



*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!

.....

OFFICE OF THE *President*

I am pleased to announce that Dean Monica Romero will continue in her role as Acting Vice President of Instruction through Wednesday, October 16, 2024. I recognize that Dr. O'Connor's contributions to our community are deeply valued, and it may be tempting to reach out to her with work-related matters. However, I kindly ask that you direct all such communications to Dean Romero during this time. This will allow Dr. O'Connor to be fully present with her family and respect the boundaries of her leave.

Thank you for your cooperation and for supporting Dean Romero as she continues to serve us in this important capacity. She has done an incredible job, and I have every confidence she will continue to do so.



As part of the Mesa Pathways initiative, a team created the Mesa Success Coaches program which pairs a student with a coach who provides them with suggestions and assistance on their educational journey and who is available to answer any questions they may have about their time at Mesa and beyond.

As with everything we do at Mesa, the students invited to participate in the program were selected through an equity lens in accordance with our Mesa Equity Plan. The Coaches were Mesa employees (Administrators, Classified Professionals, and Faculty) who volunteered their time to assist our students. In the 23-24 academic year we had almost 50 coaches serving over 200 students. Because data is so important in assessing the effectiveness of our work, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness conducted research on the impact of this



program on the students who participated. We are pleased to share the following finding:

*Students in the Success Coach Group had higher retention rates overall, ranging from 6.6 to 22.3 percentage points higher than the comparison group. The largest difference was observed in the Fall-to-Fall retention rate at Mesa, where 76% of students in the Success Coach Group returned to Mesa from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024, compared to 54% of students in the comparison group.*

Based on this success we have continued the program in the 24-25 academic year. We have been even more intentional in our targeting of disproportionately impacted students and currently have 22 coaches serving more than 80 students.

**Mesa thanks Dr. Ian Duckles and the Pathways team for all the hard work and dedication. The passion and commitment that goes into this program truly makes a difference in our students' academic journeys.**



Thank you to everyone who attended our Chancellor's Forum on Tuesday! Your presence and active engagement truly contributed to the success of the event. We also want to thank

Chancellor Smith for sharing his vision and fostering an environment of open dialogue. Photos from the event will be posted on our [Mesa College Flickr Page](#) soon.

## ***CHECK OUT OUR NEW DISTRICT WEBSITE***

Chancellor Smith introduced the new SDCCD logo and website at the forum, explaining the meaning behind our logo and tagline, Be. Belong. Become., as well as the design of the website being more student-centered.

[Click here to check our brand new District website.](#)



The Clery Act is a federal regulation that requires U.S. colleges and universities that participate in federal student financial aid programs to distribute a detailed annual security report that discloses information about crime on and around our campuses.

The Annual Security Report: Safe and Sound, A Guide to Safety and Security in the San Diego Community College District is available to our faculty, staff, students, visitors, and members of the public. This publication is a coordinated effort between various departments within the District to generate, compile, and report crime, arrest, and student disciplinary information as required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the "Clery Act").

[Annual Security Report: Safe and Sound](#)

[SDCCE Crime Statistics Info 2023](#)

The San Diego Community College District's Board of Trustees has unanimously agreed to place a \$3.5-billion bond measure on the November ballot to fund critical construction and modernization projects that will ensure the region's largest provider of workforce training and higher education continues to be a leader in driving the San Diego economy.

To learn more about the bond, please visit the [SDCCD News Center](#).

OFFICE OF *Instruction*



Kailyn Jaeger and Kyle Wood were named PCAC Scholar-Athletes of the Year! The Scholar-Athlete Award requires a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while demonstrating outstanding citizenship and leadership qualities through their involvement in athletic leadership or community activities. Kailyn led her volleyball team to their first-ever state title while clinching the 3C2A Beach Volleyball Pairs title in the spring alongside Myah Gomez. Kyle Woods faced a setback of undergoing surgery, but that didn't stop him from reclaiming the 3C2A state title in the javelin in 2024, while setting a new school record of 62.12 meters (203 feet, 9 inches).

[Click here to read more about Kailyn and Kyle](#)

Latino/a/e Heritage Month continues this month with more wonderful events celebrating the history, culture, and contributions of our Latinx community.

*Tomorrow!*

Tomorrow, September 26 from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. in D-101, we are *Uplifting Latine Queer Voices*! Join us for a screening of *Kenya* (2022), the story of one of the most prominent trans women activists in Mexico. Come and learn about the life experiences and advocacy of queer community members in Latin America. Snacks will be provided!

A poster for SOMOS Mesa Latino/a/e Heritage Month 2024. The poster has a dark blue background with a floral border. It features two event cards for October 1st and 3rd. The October 1st card is for a Tuesday event from 12:30-1:30 pm in LRC 432, titled 'LRC Resource Session'. The October 3rd card is for a Thursday event from 11:00-12:00 pm, titled 'Building Bridges for Undocumented Students'. The poster also includes the logos for San Diego Mesa College and the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation.

SOMOS *Mesa*  
*Latino/a/e Heritage Month*  
2024

**OCT. 1**  
Tuesday  
12:30-1:30 pm  
LRC - 432  
**LRC Resource Session**  
Using the Latinx Heritage Month LibGuide, this informational resource event is geared toward promoting access to campus and community resources that celebrate the heritage, culture, and contributions of Latinx Americans to the United States.

**OCT. 3**  
Thursday  
11:00-12:00 pm  
TBD  
**Building Bridges for Undocumented Students**  
Come learn about the latest work the Dreamer Resource Center (DRC) has done with the DSHG program to help undocumented students obtain an internship, work experience, and a stipend.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE  
HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION





Mesa's **Physical Therapist Assistant Program** had a fantastic turnout at the annual California Physical Therapy Association (CPTA) Conference and Assembly of Representatives. Representing Mesa College were both full- and part-time faculty, as well as former and current students. Attendees engaged in discussions about the latest best practices in physical therapy and had the opportunity to learn from leading industry experts. This event fostered the exchange of innovative strategies aimed at advancing the profession and enhancing patient care. Mesa College is fortunate to have two faculty members on CPTA Board who are leading the way in the field of physical therapy.

---

## OFFICE OF *Student Services*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Mental Health Presents Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

September 2024 | [Click here for an informational flyer](#)

Please join us for some of our events throughout September for Suicide Prevention Month. *Remember: Your Mental Health Matters.* You are never alone. Visit the Student Health Services in I4-209 for support or call 988 for immediate help.

### **Pride Center Fall 2024 Events**

Fall Semester | [Full Schedule of Fall Events Here](#)

### **Financial Aid Information Fair**

On October 30 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. there will be a Financial Aid Information Fair at the Student Services Plaza. Financial Aid, DSPS, Health Services, and EOPS/CARE will be tabling to give students information about their programs and support. More information to follow. If you have any questions, contact the Financial Aid office at [mesaaid@sdccd.edu](mailto:mesaaid@sdccd.edu).

---

## OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

October 11, 2024 | MC-211 A/B | 9am - 1 pm

# INTRODUCTION TO RAD TRAINING

RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE SYSTEM



We are excited to invite you to our upcoming RAD Training scheduled for **Friday, October 11, 2024 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in MC 211 A/B**. The Rape Aggression Defense System is a comprehensive course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. It is dedicated to teaching both women and men defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault



using easy, effective and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics. College Police has a team of RAD instructors that provide ongoing training classes to the community year-round.

### News from Mesa's College Technology Services

College Technology Services is happy to announce that Karmikael Garcia has been promoted to the position of Network Specialist! Karmikael started with Mesa in the Spring of 2024 as an Instructional Lab Technician for the Computer Science Department. He holds a degree in computer science, specializing in software development, from North Dakota State University.

College Technology Services met with faculty representatives to review the re-design of A/V in classroom D-106. The existing A/V will be replaced with a new 86" Newline "Smart Board" and digital infrastructure.

**Wellness Walkabout**

Promote employee wellness, connection, campus integration and community

Designated Route   30 Minutes per Walk   Conversation Starters Provided

**OCT 8, 2024**  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
30 mins/session (walk)

Please scan the QR code for Registration and Location

For questions, please contact Catherine Cannock at [ccannock@sdccd.edu](mailto:ccannock@sdccd.edu)

Please submit your **Intersession/Spring 2025** classroom/laboratory computer (on-site and distance education) and other technology related equipment requests before **Monday, October 21, 2024**. Requests received after the posted deadline date may not be fulfilled in time for the beginning of the college term.

- Software and hardware requests can be made by submitting an online Mesa College Technology Request form ([HERE](#)).
- These forms and other Technology related services information are located on our Homepage ([HERE](#)).

Classroom technology support is managed by Mesa's College Technology Services while employee (Admin/Faculty/Staff) office technology support is managed by SDCCD's Information Technology Services.

Contact information for these two areas of support is as follows:

#### Classroom Technology Support

619-388-2880

[MesaCTS@sdccd.edu](mailto:MesaCTS@sdccd.edu)

MC-215 Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Employee Office Technology Support

619-388-7000

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[ITHelp@sdccd.edu](mailto:ITHelp@sdccd.edu)

*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](#)

