

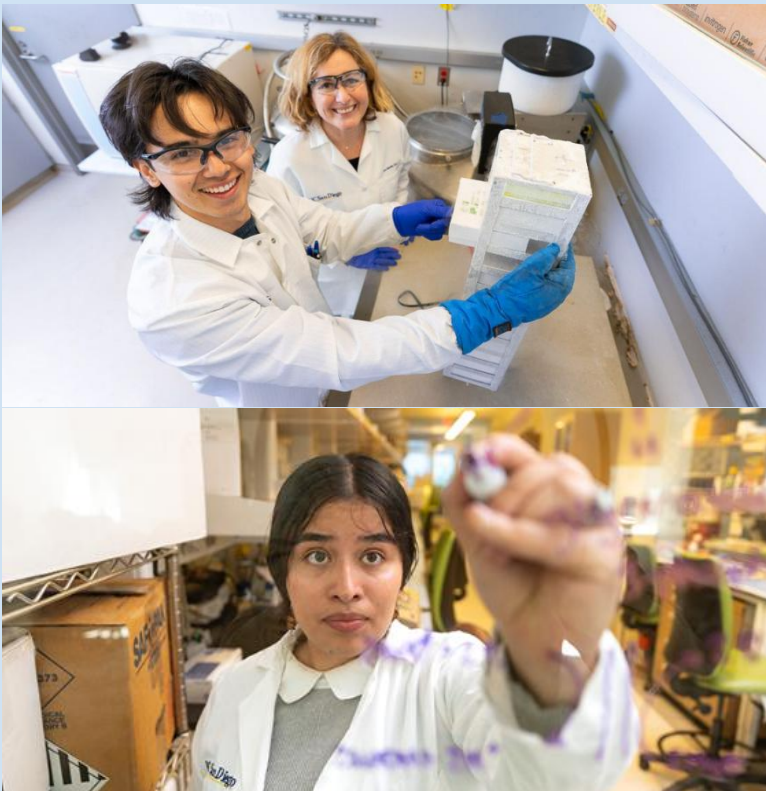


*Hello Mesa College Community! .....*

**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*



### **Mesa College Students Spotlited in UC San Diego Article About the CADRE Program**

Exciting news for Mesa College students! A group of our very own is being featured in a recent article from UC San Diego about the CADRE program. CADRE, which stands for CreAting Dedicated Scientists through Research Education, is a groundbreaking initiative designed to immerse college students in real-world research experiences across San Diego County.

The program provides unique opportunities for students to engage in hands-on scientific research, fostering academic growth and equipping the next generation of scientists with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their fields. For students at Mesa College, being part of this initiative is not just a chance to work alongside experts, but a pathway to greater success in science and research.

To read more, click this link to the [UC San Diego Article](#).



# Congratulations, Lucio!

Our Pride Counselor Coordinator, Lucio Lira, was selected as a recipient for the 2025 Dr. Emilie Mitchell Rainbow Excellence Award!

Lucio is known for his leadership in creating inclusive environments and transformational healing spaces supporting the educational journey of LGBTQIA+ students such as affinity spaces and academic learning communities.

Lucio will be honored during the [California Community Colleges LGBTQ+ Summit](#) on Tuesday, April 15 at 12:30 p.m.. This virtual event is free, so please sign up!



## 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:

Friday, April 25 | 11:15 a.m. available only

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.



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 29, 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.

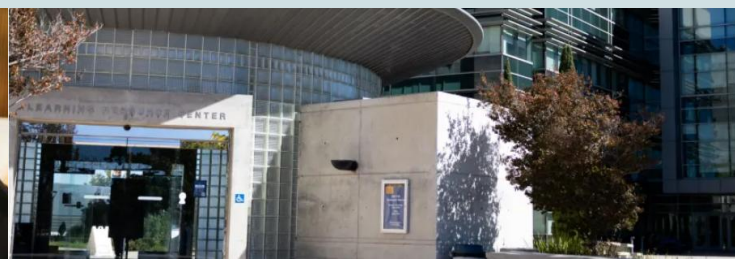


*California Competes* featured our MOST team and the incredible work they do on our campus!

Community colleges face growing student demand for online courses, creating a need for faculty prepared to teach in this modality. While institutions are working to provide structured support for online course design and delivery, the scale and pace needed presents challenges.

San Diego Mesa College sought to address this problem through their [Mesa Online Success Team \(MOST\) program](#), transforming how faculty approach online teaching by first making them online students. The key component of MOST is a four-week online training course where faculty learn by doing—they become online students themselves. By experiencing online learning firsthand, faculty gain personal insights into what works and what doesn't, all while building their own course design skills.

To read more, click this link for the California Competes article: [How San Diego Mesa College Transforms Online Teaching Through Faculty Development](#).



Associate Dean Alex Berry is featured in an article in the San Diego Business Journal discussing how our [Mesa Impactship program Provides Pay for Unpaid Internship Opportunities](#).

The Mesa Impactship program launched in September of 2022. Each semester, the program supports 150-200 students with either an hourly wage or \$1,000 stipend. The money can go toward food, transportation, professional clothes, and other costs associated with their internship.

In a [San Diego Union Tribune article](#), Chancellor Greg Smith talks about the importance of California Community College's Strong Workforce program, and why Assembly Bill 323 is so important for our students.

AB 323 would explicitly allow our state's 116 community colleges to utilize Strong Workforce Dollars for paid work-based learning programs such as paid internships.

To read more, click the link above. Please note that it may require a paid San Diego Union Tribune subscription.






### **Mesa College at San Diego Padres (*Inaugural* Burmese, Cambodian, Lao, Thai Heritage Night)**

In celebration of Southeast Asian New Year ([Songkran](#)), the San Diego Padres hosted their first-ever Burmese, Cambodian, Lao, Thai Heritage Night. It was an eventful game as [AANAPISI](#), [APD Club](#), and [Kapwa](#) members were in attendance celebrating Southeast Asian culture. While the Padres came out victorious (7-2), Mesa Employees, Samuel

*Silipo and Leland Simpliciano, put Mesa on the map as they celebrated their 15 minute (15 second) of fame on the jumbotron!*

### 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:

-  **Districtwide Career Fair – April 16**
-  **Business Career Fair – April 24**
-  **Vet Tech Career Fair – May 12**

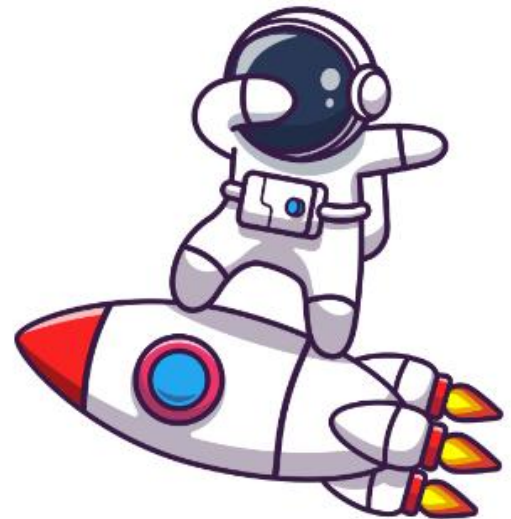
To view more information, please click this link to the [Career Services and CTE Spring 2025 Flyer](#)

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.*

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**

Everyone is welcome!

**18 APRIL**

**Black Student Success Summit**  
Students and employees- join us for engaging workshops, inspiring speakers, and networking opportunities. The summit equips students with strategies for success in their educational journey.  
Hosted by SDOCCD Black Student Success Workgroup

**ZOOM**  
HTTPS://BIT.LY/SDCCD2025BLACKSTUDENTSUMMIT  
8:30AM - 11:00AM

**21 APRIL**

**Umoja Campus Kickback**  
Join us for a day of fun celebrating our Black students! Play games, learn about on campus resources, and meet students and employees.  
Hosted by Umoja

**MESA QUAD**  
1:00PM - 3:00PM

**22 APRIL**

**Path to Black Excellence Library Scavenger Hunt!**  
Unleash your inner detective as you navigate the library to find clues and discover hidden treasures. Explore the vast collection of books, resources, and library spaces.  
Hosted by LRC and Equity Librarian

**MESA LRC**  
11:00AM - 12:00PM

**23 APRIL**

**#TheBlackHour at Mesa**  
Join us to learn and share insight on the success of Black and African American students in community colleges. Learn about on campus resources and meet students and employees.  
Hosted by COCCO and Student Success and Equity

**14-401**  
12:00PM - 1:00PM

**24 APRIL**

**Open Mic Night**  
Showcase your talent or simply enjoy an evening of music, poetry, comedy, and more. All are welcome to participate or cheer on fellow performers.  
Hosted by Black Student Union and Black Studies

**G-102**  
5:00PM - 7:00 PM

**ALL WEEK**

**Black Student Counseling Hot Spots**  
Sign up for a counseling appointment using the QR code or the link below  
https://bit.ly/MesaBlackStudentCounselingHotSpots  
Hosted by Black Faculty Counseling Collaborative

**ALL WEEK**

**#TheBlackHour-Zoom Webinar**  
#TheBlackHour webinars will share insights, and approaches for improving student success among Black and African American students in community colleges.  
Hosted by California Community College Chancellor's Office

**ZOOM**  
WWW.BLKSTUDENTSUCCESS.COM  
12:00PM - 1:00PM

California Community College Chancellor's Office  
Black Student Success Week Events:  
www.blkstudiesuccess.com

More events daily, visit for more info here

**QUESTIONS:**  
(619) 388-2884

**Annual Celebration**

**CULTURAL UNITY WEEK**

April 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Week-long Events

**Random Acts of Kindness**  
throughout Campus, by Associated Students

**Arts & Craft Vendors**  
on the Mesa Commons Breezeway

**Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am -12:00 pm **CCC LGBTQ+ Summit Watch Party**  
Pride Center, D-102

10:15 am -11:15 am **Spilling the Tea: The Role of the Pride Scholars Program**  
Pride Center, D-102

11:00 am -12:35 pm **Conversation with Jane Lee**  
News Producer & Journalist, ABC 10 News  
SB-119

12:00 pm -3:00 pm **Disability Awareness Training**  
High Tech Center, LRC-110

**Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**World Art Collection - Voices for Africa**  
Celebration through arts, film, presentation, drum and dance performances  
• 9:30 am - Arts Presentation LRC 446  
• 12:45 pm - Documentary film LRC 446  
• 2:30 pm - Drum & Dance performance LRC - 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
• 3:15 pm - Social gathering LRC 446

10:00 am -12:00 pm **Safe Zone Training**  
Hybrid/Zoom Option available  
Pride Center, D-102

11:15 am -12:30 pm **Critical Campus Cultural Conversations - Displays of Culture**  
Hybrid/Zoom Option available  
TBD

12:00 pm -3:00 pm **Yass, Egg: Time to Paint!**  
Pride Center, D-102

1:00 pm -2:00 pm **Transferring with a Major in Ethnic Studies & Related Disciplines**  
TCE, 14-306

4:00 pm -5:30 pm **DEI: What it is and what it isn't**  
Student Diversity Club  
Zoom

**Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am -12:00 pm **CCC LGBTQ+ Summit Watch Party**  
Pride Center, D-102

10:15 am -11:15 am **Spilling the Tea: The Role of the Pride Scholars Program**  
Pride Center, D-102

11:00 am -1:00 pm **Mesa Library Pop-Up**  
Mesa Commons

11:00 am -3:00 pm **Free HIV Mobile Testing**  
Outside of Pride Center

12:35 pm -1:35 pm **The Importance of Study Abroad to Cross-Cultural Awareness**  
LRC-229

2:30 pm -3:30 pm **Men of Color Talk Story Hour**  
Veterans Success Center, K-103

3:00 pm -5:00 pm **Black Employee Success Team (BEST)**  
LRC 435

**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm -2:30 pm **PEACE: Intro to the Peace Education Program**  
Zoom

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS**  
SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS APPLICATION**  
LEAD. INSPIRE. SERVE.  
FALL 2025

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MOTIVATED STUDENTS WHO DESIRE TO SERVE THEIR CAMPUS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY!

BIT.LY/AS2025APP

**SUBMIT BY 14 APRIL**

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MARIE YOKERS (MYOKERS@SDCCD.EDU) AND JAHNAE MAXEY (JMAXEY001@SDCCD.EDU)

Celebrate the grand opening of new student support spaces designed to enhance learning and campus engagement! Everyone is welcome.

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**

**CommUnity Spaces Grand Opening**

Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
10:00 - 11:00 am 14-202

CalWORKS Office (14-208) Rising Scholars Office (14-204) Dreamer Resource Center (14-207)  
Promise Program (14-410) KUP Unity Village (14-201) Family Resource Center (LRC 113)

For questions or more information, please contact 619.388.2884

**APPLY TO BE MESA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT STUDENT SPEAKER**

SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT [bit.ly/MesaCommencementSpeaker25](https://bit.ly/MesaCommencementSpeaker25)

**DEADLINE** FRIDAY, APRIL 11<sup>th</sup> AT 10:59 PM **AUDITIONS (IN-PERSON)** FRIDAY, APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> AT 10:00 AM

The San Diego Mesa College Commencement Speaker Selection Committee is looking for an outstanding graduating student to be the commencement speaker for the 2025 Mesa College Commencement, which will be held on Friday, May 30, 2025. If you are a student preparing to graduate, this is your chance to represent your 2025 graduating class. Share your wisdom and insights about your journey at Mesa, your feelings of gratitude, plans for the future, and words of inspiration for your fellow graduates!

In order to qualify, you must fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Completed, or will complete a degree, at Mesa College by Summer 2025.
- Have applied to graduate through your MySDCCD portal ([myportal.sdccd.edu](https://myportal.sdccd.edu)) under the "My Academics" tab: [myportal.sdccd.edu](https://myportal.sdccd.edu)
- Must participate in the 2025 Commencement Ceremony at Mesa College on Friday, May 30 at 2:00 pm.
- Be in good academic and disciplinary standing.
- Applications with an attached personal statement/speech (3.5 minute time limit) must be submitted online by 11:59 pm on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Be available to present your 3.5 minute speech in person to the Selection Committee on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 between 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Auditions typically take 10-15 minutes.

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**

For more student events, please click the Mesa Journeys link above



## 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.**



We joyfully invite you to celebrate with us at the **32nd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony!** This year, thanks to all of you, we are able to award **over \$150,000** in scholarships to **155 students!**

We are asking departments, shared governance groups and interested individual community members to help support the **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony**. There are three ways that you can support this memorable celebration of student achievement:

#### [Purchase or donate tickets!](#)

General tickets are \$30, student tickets are \$20, children's tickets are \$10, and babies under 2 years attend for free. Can't attend but want to support? Donate a ticket that will go to help cover the cost of student scholarship recipients and those who face financial barriers.

#### [Become a Sponsor!](#)

There are many opportunities for individuals, groups and organizations to support this great cause and receive recognition! It is our generous sponsors who make it possible to shine a light on our students at this event and ensure that our scholarship recipients are able to attend for free. Contact Krista Stellmacher ([kstellmacher@sdccd.edu](mailto:kstellmacher@sdccd.edu)) if you have any questions.

#### [Donate Items or Services!](#)

For those who would like to support the event without donating funds, we welcome gifts of items or services! These are usually provided in the form of a gift basket, and we can help assemble your items for you if you need assistance. Contact Student Affairs (619-388-2699) if you have questions or would like support. To help this way:

Bring your basket to the Student Affairs Office (14-408) **before 4pm on Monday, April 28**



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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 mandated 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.

Thank you for your patience and support. For questions, feel free to reach out to:

Nancy Cortes at [ncortes@sdccd.edu](mailto:ncortes@sdccd.edu)

Hai Hoang at [hhoang@sdccd.edu](mailto:hhoang@sdccd.edu)

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## 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

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**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](#)



