



*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!

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OFFICE OF THE *President*

## Spirit of Mesa

*This Moment. Our Mission.*

### Seeking Student Talent

Nominate Students & Alumni Who Inspire You

#### They could be featured:

- Onstage live at Spirit of Mesa
- As an event ambassador
- In a video
- On a poster
- On social media



Shine a spotlight on  
your students



Nominations open until  
September 5, 2025

Scan to nominate

[bit.ly/SOM-Nominate](https://bit.ly/SOM-Nominate)

#### **Help Us Lift Student Voices + Shape Mesa's Future!**

As we prepare for our upcoming *Spirit of Mesa* event and embark on a comprehensive fundraising campaign, we need your partnership in two important ways:

#### **1. Help us spotlight our students & alumni**

Donors and community partners are deeply moved when they hear directly from our students—their stories of resilience, talent, and ambition bring Mesa's mission to life. We are seeking students who can share their experiences, showcase their talents, or represent Mesa at events and donor gatherings.

Please **share one of [these Flyers](#) with your students** in class, in Canvas, advising, or other settings.

You may also **nominate a student directly** using this [quick nomination form](#).

Please submit all nominations and encourage students to respond **no later than Wednesday, September 3!**


#### **2. Share your perspective on Mesa's priorities.**

As we look ahead to a historic comprehensive campaign, we want to ensure that our fundraising efforts align with the needs and aspirations of our campus. Your insight is essential to shaping the priorities that will drive Mesa forward.

Please take a few minutes to complete our [Fundraising Priorities Feedback Form](#) and let us know what matters most to you and your students.


**Flex Credit: 30261**

San Diego Community College District Chancellor Gregory Smith will host a series of forums in September to address district priorities and answer questions from faculty, classified professionals and administrators. All employees are welcome and encouraged to participate in their campus forum.



The poster features a blue header with a background image of a modern building. On the left is the San Diego Community College District logo, and on the right is the text "CHANCELLOR'S FORUM" in large white letters, with "MESA COLLEGE" in a smaller white box below it.

Please join your Mesa College colleagues in attending a presentation and open forum with the chancellor to discuss federal and state developments and priorities for the 2025-2026 academic year.



A circular portrait of Gregory Smith, a man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt, smiling against a green background.

**Gregory Smith**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**  
MC - 211 A/B | 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FLEX CREDIT AVAILABLE | Sign up for Workshop 30261– Chancellor's Forum  
If an accommodation is needed, please contact the President's Office.

**A huge shout out to the SD Mesa Art Gallery Team and Atlanta based designer Kenneth Green for curating the "Clothes Story" exhibit!**

The local presentation, featuring about 30 of the collection's 65 pieces, is supported by the Hervey Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation, and presented in partnership with the San Diego African American Museum Association and Mesa College. For Kenneth, the clothes are an entry point to celebrating the lives and accomplishments of Black women, including Coretta Scott King, Diahann Carroll, and Mahalia Jackson, and Fredye Marshall and Dorothy Lee Bolden. The exhibit is located in the Art Gallery, FA 103.

Click here to read the [article](#) and [video](#) to view.

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OFFICE OF *Instruction*

**Full-Time Equivalent Student Headcounts Updates**

Mesa College's headcount for the fall semester is currently **21,475**, this is a 4% increase from this time last year (836 more students). We have increased our FTES as well, with 6,165 full-time equivalent students compared to 5,841 on the same day last fall. FTEF scheduled for the fall semester is marginally greater than last fall (384 to 381). Since Fall 2022, we have experienced steady growth in headcount and FTES totals.

Mesa College's headcount for the summer semester was **7,415**, which is slightly lower than last summer's 7,570 headcount. While headcount was reduced slightly, we did see an increase of 13 more FTES this summer compared to last with 1219 FTES compared to 1206 FTES in summer 2024. As the end of term summer processing completes and we move through the start of the fall semester, we will have final numbers to share.

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## OFFICE OF *Student Services*



### **Summer CRUISE celebrated its tenth anniversary by welcoming 500 additional students in July and August!**

Our dedicated team of Peer Navigators continues to build meaningful connections that encourage new students to develop effective help-seeking skills while fostering a strong sense of belonging. Participants enjoyed the Resource Fair, took full advantage of meetings with counselors during RegLab, and successfully fulfilled their Promise requirements. Additionally, over 100 student-athletes met with the student-athlete counseling team to learn about NCAA and CCCAA eligibility requirements.





Each year, Mesa, City, and Miramar Colleges, along with Continuing Education and the District Offices, collaborate to create a vibrant float and community contingent for the San Diego Pride Parade, showcasing student creativity and voices. **This year's theme, *Unbreakable Pride, Unshakeable Power*, earned SDCCD first place for "Best Use of Theme, Community Contingent" at the 2025 parade.** This award reflects the dedication of our students, staff, and planning committee, and we are incredibly proud of this achievement.

### Club Advisor Training

Student Affairs and the Inter-Club Council hosted the annual Club Advisor Training on Friday, September 5. A total of 34 faculty, administrators and classified professionals attended the training, which certifies them to serve as club advisors for the 2025-2026 academic year. Attendees enjoyed a lively presentation, focused on new developments and updates in club policy, and a catered lunch. We look forward to working with all of our club advisors this year!

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>



Click on the flyer to enlarge



**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE** **PROMISE**

JOIN OUR  
**ONLINE PROMISE ORIENTATION**

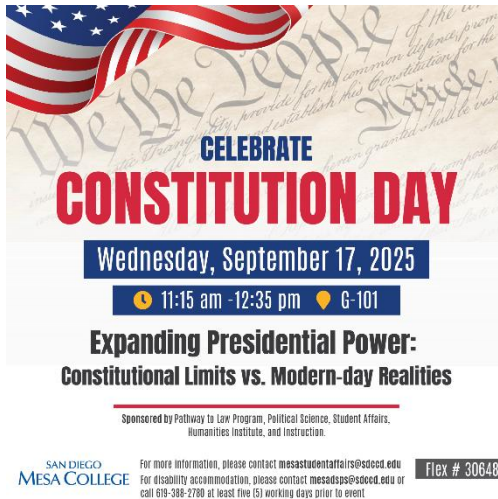
ORIENTATION IS A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL NEW PROMISE STUDENTS AT MESA COLLEGE

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 10:00-11:00 AM & 1:00-2:00 PM

Each session covers the same information – please sign up for one time slot.

[bit.ly/promiseonline](https://bit.ly/promiseonline)

Meet up!



**CELEBRATE CONSTITUTION DAY**

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

11:15 am - 12:35 pm G-101

**Expanding Presidential Power: Constitutional Limits vs. Modern-day Realities**

Sponsored by Pathway to Law Program, Political Science, Student Affairs, Humanities Institute, and Instruction.

For more information, please contact [mesastudentaffairs@sdccd.edu](mailto:mesastudentaffairs@sdccd.edu) or call 619-388-2780 at least five (5) working days prior to event.

Flex # 30648



**Somos Mesa Latino/a Heritage Month**

[www.sdmesa.edu/latino-heritage-month](http://www.sdmesa.edu/latino-heritage-month)

<b>SEPT. 11</b> Wednesday 10:00 am - 11:00 am ► MESA HALL	<b>Latino/a Bienvenida!</b> Discover the rich history and traditions of Latino/a culture at Mesa College.	<b>SEPT. 22</b> Wednesday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm ► G-101	<b>Together We Huele / Weiga</b> Joining together to celebrate and support our Latino/a community.
<b>SEPT. 23</b> Thursday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ► MESA HALL	<b>Apply for Graduation Workshop</b> We will be offering assistance about the process of applying for graduation.	<b>SEPT. 23</b> Thursday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm ► G-101	<b>Transfer 101</b> Learn about the transfer process and how to prepare for your next steps.
<b>SEPT. 24</b> Friday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ► MESA HALL	<b>Film Screening of "Guardians of the Galaxy"</b> Experience the excitement of the Guardians of the Galaxy movie.	<b>SEPT. 24</b> Friday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm ► G-101	<b>Queer Latino Film Screening of "Chabuca"</b> Join us for a screening of the film "Chabuca" and a discussion.
<b>SEPT. 25</b> Saturday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ► MESA HALL	<b>Voces de Impacto: Stories from Latino Mesa Impact Program (MIP)</b> Hear from students who have benefited from the MIP.	<b>SEPT. 29</b> Wednesday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm ► G-101	<b>Cafecito con Presidenta Dr. Abanti Hands</b> Join Presidenta Dr. Abanti Hands for a coffee and chat.
<b>SEPT. 1</b> Friday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ► MESA HALL	<b>Mesa College Library Presents Latino Heritage Month Resource Session</b> Discover the resources available at the Mesa College Library.	<b>SEPT. 1</b> Friday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm ► G-101	<b>How to Start Your Own Business</b> Learn the basics of starting your own business.
<b>SEPT. 2</b> Saturday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ► MESA HALL	<b>Patoleo: No se Olvida</b> Celebrate the traditional Mexican dish, Patoleo.	<b>SEPT. 13</b> Wednesday 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm ► G-101	<b>Voces de Impacto: Stories from Latino Mesa Impact Program (MIP)</b> Hear from students who have benefited from the MIP.

For accommodations or questions, please contact [latinoheritage@sdccd.edu](mailto:latinoheritage@sdccd.edu).



**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**  
San Diego Community College District

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP! MESA COLLEGE TECH HUB**

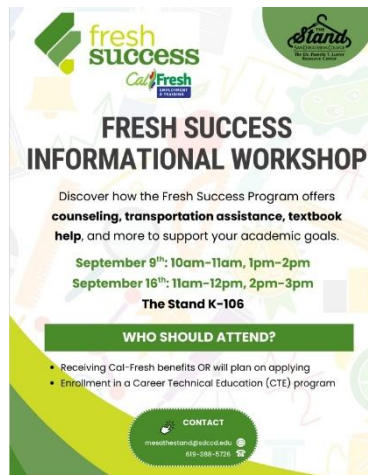
**CONNECTING CAMPUS THROUGH TECH**  
The Tech Hub is designed to provide convenient, walk-up technology services for our students, faculty, and classified professionals.

**OUR SERVICES**

- Wi-Fi & Access:** Help connecting to SDCCD Wi-Fi.
- Canvas & Tools:** Setup and troubleshooting for Canvas, Zoom, Moodle, and more.
- Accounts & Login Help:** Password resets, Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), SSO issues.
- Email:** Microsoft Outlook.
- General IT Support:** SDCCD devices, software, and digital resources.

**NEED HELP? STOP BY THE TECH HUB IN THE STUDENT SERVICES LOBBY, FIRST FLOOR (1-400)**  
MON-THURS: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
FRI: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**CONTACT US OR SCAN THE QR CODE**  
619-388-7000  
<https://help.sdccd.edu>



**fresh success** **CalFresh** **Stand**

**FRESH SUCCESS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP**

Discover how the Fresh Success Program offers **counseling, transportation assistance, textbook help,** and more to support your academic goals.

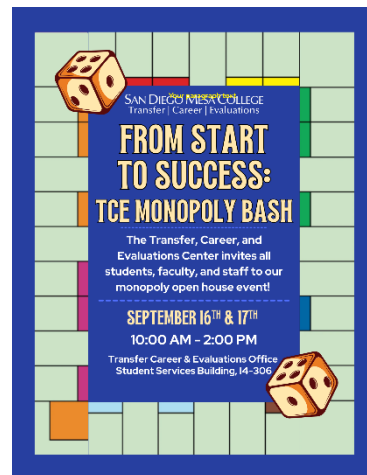
**September 8<sup>th</sup>: 10am-11am, 1pm-2pm**  
**September 16<sup>th</sup>: 11am-12pm, 2pm-3pm**

**The Stand K-106**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Receiving Cal-Fresh benefits OR will plan on applying
- Enrollment in a Career Technical Education (CTE) program

**CONTACT**  
[mesafresh@sdccd.edu](mailto:mesafresh@sdccd.edu)  
619-388-5728



**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**  
Transfer / Career / Evaluations

**FROM START TO SUCCESS: TCE MONOPOLY BASH**

The Transfer, Career, and Evaluations Center invites all students, faculty, and staff to our monopoly open house event!

**SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Transfer Career & Evaluations Office  
Student Services Building, 14-306



**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**

**¡Latino/a Bienvenida!**

Latino/a Heritage Month Kickoff  
Celebrating Latino/a Students and Colegas at Mesa College

Meet students and colegas  
Learn about campus resources

**Thursday, September 11, 2025**  
**11:00am-1:00pm**  
**Mesa Commons Quad**

Everyone is welcome!  
Food will be provided

For more information or accommodations, contact [latinoheritage@sdccd.edu](mailto:latinoheritage@sdccd.edu).

## OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

### Next Generation Dashboards Are Here!

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is excited to announce the launch of **new, redesigned Power BI dashboards** that make data easier to explore and apply.

- Now available:** the updated [Student Characteristics](#) and [Course Outcomes](#) Dashboard, offering clear, timely, and equity-focused insights.
- Coming soon:** additional dashboards on **Awards** and **Retention**.

To help faculty and staff get the most out of these tools, the IE Office is offering **short, 15-minute training sessions** that can be added to department or school meetings.

To schedule a training session, please contact **Nancy Cortes**, [ncortes@sdccd.edu](mailto:ncortes@sdccd.edu).  
Visit our dashboards today and see how data can support your work!



As we continue advancing Mesa2030, we are now preparing to launch **Part Two of the Roadmap** that will serve as the College Strategic Plan from 2026–2030. This work is essential to help us close out the Mesa2030 Educational Comprehensive Plan and ensure we remain aligned with our long-term goals of equity, excellence, and student success.

**Meeting Schedule (all meetings will be held in MC 211 from 2:00–4:00 p.m.):**

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

**The composition of the Taskforce will include:**

**Faculty:** One representative from each school

**Classified Professionals:** Four representatives (one from each President/VP area)

**Administrative Leaders:** Vice President of Student Services and Vice President of Instruction (or designee)

**Supervisor:** One Supervisor

**Co-Chairs:** Vice President of Administrative Services and Dean of Institutional Effectiveness

The Taskforce will convene this fall to build on the summer workgroups and convocation engagement, focusing on clarifying outcomes, identifying measures, and shaping objectives and actions. Your participation will be vital in helping us simplify, align, and tell the story of Mesa2030 while ensuring all voices are reflected in this process.

If you are interested in serving—or would like to nominate a colleague—please submit your name to [Mesa2030 Interest Form](#) by **September 15**.



## 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.**



### ***Highlight Your Students and Activities!***

Next semester, we will be hosting our second ever Spirit of Mesa on Friday, October 10, 2025. This annual fundraiser will showcase the activities and students across Mesa College. Have information you'd like donors to know about? We need your input! Please give us ideas: [bit.ly/SOM25Input](https://bit.ly/SOM25Input)

### ***Want to learn more about grant seeking?***

View the flex workshop hosted by Dr. Michael Lettieri, who is leading grant writing efforts, and Krista Stellmacher, CFRE and Director in service to the Office of Resource Development and Foundation.

[View Recording](#)

## *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](#)

