

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

SUPERHEROES OF

EQUITY & EXCELLENCE

2015-2016

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT Profiles

ETHNICITY



Latino 35% · White 32% · Asian/Pacific 14%
Filipino 4% · African American 6%
American Indian <1% · Other/Unreported 9%

GENDER



52%

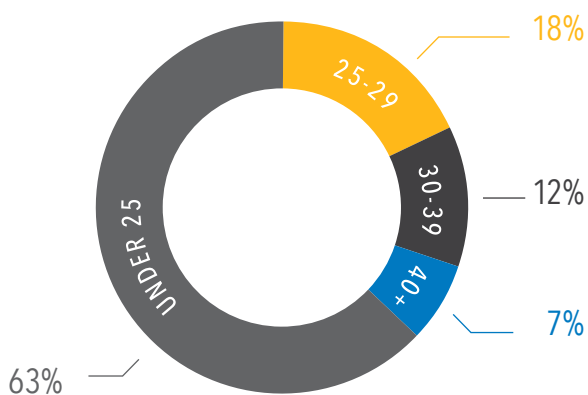
Female Students



48%

Male Students

STUDENT AGE



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



24%

Full time students



76%

Part time students



45%

Students Receiving
Financial Aid



27%

First Generation
College Students

FALL 2015 TOP SIX SELECTED MAJORS



2,175

Biology AA/AS



1,943

Business
Administration



1,539

Transfer



931

Undeclared
AA/AS



853

Psychology



828

Engineering





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2015-16 Overview



ABOUT Mesa College



STUDENT PROFILE



1909

of students who graduated in 2015



575

Total # of grads who "walked"



29

Valedictorians with 4.0 GPA



1978

of academic degrees & certificates awarded



19%

Increase in degrees awarded since last year



5000

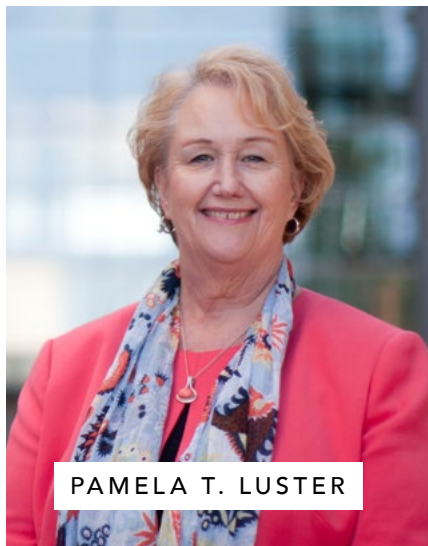
Total # of attendees at 2016 Commencement

Among the largest community colleges in California and the nation, San Diego Mesa College is a fully accredited, comprehensive two-year college serving 24,000 students and offering 196 associate degree and certificate programs. In January, 2015, Mesa College was among 15 California community colleges selected as a pilot site to offer a four-year baccalaureate degree. With its premier fine art and music programs, robust language and humanities offerings, and rigorous math and science curricula, Mesa ranks as San Diego's top transfer institution.

The college also serves as an important economic catalyst for the region. Its career workforce programs include a bachelor's degree in health information management and associates degrees in allied health fields, geographic information systems (GIS), biopharmaceutical, multimedia, animal health technology, American Sign Language, hospitality, culinary arts, fashion, architecture, interior design, and more. Situated on a beautiful, suburban 104-acre mesa in the geographic center of San Diego, the college's small classes, outstanding faculty, and reputation for quality offer an unparalleled academic experience. As a Hispanic serving institution, Mesa College is committed to becoming the leading college of equity and excellence and to the success of all students, including underrepresented students, and more than 2,400 veterans and their families. www.sdmesa.edu.



Letter from the *PRESIDENT*



PAMELA T. LUSTER

It seems that everyone is obsessed with superheroes, and I am no exception.

Growing up, I loved superheroes. As an adult, I have to admit I'm still fascinated and the first in line to watch the next movie.

But superheroes aren't just fictional characters we read about in comic books or see on films. In my fifth year as president of San Diego Mesa College, I can honestly say that I am surrounded by superheroes daily.

The superheroes at Mesa include people who work hard behind-the-scenes to make sure our campus sparkles, bills get paid, classrooms opened, the flag goes up every morning, and each student has an education plan.

In the classroom, they bring history alive, demonstrate plate tectonics, and challenge and engage students to bring their vision and dreams to life —

whether it is a fiber-optic dress design, a scientific poster, a poem, an essay, or a winning game, dance, performance or debate.

They create lesson plans, propose new programs and classes, write program reviews, and assure that our college is accredited, that our degrees are vibrant, challenging, and transferable.

Our student superheroes make it to class after working a midnight shift, they come to transition to civilian life after several tours of duty, they do homework with their kids, solve equations and formulas and carry heavy course loads. Some do this regardless of disabilities, financial hardships and not having a roof over their head. They do this because they believe, as we do, that education is the key to a better life.

Yes, not every superhero wears a cape.

And we don't need to look up in the sky to find a Mesa College superhero; we only need to look around.

In this report, we invite you to meet just a few of Mesa's superheroes. I hope they will inspire you to do just a bit more individually and as a community, and to join the Mesa Foundation to assure that all students have a better chance to be a superhero and change the world.

Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D.
President



Executive Leaders:

Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D., President

Tim McGrath, J.D., Vice President, Instruction

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D., Vice President, Student Services

Rachelle Agatha, CPA, Vice President, Administrative Services



Governance Leaders:

Rob Fremland, President, Academic Senate

Trina Larson, President, Classified Senate

Kim Perigo, Chair of Chairs

Igor Burgos Maron, President, Associated Student Gov't



SUPERHEROES of Equity and Excellence



Superheroes each have their own powers, but like the Avengers, when they unite and work together for the greater good, spectacular things happen. During the past year it seems that you can't walk across campus without someone talking about some achievement, some grant, or some new program involving equity or excellence.

Diversity, access and equity are among the 10 values of San Diego Mesa College. Faculty, staff and administrators embrace the mission of community colleges, are committed to becoming the leading college of equity and excellence, and to empowering our students to maximize their potential, leading to healthy and thriving communities.

College-wide efforts include:

- Creating the Office of Student Success and Equity. (2015)
- A commitment to diversifying our faculty and staff. 80 new contract faculty have been hired since 2014 — among them a majority of individuals from diverse ethnicities, races and gender identities.
- Partnering with the San Diego State University (SDSU), Center for Urban Education (CUE) as well as its Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) to create innovative equity-centered initiatives and embed equity-minded policies, structures, and practices across the college.
- Launching of the summer Course Redesign Institute. 24 multidisciplinary faculty were empowered to redesign their courses through an equity lens. (2016)
- Receiving a \$1.5 million College Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Grant designed to scale up English and math acceleration. (2016)





Blazing the Trail for California's Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program

Mesa College continues to blaze the trail for the 15 California Community Colleges approved in 2014 to offer bachelor's degrees in career technical fields. In Fall 2015, it was the first college to offer lower division classes in **Health Information Management**, and this fall, it will be the first to welcome the first junior level cohort. Mesa College will graduate its first cohort in 2018.



Learning Opportunities for Transformation

This spring Mesa College opened the **LOFT (Learning Opportunities for Transformation)**, a new home for professional development of faculty and staff in the Learning Resource Center. It's a new place on campus that's not for students and is not a classroom, but probably has more impact than anywhere else on teaching and learning, and student success.

The **LOFT** is one of the outcomes of research and self-evaluation conducted in partnership with the Center for Urban Education and San Diego State University Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3) on the college's impact on students from underrepresented minority populations. It was through this research that the college identified the need to expand professional development and training for all staff and specific programming for faculty, staff and administrators to support equity minded and inclusive practices.

The \$254,000 cost was covered by a Title V grant as part of the college's designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution.



Transfer Champion

It's official. Mesa College outranks all other California Community Colleges in terms of degrees for transfer, and was honored as California State Universities 2015 **"Champion for Excellence in Transfer."** The college conferred **691 Associate Degrees for Transfer** in 2014-15, ranking it top among the 113 California community colleges for having the largest number of students who earned degrees designed to transfer to the California State University system. Mesa also was recognized for showing a significant growth in the number of Associate Degrees for Transfer, year after year.



MAKING THEIR Mark on Mesa



SADE BURRELL

After being told that she had a greater chance of failing than succeeding, **Sade Burrell** chose to not believe opinions or statistics. At 15, the foster-youth chose instead to “live her own reality.”

She succeeded when many would fail, graduating from high school and community college, earning a bachelor’s in social work, and finally, a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California in 2015. She found her niche as a motivational speaker, a counselor and teacher.

Today, the advocate for change and champion for foster youth is doing just that for special student populations at San Diego Mesa College as a tenure-track professor and counselor.

Since she started in April 2016, Burrell has reinvigorated the college’s efforts to serve current and former foster youth, homeless college students and youth raised in guardianship. She’s creating a similar program for undocumented students.

Burrell is providing access to resources, scheduling workshops, and empowering students to form clubs, to get involved, and to pay it forward. She’s set her sights on scholarships, internships and community partnerships with San Diego Youth Services, SDSU, Price Charities and SAY San Diego.

“Sade is a trailblazer and one of our rising stars... a perfect example of how new faculty is indeed changing the face of Mesa,” said President Pamela Luster, who hired Burrell and 89 more tenure tract faculty since 2014.



Here's just a few ways **Mesa's newest faculty cohort** are making their mark on Mesa:

- **Mary Gwin and Ian Duckles** (Philosophy) have created new courses and revived dormant classes such as Philosophy of Science and Symbolic Logic, especially pertinent to STEM and computer science majors.
- **Waverly Ray** (Geography) champions sustainability. She co-directs the SEEDS Program, advises the student environmental sustainability club, and co-chairs the annual Canyon Classroom educational outreach event.
- **Michael Cox** (History) is initiating new student clubs, one with a focus on his area of expertise, Native American History.
- **Howard Eskew** (Business). After mentoring the winning students of the 2015 statewide business pitch competition, Eskew created Mesa's own competition for student entrepreneurs, "Idea to Innovate," and started the business club. He's lending his business acumen to the Mesa Foundation.
- **Lisa Shapiro** (Business) has authored three books, and is working on one based on 4,500 letters from local college students detailing their experiences of serving in World War II.
- **Pegah Motaleb** (English). Her colleagues are telling their students to "Be like Pegah!" – bold, persistent, diligent and passionate, giving 150% both in the classroom, in the Writing Center, in the Honors Center, and in everything she touches.
- **Uriel Ornelas** (French) is a statewide leader and national champion in the arena of French teaching and promoting sound instructional practices. He has infused French language and culture into the campus community.
- **Michael Harrison** (Spanish) and Gloria Kim (History) are helping to revive diversity efforts on campus, providing support and SafeZones for LGBTQ students.
- **N. Scott Robinson** (Music), creator and director of the World Music Ensemble, has given Mesa a new beat.
- **Jennifer Sime** (Anthropology) is organizing a symposium with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum to be held at Mesa in 2016.



RYAN MONGELLUZZO

- **Ryan Mongelluzzo** (Anthropology) is among the leading researchers of Mayan architecture. He has led several excavations of Mayan palaces and is working to create a field school for students in Ucanal, Guatemala.
- **Justin Estep** has helped to take the Mesa College Research Conference to new levels.
- **Helen Greenbergs** is the coordinator of the new Book Club, Mesa Reads, bringing people together to engage in literary discussion.

For more on Mesa's faculty experts, see www.sdmesa.edu/newsroom.

HOWARD ESKEW



MESA MARVELS Celebrating Our Stand-Out Superheroes

She is a six-time USA Track & Field Outdoor Women's Champion in the long jump, a three-time World Outdoor Champion, a three-time World Indoor Champion, the indoor American record holder, and the 2012 Olympic Games gold medalist, and 2016 Olympic Games silver medalist.

Oh, and **Brittney Reese** also happens to coach track at San Diego Mesa College.

"I love it here," said Reese, 29, who came three-quarters of an inch short of winning a second consecutive gold medal at the recently completed Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. "Mesa is a great place. This has to be among the top community college coaching staffs in the world. I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

"Reese underscores the commitment Mesa College has in setting a standard of excellence," said Renee Ross, Head Coach of Mesa's Men's and Women's Track and Field Program.

"We work very hard to get nothing but top-notch coaches in our program," Ross said. "A lot of people think that just because someone has an incredible background as an athlete, they're automatically going to know how to coach, but that's just not true. In Brittney's case, not only is she a phenomenal athlete, an Olympian with so many U.S. and world records, but she's also a phenomenal coach."



BRITTNEY REESE



MARCO CHAVEZ

Accounting technician **Marco Chavez** is the 2016 Mesa College classified employee of the year. In her nomination, senior secretary Mary I. Toste said of Marco, "He is always dependable, amicable, knowledgeable, and he is quick and patient in responding to questions. Any office would be lucky to have him on their team, in their office, and as a friend. So many people here at Mesa are really amazing, but Marco Chavez immediately popped into my head for really taking outstanding service to the next level."





SARAH FARMER & IGOR BURGOS MARON

To propose in front of thousands... Courage. That she said yes.... Priceless. More than 4,000 graduates, guests, faculty and staff shared their joy as alumna **Sarah Farmer** accepted student government **President Igor Burgos Maron's** marriage proposal at commencement.



JESSICA VALLEJO

Jessica Vallejo, a 2016 Mesa grad and member of the **SEEDS Scholars program**, received a \$40,000 fellowship grant which she plans to use to transfer to San Diego State University this fall. Mesa's **SEEDS** Scholar Program – an acronym for **STEM** Engagement for **Enrichment of Diverse Students** – is funded by a four-year, \$290,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the agency's program-building National Institute of Food and Agriculture. SEEDS is designed to attract underrepresented students to study and explore STEM fields that have been defined as high-priority areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jessica bested 20 other students in the program to win the award.



CARISA JAIMES



TINH-TANH PHAM-TRAN

Two of Mesa's top students were once again selected as members of the 2016 Phi Theta Kappa All-California academic team. **Carisa Jaimes** and **Tinh-Tanh Pham-Tran**, named to the first and second teams, respectively, were recognized for their academic, on-campus, and volunteer work at the Community College League of California's awards ceremony in Sacramento on March 24.



Mesa's Women's Water Polo team culminated their 2015 season with a 10-0 conference record, and a 28-3 overall record, and State championship. San Diego District 6 Representative Chris Cate helped unveil the championship banner along the wall of the Gym, and presented a proclamation from the San Diego City Council recognizing the team for their accomplishments.

AUGUST

Alum Sky Soleil (1999) stars in the major box office hit "Straight Outta Compton."



OCTOBER

Mesa debaters Tad Tobar and Eric Dickerson take first in Parliamentary Debate at the 2015 SDSU Aztec Invitation.

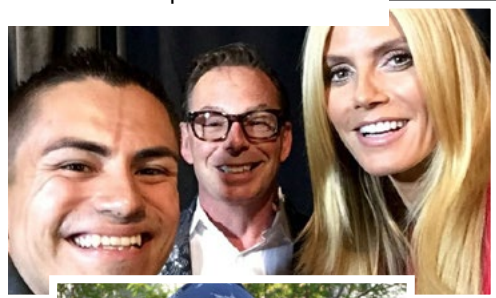
DECEMBER

UNLV signs its newest Rebel, Olympian standout offensive lineman, Michael Chevalier.



SEPTEMBER

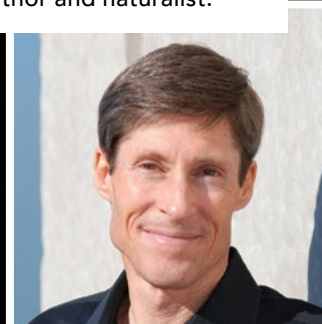
Fashion Design student Gustavo Villalobos's winning design takes the national "Brother Loves Fashion" Sweepstakes.



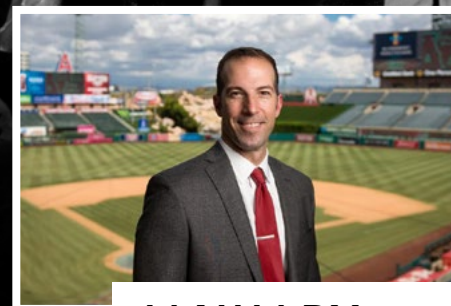
Aerospace engineering major David Mueller gets a taste for the stars at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as part of their Aerospace Scholars program.

NOVEMBER

The rooftop observatory above the M+S Complex is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Jerry Schad, author and naturalist.



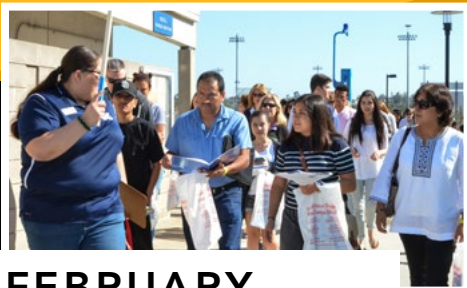
year in



JANUARY

Mesa grad and student athlete Billy Eppler is named General Manager of the Anaheim Angels baseball team.





FEBRUARY

Incoming freshmen got a chance to jumpstart their college education at a new event dubbed "Jumpstart Your Success."

APRIL

Mesa celebrates Earth Day all month long with a Canyon Clean-up, a series of talks, film screenings, activities and more.



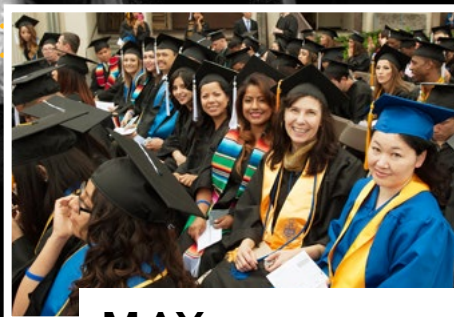
JUNE

Student filmmaker **Esteban Flores** wins the CalCoast Credit Union Superhero video contest.

review

MARCH

The Mesa Art Gallery exhibit "New Codex: Oaxaca – Immigration and Cultural Memory," by Marietta Bernstorff explores the experience of immigration.



MAY

The 2016 commencement claimed the largest graduating class in Mesa's history with a remarkable 1,909 graduating students earning 1,610 associate degrees and 368 certificates of achievement.

JULY

Mesa College showed its pride, joining the SDCCD contingency at the San Diego Pride Parade.



COMMUNITY Heroes

Most superheroes hold down day jobs, and when the clock hits 5:00 and their workday is done, they do remarkable things. Mesa's superheroes are no different. They might not wear capes or fly through the sky, but they make a difference through community and public service, and volunteering for the greater good.

Peter Robson doesn't don a cloak to help others. Instead, he puts on a wet-suit, hops on his surfboard and goes by the alias "Jersey Pete" to help young autistic surfers find balance in the ocean. The Mesa culinary instructor has traveled the world for over a decade as a professional tandem surf rider with **Surfers Healing**. Each year, the foundation hosts 25 camps around the world, helping more than 5,000 children, ages 3 and up, to experience the calming joy of riding a wave.



PETER ROBSON

CHEF EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Mesa Serves Up Chef Educator of the Year — **Tonya Whitfield**, Assistant Professor of Culinary Arts/Culinary Management, was awarded the **2015 Culinary Educator of the Year** award by the Chefs de Cuisine Association of San Diego, a chapter of the American Culinary Federation.



TONYA WHITFIELD





STUDENT VETS

Student Vets make it a habit to help — When they aren't building community amongst themselves, Mesa's **Student Veterans Organization (SVO)** help out in the greater San Diego community, giving their time and effort to assist wherever they can. In February, about a dozen vets joined with the Honors and anthropology clubs to help paint and landscape a home in Imperial Beach. Nearly 10% of the Mesa College student veteran population of 2,000 belongs to the SVO.



CANYON DAY CLASSROOM

Mesa's most notable organized community effort is the annual **Canyon Day** clean-up, held each spring in conjunction with San Diego Parks and Recreation, the Linda Vista Town Council and Tecolote Nature Center. About 130 students and neighbors showed up to remove invasive species such as palm trees and arundo bamboo from Tecolote Canyon, which borders Mesa College on two sides. The April clean-up is followed a week later with a day-long educational event for elementary school children. This year's attendees were from the **San Diego Center for Children** and **St. Didacus Parish School**.



ROBERT PALMESE

Record Setting "Swim for Em" — Last summer, local open water swimmer, Navy veteran and Mesa College swim team member **Robert Palmese** swam the 21-mile Catalina Channel in a time of 12 hours and 27 minutes. In May he took a 12-hour non-stop swim in Mesa's pool to raise funds for a triple-crossing attempt. All "Swim for Em" efforts raised funds for the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation** in memory of his friend, **Emily Nichols**, who passed away in January, 2015, at age 21.

Poetic Call for Climate Justice — **Scott T. Starbuck**, co-creative writing coordinator, has a new book of climate-change poems, *Industrial Oz: Ecopoems*. At a December 12th Rally for Climate Justice in Balboa Park, Starbuck read poems from it to over 500 climate activists. He was also among a select group of artists, writers and scientists participating in a month-long residency in the Oregon outback devoted to "bring positive change to the environment and the world."

Hats off to **Diana Cavagnaro** — fashion professor and internationally-known milliner — was awarded the "Chairman's Award" at the Gaslamp Quarter Association's annual gala in November. The awards recognize leaders in their community who have made a positive impact on the historic district through exceptional service, high-quality products and enthusiastic concern.

Jesse Got Mail — **Jesse Reyes**, who works in Mesa's Stockroom, received an unexpected email from David Frous, First Secretary at the embassy of the Czech Republic. Seems the Czech Ambassador to the United States, Petr Gandalovic, was impressed by several articles Reyes penned for local newspaper *The Filipino Press* that detailed the Czech Republic's role in defending Bataan alongside Filipino and American forces during World War II, and Filipinos currently living in the Czech Republic.

SUPER' Scares



MESA COMMONS

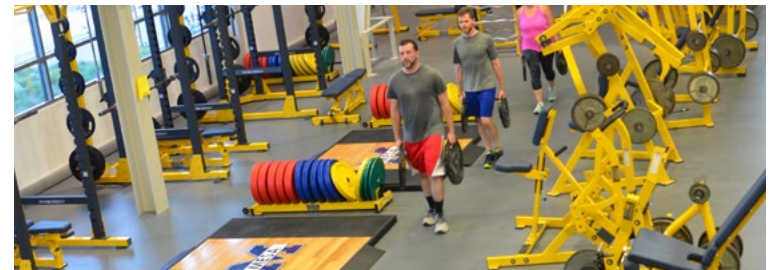
Even the landscape has morphed into something supernatural at Mesa College. Thanks to the voter-approved \$1.555 billion SDCCD Propositions S and N construction bond program, the Mesa campus has transformed into a modern, state-of-the-art campus that maximizes the teaching and learning experience.

Step onto Mesa today and you feel like you've arrived at major university campus. Classrooms flow into study areas and even outdoors into learning gardens. The contemporary campus experience for students and faculty include accessible and centralized student services and tutoring centers, innovative classrooms, laboratories and learning environments, and a space for professional training and development.

The new east Sunrise Plaza offers pedestrians a new "front door" to the college. The plaza is flanked by the college's newest buildings, the **Exercise Science Center** on the left, and the **Mesa Commons** to the right. Both projects were complete and ready to welcome students in Fall 2016.



EXERCISE SCIENCE CENTER



Athletes, dancers and students in exercise classes at Mesa College have a new place to lift weights, rehearse and ride stationary bikes this semester. The \$15.3 million **Exercise Science Center**, funded by Proposition S, is a two-story, 27,200-square-foot steel structure will be occupied by the **Mesa College Athletics Department**. The contemporary center will include an aerobics studio, weight training room, spinning room, free weight training lab, athletic training room, a wet lab with whirlpools and icing stations to treat injuries, cardio fitness training lab, and an office suite.





MESA COMMONS | CAFETERIA

The Proposition N funded \$44.3 million **Mesa Commons**, sure to become the new center of campus life, is a two-story, 60,000-square-foot building that will house several food venues, the College Store, a convenience store, auxiliary conference rooms, and stockroom and print facilities. Instructional facilities for the **Culinary Arts/Management program**, including an instructional kitchen, student-run restaurant and roof top garden take up much of the second floor.



LEED Silver

On track for LEED Silver: Mesa Commons and the Exercise Science Center



2015 Orchid Award—The San Diego Architectural Foundation honored Mesa College for outstanding landscape architecture at its annual Orchids & Onions awards ceremony on October 1, 2015. Here's what they had to say: completed in 2013, the Math & Science building is a 206,000-square-foot, four-story complex that boasts interdisciplinary learning environments that dissolve boundaries among disciplines and promote serendipitous learning. It not only unites members of the mathematics and natural sciences departments in one physical space, but it also facilitates the exchange of ideas between faculty with similar and diverse interests—ideas that generate different perspectives and spark new ways of thinking.

ON THE HORIZON



CENTER FOR BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Budget: \$32.2 Million
Duration 2016-2018



FACILITIES SUPPORT BUILDING (I-200)

Budget: \$4.2 Million
Duration 2016-17



FINE ARTS & DRAMATIC ARTS RENOVATION (I-300)

Budget: \$14.6 million
Duration: 2017 - 2018



CAMPUS SIGNAGE & QUADRANGLE

2018-2019



SAN DIEGO Mesa College Foundation



MISSION

The San Diego Mesa College Foundation is dedicated to empowering students to reach their educational goals by increasing resources, raising funds, and creating friends and partnerships to support the mission of San Diego Mesa College.

San Diego Mesa College Board of Directors

Steve Cooke, President
Jeremy Sanders,
Vice President
Barbara Busch, Secretary
Elizabeth Armstrong,
Treasurer
Rachelle Agatha
Barbara Busch
Howard Eskew
Mark Fisher
Dr. Ashanti Hands
Penny Hedgecoth

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Simone Henriques
Minsun Jung
Tom Kaye
Dr. Pamela T. Luster
Jeff Marston
Ricky Maveety
Tim McGrath
Juan David Ortiz-Romero
Dr. Denise Rogers
Dr. Susan Topham
Anne Zacovic

Some of our most important superheroes are friends and donors to the **Mesa College Foundation**. Combined, they contribute over \$400,000 each year in scholarships and endowments benefiting Mesa students. With a focus on foster youth and veterans, the foundation is creating more opportunities to help in 2016-17, including major events such as the San Diego Gourmet Pizza Fest, held in September.

One of the most exciting new initiatives is the **San Diego Promise**, a national, state and district-wide movement to make community colleges free for deserving students. The San Diego Promise launched in Fall 2016, covering enrollment fees and providing book grants for 2016 incoming freshmen.

At Mesa, the San Diego Promise enabled 92 recent high school graduates and San Diego Continuing Education transfer students to attend San Diego Mesa College.



SAN DIEGO PROMISE



2015-16 **OVERVIEW**



African Art Collection

- Held first exhibition at the central branch of the library
- Completed research and study area



Helped bring the VAMP program to Mesa



Scholarships

Awarded \$172,475 in scholarships to 162 students!



Food Cards

Provided \$3,000 in food cards for students without a sustainable source of food



Provided field trip to the Getty Museum



Supported Mesa's research conference



Provided organic gardens tour for students

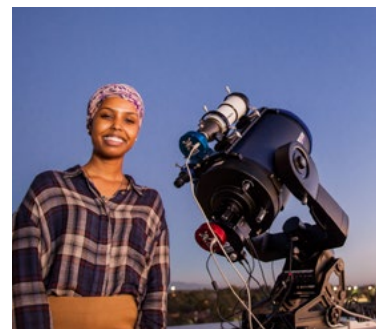
Funded the Science Speakers Series



Made it possible for students to study aboard a research vessel



Purchased bus passes for students



Purchased equipment

- Minilabs for physics students
- Thermal imaging camera for astronomy students
- Labs for psychology students
- Books for students



Created Little Free Library for San Diego Cooperative Charter School in Linda Vista



Veterans

Provided emergency assistance for 7 student veterans and kept them in college!

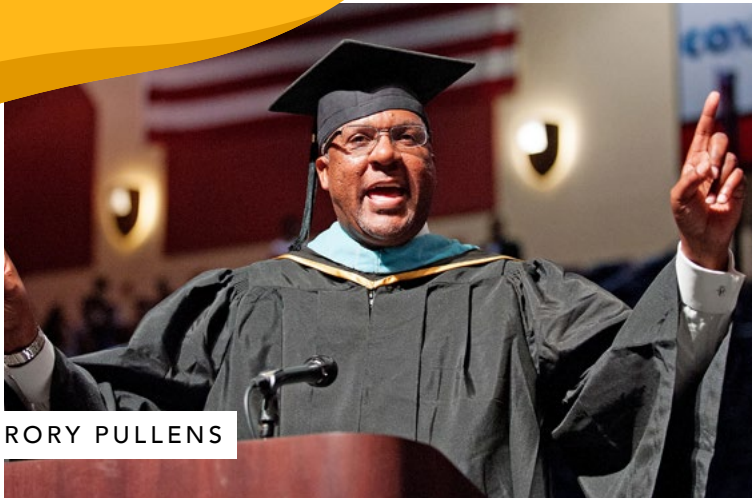


Former Foster Youth

Provided food cards, emergency assistance, purchased books, study supplies, bus passes.



ALUMNI Connections



RORY PULLENS

"Don't forget the comma," distinguished alumnus **Rory Pullens** told the graduates of the **Class of 2016** during commencement exercises in May.

He used the comma as a life metaphor, telling students that "today is not the end of your journey to wherever you want to go, it's simply one segment. But don't forget to pause, and reflect just a bit, on what your Mesa College segment means."

Pullen's segment at Mesa became the foundation to earning a Bachelor's in Media/Film and two Master's degrees in Communications and Education Administration from Loma Linda University. It's also where he met his wife of 32 years.

He spent nearly 20 years as an arts teacher and administrator. Today, he is the Executive Director of Arts Education at Los Angeles Unified School District, the largest public school system in the country. He also has impressive film and TV production credits.

But the biggest credit Pullen's attributes is to education, and how it transformed his life and career.

"Life is not a run on sentence," he concluded at commencement. "Take time to give back. Take time to succeed. Take time to say thanks. But if I can offer you one small point of advice, don't forget the comma."



ALEX SZETO

Education is a cornerstone of all success. Refugees Tony and Lido Szeto and their children have lived by this edict through their life's journey, from poverty to self-sufficient, from recipients to donors. For their son **Alexander Dieu Szeto**, education and success began when he enrolled at Mesa College with a ninth grade education. He was encouraged by many teachers, friends and even strangers. After earning an AS degree in Math from Mesa in two years, he earned a BS/MS in Aerospace Engineering, and has had the opportunity to work on many national systems to safeguard the country. From his office at **Northrop Grumman**, the systems engineer reflected, "Education changed our lives. My dream began at San Diego Mesa College, and we are committed to help others to achieve their dreams."

The Szeto family created an endowment, offering scholarships to students and student veterans each year.

Are you a Mesa grad? The college is looking to connect with former grads and want to hear your story. Find us on linkedin, twitter, snapchat and facebook at facebook.com/sandiegomesacollege. Join the conversation with Alumni Connections at www.sdccd.edu/alumni/.



Points of *PRIDE*

- **Student Success:** Mesa College's reputation for quality educational programs and as a top transfer college is built on a wide range of personalized student support services and the college's commitment to equity and excellence. The college's innovative programs create opportunities for equal access and success for all students, including historically underrepresented student populations, such as ethnic minority and low-income students.
- **Champion in Transfer:** It's official. Mesa College outranks all other California Community Colleges in terms of degrees for transfer, and was named California State Universities 2015 "Champion for Excellence in Transfer."
- **Making History:** Mesa College is the first California community college to offer a bachelor's degree, the first to launch the program in 2015, and the first to enroll a junior cohort in fall 2016. The college expects to graduate its first class in Health Information Management in 2018.
- **Campus Life:** Mesa College offers a vibrant campus with a variety of majors, clubs, competitive sports teams, events and extracurricular activities to encourage and engage the interests of its diverse student body. Gathering spots include centers for honors and veterans, and coming soon, a new student engagement center. The Commons – the new hub for campus life — invites students to extend their learning and stay on campus to study, shop, eat and relax
- **Learning Landscape:** Step onto Mesa and you feel like you've arrived at a major university campus. Classrooms flow into study areas and even outdoors into learning gardens. The contemporary campus experience for students and faculty include accessible and centralized student services and tutoring centers, innovative classrooms, laboratories and learning environments, and a space for professional training and development.

2015-16 Actual Expenses

CATEGORY	ADOPTED	ADJUSTED	ACTUALS	BALANCE
Academic	35,983,831	38,382,696	38,382,782	(86)
Non-Academic	8,786,912	9,257,377	8,873,177	384,200
Benefits	12,099,185	14,835,379	14,136,405	698,974
Supplies/Materials	694,507	781,023	343,949	437,074
Other Operating Expenses	640,333	968,804	581,636	387,168
Capital Outlay	668,336	868,381	175,388	692,993
Totals	\$ 58,873,104	\$65,093,660	\$ 62,493,337	\$2,600,323



WE ARE

Mesa

VISION

San Diego Mesa College shall be a key force in our community to educate our students to shape the future.

MISSION

To inspire and enable student success in an environment that is strengthened by diversity, is responsive to our communities, and fosters scholarship, leadership and responsibility.

VALUES

- Equity
- Access
- Accountability
- Diversity
- Freedom of Expression
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Scholarship
- Sustainability

Strategic Directions

Strategic Direction 1: Deliver, advance, and support an inclusive teaching and learning environment that enables all students to achieve their educational goals.

Strategic Direction 2: Build and sustain a sense of community that extends across campus and constituencies, nurturing collaboration, learning, growth, and diversity.

Strategic Direction 3: Build and sustain pathways in support of the comprehensive community college mission.

Strategic Direction 4: Support innovation in our practices.

Strategic Direction 5: Support personal growth and professional development of our employees.

Strategic Direction 6: Serve as stewards of our resources and advance effective practices in support of accountability.

The entire San Diego Mesa College Education Master Plan can be viewed at www.sdmesa.edu/institutional-effectiveness.

Performance Indicators

Equity/Access, Engagement/Retention, Persistence, Success, Institutional Effectiveness



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