

*Weekly Updates from Prez Hands: Aug 2, 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 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 Updates**

President Hands, VP O'Connor, VP Maxey and Dean Diaz toured the new Youth Transition Campus (YTC) in Kearny Mesa. The tour was provided by Principal Finney and Directors Kirkenhall and Austin. YTC is a space where justice-involved youth get the services and support they need to re-enter our communities. The campus provides hope and transformational opportunities through treatment, education, support and career training in a beautiful, new, state-of-the-art facility, here in Kearny Mesa. This visit will serve as a foundation to expand our existing partnership in equity infused and intentional ways.



Last week, we learned that one of our student-athletes and her family of six lost everything in a house fire. In collaboration with the President's Office, Foundation, Basic Needs, Athletics and Student Services, we were able to present the student and her family with a \$2000 check from our Resiliency Fund, hundreds of dollars in gas and food gift cards, clothing and a myriad of other items to support them during this time.

As the Fall semester draws close, so does the end of the 4/10 work schedule. The 4/10 schedule will conclude on August 11.

I am saddened by the series of events that took place on our campus early Tuesday morning when a vehicle pursuit involving the San Diego Police Department ended with an officer-involved shooting at Mesa College. We do not believe the individuals involved were connected with Mesa College or SDCCD in any way. Police secured the area and there was no ongoing public safety concern at Mesa College or the surrounding areas. Accordingly, all regularly scheduled classes, services, activities, and work proceeded. Messages were sent to the DL and to students enrolled in onsite classes through multiple modalities to ensure they were aware and updated throughout the day. While we did all of the "things" to manage this crisis, we never lost sight that lives were lost and others will be forever changed as a result of what occurred in our space. Such incidents serve as a reminder of how precious our lives and time are and how important it is for us to pour into our students (and each other) by creating conditions that matter for them to be seen, valued, supported and to thrive, every chance we get.

## Student Services Updates

Student Affairs will be hosting Welcome Week events! Please be sure to submit your Welcome Week activities by clicking the [Welcome Week Activity Form](#). If you'd like to sign up to volunteer at the Welcome Info Booth, please sign up by emailing [cle@sdccd.edu](mailto:cle@sdccd.edu).

Mesa's Outreach Team will participate in the "Cammies to College" event this Saturday, August 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Liberty Station Conference Center. They will assist military members transition into school and promote the resources and services Mesa has to offer. Outreach also participated in the National Night Out this past Tuesday, August 1, providing information about Mesa to the South Bay community.

There will be two virtual Promise orientation sessions for incoming Promise students who were not able to sign up for any CRUISE session. In these sessions, Promise students will gain information on what they need to do to maintain their Promise status, their resources, and connect them with Promise counselors and EOPS. Sessions will take place on Wednesday, August 16 at 2 p.m. and Friday, August 25 at 11 a.m.. For more information, visit the SD Mesa Promise Instagram at @sdmesapromise.

Student Affairs along with the Counseling department will be offering two in-person and two virtual *Race to 12 Units* events to assist Promise students with meeting the 12-unit minimum requirement for the Promise program. Information can also be found on the SD Mesa Promise Instagram page.

## Administration Updates

The Math and Sciences Building has new furniture groupings for students to hang out in!



## 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!*

7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104, SD, CA 92111 | 619.388.2721

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



**Eileen S. Hayward** | Administrative Technician

*Office of the President, San Diego Mesa College*

7250 Mesa College Drive, A-104 | San Diego, CA 92111 | [sdmesa.edu](mailto:sdmesa.edu)

[ehayward@sdccd.edu](mailto:ehayward@sdccd.edu) | 619-388-2721 (Office) | 619-388-2929 (Fax)

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