

From: Mesa President's Office <MesaPresidentsOffice@sdccd.edu>

Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 2:34 PM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of April 14, 2025



Hello Mesa College Community!

Weekly Update from Prez Hands provides a brief overview of the exciting efforts taking place within our community. The updates are also a great way to tell our collective story of success, and to document our journey of becoming the Leading College of Equity and Excellence. Enjoy!

OFFICE OF THE *President*

You're invited to the Grand Opening of CommUnity Spaces at San Diego Mesa College on Thursday, April 24 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in I4-202!

Come celebrate the launch of new student support spaces designed to enhance learning and campus engagement; CalWORKs Office (I4-208), Promise Office (I4-410), Rising Scholars Office (I4-204), KUP [Kapwa-Umoja-Puente] Unity Village (I4-201), Dreamer Resource Center (I4-207), and the Family Resource Center (LRC 113).

Please share with your students. Everyone is welcome!



Celebrate the grand opening of new student support spaces designed to enhance learning and campus engagement! Everyone is welcome.

 SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

CommUnity Spaces

Grand Opening

 Thursday, April 24th, 2025

 10:00 - 11:00 am  I4-202



MESA IMPACTship
INTERNING WITH A PURPOSE

Eliminating Barriers & Preparing Students for the World of Work

www.sdmesa.edu/MesaImpactship

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Career Services

The Mesa Impactship Program (MIP) is transforming lives by providing underserved students with access to paid internship opportunities. Hear firsthand from MIP participants about how this program is equipping them with workforce training, professional skills, and financial support to pursue their dreams. With a \$1,000 stipend, mentorship, and hands-on experience, MIP empowers students to build their future careers while reducing financial barriers. Join us in expanding opportunities and creating a more equitable workforce for the next generation of leaders.

Listen to inspiring stories by clicking on the YouTube video to the left.



Pride Center
SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

SPILL THE TEA WITH TRUSTEE MILGRIM!

APRIL 22, 2PM-3PM
ROOM: D-102

TEA AND SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

Everyone is welcome to spill the tea with us!

Join us in a dialogue with Trustee Craig Milgrim centered on equity, student concerns, and fostering an inclusive campus. This conversation will allow students to share their experiences, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue with campus leadership.

For more information, contact Lucio Lira at llira@sdccd.edu or call (619) 388-5096

Everyone is welcome to spill the tea with the Pride Center!

Join the Pride Center on Tuesday, April 22 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in a dialogue with Trustee Craig Milgrim centered on equity, student concerns, and fostering an inclusive campus. This conversation will allow students to share their experiences, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue with campus leadership.

For more information, contact Lucio Lira at llira@sdccd.edu or call 619-388-5096



Join our Bake Class!
French Macarons 101

Come bake for a cause!
Your participation helps fund the Mesa College Culinary Study Abroad Program, opening doors for students to learn and grow abroad.

Learn to bake beautiful, delicate French macarons in a hands-on class taught by Mesa College Pastry Chef Liz!

Friday April 18th, 2025
10:00 am - 02:00 pm
Cost: \$40
First 20 people.

7250 Mesa College Dr.
San Diego, CA 92111
Mesa Commons Building
ROOM: 208

For more info or to sign up, contact:
Chef Tonya Whitfield Email: Twitfie@sdccd.edu

UNLEASH YOUR INNER PASTRY CHEF

Join Culinary for a hands-on baking class in support of students!

Three culinary students have the amazing opportunity to study abroad for a unique internship, and Mesa's culinary chefs are volunteering their time to teach community classes to help raise funds.

The first class is tomorrow, April 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Mesa Commons room 208.

For more information or to sign up, contact Chef Tonya Whitfield at twhitfie@sdccd.edu.

On Tuesday, **Pride Counselor Coordinator Lucio Lira** received the **Dr. Emilie Mitchell Rainbow Excellence Award** during the California Community Colleges LGBTQ+ Summit! Presented by the California Community Colleges, this award honors leaders who are making significant strides in creating inclusive, healing, and empowering environments for LGBTQIA+ students. [Lucio reflects on this award and what it means to him on the Mesa College Instagram account.](#)



Our Women's Beach Volleyball Team are PCAC Conference Champions for the 3rd year in a row!

Congratulations to the team for this amazing accomplishment and shout to Myah Gomez and Jaiden Mojich who won PCAC Pair of the Year and Coach Kim Lester who won PCAC Coach of the Year!



POP-IN with
President Hands
SPRING 2025 OPEN OFFICE HOURS

In effort to foster open dialogue with and within the Mesa College Community, President Hands will be hosting open office hours throughout the Spring 2025 Semester.

Individual meetings will be limited to a 15 minute time block, and will be available during these dates and times:

Thursday, May 8 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.



SAN DIEGO
Community College District

Each year, SDCCD evaluates workforce diversity and equity in hiring as part of the District's EEO Plan data analyses. The data consistently highlight opportunities to advance equity in employment—ultimately improving student success. Last fall, Chancellor Smith presented the findings from our five year analysis from 2018-2022 in forums at each college and the district office. Based on the findings in the EEO data analyses and feedback I've heard from many people throughout the district on how we can improve the quality and equity of our application, screening, and selection procedures, I would like to convene a workgroup to

To sign up, please use [this form](#). You will hear back from one of the President's Office staff members to confirm your date and time.

If you have any questions, please contact Eileen Hayward at ehayward@sdccd.edu.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. President Hands looks forward to hearing from our campus community and values the contributions each of you brings to our collective efforts.

develop recommendations for new and/or revised hiring procedures.

Since most people were not able to participate in the data presentations in the fall, we are conducting a session on Tuesday, April 29th at the district office and via Zoom. The session will be recorded and available to view on our website as well.

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 29, 2025. 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Location: District Office, Rooms 235-255

Join Virtually: [LINK](#)

All interested SDCCD employees are invited to attend.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*



San Diego Mesa College proudly attended the 2025 [Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education \(APAHE\) National Conference](#) held in Oakland, CA this past week. Mesa was well represented throughout the conference—and throughout Oakland! From presenting at the AANAPISI Regional Updates and volunteering across the event, to supporting local businesses like [Everett and Jones BBQ](#) (a nostalgic favorite of VP



ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE APPLICATION OPEN

Join us as we learn best practices to better serve our third-largest student population at Mesa College!

DATE & LOCATION

- August 13, 14, 15
- San Diego Mesa College | TBD
- 9:30 - 2:30pm--

COMMITMENT

- 3-Day August Training
- Monthly Engagements
- Total: 20 hours

RSVP Here

Classified
<https://forms.office.com/r/XEnF3vZhet>
Faculty
<https://forms.office.com/r/CmjJdvEVZh>

BENEFITS

- Understand the needs of our diverse AAPI students
- Learn about campus resources and programs to support AAPI students
- Revise and update syllabus and curriculum
- Stipend (Varies)

RSVP BY

- Friday, May 30, 2025 | 5:00pm
- First 20 Applicants Selected!

Contact

Leland Simpliciano | (619) 388-2406
lsimpliciano@sdccd.edu

AAPI Community of Practice (Fall 2025) - Now Accepting Applications!

The Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community of Practice (CoP) is a critical professional development cohort that provides participants with opportunities to learn, contribute their knowledge and experience, and

Lorenze), our presence was deeply felt. Most notably, Mesa was selected to present three workshops featuring: 1) Katlin Choi 2) Leland Simpliciano 3) Patricia "Trish" Guevarra, Ranmali Rodrigo, Ella deCastro Baron highlighting best practices along with the incredible work being done on our campus. We're excited to share that next year's APAHE Conference will be even closer to home—in Anaheim, CA. We hope to see even more Mesa colleagues and students join us in representing, learning, and building community in 2026!

engage in promising practices to serve our AAPI students at San Diego Mesa College.


Sign up if you're interested!


[Classified Participants](#)

[Faculty Participants](#)

Upcoming Career Services Events

We invite you to engage with our students and employer partners at several upcoming **Career Services events**, which serve as key opportunities to strengthen industry connections and provide students with real-world career insights:

 **Business Career Fair – April 24**

 **Vet Tech Career Fair – May 12**

To view more information, please click this link to the [Career Services and CTE Spring 2025 Flyer](#)

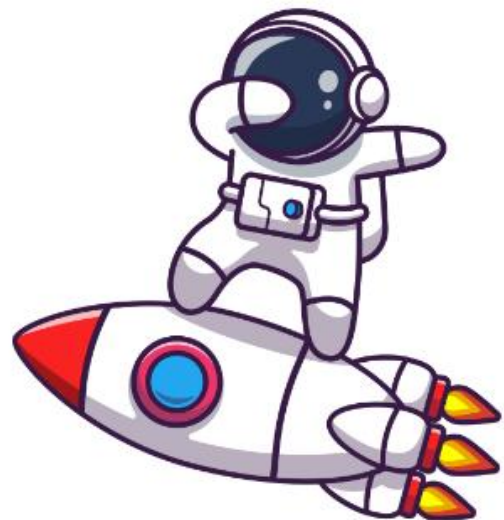
OFFICE OF *Student Services*

New Issue
Alert

[Click here for the latest Mesa Journeys Newsletter!](#)

The Mesa Journeys newsletter gives a more in-depth look at all the great things that are happening on our campus. We encourage all faculty and staff to pass this along to our students, and also to sign up to receive these newsletters straight to their inboxes! Click below to sign up and for more information about Mesa Journeys:

<https://linktr.ee/mesajourneys>



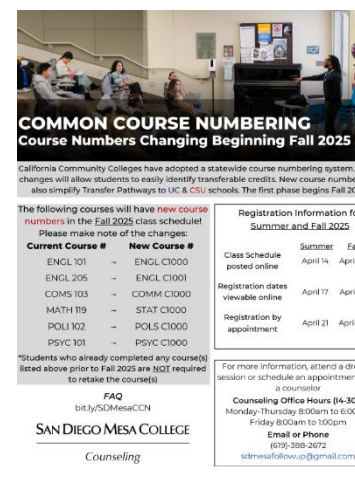


We are delighted to extend our warm invitation to join us in honoring the remarkable achievements of the class of 2025 during our upcoming Commencement Ceremony, set to take place on Friday, May 30th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Merrill Douglass Stadium.

We kindly request your assistance with various aspects of the day, including student check-in, wayfinding, Information booth, logistical support, and more. There is a myriad of roles to be filled, and your involvement is paramount to our collective success.

To volunteer your time and expertise for this momentous event, please complete the [Commencement Volunteer Registration form](#). For any inquiries or further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my Co-Coordinator Liza Abuayo at awoods002@sdccd.edu or fabuyo@sdccd.edu.

Click on the flyer to enlarge.



For more student events, please click the Mesa Journeys link above



FOUNDATION CORNER

A space to learn about our latest efforts to connect partners who share our passion for education with opportunities to give. See how fundraising can help you, our students, and Mesa's mission.

[Learn More](#)

**BREAKING BARRIERS.
EMPOWERING MINDS.
TRANSFORMING FUTURES.**



We joyfully invite you to celebrate with us at the **32nd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony**! This year, thanks to all of you, we are able to award **over \$150,000** in scholarships to **155 students**!

We are asking departments, shared governance groups and interested individual community members to help support the **32nd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony**. There are three ways that you can support this memorable celebration of student achievement:

[Purchase or donate tickets!](#)

General tickets are \$30, student tickets are \$20, children's tickets are \$10, and babies under 2 years attend for free. Can't attend but want to support? Donate a ticket that will go to help cover the cost of student scholarship recipients and those who face financial barriers. To help this way:

[Become a Sponsor!](#)

There are many opportunities for individuals, groups and organizations to support this great cause and receive recognition! It is our generous sponsors who make it possible to shine a light on our students at this event and ensure that our scholarship recipients are able to attend for free. Contact Krista Stellmacher (kstellmacher@sdccd.edu) if you have any questions. To help this way:

[Donate Items or Services!](#)

For those who would like to support the event without donating funds, we welcome gifts of items or services! These are usually provided in the form of a gift basket, and we can help assemble your items for you if you need assistance. Contact Student Affairs (619-388-2699) if you have questions or would like support. To help this way:

· *Bring your basket to the Student Affairs Office (14-408) before 4pm on Monday, April 28*

A promotional banner for the 32nd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. The background is a solid blue color. On the left, the text "32ND ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a white rectangular box contains the text "Wednesday, April 30th, 4:30 p.m." and "Mesa College Gymnasium" in a white sans-serif font. On the right side of the banner, there is a photograph of two young women. The woman on the left is wearing a black blazer over a black top and black pants. The woman on the right is wearing a blue dress and a black shawl. She is holding several white scholarship certificates. In the top right corner, the San Diego Mesa College Foundation logo is visible, consisting of a white square with a stylized 'M' and the text "SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE FOUNDATION" to its right.

**32ND ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS
CEREMONY**

Wednesday, April 30th, 4:30 p.m.
Mesa College Gymnasium

 SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

Institutional Research Update: Temporary Pause on Ad Hoc Requests

To enhance our data capabilities, the IR team is pausing all ad hoc requests until **06/30/2025**. During this time, we will be learning [SQL](#) and [Power BI](#) and begin automating key data processes. These modern tools will help us deliver insights faster, reduce manual work, and better support the college's growing needs.

Details:

- Ad hoc requests are on hold until June 30.
- Ongoing projects in our Research Agenda and mandated reports will continue as planned.
- New requests submitted during this period will be added to our queue and reviewed in July.

Long-term Benefits:

- Faster access to data through automated processes.
- Improved efficiency, allowing researchers to spend more time serving as your thought partners and transforming data into actionable insights.

Thank you for your patience and support. For questions, feel free to reach out to:

Nancy Cortes at ncortes@sdccd.edu

Hai Hoang at hhoang@sdccd.edu

Participatory Governance

To learn more about our Associated Students, Academic Senate, and Classified Senate, please visit the links below:

[Associated Students](#)

[Academic Senate](#)

[Classified Senate](#)

In The Know

For additional information on what is happening on campus and in our community - visit the links below:

[Mesa College Newsroom](#)

[Mesa College Events Calendar](#)

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.

President | San Diego Mesa College

Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!

7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721

[Mesa College](#) | [Student Support Services](#)

