



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*

✿✿✿ *Happy New Year!* ✿✿✿

As we begin this new year, the Office of the President extends our heartfelt wishes for a year filled with hope, health, and continued success. We are grateful for your dedication, resilience, and commitment to our community, and we look forward to the opportunities ahead as we move forward together.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, inspiring, and fulfilling year ahead.

**Please be advised that the A-Building will be closed on Friday, January 9, due to scheduled facilities repairs.**

These offices include:

President's Office (A-104)

VPI Office (A-103)

VPAS Office, Business Services and Business Support (A-101 and A-102)

Institutional Effectiveness and Research (A-109)

Communications (A-110)

Resource Development (A-111)

Academic Senate (A-117)

While the building will be inaccessible, colleagues who normally work in A-Building will remain available remotely and can be reached via email or Microsoft Teams.

As a friendly reminder, this week kicks off the 36-hour work week pilot. Administrative areas will be closed at 12:00 p.m.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as this work is completed. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out.



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

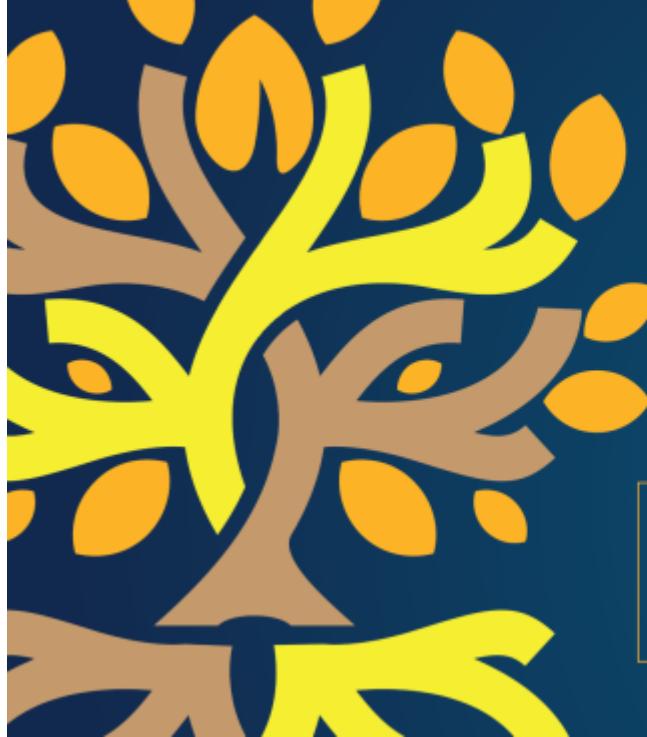
**ROOTED in Purpose.  
GROUNDED in Equity.  
GROWING Together.**

**Convocation / SPRING 2026**

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

**8:00 am ▶ Mesa College Gym**

San Diego Mesa College | 7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego, California, 92111-4998



**Save the Date: Convocation Spring 2026**

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Coffee and Pastries in Mesa Gym

8:30 a.m. - 9:35 a.m. | Program with Campus Highlights, Updates and Olympian Spirit awards

9:40 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Dr. Gina Garcia, Keynote Speaker, HSI Servingness

10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Breakout Instruction and Transition Time

10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. | Breakout Sessions I (50 mins)

11:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Transition

11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. | Breakout Sessions II \*(50 mins)

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch in the Mesa Quad

**Mesa College Accreditation Update: ACCJC Commission Meeting in January**

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges will convene its January Commission meeting on January 14–15, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawai'i. During this meeting cycle, the Commission will review San Diego Mesa College's 2025 Peer Review Team Report and take accreditation action in accordance with ACCJC policies and procedures. Following the Commission meeting and upon receipt of formal notification from ACCJC, I will share relevant outcomes and any next steps with the campus community, college constituencies, and governing board, as appropriate.

# NEW CAMPUS HOURS

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE



## **Spring 2026 Pilot: 36-Hour Workweek**

Beginning January 5 through April 3, the District will implement a pilot 36-hour workweek. Most campus and student service areas will follow a Monday to Thursday schedule, with offices closing at 1 p.m. on Fridays. Spring 2026 classes will meet as scheduled. This pilot is an opportunity to support employee well-being, strengthen service to students, and better understand how to align staffing with peak periods of need.

A dedicated webpage with details and a short survey will be available for employees to review information and share feedback throughout the pilot. [36-Hour Work Week webpage](#).

### **Hours:**

#### **Student Services:**

Fridays: Close at 1:00 p.m.

### **LRC Hours**

#### **January 2026 Intersession (Jan 5–Jan 30):**

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

#### **Spring 2026:**

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### **Administrative Offices:**

Fridays: Close at 12:00 noon



**Join us for the 44th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade.** Students, faculty, administrators, and classified professionals from the San Diego Community College District will march together at the annual 44th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on **Sunday, January 18th, 2026**. This year's parade theme is "Hope in Action: A Dream Still Unfolding"

RSVP by scanning the QR code in the flyer or [click here](#).

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

#### Intersession and Spring 2026

Prior to our winter break, we reviewed opportunities to open up new sections of heavily waitlisted Intersession courses. We were able to balance demand with current resources and open up several courses. While we had 2,251 students with an FTES of 284.4 before the break, we now have a headcount of 2,618 and a FTES of 330.5. At the same point last year, our FTES was 321 with a headcount of 2,569, so we do see a small increase this year compared to last year's Intersession. Enrollment increased for the Spring 2026 semester as well. Spring 2026 has a headcount of 18,426 and FTES is 5,364. We anticipate seeing continual enrollment over the coming weeks bringing us closer to our enrollment targets.

**We are pleased to announce that Dr. Leticia (“Lety”) López will serve as Dean of Arts and Languages at San Diego Mesa College, effective January 2026.**

Dr. López most recently served for 4.5 years as Dean of Mathematics, Sciences, and Nursing Education at San Diego City College, where she led one of the college’s largest instructional divisions and oversaw \$7 million in unrestricted budgets and \$2 million in grant funding.

A bilingual Cuban and Mexican American scholar, Dr. López began her community college journey as a dual-enrollment student at Los Angeles Pierce College. She earned dual bachelor’s degrees in Biology and Spanish from Mount St. Mary’s College and completed her master’s and doctorate at UC Santa Barbara, with research examining science, literature, and artificial intelligence in Spanish theater.

Dr. López previously served at Mesa College for 15 years as a Professor of Spanish and later as Program Manager for Hispanic-Serving Institution Initiatives, managing more than \$7.5 million in restricted funds. A proud Latina advocate and champion of student success, she enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with family.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. López back to Mesa College.



**It is my pleasure to announce our new Communication Studies faculty member: Dr. Nicholas B. Lacy.**

Nicholas B. Lacy, Ph.D. (Purdue University) is an Organizational Communication teacher scholar from San Diego who loves all things communication! Nicholas’s (Nick’s) dissertation research examines Black Serving Institutions in California by exploring how Black students navigate Minority Serving Institutions that are not Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

As a proud former attendee of Grambling State University, a Southern California community college graduate and success story, a San Diego State University alumnus, and a Purdue University graduate, he brings a well rounded and student centered teaching experience to San Diego Mesa College scholars. Lacy currently serves as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Communication Pedagogy*.

He has also served as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Belonging at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana in Lafayette, and as Director of Black Student Success Initiatives at Mt. San Jacinto College District. He is excited to return home to San Diego and join the School of Humanities at San Diego Mesa College!

Join me in welcoming Dr. Lacy!

#### Catalyst Registration Reminder

Catalyst 2026 will be our 8th annual Catalyst event. This space was co-created with Mesa colleagues to support our faculty at the start of Spring Flex Week. [Click here](#) to sign up for a class.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

# SCHOLARSHIPS



**Apply Now!**

[sdmesa.edu/scholarships](http://sdmesa.edu/scholarships)

**December 5, 2025**  
Applications open

**February 17, 2026**  
Last day to apply

Over 115 Scholarships

Awards from \$250-\$2000

FREE to apply

Open to all enrolled Mesa College students

All GPAs encouraged to apply

**sdmesa.edu/scholarships**

**Over 115 Scholarships**

**Awards from \$250-\$2000**

**FREE to apply**

**Open to all enrolled Mesa College students**

**All GPAs encouraged to apply**

**Don't miss out!** Financial support to help you reach your goals.

For more information or additional questions, please contact [mesascholarship@sdccd.edu](mailto:mesascholarship@sdccd.edu)

Scholarship applications are now available! Please encourage your students to apply to the Mesa College Foundation Scholarships. [Our Scholarships webpage has all the information you might need!](#)

The final deadline to apply is **Thursday, February 17th, at 11:59pm!**

You may also direct students to [the Apply for Mesa Scholarships video](#), and [a brief video tutorial we created on how to get started with applying](#).

Scholarship Application Workshops for Mesa College Scholarships are now available! [Follow this link for more information about the workshops](#). 25 students who attend a workshop session and apply for at least 3 scholarships will be randomly chosen to receive a \$50 gift card!

If you would like a classroom presentation about our scholarships, then please contact Zulma Heraldez ([zheraldez@sdccd.edu](mailto:zheraldez@sdccd.edu)).

# WELCOME WEEK

Student Affairs is pleased to present the **SPRING 2026 Welcome Week** on **Monday, February 2nd** through **Thursday, February 5th!**

We strongly encourage all departments that want to have an external (i.e. outdoors) set-up to request space at the Welcome Week booths on the Mesa Commons so that we can all support each other while we support our students; follow the instructions in the online form to request space at the Welcome Week booths if you are planning to host an outdoor activity. Other Welcome Week related set-ups, such as requesting a table and chairs to be placed right outside of your office space, *must be submitted separately through the usual event planner process*; we still ask that you let us know about your activity so that we may include it on the schedule of Welcome Week events!

Please submit your activities to the online [Welcome Week Activity Form](#) no later than **Friday, January 9th, 2026**.

If you would like to volunteer at the Welcome Week Info Booth on Monday and Tuesday, then please contact Courtney Lee ([clee@sdccd.edu](mailto:clee@sdccd.edu)) in the Student Affairs office with your availability. We look forward to a welcoming, festive, and engaging Welcome Week!

**We are pleased to announce two new Counseling Faculty members to Mesa's General Counseling Department: Sasha Davila and Masuma Mohammadi.**



Sasha Davila is pursuing a Doctor of Management in Community College Policy and Administration at the University of Maryland Global Campus, with an expected



Masuma Mohammadi is a Mesa College alumna who transferred to UC San Diego, where she earned a B.A. in Sociology. She completed her M.A. in Education with a

completion in June 2027. She holds an M.S. in Counseling (College Counseling) from CSU Dominguez Hills, a B.A. in Art History from UCLA, and is a Mesa College alumna with associate degrees in Studio Arts and French.

Sasha joins Mesa from Lake Tahoe Community College, where she has served since July 2022 as an Academic Counselor and Director of EOPS/CARE/NextUp and CalWORKs. Her prior experience includes counseling roles at West Hills College, Pasadena City College, and Los Angeles City College across TRIO, EOPS/CARE/NextUp, CalWORKs, and First-Year Experience programs.

Known for her inclusive, collaborative leadership and fearless advocacy, Sasha is deeply committed to student success. Her first day at Mesa is January 26, 2026.

concentration in Counseling, along with a Certificate in Mental Health Recovery and Trauma-Informed Care, at San Diego State University.

Masuma has served as an Adjunct Counselor at San Diego Mesa College and Southwestern College since 2021, providing academic, personal, and career counseling, educational planning, and transfer support. She has also taught Personal Growth courses and supported the CCAP Program.

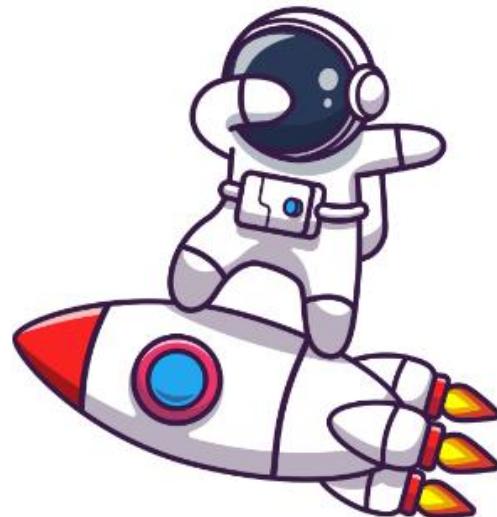
Through strong campus collaborations, she supports students in achieving their completion goals. Known for her strong interpersonal skills, positive attitude, and problem-solving approach, Masuma is fluent in Dari and Farsi, serving many Middle Eastern students in the district. She begins her full-time position on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.



[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**

**New Students – CRUISE into Mesa!**  
Creating Rich Unique Intellectual Student Experiences  
Become confident and prepared for your first semester at Mesa College

**It's FUN! It's FREE!**  
And it's open to all new college students!

**WINTER CRUISE SESSION**  
All New, Incoming Students  
**January 13<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Lunch provided!

Deadline to register: **January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.**

Room: 14-203 | 619-388-2757 | [www.sdmesa.edu/cruise](http://www.sdmesa.edu/cruise)  
Request for disability related accommodations should be made no later than eight (8) working days prior to event.

# BILINGUAL COLLEGE FAIR

January 24, 2026

**LMEC**  
2875 Ocean View Blvd  
San Diego, CA. 92113  
9:00am - 3:00pm

- Community Colleges
- Universities
- Financial Aid Assistance
- Workshops
- And More

Representatives from local & international colleges & universities

**CLICK TO JOIN Zoom Session**  
Zoom ID: 97943255785

Register here

For more information please contact the Community Affairs Department of the Mexican Consulate:  
+619-308-9930 [comunidadessdi@sre.gob.mx](mailto:comunidadessdi@sre.gob.mx)

**México** **SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE** **LMEC** **CSAC**  
Comunidad de la Embajada de México en San Diego Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa Logan Memorial Educational Campus CALSOAP San Diego and Imperial County Consortium

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INFO SESSION & WRITING WORKSHOP**

**START YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!**  
<https://sdmesa.academicworks.com>

**DEADLINE TO APPLY 2/17/26**

**CLICK TO JOIN Zoom Session**  
Zoom ID: 97943255785

**In-Person Session**  
LRC Writing Center (2nd floor)

- Tues. 2/10 @11:10am
- Thurs. 2/12 @11:10am
- Tues. 2/17 @11:10am

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**  
Looking to boost your personal statement? Mesa Tattinger & Computing Center (MT2C) has drop-ins and appointments available with writing tutors!

**Get 1 on 1 Support!**  
**1PM - 2PM EVERY MONDAY**  
In-Person:  
Visit the Student Affairs Office @ I-4-408  
For Zoom:  
Please email: [Adrian.Balingit@sdccd.edu](mailto:Adrian.Balingit@sdccd.edu)

For accommodations, please email at least 5 business days prior to the event.  
Contact: [Brittany.Branson@sdccd.edu](mailto:Brittany.Branson@sdccd.edu)

**EXCITING NEWS!**  
25 students who attend a workshop session and apply for 3 scholarships will be randomly chosen to receive a \$50!

## OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

**The Accounts Payable team at the District Office is excited to share that the District is implementing new invoice-processing software to improve efficiency, accuracy, and document security.**

Beginning January 12, 2026, Accounts Payable will use a technology, Brainware OCR and Perceptive Content, to electronically capture invoice data and manage supporting documents. This change will significantly reduce manual data entry and streamline invoice processing.

### What You Need To Know

- All invoices must be submitted to [APinvoice@sdccd.edu](mailto:APinvoice@sdccd.edu), which is stated on all purchase orders
- Invoices must follow the new submission requirements outlined in the attached Accounts Payable Invoice Submission Guidelines
- Only invoices should be sent to this inbox
  - Questions and inquiries should be directed to [APinquiry@sdccd.edu](mailto:APinquiry@sdccd.edu)
- This process **does not apply** to Payment Requests, Travel, or interface files (e.g., Payroll, Financial Aid, Bookstore)

Please review the attached guidelines carefully, as invoices that do not meet the requirements may be delayed.

Thank you for reviewing this information so you are aware of the new process and can help direct suppliers if questions arise during the District's rollout.

### **Adobe Post Migration Email**

District Information Technology Services has announced the successful migration of your employee Adobe account to the district's new Adobe platform.

### **What do I need to do?**

- To activate your new license, please **log out** of any open Adobe applications.

- **Restart** your computer and log back into Adobe by relaunching an Adobe application or the Creative Cloud Manager icon on your desktop.
- **Your district email address** and **password** will be used for this login. If presented with the choice of “personal” or “company or school,”
- Please choose **“company or school.”**

#### Important Additional Information

**If your job function requires additional Adobe Software that you do not have access to on this new platform:**

**A Service Desk request with your supervisor's approval will be necessary:** [Request Additional Adobe Software](#). Once approved, you will be able to install your approved software from the Adobe Creative Cloud icon on your desktop.

If you have any issues or questions, please feel free to contact the service desk by email at [itservicedesk@sdccd.edu](mailto:itservicedesk@sdccd.edu) or 619-388-7000.

## RSVP TODAY FOR C-CERT TRAINING CAMPUS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



We are excited to invite you to our upcoming C-CERT Training taking place January 26-28th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This training will equip you with essential skills and knowledge to effectively respond to emergencies and disasters on campus. As a member of C-CERT, your role is crucial in preparing, organizing, and collaborating as a team during and after emergencies. C-CERT members strengthen campus resiliency and play a vital role in emergency response efforts. Review flyer for all the details of this training.

Join us in enhancing campus safety and preparedness by registering for this important training. Your commitment to the C-CERT is invaluable, and we look forward to having you on the team.

For this Academy there will be a limit of approximately 15 people. You will receive a confirmation email from Matt Fay that you have been added to the training list. **You must be available for all three days of training.**

To register, please click [here](#).

**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.

# RSVP TODAY FOR **ALICE TRAINING** Active Shooter Training & Preparedness



As part of our ongoing commitment to campus safety and preparedness, we have scheduled a series of safety trainings and events for 2026. All employees are encouraged to attend at least one ALICE training during the year. Each ALICE session will focus on situational awareness, response options in an active threat situation, and practical strategies to increase personal and community safety on campus.

## Personalized ALICE Trainings for Buildings

Building Managers may also request a customized, building-specific ALICE training for their area. To schedule a session tailored to your building's layout and needs, please contact: Sgt. Mark Green ([mgreen@sdccd.edu](mailto:mgreen@sdccd.edu))

### Schedule:

[Friday, January 30, 2026; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm](#)

[Friday, April 10, 2026; 8:00 am - 12:00 pm](#)

[Friday, August 21, 2026; 8:00 am - 12:00 pm](#)

[Friday, October 16, 2026; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm](#)

## 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*

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness is excited to announce the launch of the redesigned [Transfer Volume Dashboard](#), an interactive tool that provides a comprehensive view of Mesa College students

who successfully transferred to four-year universities using the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) methodology.

This dashboard allows users to:

**Explore annual transfer trends**, top university destinations, and common majors pursued by Mesa transfer students.

**Examine efficiency metrics**, including time to transfer and units earned.

**Analyze equity gaps** to understand whether transfer outcomes are proportional across student populations.

These insights support institutional planning, illuminate key student pathways, and help the college strengthen strategies that promote equitable and timely transfer for all students.

You can access the Transfer Volume Dashboard [here](#)

Note: Access requires SDCCD Single-Sign-On credentials. If you are logged in and cannot access the dashboard, please follow this [instructions](#).

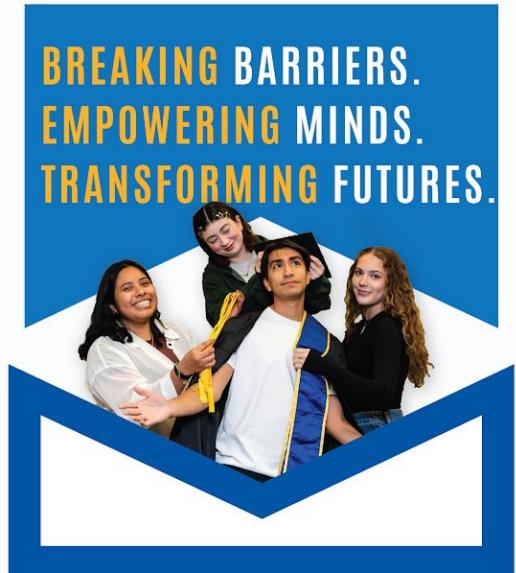
To schedule a demo, ask questions, or provide feedback, please contact [acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu](mailto:acaetanofournier@sdccd.edu) and [ncortes@sdccd.edu](mailto:ncortes@sdccd.edu).



## 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](#)



Co-Creating  
Possibilities

## GIVE YOUR INPUT, SHAPE MESA'S FUNDRAISING GOALS

Mesa is taking part in a district-wide fundraising campaign to raise more philanthropic dollars. We will be making a set of brochures to share fundraising priorities & campus needs.

We need your help defining what will be "on the menu" for donors to give to!

Please take a moment to complete the "Mesa Dreams" survey, which:

- Takes 10-15 minutes
- Has 14-16 questions
- Aims to capture your needs, as well as your boldest wish list
- Will shape fundraising goals
- Asks you to dream big!

SCAN HERE:



[bit.ly/MesaDreams25](http://bit.ly/MesaDreams25)

**Please take a moment to complete the "Mesa Dreams" survey. Your feedback helps us better serve you and guide our future fundraising goals.**

### 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](#)

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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](#)

