA are constant.

## **Events & Activities**

### **Peer Navigator Game Night**

**September 19th and 25th**

Thanks to the great connection Peer Navigators have cultivated with their mentees, over 90 students attend both Game Nights! Students were able to play retro board games with their PN and another student brought their video game device to share with others.

### **Peer Navigator Monthly Workshop**

**September 26th**

"Why Not Now?" A Time Management and Study Skills Workshop

As the first of many workshops this academic year, a group of PNs planned, designed and presented the workshop to lead students to be successful. There will be two more dates in October to better outreach to all.

### **Latinx Speaker Series**

**September 26th**

Dean Susan Topham was our guest speaker for the fall semester. Her narrative, not only powerful and inspiring, was also genuine!

## **Innovations & Data**

- 2019 Summer CRUISE surveys are being processed. We hope to report back findings in time for next report.

## **Student Success Stories**

- Although the PN application won't be out until February 2020, current mentees are asking how they can become mentors. This is a direct result of the impact PNs have on their mentees. We expect a larger than expected pool of candidates for next year.

## **Special Recognition**

- Our SSSA, Alexi B. She continues to find new methods to help streamline program processes. Alexi created an online survey to gather PN feedback after an event. In turn, results will be used to improve events to best support our students. She does not get enough credit for her support and ability to provide thoughtful suggestions.

# CalWORKs

## Employee Update

- We now have three staff member, two adjunct counselors (Silvia & Crystal) and one program coordinator/counselor (Sasha).

## Events & Activities

- Participated in the "Majors @ Mesa Fair", by promoting CalWORKs services to students, staff and faculty.
- Participated and presented at Mesa's High School Counselors Conference. We had the opportunity to promote CalWORKs services and eligibility, as well as network with High School Counselors.
- Participated and presented at the "Circle of Care", for students who are in both the EOPS/Care program and the CalWORKs program. We had the opportunity to inform student of the program services as well as connect with to those who did not know of our CalWORKs program.
- Continue to attend Region X CalWORKs meeting
- Continue collaboration efforts with San Diego Continuing Education CalWORKs Program, and Mesa College Outreach Department.
- Continue collaboration efforts with the EOPS/CARE program, with DSPS, Financial Aid, and General Counseling Department.
- Continue working with Public Consulting Group (PCG), one of the county CalWORKs contractors, on strengthening Pathways and support services for incoming and continuing students.
- Efforts are being made to have a special workshop at Mesa College for all county CalWORKs contractors

## Innovations & Data

- To date we have 40 CalWORKs students enrolled in Fall 2019 courses. We are still receiving new students every day for both Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.

# Career

## Employee Updates

- We are so excited to welcome our returning Veteran Work Study Student Aide, Christopher Tinoco, and new Federal Work Study Student Aide, Damien Lopez to the TCE family! They will be supporting the front counter of the Transfer, Career and Evaluations Center.

## Events & Activities

- TCE hosted a successful 2019 Open House on September 11th & 12th! Over 200 students and guests attended our beach-themed event where they participated in fun activities, learned about our services, and obtained free giveaways and food. It was a splashing good time.
- TCE won 2nd place in the Spirit Week Office Decorating Contest! Shoutout to the Career Ambassadors for their creative ideas and enthusiasm at Mesa College.
- The fall 2019 Career Fest was held from September 23rd to the 26th. This week long event included the Majors @ Mesa Fair, a Resume Review and FREE Clothing Closet Tent, Employer Meet and Greets, a Networking Mixer, an Internship Fair and a Job Fair. Career Peer Ambassadors participated in Career Fest activities including two Resume Review Tents where they facilitated one-on-one student sessions, and assisted with carrying out the Internship Fair and Job Fair events.
- For the job fair, students who checked-in at the Career Center tent were given a “Job Fair Passport.” The “Passport” is something new we implemented to encourage students to visit at least 3 employer booths. Below is a list of all 48 employers who attended the Job Fair:

1. Belmont Park
2. Benihana, Inc
3. Brady SoCal, Inc
4. California Department of Tax and Fee Administration
5. Cambrian Homecare
6. CCS Global
7. Childcare Careers
8. City of SD Fire Rescue Dept/Lifeguard Services Division
9. Curology
10. Dependable Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning
11. Evans Hotels, The Lodge Torrey Pines
12. Fred Finch CARES
13. Greyhound Adoption Center
14. Harmonium Inc
15. Home of Guiding Hands
16. Intelicare Direct (ICD San Diego)
17. KB Way Supported Living Services, LLC
18. Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants
19. Los Angeles Police Department
20. MAAC
21. Mad Science of San Diego
22. MeBe San Diego
23. MedWatchers
24. MUFG Union Bank
25. Neighborhood House Association
26. Noonan Family Swim School
27. Ontrac
28. Partnerships with Industry
29. Quantum Design, Inc
30. Ridge City Preschool and Daycare
31. Riverside County Sheriff
32. San Diego Convention Center
33. SDCOE PASS AmeriCorps Program
34. SDCOE Outdoor Education
35. San Diego Humane Society
36. San Diego Unified School District
37. Sharp Healthcare
38. Sleep Data, Inc.
39. Spectrum
40. Surglogs
41. Target
42. The Arc of San Diego
43. UC San Diego Housing Dining
44. United Security
45. VCA Animal Medical Center of El Cajon
46. Waterworks Aquatics
47. Western & Southern Life
48. YMCA Of San Diego

### **Fall Career Workshops:**

- These career counselor led workshops will cover the following topics: Career and Major Exploration, Personality Type and Career, Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Job and Internship Searching and Networking on LinkedIn. Please send your students our way. Students sign up through the Mesa web calendar, at the Career Center (I4-306) or call us at 619-388-2777. All workshops are held in the Career Center.

### **Innovations & Data**

Total of 19 new employer contacts were made during this month through our online job board, “Mesa Job Network.”

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. A Reason to Survive (ARTS)   | 11. Salk Institute for Biological Studies |
| 2. Caledonian                   | 12. San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter    |
| 3. Enterprise Holdings, Inc.    | 13. Sharp HealthCare                      |
| 4. I Love A Clean San Diego     | 14. Skyline IT Services                   |
| 5. Marque Urgent Care           | 15. Tap Fever Studios                     |
| 6. MilliporeSigma               | 16. Target                                |
| 7. Montbleau & Associates, Inc. | 17. The San Diego River Park Foundation   |
| 8. Pacific Shore League         | 18. The Sherwin-Williams Company          |
| 9. Pathway Vet Alliance         | 19. United States Youth Volleyball League |
| 10. PetCoach                    |   |

### **Job Postings on Mesa Job Network:**

- A total of 95 jobs were posted by employers on the online job board to hire Mesa students and alumni. Students can create an account on <https://www.collegecentral.com/sdmesa/>

### **Career Ambassador Program:**

- The Career Peer Ambassadors facilitate peer-to-peer coaching sessions with students on job search, resume writing, cover letter writing, and interview preparation.
  - September total number of student sessions: 34 sessions
  - Total hours spent on coaching sessions: 28 hours
  - Number of completed assessments collected: 25 assessments
  - Total number of hours in training sessions: 20 hours
  - Total number of hours working projects/events: 87 hours
  - When Career Ambassadors are not holding sessions, they are working on career center projects and assisting with event planning, and outreach activities.

### **Career Fest:**

- We had an estimate of 300-400 student attend the job fair. 88 students participated in completing a passport form which then made them eligible for an opportunity drawing. The “Passport” was an optional activity at our Job Fair. There were 15 employers who attended the internship fair to offer internship opportunities to Mesa students. There were about 200 total students who attended the internship fair. There were about 150 total students who attended the following activities.
  - Employer Meet & Greets: Tuesday, September 24th from 11:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
  - Business: General Atomics, S&P Global Market Intelligence, Stone Brewing, The Pearl Hotel
  - Communication & Social Services: Cuyamaca/The Dojo Café/SDSU, Boys & Girls Club, Hubb-SeaWorld Research Institute, Just In Time Foster Youth, Moran Family Counseling
  - Fashion: Disguise, Haute2Wear, Personal Stylist/V-Style Blog, Vision Art Museum

- Health & Fitness: F45 Training, Fitness Quest 10, Strive Well-Being, Inc., UC San Diego Health
- STEM: Escondido Unified School District, Illumina, General Atomics, GeneWiz
- Networking Mixer: Tuesday, September 24th from 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Students mingled with Employers from various career fields.

### **Career Spots:**

- The Career Center has begun an exciting partnership with Career Spots to utilize their FREE Career Ready Guide. This is an interactive, online course designed to help students understand, assess, and develop the “power skills” also known as career readiness competencies, companies seek when hiring employees. The Career Center hopes to launch this wonderful learning opportunity and course to the campus in spring 2020.

### **Student Success Stories**

- After weeks of participating in career development training, our new Career Peer Ambassadors, Erin Nicole Vedar & Luiza Barreto Rodrigues have passed their performance evaluations! They will now be assisting with the facilitation of one-on-one peer-to-peer resume building sessions with students at the Career Center. We are so proud and honored to have you both on our team to serve our Mesa Community with your passion and commitment to promoting student success, equity and excellence. Thank you and keep up the amazing work!
- Many Mesa students shared positive comments about their experience at our 2019 Open House event. To share a few, “It was very vibrant!! I love how everyone was so energetic and welcoming.” “I enjoyed the clarity and the eagerness of the staff to help me learn and understand the services each department offered.” “So beneficial for students like me!” “It was informative, fun, engaging and interactive.” “I enjoyed the activities and food!” “Everyone was so helpful, positive, and friendly!”

### **Special Recognition**

- Thank you Amara for coordinating the new CAP training, and to Raquel, Kristy, Mary E., Alicia, Olivia, and Dee for participating in training sessions with our new and returning Career Ambassadors.
- Thank you to the Work-Based Learning Team for joining our 2019 Open House event.
- Special recognition also goes to Outreach Ambassadors and Peer Navigators for assisting our Career Fest events. We couldn’t have done it without you!
- Thank you Hai Duong, Graphic Designer/Photographer from Mesa College’s Communications Team for capturing fantastic photos of our Open House, Career Fest events, and Career Ambassador Program.
- Special thanks to our Communications Team and Printing Team at Mesa College for promoting our events on social media and printing our promotional materials in such a timely manner! You rock!
- This year, we also partnered with WorkAbility III, and we are thankful for their time in providing résumé review appointments to students. Thank you to Jamila DeCarli, WorkAbility III Coordinator, and her team for joining us during Career Week and helping students prepare their résumés. We would like to thank our very own Career Ambassadors and Career Counselors for assisting students with résumé reviews as well. In addition, we partnered with The Stand and provided free professional clothing items to 4 students during our résumé tents.

# Counseling

## Employee Updates

- Barbara Plandor has retired after being the Counseling Supervisor for many, many years. We are missing her now!

## Events & Activities

- Participated in the High School Counselor Conference on Sep 23
- Puente held its annual 'Day at the Bay Mentor Mixer Event' with Puente Mentors and motivational student speakers.

## Innovations & Data

- Drop-Ins Only: 1359
- Appointments Only: 458
- Total Unduplicated Contacts: 1738

## Student Success Stories

- The following is an email from a student who attended the workshop given by Adam Erlenbusch on September 20, 2019

My name is... I attended your presentation today and I wanted to say thank you for your time and powerpoint. Although I left early I am grateful for the time that I was there for. I really appreciate your time and effort. I think your prevention can make a difference and an impact. It made an impact on me, so much that it almost felt like you were talking to me directly. Quick little story after high school is when I started advocating for myself. Because I decided to act upon my words, now I feel stronger and confident. I feel brave. And I am very proud of myself and excited to become the person I strive to be. That is why I really appreciate your presentation because I feel like a lot of times we focus on things that don't or shouldn't matter and we forget about ourselves. So I was hoping that if you wouldn't mind I would really like a copy of the powerpoint. I felt like it helped me reflect and feel empowered and motivated. Once again thank your time and presentation it made an impact and an experience that I will always have.

- We also wanted to share that through the efforts of our Athletic Counselor: Valerie Pallares-Herrera, and other EXSC personnel, one of our athletes has become an NCAA Qualifier!

## Special Recognition

- Barbara Plandor!

# DSPS

## Employee Updates

- DSPS Nanc and Mesa College student, Courtney Russell has been awarded an accounting internship. We are very proud of Courtney as she is recognized for all her hard work and we wish her well as she pursues her educational and career goals.

## Events & Activities

- DSPS faculty attended the Chancellor's forum on September 16th.
- DSPS Coordinator, Erika Higginbotham, presented to Personal Growth 120 classes about the services that DSPS provides.
- DSPS Counselors Dawn Stoll and Rebekah Corrales convened the monthly Touchstone group to support students on the autism spectrum.
- There were 11 attendees at the meeting, where information about employment and campus volunteer opportunities was shared.

## Innovations & Data

- DSPS students attended 218 counseling appointments and 472 drop-in services were provided. The DSPS test proctoring center administered 194 exams and the DSPS High Tech Center processed 20 alternate media requests.

## Special Recognition

- DSPS would like recognize Janue Johnson and Katie Palacios for their support in promoting professional learning focused on DSPS at campus-wide workshops and events.

# EOPS

## Employee Update

- Tyler Reuss is serving as a new adjunct counselor for STAR TRIO, Co Ly is a new tutor for STAR TRIO and Lauren Huey is a new office staff member for STAR TRIO!

## Events & Activities

### EOPS

- September 5- Thank you to all that joined us in celebrating EOPS' 50th Anniversary! EOPS was conceived as a way to help students, who were both educationally and economically disadvantaged, successfully cultivate a future through academic and personal development. In 1969, Senate Bill 164 was enacted into law, establishing EOPS within the California Community Colleges system. The first EOPS programs were established in spring 1970 at 46 community colleges. Today, EOPS exists at 114 community colleges in California. EOPS is committed to provide student support services over, above and in addition to what is available through other programs. Stop by the EOPS office to pick up an EOPS 50th anniversary pin/sticker!
- September 30-November 15- EOPS Progress Report Appointment- EOPS students request their progress in their class from their professors and review it with their EOPS counselor.

### CARE

- September 24- CARE Welcome Back event- An opportunity for CARE students to meet the new CARE Coordinator, team members from EOPS and CalWORKs, meet other CARE students, and learn about fall services.

### NextUp and FAST Scholars

- September- Sade attended the San Diego Junior League of San Diego Solutions Summit. Solutions Summit is an event designed to support San Diego service providers and agencies as they address large-scale problems affecting our community's transition-age foster youth. The event was developed in response to community partner feedback and utilizes a collaborative model to leverage the knowledge of local experts in developing creative solutions-driven partnerships among existing organizations, stakeholders, and youth.
- Outreach Ambassador Janelle Brown Peters has successfully developed relationships with community organizations to ensure our foster youth at Mesa College are a priority with receiving services, outreach efforts consist of and are not limited to the following:
  - September 3 and 16- held office hours at the Walden Family services
  - September 5- YMC Youth and Family Services info session at FAST Center
  - September - NextUp Presentation to personal growth classes and participate in various resource fairs.
  - September 16 – NextUp presentation at the Foster Youth Joint Liaison Meeting at SD County of Ed.
  - September 26- NextUp Presentation at the Southeast Collaborative Meeting at O'Farrell Charter School.
  - September 27- held office hours at San Diego Youth Services.
  - September 13- staff and students from FAST Scholars and NextUp attended an on campus visit to California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM). CSU San Marcos was the first CSU in San Diego to offer

dedicated space on campus to foster youth with their Jan & Esther Stearns Center for ACE Scholars. ACE Scholars Services is an innovative, top-tier program at CSUSM designed to support former foster youth at a time when they need it most. The ACE program at (CSUSM) is dedicated to ensuring academic success for foster youth on campus. The purpose of our campus visit was to provide our students with valuable information about the campus and program services offered for foster youth. While visiting the campus students were able to interact with a former FAST Scholar and former NextUp student who transferred to San Marcos and is currently involved in the ACE Scholars program. Our former students were able to provide current students with their experiences in both programs and how they can transfer and receive similar supportive services. After the program presentation students were taken on a campus tour where they were able visit the different clubs on campus and sit in a class lecture. When asked if students would consider CSUSM they replied, "I did not know this campus had so much to offer. I hope I can transfer here next year. "Providing our students with an opportunity to visit the campus allows each student the opportunity to make a decision about their continued education. Students who did not plan to transfer were encouraged to transfer after attending the campus visit.

- September 30- Janelle, Kesia, Markus and a NextUp student presented at the San Diego Foster Care Education Summit. This year's theme, "S.M.A.R.T. – Science, Math, Art, Resiliency, and Technology" included powerful, energetic, and interactive programs that inspired and educated others on the impact and importance of foster youth participating in and experiencing programs in Science, Math, Art, Resiliency, and Technology.

### **Borderless Scholars**

- September 10, 17, and 24- Borderless Scholars hosted Undocu-Circles. Undocu-Circles is a space for the undocumented community & allies to come together and share community, space, and conversations around topics pertaining to current events, legislation updates, resources, feelings, and many other things.
- September 12-13- Members of the Borderless Scholars team, Rosa Palacios, Danna Ley Arreola and Leticia Diaz, along with two students attended the Immigrants Rising CA Catalyst Annual Convening. This was an opportunity to gather resources and ideas to strengthen the support for our undocumented students.
- September 30- Borderless Scholars hosted a Know Your Rights Workshop conducted by Alliance San Diego. Updates on immigration law was provided on the California Values Act, Real ID Act, DACA, Dream act, and much more.

### **Project Restart**

- September 13- Karen attended the SDICCCA Regional Restorative Justice Steering Committee. Members of this meeting consists of all higher education institutions that have programs and services for formerly incarcerated students.
- Building a resource database for formerly incarcerated students. If you know of any resources that may benefit this specific population please contact Karen Geida at [Kgeida@sdccd.edu](mailto:Kgeida@sdccd.edu).
- Outreach to WestCare which is a Custody to Community Transitional Re-entry Program.

## **Innovations & Data**

Follow us on Instagram @SDMesaEOPS!

### **NextUp and FAST Scholars**

- Three Mesa College professors have agreed to offer free tutoring to foster youth.
- One professor donated food to FAST scholars.
- Six professors offered to volunteer with FAST and NextUP.

### **Policies & Procedures**

We are accepting applications for CARE, NextUp, FAST Scholars, Borderless Scholars, and Project Restart on an ongoing first come, first serve basis. Thank you for continuously referring students!

Contact us:

Monday-Thursday: 8am-6pm

Friday: 8am-3pm

Room: I4-309 (619) 388-2706 [www.sdmesa.edu/eops](http://www.sdmesa.edu/eops)

### **Student Success Stories**

- Counselor Markus Berrien was able to assist a homeless foster youth with housing and she will move into her first apartment on October 2, 2019.

### **Special Recognition**

- A huge THANK YOU to Karen Geida for serving as CARE Coordinator for many years! For the 2019-2020 academic year, Karen will be the Coordinator for Project Restart and J Kontos will serve as the CARE Coordinator.
- Student Service Technician Blanca “Melissa” Zavala has continued to dedicate her time each day to ensuring students at the FAST Center receive access to support and resources to assist them with achieving their academic goals. Melissa, thank you helping us build this program.

# Evaluations

## Events & Activities

- Evaluation staff members participated in the TCE's Open House event. We helped students understand the different student petitions and processes within our district. The Evaluations team is excited for the fall semester as we prepare for Transfer Applications, our marketing campaign, website updates and more!

## Innovations & Data

- The Mesa Evaluations team created an Apply for Graduation tutorial video to assist students with the process of applying for their degree and/or certificate. Take a look on the Evaluations website here: [sdmesa.edu/evaluations](http://sdmesa.edu/evaluations). The Evaluations team shared the video with the district evaluators and sister campus and received kudos – it is a big hit! Our team is also beginning to work on our graduation marketing – keep an eye out for our Evaluations Marketing Campaign around campus. Have an idea on how to help students with their degree/certificate processes? Connect with our office! :)

## Policies & Procedures

- **Reminder #1:** All students must apply for graduation to obtain the degree and/or certificate they are pursuing. Applying for graduation is now electronic through the students MySDCCD portal. When working with students, please remind them to review deadlines and be sure to apply for their degree/certificate during their last year.
- **Reminder #2:** If you are working with a student that has submitted a petition regarding their academic plan, please remind students to check the status of their particular petition by viewing the “Advising Notes” tab on their MySDCCD portal – there they are able to confirm if their petition was approved or denied.
- **Reminder #3:** If you are working with a student who has been accepted or has transferred to a UC campus and needs to be IGETC certified, send them to the Evaluations Office and we will assist them.
- **Reminder #4:** Transcript Evaluations are currently taking 30 – 40 days for the full transcript evaluation upon the receipt of the request. Please remind students they will receive an email once their evaluator has completed the process. If students need to clear prerequisites in the meantime, they can do so in the General Counseling office.

## Student Success Stories

- Many students are requesting letters of completion right now for their degree and/or certificates for employment matters! Earning and Associate Degree and/or Certificate is helping our students gain employment :)

## Special Recognition

- Thank you to our District Evaluations team, Counselors, Staff, and Students for working together and being amazing every day!

# Financial Aid

## Employee Updates

- We will be hiring in the month ahead a new FA Technician.

## Events & Activities

- Thanks to team Pilar, Brianna and Kesia, we had a very successful Fall 19 Financial Aid Information Fair. Over 400 students attended the activity, 306 completed the activity survey, the highest percentile ever.

## Innovations & Data

- As of 9/27/19, we have disbursed \$4,599,705.16 in direct aid to students.

## Special Recognition

- Special recognition to Pilar, Brianna and Kesia for their work on the Fair, excellent work. To Scott Cho, Jean Healy, John Nye, James Blair for their quick and great help creating and perfecting the queries for the FISAP report, kudos!

# Outreach & Community Relations

## Employee Updates

### Outreach

- Ambassadors and Outreach Staff participated in the Fall District Outreach Training at Cesar Chavez Continuing Education. During this training, ambassadors were able to meet and participate in team building exercises across the District (City College and Miramar College). They heard from Myisha Butler about S.P.E.A.K., District Updates, as well as Financial Aid Training.

### Promise

- We welcomed Jessica Gaffney as our new Promise Ambassador. She will be providing direct support to Promise students and assisting with programming for our 1,400 Promise students.

## Events & Activities

### Outreach

In the month of September, Outreach ambassadors provided tours to over fifty prospective students and their families.

- September 21–
  - The Outreach Department at Mesa College was extended the invitation in collaboration with our District Outreach team to host a resource table at the Temecula Valley College & Vocational Invitational. This unique event was hosted within The Promenade Mall providing students the opportunity to engage and interact with over 250 colleges. Outreach ambassadors Tiffany Quintero, Delany Lizarraga, Darien Duong, and Lulu Romero took the lead to provide resources to over 3,200 students, prospective students, and parents.
  - Outreach ambassadors participated in the Mesa College Homecoming Tailgate event. Ambassadors Finn McDaniel and Samantha Ceron-Draeger had the opportunity to welcome students and their families to Mesa's homecoming game against L.A. Pierce. GO MESA!!
- September 23 –
  - Outreach in collaboration with CTE had the opportunity to host a resource table at the North County Coastal College & Career Fair. The primary focus of the event was to provide students, prospective students, and parents information about resources regarding career education and some of the job and career opportunities that follow. Outreach ambassadors Hernica Judan and Garrett McDaniel took the lead to provide resources to over 200 students.
  - Outreach in collaboration with Counseling, and the San Diego Unified School District hosted the second annual High School Counselor Conference. We had over 53 High School, Middle School, and Elementary Counselors from all over San Diego County join us. They had a warm welcome from Dr. Pamela Luster, Dr. Ashanti Hands, and Leroy Johnson. They also heard from Student Success & Equity, Assessment, Promise, CRUISE, EOPS, Counseling, CTE, Career, and CalWorks. In addition, we hosted them throughout the week of the 23rd, providing them with daily presentations from Transfer, EOPS, and Career. The conference was a great success and we want to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this effort.

- Outreach in collaboration with Work-Based Learning hosted The Majors Fair @ Mesa College. Mesa College extended the opportunity to the feeder schools to bus students to attend the event. We had the opportunity to host Madison High School and Mission Bay High School, we've bussed over 70 students to attend the Majors Fair and checkout some hotspot tours of various departments and majors.
- September 26 –
  - Outreach hosted Santana High School with a fun filled campus visit. There were over 30 sophomores from Santana High School who learned about Mesa College and all that it has to offer. Students had the opportunity to tour the campus and were able to learn more about Mesa College programs and services via Kahoot. They also had the opportunity to attend the Internship Fair.

### **Promise**

- September 16 –
  - Promise counselor Terrence Hale facilitated the MBTI Workshop for 40 students.
- September 20 –
  - Promise counselor Adam Erlenbusch facilitated the Building Rapport Workshop for 20 students.
- Other popular events for Promise students were the Transfer, Career, and Evaluations Open House, Game Night with the Peer Navigators, Club Rush, and the Ode to Living Mental Health Conference.
- Promise students must attend at least one campus engagement activity per semester. If you have campus events you would like to promote for Promise students, please send them to [sdpromisemesa@sdccd.edu](mailto:sdpromisemesa@sdccd.edu).

### **Policies & Procedures**

#### **Promise**

- Faculty will begin receiving progress report requests for Promise students so the program can provide more proactive support and acknowledge the accomplishments of students.
- Reimbursements have been processed for Promise students who paid for enrollment and student health fees out of pocket. Students can inquire about the status of their refund with Accounting.

### **Special Recognition**

#### **Outreach**

- We want to give a big THANK YOU to our SDUSD Counselor Conference Planning Committee: Leroy Johnson, Chris Kalck, Anne Hedekin, Van Chhum and our MC Gabriel Adona. You were instrumental in the planning and helped to make this year's event a great success.

# Student Affairs

## Events & Activities

- **Club Registration**

As usual, all student groups, both new and returning, at Mesa College are required to register themselves at the beginning of the fall semester. This semester there are thirty-four student groups seeking registration, including returning clubs such as Psi Beta and the Student Veterans Organization, as well as brand new clubs like the Taiko Drum Club.

- **Club Rush**

The Mesa College Inter-Club Council kicked off the new academic year with an exciting three days of demonstrations and activity on the Sunrise Plaza, including performances by the Tomiki Aikido Club and the brand new Taiko Drum club, which practices a traditional Japanese drumming art. Several clubs reported more than fifty new signups during the Rush, but the Rugby Club was the absolute winner with one-hundred-and-forty-four students signing up.

- **Inter-Club Council**

The Mesa College Inter-Club Council (ICC) has embarked on a transition from our traditional policies of managing the student clubs on campus towards a more equitable mindset. This includes proposing changes to the way that the ICC distributes funds through Vending 5000, how a club maintains its active status throughout each semester, and how the ICC will go about offering additional support services like trainings and workshops. This transition is an ongoing process and the ICC is dedicated to providing the best possible support to its constituent groups through collaborative development of our policies and procedures.

- **AS Elections**

The Mesa College Associated Students held in-house elections during September, seeking to fill vacant seats on their student senate; 10 new senators were elected by their peers this fall.

- **Constitution Day**

Mesa College celebrated Constitution Day, which is observed on exactly September 17 of each year, with a week of events including a moot court presentation by students and faculty from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, a voter registration drive by Student Ambassadors from Outreach, and constitutional displays hosted in the lobby of the Learning Resource Center. The contingent from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law presented on the case of Zarda Vs. Altitude Express, which essentially asks whether or not it is legal under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to fire someone because of their sexual orientation. This year's moot court presentation was the best-attended yet!

- **Spirit Week & Homecoming Tailgate**

Spirit Week is a series of activities and events on campus that promote and support the semester's Homecoming Game, culminating in the Homecoming Tailgate sponsored by the Mesa College Associated Students, which in this case took place on Saturday, September 21. These events included the Office

Decorating Contest, and the Spirit Rally on Tuesday, which coincided with our Constitution Day moot court presentation. Congratulations to Outreach for their winning decorations! The rally overflowed with exuberant energy and featured a thrilling performance by students from the Mesa College Dance Program. The Tailgate welcomed more than two-hundred guests, both students and members of the public, with free food, games, and prizes. Student clubs competed to win their own booth-decorating contest at the Tailgate, with Psi Beta and MEChA eventually tied for the winning spot. The AS even invited an ice cream truck to provide free soft-serve ice cream cones for guests during the Tailgate!

### **Special Recognition**

- Student Affairs would like to extend a warm note of appreciation to the facilities crew for helping set up, organize and clean up the entire Homecoming Tailgate and Football game. Jacqueline, Eddie, Roger, Junior and the entire facilities crew are always so thoughtful, organized and willing to accommodate our special requests. We appreciate you!
- A warm note of appreciation to Karla and Leroy for coordinating an exceptional Counselors Conference. They were both creative in their approach by hosting an engaging, insightful and interactive day of events! Awesome work.
- A very special Thank you to Gilda. She works around the clock (nights and weekends) to make sure our students are served, Department of Ed reports are submitted and still finds creative ways to collaborate with departments to ensure our students receive financial support. Thank you Gilda! Thank you to the Outreach Ambassadors and the Peer Navigators for representing San Diego Mesa College on KUSI NEWS! Tiffany, Yessenia, Stephen and Diego did an exceptional job sharing a warm Mesa College welcome to the entire San Diego Community. It was an early morning; however they were show time ready! GREAT WORK to their advisors Agustin and Karla for collaborating to make sure we had strong Mesa presence and enthusiasm.

# Student Development

## Events & Activities

- Dean of Student Development presented at the TCE team's retreat held in September on Everyday Leadership.
- Dean of Student Development presented to the SDICCCA interns on SSSP/Integration/SEA

## Special Recognition

- Special recognition goes to the Career Center and Work Based Learning Teams for working together to host the fall 2019 Career Fest! The event occurred during the week of September 23rd and highlighted Majors at Mesa, provided students with opportunities to have their resumes reviewed, meet with employers, learn about networking and internships.
- Kudos to Leroy Johnson, Karla Trutna, and the rest of the committee members for organizing the SDUSD HS Counselors' Conference which took place on September 23rd. The event was very well attended thanks to the collaborative efforts with SDUSD counselors.
- Many thanks to the Admissions team led by Ivonne Alvarez and Raquel Aparicio, along with the support that Cesar Gaxiola and Celine Ahearn provided in order to ensure the successful enrollment of high school students. Their dedication, hard work, and "can do" attitude made a difference in taking care of these students.
- Thanks to Ramiro Hernandez for partnering with CalVET and inviting them on campus to participate in this year's Veterans Week activities, along with planning for the future.
- Many thanks to the Mesa Evaluations Staff Olivia Picolla and Dee Salazar for assisting with the HIM Program's request to address the Legislative Analyst Office's report on baccalaureate programs. The assistance and support you provided given the short notice is appreciated.
- Thank you to Olivia Picolla for developing a tutorial on how to Apply for Graduation using Powtoon. I love your creativity and ability to present this information in fun and innovative ways.

# Student Health Services

## Events & Activities

- Aurora San Pedro LMFT lead our team to produce "Ode To Living". This event hosted 158 students/staff/faculty from throughout SDCCD along with Community Agencies for a day-long interactive suicide prevention event. We lead off with a Mesa Cullinary Arts student made breakfast and Urban Beats (mental wellness through music). Resounding Joy lead a drumming circle and Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW had us all meditating with "singing bowls". Robin Perry RN and I were part of the "singing bowl" orchestra. After setting our intention for the day we rolled into presentation from Active Minds and then Survivors of Suicide Loss. The Center LGBTQ, Al-Anon, Urban Beats and Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW ended the day with exceptional, interactive games.
- The new monthly Comfort Tent (along with Rockin' Mini Horses) hosted 739 students. Students commented how the calming effect of the Comfort Tent eased their nerves at the beginning of the semester.
- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW provided suicide prevention presentations in the classroom twice.

## Innovations & Data

- Student Health Services attended to 709 students in our office.
- Linda Gibbins-Croft LCSW and Monica Woodruff AMFT created 2 new groups: Defining Depression and Grief.

## Special Recognition

- Special recognition goes to Aurora San Pedro LMFT for her amazing event "Ode To Living." I also want to recognize Mimi Vu, SSSA, who did all the ordering and arranging for the event along with Peer Educators Phuong Nguyen, Cynthia Arias, and Xochitl Bravo.

# Student Success & Equity

## Employee Updates

- Welcome to our new SDICCCA Intern Naomi Jordan

## Events & Activities

- Held first Stand Resource Center - Taskforce Meeting - Sept 3
- Hosted Joint School Meeting, SSE & Student Development - Sept 4
- Presented at President's Cabinet on Basic Needs Summit - Sept 17
- Attended, Education Equity Forum; Long Beach hosted by Ed Trust - Sept 19
- Held our first SET Committee meeting, welcoming new additions - Sept 20
- Kicked off the first cohort of the Leaders Engaging in Equity Practice (LEEP) Series - Sept 27
- Facilitated our annual SDICCCA Intern session focusing on Student Services - Sept 27
- Johanna and others attended #RealCollege Convening – September 28-29, Houston Texas

## Innovations & Data

### Direct Student Support

- For the fall semester we have reviewed 83 applications for assistance and was able to provide direct support to 64 of those students.

### The Stand

- During September The Stand had 1507 transactions and is currently serving 1327 individual students for the summer semester.
- The Stand: Farmers Market: In September we provide 13,451 pounds of free produce and shelf stable goods to 881 households.
- The Stand: Pop-up Market: This summer we continued working with The Ronald McDonald House as part of Feeding San Diego's Retail Rescue program. We are getting roughly 1000 pounds of food every Tuesday, which is passed out in approximately 20-30 minutes to 70-100 students. While everyone is welcome the pop-up market is primarily serving students.
- In September we held our first CalFresh sign-up all day workshop.

## Special Recognition

- Appreciate Hai Hoang and the research office for producing the equity report focusing on scholarship data. The report is very informative and thought provoking.

# Transfer

## Employee Updates

- Our new SDSU admissions rep was announced this month. Magaly Corro Flores. His first day at Mesa will be Transfer day 10/10/19. Please stop by Transfer day and say hello!

## Events & Activities

- We launched our TAG workshops with the help of the all the general counselors and the assessment office. Workshops were held every Friday as well as one another day during the week.
- Our first SDEC Tabling event was held in September. Seven campuses came and were able to make connections with students
- The Transfer Center supported Majors @ Mesa we helped recruit UC SAn Diego and SDSU reps for the event.
- The transfer center hosted UCSD, UCLA UCR and UCSC in this month. Thank ou Gity for keeping us so organized.
- TCE Open house was a huge success

## Innovations & Data

- Our first "Spilling the Transfer Tea" FLEX was held on Sept 6th. It was a success another will be scheduled for February 2020.
- Open Lab for TAGs will be held on Monday 9/30 this is new!

## Policies & Procedures

- We are moving to CSU Application mode in October. Appointments will be limited.

## Student Success Stories

- We have a UC Riverside Winter Quarter TAG admission victory! This doesn't happen a lot but it did! Go Highlanders.

## Special Recognition

- Thank you for Gity for getting all our rep visits organized. Much appreciation to Career Ambassadors for making flyer, fixing flyers and helping out with all things Transfer Center!
- Thank you to the counselors who supported the TAG workshops! Kirsten, Chris, Gabriel, Leroy, Nick, Miriam, Anthony and Kari

# Veterans

## Employee Updates

- Met with staff and discussed their individual goals, some of those goals included taking classes and interest in campus workshops (professional development and personal growth).

## Events & Activities

- Planned event in collaboration with TCE and University of San Diego to bring the five local universities (Privates, UC & CSU's) to campus to meet with student veterans. This event will take place on October 10 in front of the VRC.
- On October 25 a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will be on campus to meet with student veterans individually about receiving the benefit. This will take place in the Mini Conference room in 102

## Innovations & Data

- Started the process of a VA work study recruitment plan and on boarding process for student veterans in departments outside of Veterans & Records/VRC. I have placed 15 students across campus this month.
- Developed a hiring process for VA work study students, this includes a set of interview questions, job expectations and a training schedule for students hired for the VRC and Veterans & Records.

## Student Success Stories

- Met with VA work-studies in the VRC to solicit feedback from students regarding what type of veteran related services they would like to see at the VRC, this includes both on campus and off campus veteran related services. Because of these conversations we will have the Mobile Vet Center and Vocational Rehab on campus this semester along with STEM related internship opportunities with DoD contractors.

## Special Recognition

- Thank you to Gail Fedalizo for your willingness and eagerness to take on extra responsibilities with a smile this past month to help our student veterans with their transition and their VA benefits.

# Vice President Student Services

## Employee Updates

- This month we celebrated Barbara Plandor, counseling supervisor, as she retired after 42 years of service to our District and Mesa College.
- VP Hands will serve as a mentor for the Sponsor Transforming Academic Relationships (STAR) program. STARs are campus supporters and mentors who connect with Honors Students at least once per month during the semester to provide words of encouragement and support, along with guidance.

## Events & Activities

- Vice President Hands attended an ACCJC Team Training Workshop & participated on a Team Visit as a lead writer and assistant to the chair
- This month's Student Services Council Meeting included special presentations on Remembering our Joy, Basic Needs and engagement opportunities for responding to Students of Concern.
- Safety Floor Captains touched base with their departments to distribute the SS Evacuation Plan and ask if departments would like an active shooter training.

## Innovations & Data

- In collaboration with the Kyung Ae Jun from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, VP Hands and Charlie Lieu coordinated a plan of action for the October/November roll out of Point of Service surveys for select student services departments
- In collaboration with Hai Hoang and the Office of Institutional Effectives, the Student Services Leadership Team engaged in an equity analysis of Mesa's 2019 Mesa Scholarship process with an equity lens. Our conversation will lead to long and short term process and outreach changes with the intention of leading to equitable outcomes for students.
- Student Health Services established their new department email account: [mesastudenthealth@sdccd.edu](mailto:mesastudenthealth@sdccd.edu). The department already made use of the account and emailed students about their upcoming events and services using the backend database in Mesa Journeys!

## Special Recognition

- VP Hands attended and or presented at the following events/retreats and thanks the event coordinators for creating the conditions that matter for our students to succeed:
  - Provided a welcome at the SDICCCA Faculty Mentor Workshop, EOPS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Counselors Conference
  - VP Hands attended the Districtwide Enrollment Management Workshop, Chancellors Forum at Mesa College, the Fall 2019 President's Breakfast – Athletics: A Running Start to a College Degree, Transfer|Career|Evaluations Open House and the Innovation Research Lab Soft Opening
  - VP Hands attended the Advancing Racial Justice & Equitable Outcomes in Community Colleges Institute hosted by Mesa College and The Education Trust-West Education Equity Forum in Long Beach, CA
- Charlie Lieu, Eva Parrill, and Zulma Heraldez judged the office decorations during Spirit Week. Congratulations to the Outreach office for winning 1<sup>st</sup> place. Honorable mention to CTE office for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Humanities department for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun event and for showing your Mesa spirit!
- Dean Larry Maxey presented Mesa's Equity Plan to the Classified Senate. Thanks for sharing this important information and engaging Classified Professionals in this important work.