



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*

Black-Serving Institution Application

Special thanks to the Black-Serving Institution Writing Team for thoughtfully and quickly writing and submitting our application to be recognized as a Black-Serving Institution:

Core Planning Leads: Mike, Nancy, Kyung Ae, Leticia, and Hai

Contributors: Ashanti Hands, Isabel O'Connor, Larry Maxey, Lorenze Legaspi, Edeama Jonah, Jordan Nash, Alexander Berry, Michael Temple, Melat Kassahun, Candace Katungi, Ayana Woods, Judy Sundayo, Veronica Gerace, Krista Stellmacher, Katie Palacios, Caron Lieber, Anabell Pulido.

Board of Trustees Highlights

The [FY 2025-26 Tentative Budget](#) was adopted.

The following new degrees were approved for Mesa College:

- Elementary Teacher Education: Integrated Programs, Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: World Languages and Humanities Studies, Associate of Arts Degree

San Diego Mesa College Named One of the Nations Top Two-Year Athletic Programs

We're proud to announce that San Diego Mesa College has been named one of the nation's top two-year athletic programs, finishing 2nd overall in the prestigious 2024–2025 Ron Case Cup standings! 🎉

This incredible achievement highlights our athletes' dedication and excellence across all sports, marking Mesa College as a powerhouse in two-year college athletics.

[Click here to view story.](#)

Mesa College Celebrates Juneteenth

Reminder that we will be closed on Thursday, June 19, 2025 in honor of the Juneteenth Holiday.

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE

JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATING FREEDOM

Join us for engaging and informative sessions to learn about the history and significance of Juneteenth, a powerful commemoration of freedom and Black resilience. Discover why this day matters, reflect on its legacy, and celebrate through shared learning, storytelling, and community.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | ZOOM: 826-7303-7911

"JUNETEENTH UNBOUND: UNDERSTANDING THE LEGACY OF FREEDOM"

A virtual conversation on the history, meaning, and continuing impact of Juneteenth. Facilitated by Black Studies Professor, Mychal Odom.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | IN PERSON - ROOM 14-203

"CELEBRATE FREEDOM: A JUNETEENTH GATHERING OF REFLECTION AND JOY"

An on-campus celebration honoring the spirit of Juneteenth through learning, connection, and culture. Facilitated by Equity Librarian and DEIA Coordinator, Dr. Edeama O. Jonah and Black Studies Professor, Professor Marcus Taylor.

For more information or accommodations, contact Ldiaz@sdccd.edu.



At the districtwide Spring 2025 Management Association Annual Awards Luncheon, we had the joy of welcoming Mesa's newest managers—Toni Parsons (Acting Dean, Instruction), Cynthia Rico (Dean, Student Development), and Nicole Roesler (Director of Administrative Services.)

We are excited to have them in these leadership roles and look forward to the expertise and heart they bring to our community. We also celebrated service milestones, recognizing Claudia Perkins for 5 years of dedicated service and for the beautiful way she blends teaching and learning through her roles in faculty leadership and student conduct.

We honored Ivonne Alvarez for an extraordinary 40 years of service. Forty years is more than a milestone—it is a legacy. Ivonne, your decades of service have opened doors, shaped lives, strengthened our institution, and set a powerful example of what it means to lead with consistency, care, and heart.

New Student Trustee Sworn in

San Diego Mesa College Associated Student Government President, Jeremiah Palomino, was sworn in as Student Trustee. We are proud to have Jeremiah as Student Trustee to represent the Mesa College student body!



[JOIN THE SDCCD AT THE ANNUAL PRIDE PARADE](#)

Students, faculty, administrators, and classified professionals from the San Diego Community College District will walk in the annual San Diego Pride Parade on Saturday, July 20, one of the largest in the country, with up to 100,000 spectators expected. This year's parade theme is "Making History Now."

Free T-shirts will be provided to the first 400 SDCCD participants. A free shuttle service will run between the Old Naval Hospital, on President's Way, and Park Boulevard to the start of the parade route.

[PRIDE PARADE INFORMATION](#)

SDCCD Launches SDCCDsafes: Turning Your Smartphone into a Safety Tool

In the coming weeks, the San Diego Community College District will launch SDCCDsafes, a free app that turns your smartphone into a safety tool. Safety at all SDCCD campuses and facilities is a top priority, and this new app will provide students and employees with another way to protect themselves with such features as:

- Placing a direct call to College Police or the 9-8-8 Crisis Lifeline.
- Setting up a virtual "Friend Walk" so a friend or family member can make sure you arrive at your destination safely - whether to a classroom, a parking lot, or even somewhere off campus.
- Reporting an anonymous tip.

The app will be available for download from the Apple App or Google Play stores in mid- to late-June. A notice will be sent out when the app is live.

More details about the app and other District safety services are available at sdccd.edu/safety



OFFICE OF *Instruction*

Recap - May 27-31: [National Conference On Race & Ethnicity \(NCORE\)](#)

This year's NCORE was hosted in The Big Apple (New York City)! 10,000 participants were in attendance and familiar faces were seen especially from SDCCD to Mesa colleagues! The [Asian American Pacific Islander Community of Practice \(AAPi CoP\)](#) Facilitators: Adriana Caetano, Patricia "Trish" Guevarra, Dr. Hai Ly Tran, and Ella deCastro were selected to present to share more of their work on the AAPi CoP.

If you are still interested in participating this Summer/Fall's AAPi CoP, please contact AANAPISI Director - Leland Simpliciano (lsimpliciano@sdccd.edu).





Dean Linda Hensley, who served as the Dean of the School of Humanities since 2017 will be retiring June 30, 2025.

Linda has been an invaluable leader and mentor during her tenure, guiding the School of Humanities through numerous milestones, including the implementation of AB705 and AB1705, and fostering an environment of academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. Her dedication to our students, faculty, and the broader campus community has made a lasting impact that will be felt for years to come.

Please join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Linda for her years of service, commitment, and leadership.

Linda is an avid world traveler. We wish Linda bon voyage while reminding her that there will always be a place for her at Mesa.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

Higher Education Legal Services

Schedule a FREE Appointment Today



<https://findyourally.com/>



Free legal immigration consultations with an attorney are available for students and employees!

Mesa College and Borderless Scholars are partnering with Jewish Family Services (JFS) Higher Education Legal Services to offer free legal immigration consultations.

To learn more about this service, please contact the **Borderless Scholars Office in Room I4-207, 619.388.5115**, or visit <https://findyourally.com/>.

Junior Achievement hosted 25 Mesa College CalWORKs, Rising Scholars, and NextUp+FAST Scholars students in a dynamic day of financial literacy.

Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization that provides experiential learning programs focusing on financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship.

Through hands-on activities and real-world simulations, students explored budgeting, saving, credit, and career planning. Many shared that the experience boosted their confidence in managing money and gave them valuable tools. With a fun, engaging atmosphere, students walked away informed, inspired, and ready to take charge of their financial journey.

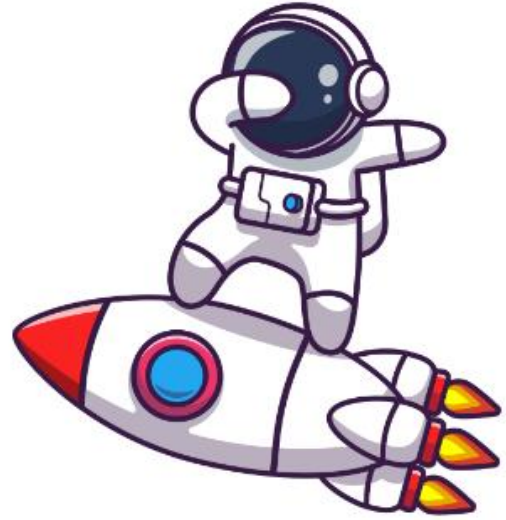


New Issue Alert

[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>




New Students - CRUISE into Mesa! Attend CRUISE and become confident and prepared for your first year at Mesa College!


Start college on the right foot with CRUISE, an onboarding program that helps new students transition to Mesa during their first year. The program will guide you to on-campus resources and introduce you to the many opportunities, programs, and people available to help you excel in all areas of your academic and personal growth. You belong at Mesa and we look forward to helping you set sail on a thrilling course of study.


[Link to Register: https://bit.ly/SummerCRUISE2025](https://bit.ly/SummerCRUISE2025)

Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) Fall Readiness 2025

You're invited to attend our DSPS Fall Readiness event, designed to help new Mesa DSPS students prepare for the upcoming semester. Choose either August 12th or 13th for a morning session, and take advantage of optional afternoon classroom tours offered on those days as well as an additional morning classroom tour on August 14th.

 **Date:** August 12 or 13

 **Time:** 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

 **Location:** High Tech Center (Library, Room 110)

 **Register**

here: <https://forms.office.com/r/s9BP4abhA2>

EOPS is inviting all interested students to register for our **EOPS 2025 Summer Readiness Personal Growth (PG) 120 course** — a 5-week, in-person class designed to support students in preparing for college success.

This course will help Students explore their academic goals, develop essential college skills, and gain confidence as they transition into higher education. The course is UC/CSU transferable and provides a strong foundation for future academic achievement. Plus, we will have weekly lunches, field trips, and so much more! Attached is the flyer for reference.

Course Details:

Dates: Monday - Thursday | 6/16 - 7/19

Time: 9:35AM - 12:30PM

Course Number: 91548

Room: Mesa BT-101

Type: In person

Click on the flyer to enlarge



New Students – **CRUISE** into Mesa!

Creating **Rich Unique Intellectual Student Experiences**
Become confident and prepared for your first year at Mesa College

It's FUN!
It's FREE!
And it's open
to all **new**
college students!

- Connect with a Peer Navigator who will serve as your mentor
- Receive support for CRUISE and the academic year
- Build community and meet other incoming students
- Learn about campus resources and student life
- Participate in workshops aimed at your transition to Mesa College

CRUISE SESSIONS

Recent High School Graduates

JULY 15-16

JULY 22-23

JULY 29-30

AUG 5-6

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Lunch provided!)

For more information and to register for Summer CRUISE
visit us @ www.sdmesa.edu/cruise →

Deadline to register is one week before chosen session!



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Contact: Agustin Rivera | Room: 14-203 | 619-388-2757 | www.sdmesa.edu/cruise
Request for disability related accommodations should be made no later than eight (8) working days prior to event.



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It's FUN!
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college students!

- Meet other Veterans, Continuing Education students and Adult Learners
- Connect with a Peer Navigator who will serve as your mentor
- Build community and meet other incoming students
- Learn about campus resources and student life
- Receive support for CRUISE and your entire academic year at Mesa College

CRUISE SESSION

Continuing Education, Veterans, and Adult Learners

SAN DIEGO
CONTINUING
EDUCATION

Saturday, July 26
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
(Lunch provided!)



For more information and to register for Summer CRUISE
visit us @ www.sdmesa.edu/cruise →

Deadline to register is one week before chosen session!



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**August 12th or 13th
9am-12pm**

High Tech Center
Located in the Library, Room 110

Scan to Register



<https://forms.office.com/r/s9BP4abhA2>

For any accommodations please
contact cruffner@sdccd.edu



**For New Mesa
DSPS Students!**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES! READY TO SUCCEED?

**Kick off your summer with EOPS
Summer Readiness 5-Week
Personal Growth 120!**

Instructor: Rosa Palacios
Date: Monday - Thursday
6/16/2025 - 7/19/2025
Time: 9:35AM - 12:30PM
Room: Mesa BT-101
Type: On Campus

Students will receive assistance in achieving their academic goals. This Personal Growth 120 class will convene in person, and the units are transferable.

To secure your spot for the class, simply scan the QR code!

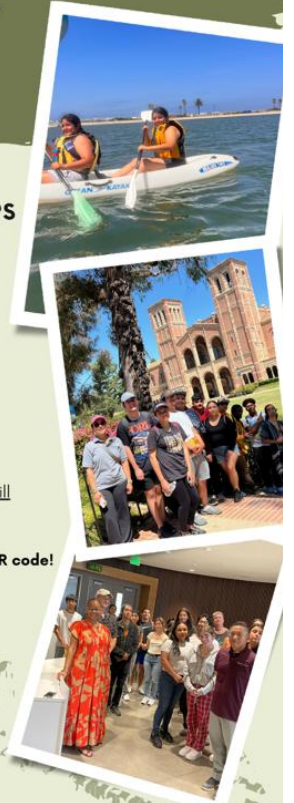


**HAVE
QUESTIONS?**

For More Information:

619-388-2706

MesaEOPS@sdccd.edu



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.**



Next semester, we will be hosting our second ever Spirit of Mesa on Friday, October 10, 2025. This annual fundraiser will showcase the activities and students across Mesa College. Have information you'd like donors to know about? We need your input! Please give us ideas: bit.ly/SOM25Input

Spring Semester Fundraising by the Numbers

\$194,147

raised since January

\$209,000

Scholarships Awarded
in April

188

Students Served by
Scholarships

\$77,000

In Grants secured

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](#)

