



FIRST *Monday* ON THE *Mesa*

SAN DIEGO
MESACOLLEGE
Office of the President

January 2021

Welcome to Spring 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this special message finds you well. The past few weeks have been filled with images of our darkest moments, from our national capitol insurrection, unimaginable COVID-19 deaths, to continuing economic struggles, we are weathering storms like no other in our time. I have spoken to many of you who have been ill, cared for ill family members, and have lost loved ones to this virus. I continue to hold you in my heart and hope that you can be comforted by knowing your Mesa family is with you.

At the same time, glimmers of light are peeking through the clouds. Vaccinations are underway, economic relief looks to be increasing very soon, and today we witnessed the swearing in of a new group of national leaders. We have witnessed the fomenting of white supremacy, racism, power grabs, and economic hegemony at its highest form over the past 4 years. I am hopeful that while we try to create this more perfect union, that we don't just try to "get back" to where we were. That we will move beyond talking to walking our agency to address the burdens and injustices that have existed for decades.

What does this mean for Mesa College? It means that we will continue to be in a state of becoming The Leading College of Equity and Excellence. It means we will work together, arm in arm (or elbow to elbow for a bit) to question and then act on practices that do not lead to inclusive and equitable outcomes for our students. And, it means that in no way do I have all the answers, and that I will rely on all of you to

CONVOCATION SPRING 2021

Thurs. January 28, 2021
9:00 a.m - 10:30 a.m.

Join us on Zoom:
cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93471152898
www.youtube.com/sdmesacollege

Addressing Racial Inequality:
Our Focus on Anti-Blackness
"Actions, Plans and Opportunities"

Faculty Flex Credit #5003



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continue your work in earnest.

In her poem today at the inauguration of President Biden and Vice President Harris, Inaugural Poet, Amanda Gorman recited [“The Hill We Climb.”](#) It is worth every bit of your 5 minutes to hear her words. It needs no comment or review from me....

I look forward to seeing you next Thursday at Convocation.

Flex Week

Spring 2021 FLEX Week will be comprised of a series of activities fitting into our theme of Addressing Racial Inequality: Our Focus on Anti-Blackness. Various FLEX opportunities already scheduled include Abolitionist Book Club, Supervisors Professional Learning, Classified Equity Taskforce: Salon Discussions, Humanizing Online Learning, [the Catalyst Teaching Conference](#), and So You Want to Be a Chair? More details can be found on the [LOFT Spring 2021 Google doc](#), and you can access the Mesa LOFT Online [shell here](#). Visit the [LOFT webpage](#) for more info.

Administrative Services Update

In our continued efforts to keep the Mesa College Community safe, Administrative Services has worked under the advice of state and county guidelines to inform our regulations and COVID-19 safety plan for the campus.

As the number of COVID-19 cases surged throughout the state and county in early December, the Governor called for a stay-at-home order in California. Administrative Services worked with department heads to reevaluate what essential jobs were being completed on campus, and considered what other duties could be done off campus in order for us to minimize exposure within the Mesa College community on our campus.

With those changes, we continue to support the campus being as cautious and safe as possible while heeding the CDC, state and county guidelines. Shipping and receiving continues to be the location where employees who enter campus are required to check in and have their temperatures scanned.

Farmers Market

Farmers and Mobile Markets will continue in Spring 2021. The Stand: Basic Needs Resource Center will provide two large free food distributions each month. To ensure that students do not miss out on the opportunity to participate in our mobile markets and other events, please encourage them to [click here to opt in for emails about upcoming events](#). The first Drive-Thru Farmers Market this semester will be on Thursday, January 21, from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., in Parking Lot #3.

FLEX WEEK 2021

JANUARY 25, 26, 27

[Catalyst Teaching Conference](#) | [Schedule Here](#) | Flex #6169 | [Register](#) |

JANUARY 25

Humanizing Online Learning | 10:30a - 12:00p | [Michelle Pacansky-Brock](#) | Flex # 6223 (Miramar) | [Zoom Link](#) |

JANUARY 27

Part Time Faculty Orientation | 5:30 - 6:30 | Various: Synchronous and Asynchronous | Flex#5007 | [Zoom Link](#) |

JANUARY 28

So You Want to Be a Chair | 1:00 - 2:30 | Terry Kohlenberg & Manuel Velez | Flex# 6149 | [RSVP](#) | [Zoom Link](#) |

JANUARY 28

Classified Hacks | 2:00 - 3:00 | Alicia Lopez, Catherine Cannock, Cathy Palestini | Classified Staff | [Zoom Link](#) |



Going forward, distributions will be twice a month as follows; Drive-Thru Mobile Market is on the first Monday of the month, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., and the Drive-Thru Farmers Market is on the third Thursday of the month -10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Both distributions will be located in located in Parking Lot 3. Be sure to follow The Stand on Instagram and Twitter (@sdmesastand) to find out about upcoming campus community opportunities.

The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

For the past 10 years, I have had the awesome opportunity of participating with my colleagues in our San Diego celebrations of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. From the Jackie Robinson YMCA Breakfast, Alpha Phi Alpha ZSL Educators Breakfast and Parade, and the Alliance San Diego All Peoples Breakfast, we kicked off each year filled with inspiration and the message of hope, racial and social justice, and love. This year we had wonderful remote opportunities, but we missed gathering together and feeling that feeling...the one that you want to hang on to...courage, agency, vulnerability, community, and love. Yes, love.... there is so much love that we share over the four days of events, pure joy, it's like an immersion weekend of love.

This weekend, we attended the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Dignity Award Event, during which the annual award is bestowed upon a person who exemplifies Dr. King's work and character. This year's Human Dignity Award winner was Dr. Wilma Wooten, San Diego County's public health officer. Dr. Wooten, as many of you know, is an ardent supporter of public health, and has been steadfast in keeping the public safe through the pandemic. We also attended the 33rd Annual All Peoples Celebration, held by Alliance San Diego, honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event is normally held as a breakfast with more than 1,000 attendees. Keynote speaker Bishop Yvette Flunder, the Founder and Senior Pastor of the City of Refuge, United Church of Christ, delivered the message centered on the theme of PERSIST, and how we must hope - and continue to persist to achieve racial justice and economic equality. Through these events, we acknowledge that we are infinitely blessed to have what we have, and were filled with the spirit of Dr. King (and John Lewis) to get in some good trouble.



**SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE**



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Is the [President's](#) monthly newsletter, published by the President's Office and the [Office of Communications](#).