

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



March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month
 Our Dean of Learning Resources and Academic Support, Dr. Lorie Howell, was interviewed by ABC10 News about the importance of early detection and cancer screenings.
 Dr. Howell recalls the moment her life took a dramatic turn following a routine recommendation from a doctor to undergo a colon cancer screening. Days later, she received a call confirming she did. Four years later, she is cancer-free, but remains vigilant with routine lab work.

To here more about her story, please click the video to the left.

In Loving Memory of Sakeenah Jasmine Gallardo

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of our dear colleague, Sakeenah Jasmine Gallardo. Sakeenah had been a cherished member of our faculty for the past ten years. As a dedicated educator, mentor, and friend, she earned the admiration and respect of many, leaving a lasting impact on both our institution and the lives of countless students and colleagues.

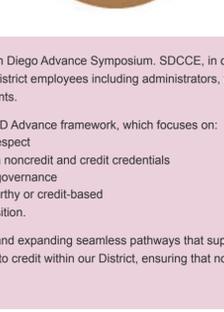
To read a heartfelt message from Professor Bobby Chambers, please [click this link](#).



Last Friday, we celebrated women in community colleges at the 2025 Annual San Diego Chapter-American Association for Women in Community Colleges Summit. It was an inspiring event filled with insightful discussions, empowering stories, and a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for women in education.

Congratulations to San Diego Mesa College awardees at this year's event:

- Ally Award - VP Larry Maxey
- Chapter Award - Krista Stellmacher
- Faculty Award - Alondra Gomez
- Administrator Award - Erica Patty Garcia
- Classified Professional Award - Ayana Woods
- Student Award - Dorothy Greenberg



Mesa College attended the 5th San Diego Advance Symposium. SDCCE, in collaboration with Miramar College, hosted over 63 district employees including administrators, faculty, classified professionals, and students.

The symposium emphasized the SD Advance framework, which focuses on:

- Treating all students with respect
- Building pathways between noncredit and credit credentials
- Aligning departments and governance
- Making programs credit-worthy or credit-based
- Removing barriers for transition.

We remain committed to creating and expanding seamless pathways that support our students' transition from noncredit to credit within our District, ensuring that no student starts from ground zero.

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, April 10 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, April 25 | 11:15 a.m. available only
- Thursday, May 1 | 9:45 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.

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.

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 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](#)

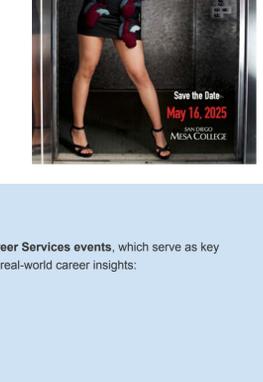
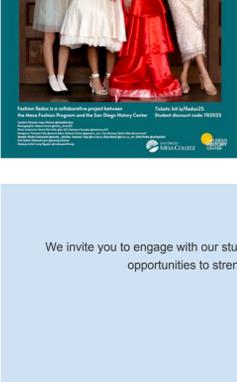
All interested SDCCD employees are invited to attend



Mesa College will be on Spring Break from Monday, March 31 - Thursday, April 3, 2025.

Friday, April 4, 2025, the District and all SDCCD Campuses will be closed in observance of Cesar Chavez Day.

OFFICE OF Instruction

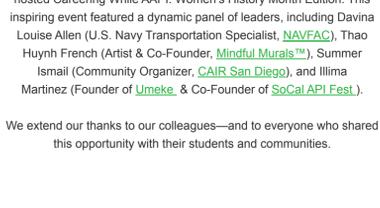


Upcoming Career Services Events

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:

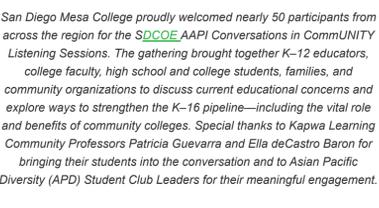
- MIP Internship Expo – April 10
- Districtwide Career Fair – April 16
- Business Career Fair – April 24
- Vet Tech Career Fair – May 12

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



Women's History Month - Careering While AAPI (Spring 2025)
 In a signature collaborative effort, the Kapwa Learning Community, Work-Based Learning, AANAPISI, and the APIA Committee proudly hosted Careering While AAPI: Women's History Month Edition. This inspiring event featured a dynamic panel of leaders, including Davina Louise Allen (U.S. Navy Transportation Specialist, [NAVFAC](#)), Thao Huynh French (Artist & Co-Founder, [Mindful Murals™](#)), Summer Ismail (Community Organizer, [CAIR San Diego](#)), and Ilima Martinez (Founder of [Umke](#), & Co-Founder of [SoCal API Fest](#)).

We extend our thanks to our colleagues—and to everyone who shared this opportunity with their students and communities.



San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) – AAPI Conversations in COMMUNITY Listening Sessions at San Diego Mesa College

San Diego Mesa College proudly welcomed nearly 50 participants from across the region for the [SDCOE AAPI Conversations in COMMUNITY Listening Sessions](#). The gathering brought together K-12 educators, college faculty, high school and college students, families, and community organizations to discuss current educational concerns and explore ways to strengthen the K-16 pipeline—including the vital role and benefits of community colleges. Special thanks to [Kapwa Learning Community Professors Patricia Guevarra and Ella deCastro Baron](#) for bringing their students into the conversation and to [Asian Pacific Diversity \(APD\) Student Club Leaders](#) for their meaningful engagement.

A heartfelt thank-you to our Facilities Team (Jacqueline Collins & Giovanni Garcia) for their assistance supporting SDCOE on an urgent short notice—we truly appreciate your support!

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>

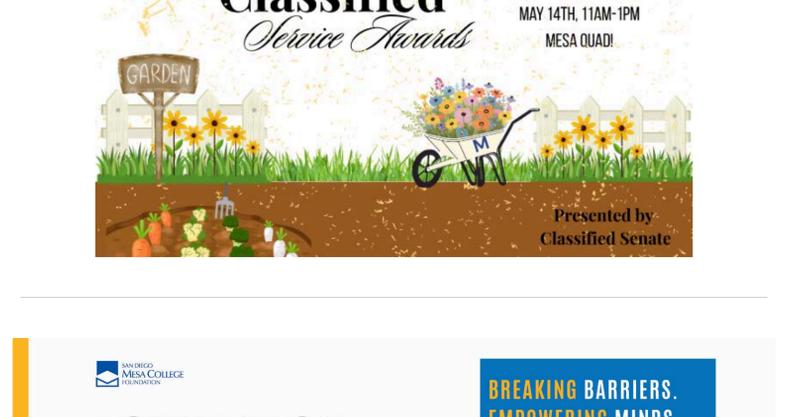


Click on the flyer to enlarge.



For more student events, please click the [Mesa Journeys](#) link above

OFFICE OF Administrative Services



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.

Did you know...
 When you look at all giving across the nation to nonprofits, over 70% of contributions come from individuals—not corporations. So many of you are a part of this majority, giving generously to our students and mission. Thank you for supporting Mesa!

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 classified reports will continue as planned.
- New requests submitted during this period will be added to our queue and reviewed in July.

Long-term Benefits:

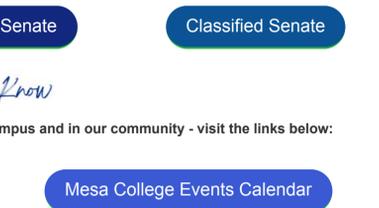
- Faster access to data through automated processes.
- Improved efficiency, allowing researchers to spend more time serving as your thought partners and transforming data into actionable insights.

As we are closing out the 2024-2025 Program Review Cycle, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts by completing this quick survey no later than **03/31/2025**:

- <https://tinyurl.com/PR-survey-2425>

As part of our commitment to compliance, continuous improvement, and institutional effectiveness, we invite you to complete the **Program Review Feedback Survey**. This effort aligns with [ACCJC 2024 Standards Roadmap to Mesa 2030](#), and our [college's vision](#) of being the leading college of equity and excellence.

On behalf of the Program Steering Committee, we would like to Thank You for your time and input in creating a meaningful and impactful process for the college.



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 Calendar](#)

Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.
 President | San Diego Mesa College
 Creating conditions that matter for our students to succeed!
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