

November 20, 2024



*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*

A MESSAGE FROM  
*President Hands*

Hello Mesa Community,

Mesa leadership continues to hear the deep despair and uncertainty many are feeling regarding national election promises and rhetoric that will impact specific populations, including undocumented, LGBTQIA+, and all who have historically faced marginalization. These uncertainties also impact our aspirations as the leading college of equity and excellence in particular Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Title IX protections, equitable funding, accreditation, gender identity rights, and more.

We acknowledge the critical conversations and concerns about systemic inequities and racist practices that have sometimes been associated with efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. Now, more than ever, these realities underscore the need to approach our work with integrity, accountability, and an unwavering commitment to equity.

While I am aware of the many sentiments that have been expressed in the midst of it all, I am sensing the enduring hope and resilience within our community which strengthens my resolve to lead in ways that honor what we stand for: *access, accountability, diversity, equity, excellence, freedom of expression, integrity, respect, scholarship, and sustainability* rather than those things that attempt to divide and exclude.

Please know that the college and district are diligently examining all federal funding sources, assessing the impact of any reductions, and exploring sustainable ways to continue providing vital services even if certain funds are no longer available. The state of California is leading in these efforts and recently reminded us that [California and its Community Colleges Remain Sanctuary](#)



Jurisdictions. While we can only anticipate what may happen, we are exploring potential outcomes and are actively preparing comprehensive responses.

Mesa College leadership is unwavering in our dedication to protecting our students. In partnership with our District and the State of California, we will exhaust every legal avenue and process available to advocate for their needs and well-being. Together, we will be defined by our commitment to justice, equity, and opportunity for all.

Best, Ashanti



Each year, **November 20th** marks **Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)**, a day to honor the lives of transgender and gender-diverse individuals lost to violence and oppression. This is a time to reflect on the strength of the transgender community and to recommit ourselves to the fight for safety, equity, and inclusion.

This year, we invite you to a ***Healing Circle on TDOR today from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Pride Center (room D102)***. The Healing Circle is an opportunity to unite as a community, share experiences, and support one another in a safe and affirming space. Whether you are grieving, seeking comfort, or simply standing in solidarity with the trans community, your presence is valued and welcome. All students, faculty, staff, and allies are encouraged to attend.

As we honor TDOR, we also look ahead to the opportunities and challenges presented by the upcoming presidential leadership. It is crucial that we, as a community, continue to advocate for the safety, equity, and rights of our transgender and queer members. Together, we must amplify the voices of those most impacted and work to ensure that the policies and practices of our leaders reflect our commitment to inclusion and justice.

For valuable resources, please click the following links below:

[Transgender Resource Web Page](#) | [Gender Affirming Gear Services](#) | [Pride Center Website](#) | [Pride Center Instagram](#) | [Pride Center Linktree](#)

**Starting Friday, November 22, 2024, at 5:30pm, all PeopleSoft applications will be shut down to perform PeopleSoft Tools Upgrade. During this time there will be no access to the PeopleSoft Human Capital Management (HCM), Finance, and Campus Solutions applications; SDCCD access to email and network drives will remain available during this period.**

**The PeopleSoft applications will be back online by 6:00 am on Monday, November 25, 2024.**

The People Tools 8.61 upgrade for SDCCD brings many improvements designed to enhance the overall user experience, streamline navigation, and increase productivity. The refined User Interface allows users to navigate the system more quickly and efficiently. The upgraded Homepages and NavBar provide a more intuitive interface, reducing the clicks required to access essential information and perform daily tasks, including the ability to access recent searches and save your common searches. These navigation enhancements make it easier for users to find what they need quickly, improving overall efficiency across departments.



As always, if you experience system issues, please submit a ticket through the [Online Service Desk](#). For immediate support, contact the IT Services Desk at [help.sdccd.edu](mailto:help.sdccd.edu) or 619-388-7000.

## Exciting Professional Learning Opportunity: #RealCollege Curriculum Now Available at Mesa!

San Diego Mesa College is excited to announce the availability of the [#RealCollege Curriculum](#)'s first course, offered by national nonprofit organization [Believe in Students!](#) This is a resource for faculty and staff committed to supporting students facing basic needs insecurity. The curriculum includes:

- **Quick and Easy Access:** A simple process to get started right away.
- **Free First Course:** The first course, "The Students We Have", is available at no cost and can be completed in 90-minutes.
- **Flexible Learning:** Asynchronous modules for on-demand learning at your own pace.
- **Efficient Training:** Can be used as a guide for your campus community to drive impactful change across departments and divisions.
- **Practical Application:** Tools and strategies that can be implemented immediately to support student success.

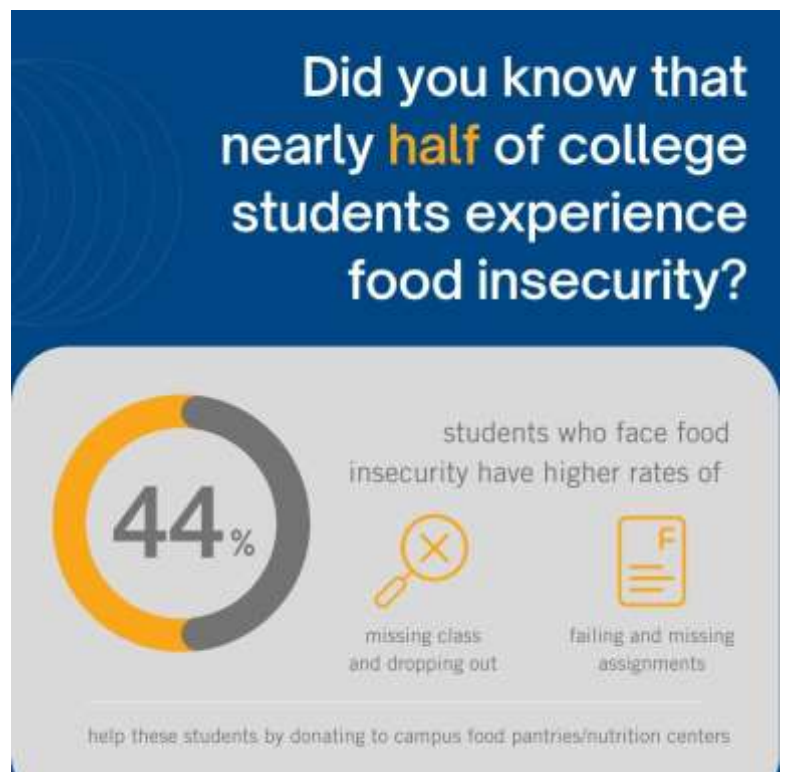
Join your Mesa colleagues who have already experienced the benefits of this curriculum and be part of the improvements of Mesa's basic needs ecosystem! You can access the course here: <https://rcc.believeinstudents.org/> and the password is RCC2024.

Please reach out to Dr. Janue Johnson ([jjohnson001@sdccd.edu](mailto:jjohnson001@sdccd.edu)) if you have any questions.

*Did you know that nearly 45% of local college students face food insecurity? To address this issue, join Cal Coast Credit Union November 1-30 for the 6th Annual Pack the Pantry virtual food drive! Your support will help fill food pantries and nutrition centers on local community college campuses with healthy meals. For every dollar you donate, the San Diego Food Bank can provide 2 meals. That means a \$50 donation can provide 100 healthy meals to support community college students in need! A donation in any amount can be made easily and securely to benefit our campus. Together we can help local college students! Thank you for your generosity!*

here!- <https://sandiegofoodbank.donorsupport.co/-/NQFWDDDA?member=SMMFEXYX>

Donate







Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Dr. Julia Schafer as she'll be a new Assistant Professor of Chemistry starting Spring 2025.

Julia has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from San Diego State University (SDSU) and University of California San Diego, a M.S. in Chemistry from SDSU, and a B.S. in Chemistry from Pacific Lutheran University. Since 2018 she has served as the Director of General Chemistry at the University of San Diego, where she oversees curriculum and content. In this role, she has created a warm and welcoming environment for students, lab technicians and other adjunct faculty alike. In her own classes, she goes above and beyond to ensure all her students feel valued, and to meet them where they are at.

On the personal side, she loves to be outside hiking, paddle boarding or playing with her dog. She has two kids, one in college and one that just graduated (She remarks: "It is awesome having two kids in their 20s"). They love going to the zoo and traveling together. She has been married to her husband for 30 years and they have both always been in education. "We used to have a photography business, so we still take too many pictures of everything. My favorite food is burritos and tacos or anything that you can put guacamole on!"

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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>



*Please click on the flyers to enlarge.*



# Thanksgiving Feast

Hosted by the Associated Students

Please join us in kicking off the holiday season! We invite all students to attend the Thanksgiving Feast. Festivities will include FREE Food, games, entertainment, opportunity drawings, and a fun, friendly atmosphere.

## Join Us

**November 21**  
3:00 - 6:00pm

Mesa Commons  
MC-211

In the spirit of giving, we are accepting donations for The Stand.

Items will be available to accept dry or canned foods, and hygiene supplies.

For more information please contact  
**Courtney Lee**  
clee@sdcccd.edu or call 619-388-2699

Request for financially related accounts: members should be made to have their 5 (five) working days prior to the event at 619-388-2699



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

# HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS Awareness Week

NOVEMBER 18-22, 2024

Thought to you by the Associated Students Committee to reduce quality of our campus housing and food issues

Random Acts of Kindness

MONDAY 11/18	TUESDAY 11/19	WEDNESDAY 11/20	THURSDAY 11/21	FRIDAY 11/22
<b>Random Acts of Kindness</b> Sign up for the Random Acts of Kindness event at Student Health Services Office in 208. For information call 619-388-2794. <a href="http://www.sdmcc.edu/health-services">www.sdmcc.edu/health-services</a>	<b>Health &amp; Human Services Agency Drop-In Sessions</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/18/2024 2:00 PM	<b>Warm &amp; Fuzzy</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/19/2024 2:00 PM	<b>CalFresh/Health &amp; Human Services Agency Drop-In</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/20/2024 2:00 PM	<b>Transfer Application Open Lab In-Zoom</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/21/2024 2:00 PM
<b>Transfer Application Open Lab In-Zoom</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/18/2024 2:00 PM	<b>Parent Cafe</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/19/2024 2:00 PM	<b>Warm &amp; Fuzzy</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/20/2024 2:00 PM	<b>CalFresh/Health &amp; Human Services Agency Drop-In</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/21/2024 2:00 PM	<b>Transfer Application Open Lab In-Zoom</b> When I Think Open Event: 11/22/2024 2:00 PM

San Diego Mesa College

# HELP WITH VA DISABILITY CLAIMS

FALL 24

EVERY MONTH

**SEPT 24TH**  
TUESDAY, SEPT 24TH  
1 hr long appointment sessions from 9:30 AM to 4 PM in the Veterans Success Center R-103

**OCT 24TH**  
THURSDAY, OCT 24TH  
1 hr long appointment sessions from 9:30 AM to 4 PM in the Veterans Success Center R-103

**NOV 19TH**  
TUESDAY, NOV 19TH  
1 hr long appointment sessions from 9:30 AM to 4 PM in the Veterans Success Center R-103

**DEC 12TH**  
THURSDAY, DEC 12TH  
1 hr long appointment sessions from 9:30 AM to 4 PM in the Veterans Success Center R-103

MORE INFO OR TO BOOK AN APPT  
JACRICULA@SDCCD.EDU

# Native American Heritage Month

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE 2024

## NOVEMBER 1-30

SB BUILDING 3RD FLOOR

### Native American Athletes Through Time

This display considers both Native American athletes throughout the 20th and 21st centuries and the importance of athletics to Native American cultures.

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12

LRC 435 11:00am-12:30pm

### Monica Zavala: An Indigenous Educational and Artistic Journey

Monica Zavala (Gabriela/Tongva Nation) will describe her journey in higher education, development as a visual artist, and how her Indigenous identity has shaped her life and career.

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5

SB-107 1:00pm-2:30pm

### Indigenous Student Alliance Film Screening: "Trail of Tears"

The Indigenous Student Alliance will be holding a screening of the documentary "Trail of Tears: Cherokee Legacy," which was financed by the Cherokee Nation and Eastern Band Cherokee Indians to tell the story of their removal and their perseverance today.

## THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14

PRIDE CENTER, D102 11:00am-2:00pm

### Weaving: Engaging Community Through the Power of 2Spirit, Indigenous-Queer Stories

Participants will be guided through a community storytelling circle facilitated by Juan A. Reynoso (The Queer 500 Collective), a local 2S Kumeyaay educator. Participants will draw connections to Indigenous, Queer, LGBTQ+ intersectionality.

## MONDAY NOVEMBER 18

BT-101 10:00am-11:30am

### Native American Perspectives on Inclusion and Identity

The CDAIE will host a panel discussion that will center on Native American voices, highlighting their unique experiences and challenges within the community. We will explore the challenges and opportunities in fostering inclusion, addressing cultural identity, and confronting systemic barriers.

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19

SB-107 1:00pm-2:00pm

### Native American Heritage Information Resource Session

Join the Equity Librarian and the Indigenous Students Alliance Club as we share & connect with our wealth of resources and services from the Mesa's Library's Native American Heritage Month Resource Guide. We will also share community resources to celebrate the achievements of Native Americans and recognize their central role in U.S. history.

## MONDAY NOVEMBER 18

81283635187 6:00pm-7:15pm

### Kumeyaay Visual Storytelling Project

Members of the team involved in the Kumeyaay Visual Storytelling Project will discuss the project, which combines the talents of Kumeyaay historians, academics, and visual artists to tell the story of the Kumeyaay in graphic novel/comic form.

## THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21

MESA QUAD 11:00am-1:00pm

### Native American Heritage Month Resource Fair

Join us! This event is celebrating Indigenous cultures, traditions, and contributions. There will be resources and informational booths, promoting awareness, education, and community engagement. There will be indigenous guests speakers and performances starting at 11:00am.

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

# DECEMBER

**Pottery-Tea Time** | Tuesday December 3 | 12pm to 2pm | Location: D102  
Enjoy a soothing cup of Tea while engaging in light-hearted conversations with peers. This cozy gathering offers a safe space to share experiences, exchange encouragement, and leave feeling refreshed and supported. Game night theme!

**House of Study** | December 9 - 13 | All Day | Location: D102  
Join us at the LGBTQ Center for a cozy, inclusive study session! Whether you're cramming for exams or just catching up on readings, this is the perfect space to focus, connect with peers, and enjoy a supportive atmosphere. We'll have snacks, quiet areas, and friendly faces to help keep you motivated. All are welcome!

**CHIP HIV Testing** | Wednesday December 11 | 11am to 4pm | Location: D102  
Join us to get your free HIV tests and STD counseling! These tests are free, quick, and confidential - with results available immediately! Participants can qualify to receive a \$25 gift card!

**Pride Scholars End Of The Year Mixer**  
Wednesday December 11 | 11am to 4pm | Location: D102  
Calling all Pride Scholars! Join us for a special Pride Scholars End of the Year Mixer tailored just for your cohort! This is your chance to bond with classmates, build strong connections, and create lasting friendships within your group. Whether you're looking to deepen existing connections or meet new faces within your cohort, this mixer is the perfect way to end the semester.

Stay Updated on Everything Pride!

LGBTQ+ Newsletter

MEET THE TEAM

**Lucia Lira (He/They/El)**  
Counselor Coordinator

**Sage Shevelenko (She/They)**  
Project Assistant

**Jacob Babauta (He/Him)**  
Project Assistant

**Alondra Gomez (She/Her/Elle)**  
Counselor

**Ari Garcia (She/Her/Elle)**  
Project Assistant

**Jesus Salazar (He/Him)**  
Project Assistant

For information about Mesa events, contact Lucia Lira: [LLira@sdccd.edu](mailto:LLira@sdccd.edu)  
[SDMesaPrideCenter@sdccd.edu](mailto:SDMesaPrideCenter@sdccd.edu) | (619) 388-5046 | @SDMesaPride



# Drop-in Event Support



Beginning Friday, November 22nd Events and Operations will be hosting office hours each Friday, from 1-2 pm on zoom.

Please drop-in to receive support on event location, space availability and more.



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OFFICE OF *Resource Development*

## Scholarship Renewal Time

Many of you generously support scholarships for students. It's that time of year to renew and fund your scholarship. If you lead a scholarship, please keep an eye out for emails with a link to renew.

For questions, contact Olivia Light at [mesascholarbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:mesascholarbuddy@gmail.com)

## *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

