

February 27, 2025

SAN DIEGO  
MESA COLLEGE



WEEKLY UPDATES FROM

*Prez Hands*

*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*

## MESSAGE TO THE MESA COLLEGE COMMUNITY

### *Ensuring Clear and Consistent Communication*

Dear Mesa College Community,

I recognize that not everyone has had the opportunity to hear the messages I've shared at Convocation, President's Cabinet, and other spaces. It is important that our entire community remains informed and aligned in how we navigate these times. With that in mind, I want to take a moment to share my perspective and how the leadership team and I will guide our college forward.

#### **A Moment That Demands Clarity and Commitment**

We are facing a time that requires focus, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to who we are and what we stand for. Recent federal directives have raised concerns about the future of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in higher education, calling into question the very programs that support access and student success. These shifts bring uncertainty, but they do not change our vision, values, or mission.

#### **Our Commitment to Equity and Excellence**

Let me be clear: Mesa College remains deeply committed to serving all students equitably and with excellence, in full alignment with both state and federal law. California has long upheld protections that ensure students, employees, and communities are supported without discrimination, and we will continue to operate within these principles.

This is not the first time we have faced challenges that seek to undermine progress, and it will not be the last. But we do not waver in our purpose. We will continue to offer programs and services that reflect the needs of our students,

and we will not allow shifting rhetoric to distract us from our core work—providing equitable access, fostering student success, and ensuring that every individual who steps onto our campus is seen, valued, and supported.

### **Navigating Change with Strategic Action**

As we remain steadfast in our mission, we also recognize the legal and financial implications of evolving federal policies. Our leadership team, alongside the Chancellor's Cabinet and Board of Trustees, is actively monitoring developments and assessing their potential impact. We are fully prepared to adjust as necessary while keeping our community informed when actionable steps are required.

To avoid adding unnecessary noise, I will not address every circulating issue in broad messages. Instead, I encourage you to stay focused on your work. Unless you hear directly from leadership, please continue serving our students with the excellence and dedication that define Mesa College.

### **A Path Forward—Together**

If you have concerns or questions, I urge you to bring them forward through your supervisors and managers, ensuring they can be appropriately escalated to Vice Presidents and Executive Leadership. This structured approach allows us to direct critical matters to Cabinet, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees for thoughtful and strategic action.

While uncertainty can cause frustration, these moments also present an opportunity to reaffirm who we are. Our strength lies in our collective commitment to our students and our ability to navigate challenges with intention and resilience. We are a community that figures things out together—we do not need to wait for every answer to be handed to us.

### **How Will You Meet This Moment?**

As I shared at Convocation, I ask you again:

- Stay grounded in the work that truly matters.
- Support one another with care, purpose, and collaboration.
- Use your knowledge, discernment, and experience to navigate challenges with wisdom and clarity.
- Be the light that creates opportunities and ensures every student has the chance to succeed.

We have been tested before. We have persisted. And we will continue to thrive—not by reacting to uncertainty, but by leading through it with vision, strength, and an unshakable belief in our mission.

*Moving Forward—Together.*

Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and the light you bring to our students and community.

Best,  
Ashanti



POP-IN with  
*President Hands*

SPRING 2025 OPEN OFFICE HOURS

In efforts 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:

Wednesday, March 12 | 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday, March 24 | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 10 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Friday, April 25 | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, May 1 | 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday, May 8 | 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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](mailto: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.

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OFFICE OF *Instruction*



Join us for a special two-part workshop for educational leaders!

The SDCCD Division of Educational Services and the Mesa College Office of Instruction present "Embracing the Paradigm Shift: Core Competencies for Equity Advancing College Leaders" featuring Lasana Hotep.

For more information, [click here for the flyer](#).

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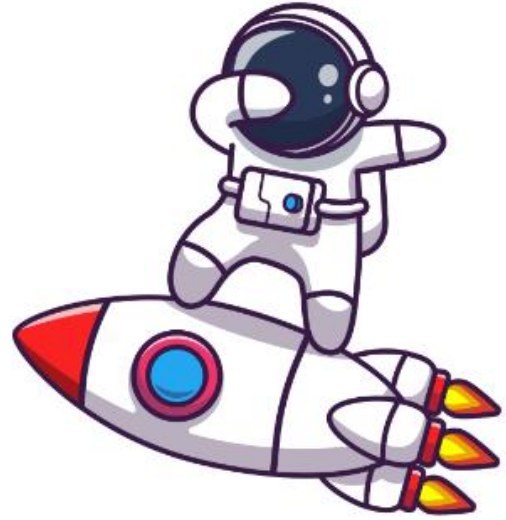
OFFICE OF *Student Services*

# 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>



Thank you to those of you who volunteered to review scholarships. Review is underway! In the meantime, we are able to award the remaining awards to students who earned scholarships in the last scholarship cycle that are set to be distributed over the course of the academic year.

## 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](#)

**President | San Diego Mesa College**

*Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!*

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

