



## **Welcome back** to Mesa College!

*I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It's hard to believe that it is already Fall, but we are ready to go!*

*Please enjoy the "Welcome Back Letter", with updates provided by Instruction, Student Services, Administration, the Foundation and our Governance teams.*

*Sincerely,  
Prez Pam*



## **Mesa College Convocation Kicks off Fall 2019 with Tim Wise**

We are excited to welcome [Tim Wise](#) to Mesa College. He will be working with us on Wednesday and Thursday in various lectures and workshops. At Convocation he will be our keynote, speaking to The Impact of Privilege on Equity in Higher Education. We will also be holding a public lecture with Tim on Thursday evening here is the [event information](#).

## **FAST Center Grand Opening**

Fostering Academic Success and Transitions (FAST) Center is a space at San Diego Mesa College dedicated to serving current and former foster youth whom are current and prospective students. The FAST Center is offering services such as, tutoring, technology resources, a food pantry, and school supplies. The Center will be hosting workshops on mental health and financial literacy among other best practices to support students in pursuing their personal, professional, and academic goals. Through the support of San Diego Mesa College and the NextUP program, the FAST Center is among the first dedicated spaces at a California Community College serving foster youth. Thus far, the FAST Center has been utilized to orient NextUp and FAST Scholars; the orientation included guest presentations on topics such as financial aid and a story of resilience from a former foster youth student who has received her Bachelor's degree from San Diego State University. Ultimately, The FAST Center is a space at Mesa College that cultivates a welcoming environment for current and former foster youth to successfully reach their goals. We will be offering information on how to best serve the foster youth student population through professional learning activities. We hope you can join us at the grand opening of the FAST Center on Thursday, August 22, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in Room D-102!

## Mesa Journeys

One of the best things about Mesa College is that we have a variety of programs and services to help our students succeed. While it is great that we have so many resources to help students, it can also be a challenge effectively advising and promoting these opportunities to our students. To address this challenge Student Services has created “Your Mesa Journey”, a web and mobile-friendly tool connecting students with resources. Students complete a short survey and are provided with a list of recommended programs and services that may help them with their educational journey here at Mesa College. Students can read a description of programs or visit their websites. Students can also email the results to themselves.

With “Your Mesa Journey” students now have clear, actionable, and usable information they need to get off to the right start and most importantly “FINISH”.

Click [here](#) to watch a video explaining Your Mesa Journey

Click [here](#) to navigate the Mesa Journeys tool.

## Student Services Resources

Click [here](#) for an archive of Student Services Monthly Updates

Click [here](#) to review, download, and post our Helpful Resources for Students flyer

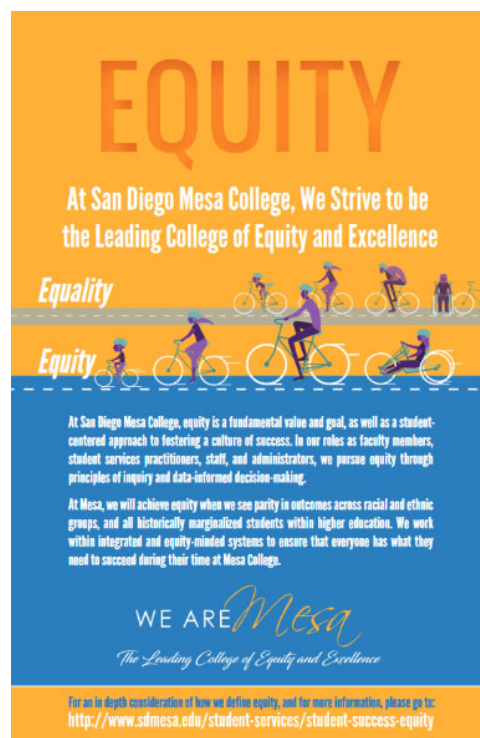
## Defining Equity

In an effort to create a shared vocabulary, our CUE Advisory Committee generated a Mesa College definition for equity. Our definition is helpful in knowing how we, as practitioners, operationalize equity and how we measure the efficacy of equity efforts. Our full definition is below.

*At San Diego Mesa College, equity is a fundamental value and goal. We will know we have achieved equity when we see parity in outcomes across racial/ethnic student groups and all student groups that have been historically marginalized within higher education. Our commitment to equity requires that minoritized students have access and support across all campus systems, from application to completion. We aim for equity in access and opportunities for all.*

*At Mesa, equity is student-centered. Our professional community respects students and their contributions, listens to students, and responds to students’ different needs without stereotyping. We aim to provide opportunity to all students regardless of their educational goals. We are here to set students up for success and we acknowledge all the different facets of our students’ identities.*

*We pursue equity through a culture of inquiry and data-informed decision making in the classroom and across campus areas. We are working to approach difficult conversations about systems of oppression with skill and humility. Mesa is committed to developing interventions based upon robust data collection and following through on our new ideas with inquiry into the success of their implementation. We aspire to work within integrated and equity-minded systems to ensure that everyone has what they need to succeed during their time at Mesa College.*



Posters with an abbreviated definition have been circulated throughout campus. Pick up your copy in the Student Success and Equity Office located in I4-401.

### Free Farmers Market

Join us as, a guest and/or volunteer, at Mesa's FREE Monthly Farmers Market. Participants will receive free fresh produce. Students will also have access to shelf stable items. Fall 2019 Farmers Markets will take place on the following Thursday's starting at 12pm. A partnership with Feeding San Diego and the San Diego Food Bank.

- August 22
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 12



### Summer CRUISE

For over five years, San Diego Mesa College has been offering Summer CRUISE—Creating Rich Unique Intellectual Student Experiences – for incoming students. This summer, Mesa offered six CRUISE sessions from June – August, serving nearly 1,000 students which is a record-breaking number for the program's five years of service.

Sessions were completely free and available to recent high school graduates and those who are first-time or returning college students. The CRUISE program introduces incoming students to the academic, professional, and personal campus resources available to them. The program also prepares them for math and English requirements and provides a chance to work alongside faculty and a team of 16 Peer Navigators, all while creating a unique support system among their peers.



We offered special sessions for new students transitioning from Continuing Education, the Armed Forces, and Adult Learners who have not attended college. This year, we established an orientation for Student Athletes and San Diego Promise scholarship recipients to better tailor information and resources to their needs. During CRUISE, students can meet other students along with their personal Peer Navigator; work one-on-one with faculty who are committed to student success; get exposure to campus resources, student programming, and clubs; participate in academic and counseling workshops with faculty and staff; and receive support for their entire academic year at Mesa.

### University of California Transfer Pathways

In 2018, the California Community College system and the University of California signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines transfer pathways in Physics and Chemistry. The pathways identify a set of courses designed to prepare California Community College students for admission to the University of California system. Students complete UC major preparation plus 20 units of specified General Education. Students who earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA in the pathway courses are guaranteed admission into the University of California system. The UC transfer pathways are designed to facilitate transfer of CCC students to the UC system, while increasing the diversity of the UC student population, especially in STEM. Additional efforts are under way to establish UC transfer pathways in Computer Science, Engineering, Biology and Music (Performance track).



## **Work Experience and Work-Based Learning**

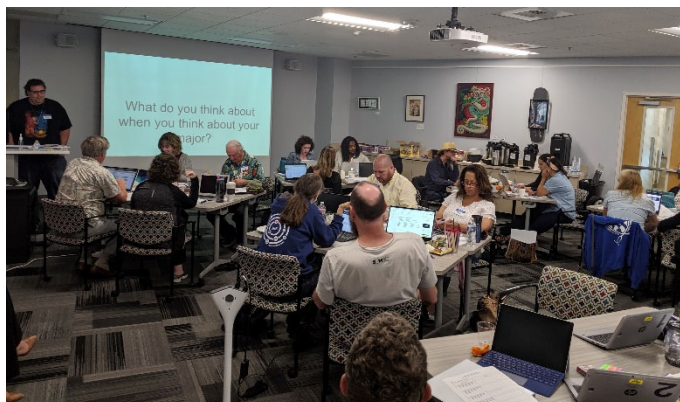
Mesa continues to provide excellent opportunities for students to gain work experience in Career Education courses and beyond. The Work-Based Learning team that joined Mesa in Fall 2018 has established an innovative continuum linking the classroom with career experiences. In Spring 2019 alone, 100 students enrolled in Work Experience courses with seventy-seven companies and worked 13,515 hours. A student participant summarized the experience as follows, “I was lucky to have a great mentor that let me cover all the aspects of my internship...I can only grow from here on out.” In the words of one of the employers, “This program is perfect for grooming industry leaders.”

## **AB705 Update**

San Diego Mesa College is in compliance with the Fall 2019 implementation deadline established by AB705. The English Department, a leader in acceleration efforts across the state, has seen a significant increase in enrollment and completion of transfer-level courses, especially among Latinx and African American students. The Math Department worked hard to institute a variety of curriculum reforms, including the development of co-requisite courses: Math 96X, Math 104X, Math 116X, and Math 119X. Like English, math faculty have organized communities of practice to discuss the day-to-day effects of the curriculum and placement changes, pedagogical approaches, student support services, such as tutoring, and professional learning opportunities for faculty. Efforts are underway to design a self-guided placement tool for English Language Acquisition students. ELAC faculty members Jorge Villalobos and Tracey Walker are leading the charge. We expect to have a placement tool in place by the end of the Fall 2019 semester.

## **Mesa Pathways 2019-20: From Inquiry to Design!**

We continued our Mesa Pathways endeavors throughout summer 2019. In June, instructional and counseling faculty came together for the Mesa Pathways Summer Institute. Participants engaged with data looking at our students' journey, identifying equity gaps and discussing ways to close these. Faculty continued the program mapping process which will provide students with a solid footprint for how to reach their educational goals. The Institute wrapped up with a student



panel and then a session by a team of ASCCC Pathways faculty, led by Janet Fulks from Bakesfield College, who engaged participants in a discussion around areas of interest and how they may be used at our campus. Coordinators Howard Eskew and Toni Parsons have been busy meeting with workgroup leaders to discuss their goals, plans, and strategies for this year.

The academic year 2019-20 will be one of planning and action for the campus. Program mapping will wrap up in Fall 2019, while a group of instructional faculty, counseling faculty and classified professionals start mapping and developing the student onboarding process, identifying student success milestones to include in the program maps. We will explore areas of interest in Spring 2020. In Fall 2019, we will launch a redesigned Mesa Pathways webpage to highlight the Pathways work across campus, including workgroups' meeting agendas and minutes. We have prepared a calendar of professional development opportunities to continue to examine the student experience at Mesa through an equity lens. We are excited about what this year will bring and encourage you to become a part our Mesa Pathways team.

## **Teacher Pipeline:**

In an effort to attract a diverse pool of students—including those bilingual in Spanish and English--to the teaching profession, San Diego Mesa College has established exciting partnerships with San Diego Unified School District and National University. The Teacher Pathway Inclusion Program aims to strengthen San

Diego County's local teacher pipeline. Through programmatic and financial support at Mesa College and National University, students can complete a bachelor's degree and teaching credential concurrently, at little to no cost, and are encouraged to teach in local communities where the need for diverse, bilingual teachers is the greatest.

### **HSI/Title V Proyecto Exito**

San Diego Mesa College was awarded a no cost extension of the Title V for 2019-20. Program highlights from 2018-19 include the expansion of classroom tutoring from 20 to 25 tutors. Data shows that tutoring has begun to "close equity gaps" among students of color. In addition, recent findings show gains in GPA, retention and course completion among tutoring participants as compared to students who do not receive tutoring. Data from Mathletics show an increase in both math skills and confidence among participants, as well as higher persistence rates. CRUISE participants also had higher retention, success, and persistence rates, as well as a higher GPA than non-CRUISE participants.

### **HSI/Title III STEM Conexiones**

San Diego Mesa College is embarking on the fourth year of this grant. In Spring 2019, a new Innovation Research Lab coordinator was hired. She is developing an Eco-Research Scholar program that will enable a small cohort of students in Biology, Geographic Information Systems, Geography, and Anthropology to participate in a year-long research project. STEM Peer Mentoring continues in Chemistry, Biology, Math and Physics, with the planned addition of Geographic Information Systems, Computer Science, and Engineering in Fall 2019. Fourteen faculty members from the schools of Math and Science and Business and Technology received mini grants to redesign course and lab materials in an effort to improve persistence, retention, and success rates in their courses, particularly among students who are traditionally disproportionately impacted in STEM. STEM Outreach has maintained a presence at major local events, such as EXPO Day at Petco Park and Barrio Logan STEM Fest. In summer 2019, Mesa began to explore applying for a three year National Science Foundation STEM grant.

### **Financial Literacy Series**

Under the leadership of Howard Eskew, Business faculty, and in cooperation with the Associated Students, Mesa will once again offer a Financial Literacy Speaker Series in 2019-20. In coordination with Michael Temple and Umoja, the Fall 2019 program will focus on budget management, savings, credit, and how to buy a car. The Spring 2020 will explore a variety of topics, including taxes, scholarships, and how to pay for college.

### **Master Planning Update**

As a continuation of the work done last year, the Master Planning Task Force convened to select a partner to assist in the facilitation of Mesa's Educational Master Plan. The Task Force is comprised of members of each constituency including: faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and most importantly- students. The Task Force through its membership will ensure that each group is communicated with and made aware of opportunities for participation. For example: planning elements will be discussed through focus groups, community feedback opportunities through campus-wide events, and presentations at governance committees.



Moreover, the Task Force will work unwaveringly to make certain that the plan uniquely represents Mesa and our commitment to equity and excellence. Thank you to the Task Force members, and please stay tuned for more updates.

Facilities Update

As we move forward towards the beginning of the Quadrangle project, over the next year you will see construction taking place in the heart of campus. To create the footprint of the Quadrangle, we will first be demolishing buildings I and J this fall. Services that were offered in building J have been relocated, some temporarily. Additionally, K100 will be remodeled to accommodate FAST, Honors, The Stand/ Student Resource Center, Veterans, and classroom space.

Parking Update

This fall, Mesa College will continue the valet parking services in Lot 2 during the first two weeks of class. Additionally we will provide free parking in the Grace Brethren Church on Atlas Street. Due to construction on the Kearny High School campus, we will not be able to utilize their parking facilities this fall. However, there will be more onsite parking for the beginning of the semester as we have regained the spaces set aside during previous semesters for construction of the Business and Technology and Fine Arts buildings.

Lactation Room

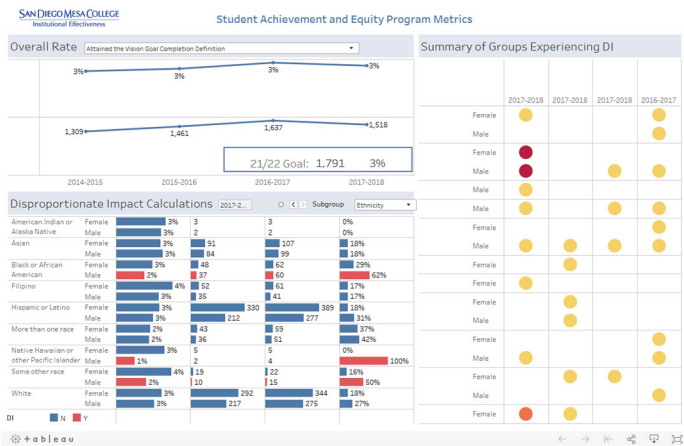
San Diego Mesa College is pleased to offer a place where mothers may pump or nurse in a comfortable and private space. The Lactation Room contains a comfortable chair, a table, a refrigerator and electrical outlets. Access and information: All faculty, staff and students must check in with Business Office Support in Room A101 to obtain the access code for the Lactation Room located in G212, or you may email [MesaLactationRoom@sdccd.edu](mailto:MesaLactationRoom@sdccd.edu) for more information.

Institutional Effectiveness Update

The IE office continues to be guided by the vision established in 2017: To support The Leading College of Equity And Excellence by inspiring a culture of equity-minded action research, reflection, and inquiry. We look forward to collaborating with Faculty, staff and administrators across campus to make data more accessible, meaningful, and equity-minded. Over the last 2 years, the IE office launched 18 [Data Dashboards](#) and is currently engaged in developing a series trainings to support the campus in using these tools to inform practice, policy, and dialogue.

Program Review 2019-20 kicks off on August 14. This is the first update year following the 18/19 Comprehensive Program Review and we will be focusing in Equity and Course Success.

There have been a wealth of new tools and reports developed by our district and state colleagues. Please visit [SDCCD Research and Planning](#) and [California Community Colleges Launchboard](#) websites to learn more. Of note, the state launched the [Student Success Metric Dashboard](#) that informed our Vision for Success and Student Equity and Achievement Program Goals. To learn more about how these goals were developed visit our [Vision for Success and Equity Dashboards](#).





## Academic Senate

Welcome to the 2019-20 Academic year on behalf of the Academic Senate! As many of you know, in the coming years the community college landscape will undergo some major changes because of new statewide initiatives and funding formulas. The Mesa College Academic Senate is proud to represent all of our faculty in the Mesa College community and commit ourselves to working closely with everyone to ensure that our students meet their academic and career goals. Our senate meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month in MC211 and are open to the entire Mesa College community. We encourage you to attend our meetings if you'd like to speak during our "public comments" or if you'd simply like to know more about the things affecting our faculty. On behalf of President Manuel Velez, Vice-President Howard Eskew, Treasurer Becca Arnold, Secretary Holly Jagielinski, and the rest of the Senate Executive Committee we wish everyone a very productive and stress free academic year!

## Classified Senate

On behalf of the Classified Senate, welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year! Our newly elected Board for 2019-2021 includes Charlie Lieu, President; Eva Parrill, Vice President; Alicia Lopez, Senate Manager; Alan Goodman, Treasurer; and Naayieli Bravo, Member-at-Large. Together with our senators and associates, we work in and represent all college divisions – Administrative Services, Instruction, the President's branch, and Student Services. The Classified Senate will be focusing on the 3 C's (Collaboration, Community, and Communication) this year. We look forward to collaborating across



departments and divisions, working along-side faculty and administrators on key college initiatives like Guided Pathways, Student Success & Equity, and Basic Needs. Additionally, we will work to create more opportunities for classified professionals to connect and network with each other. We will also strive to communicate and share information on classified related issues more effectively and efficiently through the use of social media and technology. Follow us on Twitter [@SDMesaClassified](https://twitter.com/SDMesaClassified). We anticipate a very busy, but productive year. We look forward to seeing everyone on campus soon!

## Associated Students

On behalf of the Associated Students, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We are the voice of the student body, committed to representing and advocating for all students on our campus. We welcome everyone of all ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, ability levels, ethnic backgrounds, countries of origin, religions, political affiliations, and socio-economic status to San Diego Mesa College.

We build community and a sense of belonging as we strive for equity and excellence. We spread as much joy as possible. Some of our highlighted events include Spirit Week, Homecoming Tailgate, Leadership Retreat, Season of Giving, Thanksgiving Feast, and Week of Service. Our goal for next year is to work collaboratively with our faculty, staff, and fellow students in an effort to share our experiences widely known and meet as many needs as possible. We look forward to a productive year filled with engaging events, exciting guest speakers, self-care, and spontaneous dancing!

## San Diego Mesa College Foundation Resiliency Fund Campaign

While it's likely no surprise to those of us who are working with students each day, the data proves it: our students' are facing even greater challenges than in the past. Through participation in the HOPE Lab Real College Study, we learned that across the board, students are making due with fewer resources and greater financial constraints.

A few takeaways from the study about Mesa students:



- Food insecurity has been on a steady rise from 39% in 2015 to 47% in 2018
- Housing insecurity climbed dramatically from 46% in 2017 to 62% in 2018
  - Homelessness grew from 13% in 2017 to 18% in 2018

We've reached a point where **nearly 1 in 5** Mesa students are homeless and **almost 50%** are food insecure, with limited access to nutritionally adequate food.

Our students' commitment to keep coming to class and work on a college education while worrying about food and housing is a testament to their resiliency. And

while dedication and hard work are key ingredients to success, financial instability puts these students in a precarious "scarcity cycle." One unexpected expense such as a flat tire or missed day at work due to illness or injury can put their entire education at risk.

Over the summer, San Diego Mesa College Foundation met with college leadership to discuss how we could help students overcome financial setbacks so that short-term problems don't get in the way of long-term success. Out of this came a bold idea: create a "Resiliency Fund," which will provide one-time emergency loans and grants to students experiencing financial setbacks that put them at risk of dropping out.

Our goal is ambitious: raise \$250,000 towards the Resiliency Fund to help at least 300 students overcome financial shocks and stay in school. To support these efforts, the Foundation has secured \$75,000 in matching funds and will be inviting our entire campus and broader community to invest and be there for our students when they need us most. Donors have the chance to double their impact to make a powerful difference, the chance to preserve the dream of a college education.

