

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 2:02 PM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of October 12, 2026



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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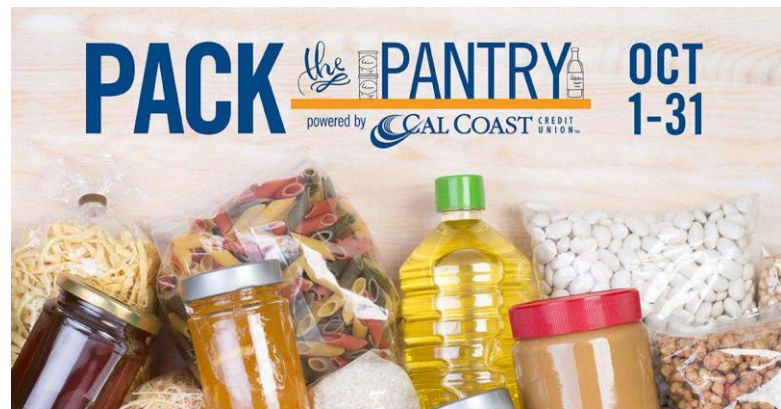
OFFICE OF THE *President*

Help Us Pack the Pantry!

Did you know nearly 1 in 2 college students face food insecurity? We're on a mission to change that. Today marks the kickoff of the 8th Annual Pack the Pantry Food Drive!

We've partnered with Cal Coast Credit Union and the San Diego Food Bank to provide healthy, nutritious meals to students who need them most. ❤️

[Click here to learn how you can help](#)



Innovation Grants

2027 Innovation Grants are now available! Applications are due by November 2. Read up on the application, process, and eligibility [here](#).



The **Learning Opportunities for Transformation (LOFT)** is excited to share information and opportunities for learning! **One Mesa. One Mission.** We're rooting for you this semester! 🌱

Click here for the latest [Never Stop Learning](#) issue.

MESA CLASSIFIED SENATE PRESENTS



SPOOK OR SPIRIT

DECORATING CONTEST

OCT.
19

CONTEST DETAILS/JUDGING

- SHOW YOUR MESA PRIDE OR GET INTO THE SPOOKY SPIRIT
- ENTER BY OCT. 15TH VIA [CONTEST ENTRY FORM](#)
- JUDGING: IN-PERSON ON OCTOBER 19TH OR 20TH
- PRIZES: GIFT CARDS FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE



OCT.
21

PEP RALLY

- WHEN: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST AT NOON
- WHERE: MESA QUAD
- DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED



The **Spook or Spirit Office Decorating Contest** is here, and we want YOUR office or department to join the fun. Whether you go all out with Halloween chills or dazzle with Mesa pride, this is your chance to get creative and show your team spirit!

Important Dates:

Enter by: Friday, October 16th – Complete the [Decorating Contest Entry Form](#) to sign up your office/department.

Judging: In-Person October 19th or 20th

Winners Announced: Wednesday, October 21st at the Pep Rally in the Mesa Quad (starting at noon).

 **Prizes:** Visa Gift Cards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners!

 Don't miss the chance to be crowned the spookiest OR most spirited office on campus. Rally your coworkers, get decorating, and let's make this Homecoming season unforgettable!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Taste of Mesa

FRI, OCT. 30 🕒 5:00 pm 📍 Culinary Outlook, MC-208

GET YOUR TICKET

givebutter.com/taste-of-mesa-2026



On Friday, October 30, 2026, San Diego Mesa College will host our annual “Taste of Mesa”, the premier cooking-show style fundraiser benefiting the Culinary Arts Management Program. Taste of Mesa will feature internationally-inspired cuisine and cook-off competitions between alumni, students and an advanced baking team. Join us at 5 pm at Mesa Commons for an evening of food, inspiration, and community!

Purchase tickets here: <https://givebutter.com/taste-of-mesa-2026>

BREAKING NEWS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

MESAPRESS.COM

MESA JOURNALISM STUDENTS WIN FIRST PLACE AWARDS

AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE



- **ONLINE GENERAL EXCELLENCE:**
MESAPRESS.COM
- **1ST PLACE AUDIO PODCAST:**
YUI MATSUWAKI &
MAURICIO MORENO



Mesa Journalism Students Earn Two First-Place Awards!

Congratulations to Mesa College's talented journalism students for earning two first-place awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges' 2026 Southern California Publications Contest! [The Mesa Press](#) received the prestigious Online General Excellence Award, while students Yui Matsuwaki and Mauricio Moreno earned first place in the Audio News/Podcast category for their compelling discussion on mental health across generations. [Listen to their award-winning podcast here!](#)

ENROLLMENT *update*

Fall 2026 FTES is 6,166 and our headcount is 21,960. For Fall 2026, we are 101.9% towards meeting our goals and anticipate being able to meet our targets even with changes in enrollment and fraudulent "bot" students being removed. As for Fall 2026, the numbers have increased, and we have 0.04% more students this week compared to last week..



**Stay updated on the latest
developments of our Olympian
Athletes!**

<https://www.gosdmesa.com/landing/index>



Check out the October edition of the Communication Studies Newsletter for exciting updates on student success initiatives, faculty collaborations, upcoming events, and more!



Bring your furry friend to Mesa College's Fall Dog Wash on Saturday, October 24, from 9:30 AM–12 PM at the Vet Tech Building (P300)!

Hosted by the Animal Health Technology Student Association, proceeds support the program.

Pricing (includes free nail trim):

- Small: \$16 | Medium: \$18 | Large: \$22

Book your appointment:

<https://vtahdogwash.square.site/>

Questions? Contact Jeaneal Davis at

jdavis003@sdccd.edu.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*



Filipino American History Month

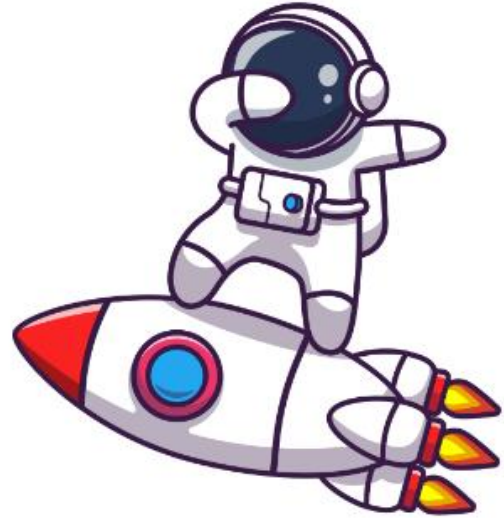
Last Wednesday, October 7, we celebrated Filipino American History Month with guest speakers, Dr. Bernard Ellorin and MaryGrace Nierva from the Samahan Filipino American Performing Arts & Education Center. They facilitated an engaging workshop on music and dance from different regions in the Philippines. Participants learned how to dance the tinikling (the national folk dance of the Philippines) and play gangsa and kulintang, which are instruments played by the indigenous communities.

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>



PANCAKE SOCIAL FUNDRAISER

FROM 8-10AM | 10TH NOV | PLATE \$7BD

Join us on Tuesday, November 10th, for our Pancake Social, with all proceeds going to our Veterans Emergency Fund!

Start your morning with pancakes and a purpose—every plate helps support Mesa College's Veterans Emergency Fund!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Planning on Graduating? You Must Apply!

If you plan on completing a Degree and/or Certificate of Achievement, you must apply through your mySDCC portal to obtain the award. For questions regarding graduation requirements, please contact a counselor.

mysdccc portal → myACADEMICS → APPLY FOR DEGREE / CERTIFICATE

2026-2027 DEADLINES

ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER (ADT) DEADLINES	GENERAL DEADLINE	COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2026 Students Transferring to CSU in Spring '27 with ADT	NOVEMBER 15, 2026 Fall 2026 Deadline	MARCH 15, 2027 Deadline to ensure your name is in the Commencement Program
FEBRUARY 15, 2027 Students Transferring to CSU in Fall '27 with ADT	APRIL 30, 2027 Spring 2027 Deadline	JULY 31, 2027 Summer 2027 Deadline

Go to mySDCC, apply, degree

www.sdmesa.edu/graduation | 619-388-2480 | mesaevaluations@sdcc.edu

[Deadlines](#) to earn a degree or certificate are October 1 for Fall ADT earners and November 15 for all other Fall degrees and certificates

WE ARE MESA PEP RALLY 2026

OCTOBER 21 12:00 PM QUAD

FREE FOOD • FREE GAMES • PRIZES • SO MUCH FUN

Sponsored by: Associated Student Government, Athletics, Interclub Council, Student Affairs and The Stand

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT THIS HALLOWEEN! EVERYONE IS INVITED TO DRESS UP!

Show your Mesa pride at the **We Are Mesa Pep Rally 2026** on Wednesday, October 21 at 12:00 p.m. in the Quad!

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

EVENTS SCHEDULE

FRI, OCT 2	WEDS, OCT 7
ASIAN PACIFIC DIVERSITY CLUB MEETING Come check out the Asian Pacific Diversity Club meetings and meet fellow students and those interested in AAPI culture. KUP VILLAGE H20A 10:30AM - 1:00PM	PHILIPPINE MUSIC AND ITS DIVERSITY INTERACTIONS Participate in a round of singing to learn about traditional and contemporary genres of Philippine music with Dr. Bernice Blum and experience her new Filipino Dance Company. KUP VILLAGE H20A 11:00AM - 12:30PM
MON, OCT 12	WEDS, OCT 21
LANGUAGES IN THE PHILIPPINES Subject to public service schedules by offering a lesson in language diversity in the Philippines. SHOE 12:00PM - 12:35PM	SILENT SACRIFICES Exploring Filipino American family dynamics and its impact on college career decisions with Vanessa Cordero, Host: Precious. KUP VILLAGE H20A 11:00AM - 12:35PM
WEDS, OCT 28	ALL MONTH
CAREERING WHILE AAPI PANEL Join four dynamic Asian American and Pacific Islander professionals as they share their experience along their career journey. SHOE 12:00PM - 12:35PM	FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH DISPLAY Centrated on this year's theme: Beyond the Margins: Centering Intersectional Filipino American Histories. HOW TO VISIT: 10:00AM - 5:00PM Jesse Canales Library

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PATRICIA FRISON SUAREZ@SDCC.EDU

Request for disability-related accommodations should be made no later than 10 working days prior to the event!

Celebrate Filipino American History Month at Mesa with events honoring Filipino culture, history, and community throughout October!



For More Events, Click on the Links Below

[Pop-up Resume Review: Resume Tent](#)

[Fall 2026 Housing Series: Ready, Set, Rent!](#)

[Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship Opportunity](#)

[Fall 2026 Art Focus](#)

[Fall 2026 CalFresh, MediCal, Drop In Sessions](#)

[Fall 2026 Financial Literacy Workshop](#)

[USD x Rising Scholars](#)

[Undocuadvocate Professional Development Training](#)

[Fall 2026 Graduation and Commencement Workshops](#)

[Fall 2026 Student Parent Healing Circle](#)

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE





SAFETY FAIR

10:15 AM GREAT SHAKEOUT
DROP, COVER, & HOLD ON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

11 AM-1 PM
MESA QUAD

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT

★ CAMPUS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (C-CERT)
★ FIRST AID ★ CPR ★ AED ★ EMERGENCY RESOURCES
★ CAMPUS & PUBLIC SAFETY ★ DUI SIMULATOR ★ AND MORE







FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MATT FAY AT MFAY@SDCCD.EDU

SAFETY TRAINING WEEK

A Safer Campus Starts with You

Join us for a single training session or the full series

OCT 12

FIRE SAFETY TRAINING
2:30-4:30pm
Limited slots available

OCT 13

FIRST AID/EVAC CHAIR TRAINING
2:30-4:30pm

OCT 14

BREATHLESS CPR AND AED TRAINING
2:30-4:30pm





Sign Up on the Mesa Safety Website



To view upcoming safety trainings, visit the Safety webpage in the Mesa website and scroll down to the [#Safety Training](#) section and click the dropdown icon.

October 12th, 2026 (2:30-4:30pm)
[Fire Safety Training](#)
 October 13th, 2026 (2:30-4:30pm)
[First Aid and Evacuation Chair Training](#)
 October 14th, 2026 (2:30-4:30pm)
[Breathless CPR and AED Training](#)

In addition, please save the date for the **Safety Fair**, which will be held on **Thursday, October 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Quad.**

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

WELCOME TO THE EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL

This will guide you through submitting your event request.

Create Event
Edit Event

Non Event Parking Permits

If your event needs parking please enter an event request under the parking section.

This form can be used for parking permit requests that are **NOT** related to an event and do not require additional resources or a space/room (i.e. community clinic, meetings in dept. conference rooms, guest speakers during a class, etc.)

- Must be entered two weeks in advance
- Requests require manager approval, similar to Event Requests
- Can be used for single or group permits

Parking related to events will need to be entered as part of an Event Request.

WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS

Events Office Hours

Wednesdays at 11:00am

Join for event help every Wednesday from 11:00-12:00pm. Find the zoom link on the Events and Operations webpage. Or scan the QR code here.



DESIGN CENTER RENOVATION

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Phase 0 Winter Intersession: January 2027

Restrooms Z-400 & Z-100

Phase 1 Spring Semester: February - May 2027

Buildings Z-400 & Z-100

Phase 2 Summer Intersession: June - August 2027

Buildings Z-300 & Z-200, Courtyard

Phase 3 Fall Semester: August - December 2027

Buildings Z-500 & Z-600



SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

New Retention Dashboard Now Available!

The Institutional Effectiveness Office is excited to launch the new [Mesa College Retention Dashboard](#), which tracks first-time college students and their retention across terms. Explore retention trends across student populations, identify equity gaps, and support data-informed strategies for student success. Find and explore the **Retention Dashboard** under **Student Learning & Momentum** on the **Institutional Research/Data Dashboards** page.

IE Office Hours

A DEDICATED TIME TO THINK
THROUGH YOUR DATA TOGETHER 🌟



QUESTIONS?

We're here to help.



DATA?

Let's explore it together.



IDEAS?

Let's work through them.

*We look forward to being
your data thought partner. ❤️*

Flex #34535

Every Tuesday
12:30–1:30 p.m.



1st & 3rd Tuesdays:

In person in the
IE Conference Room (A-109)



2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 872 4762 5082



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.**



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](#)

Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities

Please remember that our district has an official immigration policy, [AP 3415](#). This policy directs all inquiries regarding immigration enforcement to the District Chancellor and District General Counsel. If you receive a confirmed report of immigration enforcement on campus, please contact:

- SDCCD Chancellor's Office (Greg Smith): 619-388-6957 | chancellor@sdccd.edu
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | lkostic@sdccd.edu

You are not expected to engage with immigration enforcement or place yourself or others at risk. If approached by immigration officials, you may respond: "I am not authorized to speak with you, answer your questions, or provide access to any people or facilities per SDCCD policy. Only the District Chancellor and General Counsel have authority to assist you." To stay informed and prepared:

- Update your emergency contact information in the [MySDCCD portal](#)
- Download the [SDCCDsafe App](#)
- Refer to the [District's Immigration Resources page](#)
- Continue to read campus emails and official updates

San Diego Mesa College has a clear, coordinated Immigration Enforcement Response Plan centered on our Emergency Management Response Team, led by the President and including College Communications, Vice Presidents, Facilities and Operations, OEHS, and the Campus Community Emergency Response Team, in coordination with SDCCD Police. Recognizing that every incident is unique, this structure ensures we are prepared to act quickly and compassionately with clear communication, coordinated safety measures, and robust support for students and employees should an incident occur.

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](#)

