



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 Recognized as a Top Producer of Gilman Scholars

San Diego Mesa College has been recognized by the U.S. Department of State as a Top Producer of Gilman Scholars (2001–2025), highlighting the college’s commitment to expanding access to global learning opportunities. Through its Study Abroad program, Mesa continues to support students in gaining transformative international experiences that build academic, professional, and intercultural skills

To read the full article, click here for the [Mesa Newsroom](#)



Chancellor’s Spring Forum

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

2:30–4 p.m. | Mesa College, Room MC 211 A/B
College Flex # 31704

Join Chancellor Smith for a unique opportunity to engage on matters of interest and importance to you, and to share your ideas to help shape the future of our District.



Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities

Please remember that our district has an official immigration policy, [AP 3415](#). This policy directs all inquiries regarding immigration enforcement to the District Chancellor and District General Counsel. If you receive a confirmed report of immigration enforcement on campus, please contact:

- SDCCD Chancellor's Office (Greg Smith): 619-388-6957 | chancellor@sdccd.edu
- SDCCD General Counsel (Ljubisa Kostic): 619-388-6589 | lkostic@sdccd.edu

You are not expected to engage with immigration enforcement or place yourself or others at risk. If approached by immigration officials, you may respond: "I am not authorized to speak with you, answer your questions, or provide access to any people or facilities per SDCCD policy. Only the District Chancellor and General Counsel have authority to assist you." To stay informed and prepared:

- Update your emergency contact information in the [MySDCCD portal](#)
- Download the [SDCCDsafes App](#)
- Refer to the [District's Immigration Resources page](#)
- Continue to read campus emails and official updates

San Diego Mesa College has a clear, coordinated Immigration Enforcement Response Plan centered on our Emergency Management Response Team, led by the President and including College Communications, Vice Presidents, Facilities and Operations, OEHS, and the Campus Community Emergency Response Team, in coordination with SDCCD Police. Recognizing that every incident is unique, this structure ensures we are prepared to act quickly and compassionately with clear communication, coordinated safety measures, and robust support for students and employees should an incident occur.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

ENROLLMENT *update*

As we start week 7, we see very little change in our current FTES and headcount. Current FTES is 6,003 from a total of 21,343 students enrolled for the semester. Compared to this same time last week, we increased by 11 more students enrolled into the second eight-week session. We will closely monitor drops in the second eight-week session as we work towards final Spring 2026 enrollment numbers in the coming weeks. The focus will quickly shift to summer 26 and fall 26 registration and celebrating our graduates.



Mesa College Hosts 4th Annual Future Educators Summit

Mesa College proudly welcomed more than 450 high school students from across San Diego County for its 4th Annual Future Educators Summit, creating a vibrant and engaging space for aspiring educators to explore careers in the field of education. The event was filled with energy and enthusiasm, as students connected with faculty, participated in breakout sessions, and learned more about pathways into teaching.

Early feedback from attendees and community partners has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the summit's impact in inspiring the next generation of educators. In addition to sparking interest in the field, the event also strengthened Mesa College's partnerships with local organizations and school districts, further reinforcing a shared commitment to educational access and workforce development.

The summit not only served as an outreach opportunity to high school students, but also as a platform to build meaningful connections across the region. More updates and highlights from the event, including photos and partner feedback, will be shared in the coming weeks.

For more photos from the event, please [click here](#).



Fashion Redux 2026: Cocktail Hour

Thursday, April 9, 2026

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the San Diego History Center and Mesa College Fashion Program present Fashion Redux 2026: Cocktail Hour. This collaboration brings together the



Save the Date!

Golden Scissors Fashion Show Friday, May 22 at 5:00 PM on campus

Tickets are **on sale now** with early bird pricing:

<https://sdmesafashion.ludus.com/>

evolution of the cocktail dress, pairing historical archives with the talent of San Diego's emerging fashion designers. The 2026 theme, cocktail hour, explores how social rebellion and Prohibition-era legislation influenced the American wardrobe. From Victorian roots to mid-century glamour, this exhibition features historic textiles owned or worn by women in San Diego, as well as the unique material culture and archives specific to our binational region. General: \$15 SDHC Members: \$10 Mesa Students (with discount code): \$10 Apply student discount code on payment page.

Golden Scissors is our signature annual runway show and student showcase, featuring original student designer collections, a full-scale production, and an incredible collaboration across our Fashion, Culinary, Hospitality, and Music programs. It is always a highlight of the year and a truly special event for our campus community.

We would love to see you there and truly appreciate your support of our students!

Recap | AANAPISI Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Peer Mentorship Program (AMP) - Spring Mixer (March 13, 2026)

The San Diego Mesa AANAPISI team launched its Spring Mixer last Friday, welcoming both returning and new mentees. Students had the opportunity to connect with one another and learn about campus resources, programs, and ways to get involved.

Special thanks to Jeff Frial, Karen Pham, Lyca Alves, Tiffany Tieu, Tyler Liebel, Vivian Ton, Ella DeCastro Baron, and Jennifer Derilo for their support in making this event a success!



OFFICE OF *Student Services*



News from the ACS Mesa College Chemistry Club

Much fun was had at CSUSM where the ACS Mesa College Chemistry Club participated in a STEM community outreach program "Super STEM Saturday". This is an annual STEM event bringing science to life to more than 50,000 people in

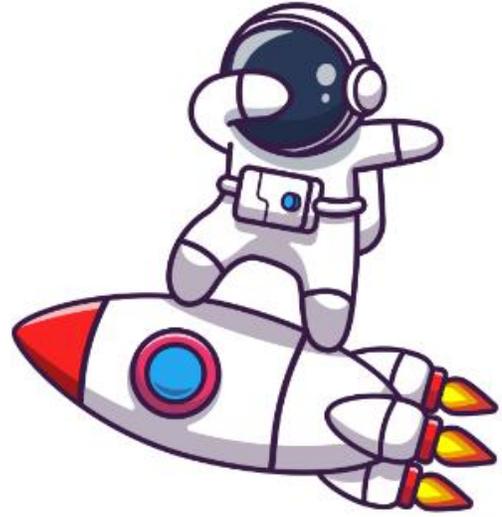
North San Diego County. This year, our Chemistry Club illustrated the concept of density via colorful layers of the rainbow. Photos of our students in action

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

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
 Class of 2026
 May 29th, 2026 2:00 p.m.
 Mesa College, Merrill Douglas Stadium
 The Commencement Ceremony is the culminating celebration for students who have completed an expected number of their degree/certificate requirements.
What You Need:
 • Summer 2025 graduates
 • Fall 2025 graduates
 • Spring 2026 anticipated graduates
 • Summer 2026 anticipated graduates
 Students must Apply for Graduation in the Student Portal to receive the invitation. RSVP for the Commencement Ceremony.
 For more information, Mesa College Registrar Office: 619.388.2400, registrar@mesacollege.edu

LAVENDER CELEBRATION
 HONORING MESA STUDENTS
 TUESDAY, MAY 19th, 2026
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
 D-101
 aims for a celebration of diversity, resilience, and achievement of our LGBTQIA+ students at our Lavender Celebration Ceremony!
 This event is a testament to the strength of our community and the importance of representation in academia. Let's commemorate the milestones, shared experiences, and solidarity, embracing the rich tapestry of identities that make our graduating class truly remarkable.
 RSVP: bit.ly/2026LavenderCelebration
 Pride Center: bit.ly/2026LavenderCelebration

Conscious Spending Clinic
 A place where you casually and conversationally chat about money. Use your knowledge and financial confidence exploring different money topics with faculty member Brian Leman!
 Location: BT 218
 Time: 1-2pm
 Dates:
 Thurs Feb 26, 2026 *Debit
 Thurs March 26, 2026 *Budget
 Thurs April 23, 2026 *Credit
 All Students Welcome!
 Snacks and refreshments provided!
 SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
 RSVP: bit.ly/2026ConsciousSpendingClinic

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY WEEK
 MARCH 2026
MARCH 23 Fruit for Thought
 Time: 1:00pm
 Location: Mesa Quad
 Enjoy a refreshing fruit cup while learning about Associated Students and how they advocate on the local, regional and state level.
MARCH 24 Boba & Belonging
 Time: 12:00PM
 Location: MESA QUAD
 Enjoy free boba, make friendship bracelets, and student advocacy on campus.
MARCH 25 Pop In for Popcorn
 TIME: 12:00PM
 LOCATION: MESA QUAD
 Stop by for free popcorn and meet the Associated Students. Learn about leadership opportunities and ways to get involved and advocate at Mesa College.
 @sdmesaas

Planning on Graduating? You Must Apply!
 2025 - 2026 GRADUATION DEADLINES
 If you are completing a Degree and/or Certificate of Achievement, you must apply for graduation through your mySDCCD portal to obtain the award.
 MYSDCCD PORTAL → MY ACADEMICS → APPLY FOR GRADUATION
2025-2026 DEADLINES
 ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER (ADT) DEADLINES: OCTOBER 1, 2025; FEBRUARY 1, 2026
 GENERAL DEADLINE: FALL 2025 Graduates: MARCH 15, 2026; Spring 2025 Graduates: FEBRUARY 15, 2026; Summer 2025 Graduates: JULY 15, 2026
 COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM DEADLINE: STUDENTS MUST APPLY TO THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM BY: MARCH 15, 2026
 For questions regarding graduation requirements, please contact a Counselor. www.sdmesacollege.edu | 619.388.2400 | registrar@mesacollege.edu

MONARCH Celebration
 Join us as we honor our Borderless Scholars students whose courage, resilience, and dreams have carried them to achieve their accomplishments.
 This celebration is for every Borderless Scholar, not just graduating students! We'll be recognizing all achievements, whether academic, personal, or beyond.
 Come celebrate YOU!
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Scan the QR or visit: bit.ly/MonarchGrad2026
 Contact Information: MesaDreamers@sdccd.edu

BLACK GRADUATES & TRANSFER CEREMONY
Rite of Passage
 Monday, May 11, 2026
 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
 San Diego City College
 Celebrating Black Student graduates from Mesa, City, Miramar and CE
 RSVP Link & QR Code: <https://bit.ly/2026SDCCOROPRSPV>
 If you have any questions, please contact 619.388.2884.

TRANSFER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
 MAY 14TH
 11 AM - 1 PM
 MESA COMMONS (MC-211A/B)
 The Mesa College Transfer Center invites you to celebrate your transfer acceptance! Please tell us where you got in to be invited to the event! (spaces are limited)
 @mesatransfer@sdccd.edu | 619-388-2472 | www.sdmesa.edu@transfer | 619-306

APPLY TO BE MESA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT STUDENT SPEAKER
 SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT bit.ly/commencementspeaker26
 DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH AT 9:59 AM
 AUDITIONS (IN-PERSON): THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD AT 10:00 AM
 SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

We are writing to remind all staff and faculty of our cybersecurity best practices. Phishing and fraud attempts targeting our campus community continue to increase in sophistication — and are no longer limited to email. Recent incidents on campus have involved scams conducted via cell phone calls and text messages as well. It is important that everyone remains informed and vigilant across all channels of communication.

Phishing and IT Fraud Best Practices

Please keep the following guidelines in mind whenever you receive an email, text message, or phone call requesting sensitive information or financial action:

- **Be aware of recent fraudulent activity on campus.** Recent incidents on campus have involved employees being deceived into complying with fraudulent financial requests — including scams carried out via text message and phone call, not just email. These scams are active and can affect any one of us.
- **Verify who is contacting you.** Scammers often impersonate Deans, Vice Presidents, or even the College President through email, text, or phone. For emails, always confirm the domain matches @sdccd.edu. For texts or calls, verify the identity of the requester by contacting them directly through a known, official number before taking any action.
- **Be cautious of unsolicited financial requests.** No administrator, department head, or college official will ask you to fulfill financial transactions or purchase items on behalf of the college through an unsolicited email, text message, or phone call. Always verify such requests through a known, trusted channel before taking any action.
- **Think before you click or respond.** Whether in an email or a text message, hover over or carefully inspect any link before clicking to confirm the actual web address. Do not click links, call back unknown numbers, or download attachments from unexpected or suspicious messages.
- **Be skeptical of urgency.** Phishing attempts — whether by email, text, or phone — often create a false sense of urgency to pressure you into acting quickly without thinking. Slow down and verify through a separate, trusted channel before responding.
- **Report suspicious contact immediately.** If you receive a suspicious email, text, or phone call, contact the SDCCD IT Department at ITHelp@sdccd.edu or 619-388-7000. If you have already responded to a fraudulent message or call, contact IT immediately.

Please note that San Diego Mesa College is not able to reimburse employees for funds lost as a result of fraudulent schemes, including phishing or social engineering attempts conducted through email, text message, or phone calls. This applies even in situations where the request may have appeared legitimate at the time.

We strongly urge every member of our college community to pause and verify before acting on any financial request, regardless of how it is received. When in doubt, reach out directly to the supposed sender through a known phone number or in person.

Resources

For more information on phishing awareness and how to protect yourself, please visit the SDCCD Phishing Awareness Page at www.sdccd.edu/students/email-phishing.aspx or contact the IT Help Desk at ITHelp@sdccd.edu or 619-388-7000.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Your vigilance is our best defense.

Fiscal Year End Deadlines

To help everyone prepare for year-end, Business Services has provided key deadlines, guidance, and resources at the link below. Please take a moment to review and share with your teams to ensure a smooth and timely close.

[Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#) | [Consolidated Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Year-End Deadlines](#)

Mesa Emergency Management Website



To help us maintain a safe, clean, and fully operational campus, please remember that all requests for Facilities support should be submitted through the [Facilities Work Order System](#). This system ensures your request is routed to the correct team and allows us to track progress and response times.

You may submit a work order for issues such as:

- Elevator outages
- Water leaks or plumbing concerns
- Broken glass or damaged fixtures
- Cleaning needs (urgent or routine)
- Heating/cooling concerns
- Lighting or electrical issues
- General repairs or maintenance

Thank you for helping us keep our campus environment safe and welcoming. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact the Facilities Services at 619.388.2814.

EVENTS AND OPERATIONS

When to Call Events/Operations vs Facilities

Events and Operations

- Event Requests
 - Room Reservations
 - Setups
 - Event Parking
- Parking
- Site Improvements
- Furniture Requests
- Office Relocations

Events & Ops: 619-388-5881

Facilities

- HVAC
- Leaks
- Restrooms and related supplies
- Landscaping
- Minor Repairs

Facilities: 619-388-2814

SAFETY

Workplace Campus Safety vs Public Safety

Workplace Safety

- Cal/OSHA
- Emergency Management
- C-CERT
- Facilities Inspections
- Permits
- Hazardous Waste
- Biohazardous Waste
- Training
- Ergonomics

Public Safety

- Public Disturbances
- Medical Emergencies
- Theft
- Threats
- Criminal Behavior
- Mental Health Issues
- Suspicious Circumstances
- Anything Requiring Immediate Response

Police Dispatch: 619-388-6405

[Click here](#) to learn which administrative areas are involved in managing our college operations.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

New Resource: Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office has published a new [Data Element Dictionary & Acronym Glossary](#) on our website to support a shared understanding of the terminology used across Mesa College. Whether you're reviewing reports, navigating dashboards, or interpreting campus communications, this resource is designed to clarify common data definitions and acronyms in one central place. You can find it on the [IE website](#) under the **Data Dictionary & Acronym Glossary** section. We invite you to explore it and reach out to the IE Office with suggestions for new additions, updates, or corrections as we continue to build and refine this tool together. For feedback, please contact **Adriana Caetano** at acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu.

IE Office Hours – A Dedicated Time to Think Through Your Data Together

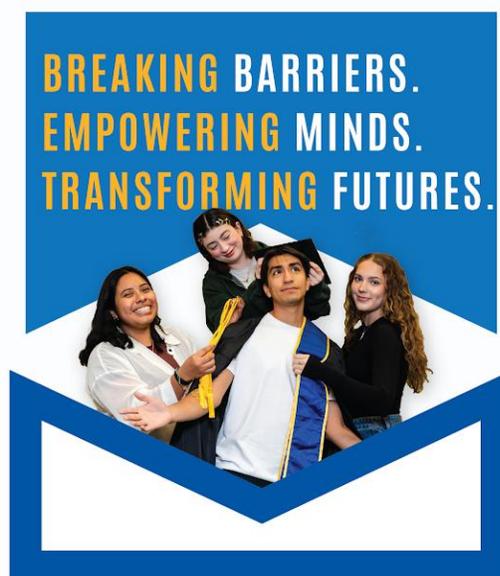
The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office is launching weekly Office Hours to serve as a partner for your data questions and ideas. Whether you're exploring data for program review or accreditation, thinking through how to use our dashboards, or simply trying to make sense of what the data is telling you, we welcome the opportunity to work alongside you. During the Spring semester, **from January 20 (Flex Week) through June 1**, we will pilot these new office hours. Join us **Tuesdays from 12:30–1:30 p.m.** in the IE Office (A-109). We have a conference room for collaborative conversations—and yes, there's coffee too! We look forward to being your data thought partner.



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](#)



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](#)

