



December 1, 2014

The holidays are upon us! It was lovely to have time to give thanks this last weekend, and I am hopeful that you had the opportunity to relax with family and friends. We are now in the home stretch of the fall 2014 semester and as we finish up, here are a few items of interest.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

Giving Tuesday occurs the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (*this year on December 2*). It's a world-wide day to push back on consumerism and celebrate the joys of giving, whether you give time, money, or acts of kindness.

Mesa College Foundation is creating a special Giving Tuesday program – to provide food cards for our students who fight debilitating hunger every day. These students are former foster youth, veterans, unemployed, and/or parents preferring to feed their children before feeding themselves. Sadly, there are hundreds of students at Mesa that fall into this group. The food cards will be used at the Mesa cafeteria (are also good at the cafeterias at City and Miramar as well). The added bonus of the food card is that it keeps students on campus just a little longer; they become a little more connected with college. Fed, they might be able to stay for a tutoring session. It is hard to learn when you are hungry.

No gift is too small. They combine into larger gifts that change lives. **To give to this program click [here](#)**

President's Cabinet and Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Retreat

The PCab and PIEC fall retreat has been set for Tuesday December 2 from 2-5 PM at CE Mesa. We will be reviewing the governance pilot recommendations from the Participatory Governance Task Force, assessing the work of the PIEC on the prioritization of the college's strategic planning goals, reviewing where we are on accreditation 2016, and talking student success and equity. Over 50 college folks from PCab, PIEC and the Budget Committee (BARC) have been invited to attend. If you are feeling left out, contact Beth at scain@sdccd.edu if you are not in one of these groups to let us know you would like to attend.

Student Success and Equity Updates

On Wednesday December 3 we will have the opportunity to reflect and act on our equity work at Mesa College. Dr. Estella Bensimon and colleagues from the USC Center for Urban Education (CUE) will be here to facilitate a workshop on equity. Earlier this semester the college created a partnership with CUE to guide us in our work towards becoming a Center of Equity Excellence. Members of the Student Success and

Equity committee are invited in addition to other leaders on campus. The meeting will be held in LRC 435 from 12-4:30 and is open to the campus community. If you would like to attend, please contact Beth in my office at scain@sdccd.edu.

Baccalaureate degree update

Mesa College submitted its Certification of Interest form to the California Community College Chancellor's Office, and we are now preparing the formal application to become one of 15 community colleges in the state to offer bachelor's degrees under SB 850. I am so grateful for the hard work of Connie Renda, Assistant Professor of Health Information Technology, Dean Margie Fritch, VPI McGrath, Interim Vice Chancellor Shelly Hess and Vice Chancellor Lynn Neault for their dedication and countless hours of work to make this a reality. The applications are due December 19th, so we are full steam ahead.

Website Update

Thank you to our Web Advisory group (WAG) for working on the redesign of the Mesa College website, they are: Co-leads: Lina Heil, Rachele Agatha, David Fierro and members Susan Topham, Anabel Pulido, Brianna Hays, Carol Beilstein, Danene Brown, Ginger Davis, Hank Beaver, Karen Owen, Minsun Jung (student), Penny Hedgecoth, Sara Beth Cain, Taj Krumholz and Veronica Gerace. We appreciate your energy and passion and we are looking forward to seeing the new website soon.



Holiday Luncheon

Everyone is invited to the Mesa College Holiday Luncheon prepared by our extraordinary Culinary Arts/Culinary Management students. Please join us for this wonderful event. We've extended the hours a bit this year hoping that you can stop by and share some time.

Thanks so much for all you do for Mesa College, and enjoy this last bit of our semester and our winter break. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming end of the semester and holiday events, and at spring convocation on Thursday, January 22 from 1-4 PM.