

*Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: June 7, 2023*  
*Sent On Behalf Of President Ashanti T. Hands*



Hello Mesa College Community,  
*Weekly Updates from Prez Hands* provide a brief overview of the exciting efforts occurring 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 Updates**

San Diego Mesa College was featured in the June 1, 2023 issue of ***Voice & Viewpoint*** covering Dr. Ashanti Hands Inaugural Commencement. This issue also featured the Rite of Passage graduation ceremony. Please see the article on page five: [San Diego Voice and Viewpoints](#)

Congratulations to **Dr. Sade Burrell**, San Diego Mesa College Associate Professor and former foster youth, who earned her Doctorate Degree at UC San Diego after defending her doctoral dissertation this Monday. See below for media coverage of Sade's accomplishment.



Former Foster Child, Mother Of Two, Graduates College With PhD

CBS8.com – June 5, 2023

[Former Foster Youth Graduates with PhD](#)



Mesa College Professor and Former Foster Youth, Dr. Sade Burrell, Defies the Odds

KFMB-SD – June 5, 2023

[Former Foster Youth Dr. Sade Burrell Defies the Odds](#)



Professor Who Was Once In Foster Care bucks the Trend, Earns Ph.D at UC San Diego

NBCSanDiego.com – June 5, 2023

[Professor Earns PhD at UC San Diego](#)

This week is the **Classified Professional Development Conference** – also known as **Classicon**. The three-day event began on Tuesday morning, June 6, 2023, with an opening ceremony followed by class sessions. At noon, Classicon featured a classified professionals lunch with opportunity drawings for gift cards and the announcement of the President's Classified UnSung Hero award.



This year's **UnSung Hero** is **Consuelo Porto y Taboada**, who began her work for SDCCD as a NANCE in 1993 and then a contract staff member in 1999 – over 29 years of combined service. Consuelo was recognized for her contributions in assisting students, staff, faculty, administrators, and the community.

Classicon sessions will continue Wednesday and Thursday, including lunch with a karaoke contest, and the final day of team building and competition in softball, bingo, and trivia. The closing ceremony on Thursday afternoon will reveal the team who has collected the most team points and the awarding of the Classicon trophy. Thank you to all the classified professionals who collaborated and created an exciting week of fun and professional development.

### **Office of Instruction Updates**

A recent podcast from the California Community Colleges Interim Chancellor Daisy Gonzales featured former San Diego Mesa College alumna, **Dr. Nellie Tran**. The podcast focused on AAPI Heritage Month and the importance of mental health awareness at California Community Colleges. Nellie has become a national leader in Psychological Science and the AAPIA community and her podcast was very inspiring. Dr. Tran credits the foundations of her learning experiences to the Psychology department at San Diego Mesa College. The link to the podcast is located [here](#) or you may access it from the California Community Colleges [website](#).

### **Office of Student Services Updates**

**Student Success & Equity** – Join the Pride Center to celebrate Pride Month! The Pride Center will host three events this week on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The first event will be held as part of "Classicon" with a class offered on Safe Zone training at 10:00 a.m. in BT 112. The Pride Flag Raising will be Wednesday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. at the Flag Pole adjacent to the A buildings. The Pride Flags 101 event will be held Wednesday at 1:45 p.m. at the Pride Center. Show your Pride by wearing your Pride Swag, bringing your Pride Flags, and/or your Pride Center fan!

The NAACP-San Diego Youth Council partnered with the San Diego Urban League, and the Black Student Union Coalition to host a conference for students in the 6th grade up to and including college students

on June 4, 2023 at University of California, San Diego. San Diego Mesa College sent representatives to support the event:

1. George Buchannan served as a workshop presenter
2. Robyn Bolen facilitated a workshop highlighting the extensive programs and services offered at Mesa
3. Tyler Morrow, A San Diego Mesa College graduate, now attending a local 4-year university, served on the keynote speaker panel

The program proved to be very productive, we also provided Mesa College swag.

### **In the Know**

For additional information on what is happening on campus and in our community – visit the links below:

1. [Mesa College Newsroom](#)
2. [Mesa College Events Calendar](#)

Best,  
Ashanti Hands

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**Ashanti Hands, Ed.D.**

**President | San Diego Mesa College**

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

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