



Resolution 2025.9.1: Supporting Strong Workforce: Rachel Russell/Karen Wait (Updated 09/23/2025)

Move: Mongelluzzo

Second: Johnson

Whereas, San Diego Mesa College commits to supporting student equity and excellence,¹ and the breadth of career services currently offered to students requires sustained investment in programs that provide equitable access to career exploration and preparation throughout their academic journey² and recent statewide reductions in California Community Colleges' Strong Workforce Program funding have resulted in a 25% reduction of SWP funding for Mesa,^{3,4} therefore significantly affecting Mesa's ability to sustain essential career services programs, including the Career Peer Ambassadors, Mesa College Health and Wellness Community Clinic, Mesa Impactship Program, and Work-Based Learning Faculty Liaisons;⁵ and

Whereas, the Career Peer Ambassadors play a crucial role in expanding the reach of Career Services by providing peer-to-peer support, particularly among first-generation and underrepresented students;⁶ and students who received Career Counseling between 2021-23 had a 5% higher course success rate than students who did not receive counseling;⁷

Whereas, the Mesa College Health and Wellness Community Clinic provides Allied Health students from medical assisting, physical therapy assistant (PTA), and dental assistant programs with hands-on experiential learning opportunities prior to beginning clinical rotations; and the Clinic offers Physical Therapy and Dental health care services at a significantly reduced cost for adults and children who are uninsured or underinsured in our San Diego Community;⁸ and has been recognized by the district;⁹ and

Whereas, the Mesa Impactship Program (MIP) is an innovative, equity driving workforce development initiative that connects underserved students across all programs with paid, credit-earning internships, and comprehensive career support;¹⁰

Whereas, Mesa's Work-Based Learning (WBL) Liaison Program leads the district in ensuring that career preparation is woven into the fabric of academic life through dedicated academic school liaisons, strategic employer partnerships, and integrated experiential learning;¹¹ and students who participated in WBL activities had higher success and completion rates than students who did not;¹² and

Be it Resolved, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate urges the administration to prioritize sustained support and resources for the Career Peer Ambassadors, the Mesa Impactship Program, the Community Clinic, and Work-Based Learning Liaison programs;

Be it further Resolved, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate urges the administration to engage in transparent and inclusive budgetary planning that clearly outlines funding priorities and aligns with strategic plan objectives. This planning should actively uphold and prioritize existing high-impact, equity-driven programs in its decision-making processes

If you have any problems accessing the links below, please reach out to Rachel Russell rrussell@sdccd.edu.

Notes

1. [San Diego Mesa College's Mission, Vision, & Values](#)
2. Such programs directly align with [Mesa 2030 Strategic Plan](#) and [2022-2025 Student Equity Plan](#), specifically the Completion Objective 2 to "*develop cross-functional teams that support student success and integrate career and transfer counseling*," as well as the Pathways and Partnerships Objective 3 to "*increase community engagement, experiential learning, integrated career planning, and workforce training*."
3. [SDCCD Spring 2025 Action Item Update: Districtwide SWP Discussion & Planning](#)
4. In 2024–2025, the State Legislature approved a \$305 million reduction to SWP funding over the next five years. This results in a decrease of approximately \$10.5 million for SDCCD (\$7.6M Local, \$2.9M Regional), with Mesa College experiencing a nearly 25% reduction. [Strong Workforce Program Call to Action](#), October 2024
5. Presentation to SDCCD Leadership, "[San Diego & Imperial Counties Community Colleges Regional Strong Workforce](#)", November 21, 2024.
6. In 2024-25, Career Peer Ambassadors hosted 355 appointments for resume and cover letter writing, interview preparation appointments, job board assistance; and 32.1% of students who attended appointments identify as Hispanic/Latine and 8.2% identify as Black/African American. [Career Peer Ambassador Program Report, 2018-2025](#)
7. In 2021-23, students who received career counseling had a 79% course success rate and a 2.98 GPA. Students who did not receive career counseling had a 74% success rate and a 2.73 GPA. [Mesa College Career Counseling Student Services Outcomes Data Dashboard](#)
8. In 2024-25, the community clinic served 720 dental appointments and 122 physical therapy patients, totaling over \$100,000 in pro bono services and over 500 hours of hands-on student training.
9. [Mesa College clinic a 'win-win' for community, students](#), SDCCD Newsroom, August 21, 2024.
10. MIP supports 150-200 students per semester of whom over 51% identify as Black/African American or Hispanic/ Latine and over 70% are Pell Grant recipients
11. In 2023-24 this program supported 452 courses and 921 sections that provided WBL activities to 11,481 students, ranging from guest speakers, informational interviews, and classroom projects, doubling the previous year's engagement. [SDCCD Work Based Learning Dashboard](#)
12. Students who participated in WBL activities had higher success (77.5%) and completion (90.8%) rates than students who did not (75%, 89.2%) [SDCCD Work Based Learning Dashboard](#)

Presented to the Academic Senate: September 29, 2025

Approved by the Academic Senate: October 13, 2025

Unanimously Approved by Member Present and One (1) Proxy Vote:

Carlynn Allbee, Isaac Arguelles-Ibarra, Henry Browne, Katlin Choi, Jennifer Cost, Nellie Dougherty, Ian Duckles, Justin Estep, Jennifer Frost Moreno, James Hinton, Andrew Hoffman, Alex Holowicki, Dante Jones, Jesse Keller, Wendell Kling, Mariam Kushkaki, Sam Lee, David Lizarraga, Thekima Mayasa, Ryan Mongelluzzo, Danica Moore, Roger "Rusty" Nichols, Dave "Das" Odasso, Mychal Odom, Miriam Pacheco, Scott Plambek, Anthony Reuss, Michelle Rodriguez, Jessica Sardo, Scott Suarez, Ngoc "Kim" Tran, Richard Unis, Karen Wait, Michael Williams
Erin Evans (Proxy to Cristina Crosby)