

Sent: Friday, October 2, 2026 1:04 PM

Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of September 28, 2026



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*



Mesa Takes Center Stage: Board of Governors Visit

Mesa College was honored to welcome members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office leadership for a special visit highlighting the people, programs, and experiences that make Mesa extraordinary.

President Ashanti Hands shared Mesa's commitment to student success and belonging, while students took center stage to share their experiences and the impact of their co-curricular involvement. Student panelists representing Athletics, Dance, Fashion, and Speech & Debate offered an authentic look at how opportunities beyond the classroom help students build community, develop leadership skills, and thrive at Mesa.

The visit was a wonderful opportunity to showcase Mesa's innovative programs, dedicated faculty and classified professionals, and—most importantly—the voices and accomplishments of our students. One Mesa. One Mission.

[Click here](#) for photos from the Board of Governors Meeting

[Click here](#) for view the Mesa College Instagram reel from the meeting



The [2025–26 Facts on File](#) is now available, providing key data and information about the San Diego Community College District and its colleges. San Diego Mesa College's section begins on page 12 and highlights information specific to the college and our community.



Innovation Grants

2027 Innovation Grants are now available! Applications are due by November 2. Read up on the application, process, and eligibility [here](#).

Strengthening Institutions Program Grant

Mesa has been awarded an anticipated \$3 million, five-year grant from the Department of Labor to support Work-Based Learning, MIP, and Career Preparation programs.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

SAVE THE DATE!
ASL FUN DAY
DEAF AWARENESS CELEBRATION
— MESA COLLEGE - ASL STUDIES PROGRAM —

**CELEBRATE
LEARN
CONNECT**
**TOGETHER,
WE BUILD
INCLUS**

**MESA
CAMPUS**

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2026**

**9:00 AM –
12:00 PM**

**FREE EVENT!
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**FEATURE EVENT:
DEAF AWARENESS PANEL**
Join Deaf community members as they share lived experiences, perspectives, and insights on Deaf culture, ASL, and accessibility.

ASL FUN DAY ACTIVITIES

- ASL Activities
- Deaf Culture Awareness
- Interactive Games
- Community Connection and more!

**JOIN US IN
K-109 & K**
Two rooms. More fun.
More connection.
See you there!

ENROLLMENT *update*

Fall 2026 FTES is 6,263 and our headcount is 21,912. For Fall 2026, we are 101.6% towards meeting our goals and anticipate being able to meet our targets even with changes in enrollment and fraudulent "bot" students being removed. As for Fall 2026, the numbers have decreased slightly, and we have 0.38% less students this week compared to last week.



Stay updated on the latest developments of our Olympian Athletes!

<https://www.gosdmesa.com/landing/index>

Mesa's Wellness Vending Machine Recognized in Statewide Report

San Diego Mesa College was prominently featured in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office 2024-25 Wellness Vending Machine Pilot Program Report, highlighting our leadership in advancing student health support. Mesa was one of 15 colleges participating in the pilot and was recognized for our successful implementation, student outreach efforts, and commitment to increasing access to essential health and wellness resources for students. The report also featured photos from Mesa and highlighted the significant contributions of our Student Health Services team in developing a model that may be expanded statewide.

Special recognition goes to Laura Milligan Lampe, Nurse Practitioner, for her outstanding leadership and dedication to providing equitable healthcare resources and support for our students.



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>



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE | Transfer Center

TRANSFER DAY

COLLEGE FAIR

Begin your Transfer Exploration and Learn About
ADT (Associate's Degree for Transfer) Transfer Options.
Connect with College Reps from CSU's, UC's, Private, and
Out-of-State Colleges and Universities!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH
MESA BREEZEWAY
10:00 AM - 01:00 PM

PLNU SDSU USD
UCSD SM UCLA
and more!

TRANSFER WITH CONFIDENCE —
YOUR DREAM UNIVERSITY IS WITHIN REACH!

TRANSFER DAY RESOURCES

linktr.ee/MesaTransferDay

Associate Degree
for Transfer

mesatransfer@sdccd.edu (619) 388-2473 @sdmesacollegatce 14-306 (3rd Floor Student Services Bldg.)

[Transfer Day](#) will be hosted Thursday, October 8th, 2026 at 10am-1:00pm, outside Mesa Commons and Quad. We hope to see you there!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

DRESS TO IMPRESS + BRING A RESUME

FASHION CAREER FAIR

BT BUILDING LOBBY

TUESDAY | OCT 6
11AM - 2PM

@sdmesafashion

[Fashion Career Fair](#) on Tuesday Oct 6 from 11:00 AM- 2:00 PM in the BT Building Lobby

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Planning on Graduating? You Must Apply!

If you plan on completing a Degree and/or Certificate of Achievement, you must apply through your mySDCCD portal to obtain the award. For questions regarding graduation requirements, please contact a counselor.

MYSDCCD PORTAL → MY ACADEMICS → APPLY FOR DEGREE / CERTIFICATE

2026-2027 DEADLINES

ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER (ADT) DEADLINES	GENERAL DEADLINE	COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2026 Students Transferring to CSU in Spring '27 with ADT	NOVEMBER 15, 2026 Fall 2026 Deadline	MARCH 15, 2027 Deadline to ensure your name is in the Commencement Program
FEBRUARY 15, 2027 Students Transferring to CSU in Fall '27 with ADT	APRIL 30, 2027 Spring 2027 Deadline	JULY 31, 2027 Summer 2027 Deadline

Steps to Apply QR Code below

linktr.ee/sdmesa_apply_degree

www.sdmesa.edu/graduation | 14-306 | (619) 388-2680 | mesaevaluations@sdccd.edu

[Deadlines](#) to earn a degree or certificate are October 1 for Fall ADT earners and November 15 for all other Fall degrees and certificates



For More Events, Click on the Links Below

[From Community to Capacity: Building and Sustaining LGBTQIA+ Employee Resource Groups](#)

[Fall 2026 Housing Series: Ready, Set, Rent!](#)

[Finding Your Future: Scholarship Success Lab](#)

[Fall 2026 Art Focus](#)

[Fall 2026 CalFresh, MediCal, Drop In Sessions](#)

[Panel: Who Am I? Who Can I Become?](#)

[Fall 2026 Financial Literacy Workshop](#)

[Register to Vote!](#)

[Ballet Folklorico with Mesa Dance](#)

[Fall 2026 Graduation and Commencement Workshops](#)

[Avanza Game Day](#)

[Fall 2026 Student Parent Healing Circle](#)

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

SAFETY FAIR

10:15 AM GREAT SHAKEOUT
DROP, COVER, & HOLD ON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
11 AM-1 PM
MESA QUAD

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT

- ★ CAMPUS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (C-CERT)
- ★ FIRST AID ★ CPR ★ AED ★ EMERGENCY RESOURCES
- ★ CAMPUS & PUBLIC SAFETY ★ DUI SIMULATOR ★ AND MORE

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MATT FAY AT MFAY@SDCCD.EDU

SAFETY TRAINING WEEK
A Safer Campus Starts with You

Join us for a single training session or the full series

OCT 12 FIRE SAFETY TRAINING
2:30-4:30pm
Limited slots available

OCT 13 FIRST AID/EVAC CHAIR TRAINING
2:30-4:30pm

OCT 14 BREATHLESS CPR AND AED TRAINING
2:30-4:30pm

Sign Up on the Mesa Safety Website

To view upcoming safety trainings, visit the Safety webpage in the Mesa website and scroll down to the [#Safety Training](#) section and click the dropdown icon.

October 12th, 2026 (2:30-4:30pm)
[Fire Safety Training](#)

October 13th, 2026 (2:30-4:30pm)
[First Aid and Evacuation Chair Training](#)

October 14th, 2026 (2:30-4:30pm)
[Breathless CPR and AED Training](#)

In addition, please save the date for the **Safety Fair**, which will be held on **Thursday, October 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Quad.**

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!

WELCOME TO THE EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL

Create Event Edit Event

Non Event Parking Permits

This form can be used for parking permit requests that are **NOT** related to an event and do not require additional resources or a space/room (i.e. community clinic, meetings in dept. conference rooms, guest speakers during a class, etc.)

- Must be entered two weeks in advance
- Requests require manager approval, similar to Event Requests
- Can be used for single or group permits

Parking related to events will need to be entered as part of an Event Request.

WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS

Events Office Hours
Wednesdays at 11:00am

Join for event help every Wednesday from 11:00-12:00pm. Find the zoom link on the Events and Operations webpage. Or scan the QR code here.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

New Retention Dashboard Now Available!

The Institutional Effectiveness Office is excited to launch the new [Mesa College Retention Dashboard](#), which tracks first-time college students and their retention across terms. Explore retention trends across student populations, identify equity gaps, and support data-informed strategies for student success. Find and explore the **Retention Dashboard** under **Student Learning & Momentum** on the **Institutional Research/Data Dashboards** page.

IE Office Hours

A DEDICATED TIME TO THINK
THROUGH YOUR DATA TOGETHER



QUESTIONS?

We're here to help.



DATA?

Let's explore it together.



IDEAS?

Let's work through them.

*We look forward to being
your data thought partner.*

Flex #34535

Every Tuesday
12:30-1:30 p.m.



1st & 3rd Tuesdays:

In person in the
IE Conference Room (A-109)



2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 872 4762 5082



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](#)

**BREAKING BARRIERS.
EMPOWERING MINDS.
TRANSFORMING FUTURES.**



Celebrating the Impact of the Inaugural Olympian Open!

The numbers are in: This July, Athletics raised over \$74,000 through the first-ever Olympian Open golf event. The Foundation was proud to serve as the fiscal agent and partner in connecting the community to this part of our mission. Kudos to the many coaches, staff, leaders, students, and volunteers who made the event such a success and a shining example of equity and excellence for all golfers and guests.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Taste of Mesa

FRI, OCT. 30 5:00 pm Culinary Outlook, MC-208

GET YOUR TICKET

givebutter.com/taste-of-mesa-2026



On Friday, October 30, 2026, San Diego Mesa College will host our annual “Taste of Mesa”, the premier cooking-show style fundraiser benefiting the Culinary Arts Management Program. Taste of Mesa will feature internationally-inspired cuisine and cook-off competitions between alumni, students and an advanced baking team. Join us at 5 pm at Mesa Commons for an evening of food, inspiration, and community!

Purchase tickets here: <https://givebutter.com/taste-of-mesa-2026>

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](#)

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 [SDCCDsafe 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.

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](#)

