

Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:01 AM



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*



San Diego Mesa College Receives Insight Into Academia 2025 Higher Education Excellence and Distinction (HEED) Award

Mesa College received the 2025 Higher Education Excellence and Distinction (HEED) Award from Insight Into Academia magazine. The annual HEED Award is a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to academic excellence, belonging, and community-building across all levels of campus life. This is Mesa's first time receiving this reward; thank you to all of the Mesa Community for your outstanding commitment of making Mesa the leading college of equity and excellence!

Read the press release [here](#).

Spirit of Mesa

This Moment, Our Mission



All About Auction Items

This week is all about auction items! We're currently reaching out to community-minded people and organizations like you to support our upcoming Spirit of Mesa fundraising event on October 10th, 2025.

Help support students and promote small businesses and others in the area by inviting people you know to donate auction items.

We welcome donations of items, goods, or services for our silent auction to help us reach our fundraising goal.

Use [this template to reach out to prospective donors](#)

[Let Us Know You or Someone You Know Has Something to Give!](#)

You can also email us at: mesasponsorships@sdccd.edu

Want to join us at Spirit of Mesa? [Get tickets here!](#)


Flex Credit: 30261

San Diego Community College District Chancellor Gregory Smith will host a series of forums in September to address district priorities and answer questions from faculty, classified professionals and administrators. All employees are welcome and encouraged to participate in their campus forum.



CHANCELLOR'S FORUM
MESA COLLEGE

Please join your Mesa College colleagues in attending a presentation and open forum with the chancellor to discuss federal and state developments and priorities for the 2025-2026 academic year.



Gregory Smith

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
MC - 211 A/B | 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FLEX CREDIT AVAILABLE | Sign up for Workshop 30261– Chancellor's Forum
If an accommodation is needed, please contact the President's Office.

Mesa College Partnership Resource Team (PRT) Visit

This week, Mesa College welcomed the Partnership Resource Team for a full day of engagement focused on advancing adult learner success, with a special emphasis on Latinx students. The visit included several meetings with key stakeholders across the college, giving us the opportunity to share our progress, strengthen our focus, and gather insights to inform next steps. This collaboration is an important part of advancing *Mesa 2030* and our vision of equity and excellence.

High-Level Areas of Focus:

- Data-driven decision-making
- Enhancing instructional offerings with employers and industry
- Streamlining systems and processes for adult learners
- Optimizing and prioritizing support services for adult learners and student parents
- Expanding marketing and outreach





A huge shout out to Edeama Jonah and team for launching the first Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) newsletter! This newsletter will share DEIA initiatives, events, and resources to celebrate our community values and keep us connected, informed, and inspired in creating an inclusive campus where everyone belongs and thrives.

Read the first DEIA newsletter [here](#).

Approved 2025-2026 SDCCD Adopted Budget

On September 15, the SDCCD Board voted to approve the Adopted Budget following a presentation by Vice Chancellor Daniel Troy. The total budget amounts to \$2,134,761,199, which includes \$663,275,180 in General Fund Unrestricted and Restricted operational funds.

Click [here](#) to view the full budget report.



Mesa College at a glance: Learn more in our [2024–25 Fact Sheet](#).

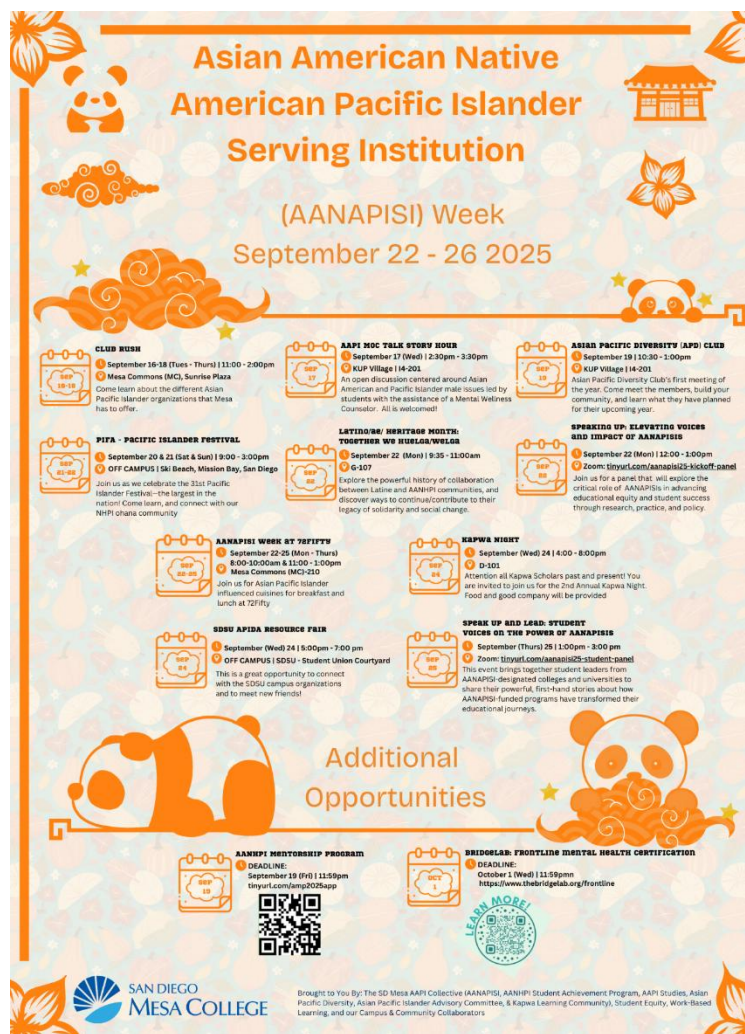
OFFICE OF *Instruction*

Fall 2025 Enrollment Update

At this point in the fall semester, we do not expect a significant change in headcount with 21,459 students, this is only 16 fewer students than the same time last week and still 820 more students than this same time last fall. We have the increase in FTES as well, with 6,173 full-time equivalent students compared to 5,846 on the same day last fall. FTEF scheduled for the fall semester is marginally greater than last fall (382 to 374). It is exciting to see so many students enrolled and here on campus!

AANAPISI Week 2025

Did you know [San Diego is home to the 7th largest AANHPI population](#) in the nation? Mesa College is the first Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Grant recipient in San Diego! Join us for AANAPISI Week from September 22-28, 2025. Check out the calendar of events for ways to learn, connect, and get involved with the AAPI community—both on campus and across our city.



Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Week
September 22 - 26 2025

CLUB MEET
September 16-18 (Tues - Thurs) 11:00 - 2:00pm
Mesa Commons (MC), Sunrise Plaza
Come learn about the different Asian Pacific Islander organizations that Mesa has to offer.

AAPI HOC TALK STORY HOUR
September 17 (Wed) 12:30pm - 3:30pm
KUP Village 14-201
An open discussion centered around Asian American and Pacific Islander male issues led by students with the assistance of a Mental Wellness Counselor. All is welcomed!

ASIAN PACIFIC DIVERSITY (APD) CLUB
September 18 | 10:30 - 1:00pm
KUP Village 14-201
Asian Pacific University Club's first meeting of the year. Come meet the members, build your community, and learn what they have planned for their upcoming year.

SPRINGING UP: ELAVETING VOICES AND IMPACT OF AANAPISI
September 22 (Mon) | 12:00 - 1:00pm
Zoom: tinyurl.com/aanaipis25-kickoff-panel
Join us for a panel that will explore the critical role of AANAPISIs in addressing educational equity and student success through research, practice, and policy.

PAPA - PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL
September 20 & 21 (Sat & Sun) 9:00 - 3:00pm
OFF CAMPUS | S&I Beach, Mission Bay, San Diego
Join us as we celebrate the 31st Pacific Islander Festival—the largest in the nation! Come learn, and connect with our NHPi chana community.

LETTERMAN: HERITAGE MONTH: YOUNGERS WE HIGHER/WELOIN
September 22 (Mon) | 9:35 - 11:00am
G-107
Explore the powerful history of collaboration between Native and AANHPI communities, and discover ways to continue/contribute to their legacy of solidarity and social change.

AANAPISI WEEK BY THEFTY
September 22-25 (Mon - Thurs) 8:00-10:00am & 11:00 - 1:00pm
Mesa Commons (MC) 210
Join us for Asian Pacific Islander influenced cuisines for breakfast and lunch at 725Ry.

KAPWA NIGHT
September (Wed) 24 | 6:00 - 8:00pm
D-101
Attention all Kapwa Scholars past and present! You are invited to join us for the 2nd Annual Kapwa Night. Food and good company will be provided.

SDSU APIDA RESOURCE FAIR
September (Wed) 24 | 5:00pm - 7:00 pm
OFF CAMPUS | SDSU - Student Union Courtyard
This is a great opportunity to connect with the SDSU campus organizations and to meet new friends!

SPRING UP AND LEAD: STUDENT VOICES ON THE POWER OF AANAPISI
September (Thurs) 25 | 1:00pm - 3:00 pm
Zoom: tinyurl.com/aanaipis25-student-panel
This event brings together student leaders from AANAPISI-designated colleges and universities to share their powerful, first-hand stories about how AANAPISI-funded programs have transformed their educational journeys.

Additional Opportunities

AANHPI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
DEADLINE: September 19 (Fri) 11:59pm
tinyurl.com/aanaipis25app

BRIDGELAB: FRONTLINE MENTAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION
DEADLINE: October 1 (Wed) 11:59pm
<https://www.thebridgelab.org/frontline>

LEARN MORE!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Brought to You By: The SD Mesa AAPI Collective (AANAPISI), AANHPI Student Achievement Program, AAPI Studies, Asian Pacific Diversity, Asian Pacific Islander Advisory Committee, & Kapwa Learning Community, Student Equity, Work-Based Learning, and our Campus & Community Collaborators

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Evaluations

Schedule a Presentation Today!

GRADUATION VS COMMENCEMENT

The Mesa Evaluations team is excited to offer a short, informative presentation to your classrooms, club meetings, team huddles, and student gatherings!

In just 10 minutes, we'll clarify the difference between graduation and commencement, guide students through the graduation application steps, and share helpful tips to avoid common mistakes.

To schedule a presentation please fill out the [Mesa Evaluations Presentation Schedule](#)



619-388-2680



www.sdmesa.edu/evaluations



mesaevaluations@sdccd.edu



Help us promote student development by encouraging your students to join a club at Mesa College! We urge everyone to support—and be supported by—our wide variety of student groups by visiting them at their tables **at the Sunrise Plaza on September 16, 17 and 18 from 11:00AM to 2:00PM!**

[You can find more information about the Inter-Club Council and Mesa College's student organizations on the Student Clubs section of the Mesa College website.](#)

If you have any further questions, please contact Courtney Lee (cle@sdccd.edu) and Marie Yokers (myokers@sdccd.edu) in the **Student Affairs Office (14-408)**.

We are kicking off Fall 2025 semester with some exciting financial aid news:

First Pell Grant Disbursement

💰 3022 students received a total of **\$4,274,075** in Pell Grant funds.

Fall Cal Grant Disbursement

💰 914 students were awarded **\$773, 223** in Cal Grant funds.

These funds are helping thousands of Mesa College students attain their academic goals!

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

HeART Circles

Express yourself and support your mental health in guided group creative activities.



Art Focus
Location: K105
Time: 12-2pm
Dates:
Tues Sept 23, 2025 *Collage
Tues Oct 21, 2025 *Poetry
Tues Nov 18, 2025 *Print Making

Open Studio
Location: K105
Time: 12-2pm
Dates:
Thurs Sept 11, 2025
Thurs Oct 9, 2025
Thurs Nov 6, 2025

★ Each month we will spend time exploring a new art modality to grow our artful toolbox. ★ Choose from a variety of art activities or bring your own project! Open studio is a space to relax and get lost in creativity.

Requests for disability related accommodations should be made no later than 5 (five) working days prior to the event at 619-388-2774.

Scholarship Workshop

Learn about Mesa College Scholarships (open Dec 2025), external scholarships, how to find and apply for aid that is specific to your student experience!



In Person:
AS Conference Room I4-409
Online:
Zoom Meeting ID 919 0499 0674

Time: 10-11:30am
Date:
Wed Sept 17, 2025
Wed Oct 15, 2025
Wed Nov 12, 2025

In Person & Online!

Requests for disability related accommodations should be made no later than 5 (five) working days prior to the event at 619-388-2774.

Conscious Spending Clinic

A place where we casually and consciously chat about money.
Grow your knowledge and financial confidence exploring different money topics with faculty member Brian Lesson!

Location: Avanza Center I4-202

All Students Welcome!

Time: 12-1pm
Date:
Fri Sept 26, 2025 *Debit

Time: 1-2pm
Dates:
Thurs Oct 23, 2025 *Budget
Thurs Nov 20, 2025 *Credit

Snacks and refreshments provided!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
EO/PS

Requests for disability related accommodations should be made no later than 5 (five) working days prior to the event at 619-388-2774.

Somos Mesa Latino/a/e Heritage Month

www.sdmesa.edu/latino-heritage-month

SEP 11 Latino/a/e Bienvenida!	SEP 17 Together We Thrive! Wellga
SEP 23 Apply for Graduate Workshop	SEP 23 Transfer 101
SEP 24 Film Screening of "Guadalupe"	SEP 24 Open Latino Film Screening of "Guadalupe"
SEP 25 Leyes de la Vida: Stories from Latino MESA	SEP 29 Encuentro con Presidenta Dr. Abigail Hand
SEP 1 Open College Library Presents: Latino Heritage Month	SEP 1 How to Start Your Own Business
SEP 1 Latino/a/e Bienvenida!	SEP 13 Leyes de la Vida: Stories from Latino MESA

For more information or accommodations, contact lida@sdcccd.edu.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP! MESA COLLEGE TECH HUB

CONNECTING CAMPUS THROUGH TECH
The Tech Hub is designed to provide convenient, walk-up technology services for our students, faculty, and classified professionals.

OUR SERVICES

- **Wi-Fi & Access:** Help connecting to SDCCD Wi-Fi.
- **Canvas & Tools:** Setup and troubleshooting for Canvas, Zoom, Pronto, and more.
- **Accounts & Login Help:** Password resets, Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), SSO issues.
- **Email:** Microsoft Outlook.
- **General IT Support:** SDCCD devices, software, and digital resources.

NEED HELP? STOP BY THE TECH HUB IN THE STUDENT SERVICES LOBBY, FIRST FLOOR (400)
MON-THURS: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
FRI: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

CONTACT US OR SCAN THE QR CODE
619-388-7000
<https://help.sdccd.edu>

FRESH SUCCESS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

Discover how the Fresh Success Program offers **counseling, transportation assistance, textbook help,** and more to support your academic goals.

September 9th: 10am-11am, 1pm-2pm
September 16th: 11am-12pm, 2pm-3pm
The Stand K-106

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Receiving Cal-Fresh benefits OR will plan on applying
- Enrollment in a Career Technical Education (CTE) program

CONTACT
meathestand@sdccd.edu
619-388-6728

FROM START TO SUCCESS: TCE MONOPOLY BASH

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Transfer | Career | Evaluations

The Transfer, Career, and Evaluations Center invites all students, faculty, and staff to our monopoly open house event!

SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Transfer Career & Evaluations Office
Student Services Building, I4-326

¡Latino/a/e Bienvenida!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Latino/a/e Heritage Month Kickoff
Celebrating Latino/a/e Students and Colegas at Mesa College
Meet students and colegas
Learn about campus resources

Thursday, September 11, 2025
11:00am-1:00pm
Mesa Commons Quad
Everyone is welcome!
Food will be provided

For more information or accommodations, contact lida@sdcccd.edu.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

Next Generation Dashboards Are Here!

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is excited to announce the launch of **new, redesigned Power BI dashboards** that make data easier to explore and apply.

- **Now available:** the updated [Student Characteristics](#) and [Course Outcomes](#) Dashboard, offering clear, timely, and equity-focused insights.
- **Coming soon:** additional dashboards on **Awards** and **Retention**.

To help faculty and staff get the most out of these tools, the IE Office is offering **short, 15-minute training sessions** that can be added to department or school meetings.

To schedule a training session, please contact **Nancy Cortes**, ncortes@sdccd.edu.

Visit our dashboards today and see how data can support your work!

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*



The San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees has approved eight prominent design-build entities (DBE) comprising 16 firms to begin the first phase of design, construction, and modernization at all four colleges and across the district. The eight projects, totaling more than \$1.3 billion in project values, mark the first major wave of capital projects funded by Measure HH, the \$3.5 billion facilities bond measure approved by more than 60 percent of San Diego voters in November 2024.

Upcoming Mesa Infrastructures:

LPA Design Studios/C.W. Driver LLC –
Sports & Kinesiology Sciences Project
HGA Architects/PCL Construction Services, Inc. – Performing Arts Center /
Administration & Parking Structure Project

Click here to read the [press release](#).



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](#)



Highlight Your Students and Activities!

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

Want to learn more about grant seeking?

View the flex workshop hosted by Dr. Michael Lettieri, who is leading grant writing efforts, and Krista Stellmacher, CFRE and Director in service to the Office of Resource Development and Foundation.

[View Recording](#)

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](#)

