

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 3:35 PM
Subject: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of September 21, 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*



Join Us for a Special Presentation

Showcasing San Diego Mesa College

Special Guests

California Community Colleges Board of Governors

 **Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026**  **1:50 pm**  **MC-211**

San Diego Mesa College has been chosen by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for a campus visit on Wednesday, September 30, 2026. The State Chancellor, Dr. Sonya Christian, and members of the Board of Governors, will experience San Diego Mesa College firsthand with a campus tour followed by a program.

San Diego Mesa College faculty, administrators, classified professionals, and students are invited to attend the program

to be held on September 30, 2026, 1:50 – 2:55 p.m., in MC 211, where schools and departments will be highlighted with presentations focused on student success, including a student panel. **Please arrive by 1:45 p.m.**

We hope you can attend next Wednesday to support our colleagues and students.

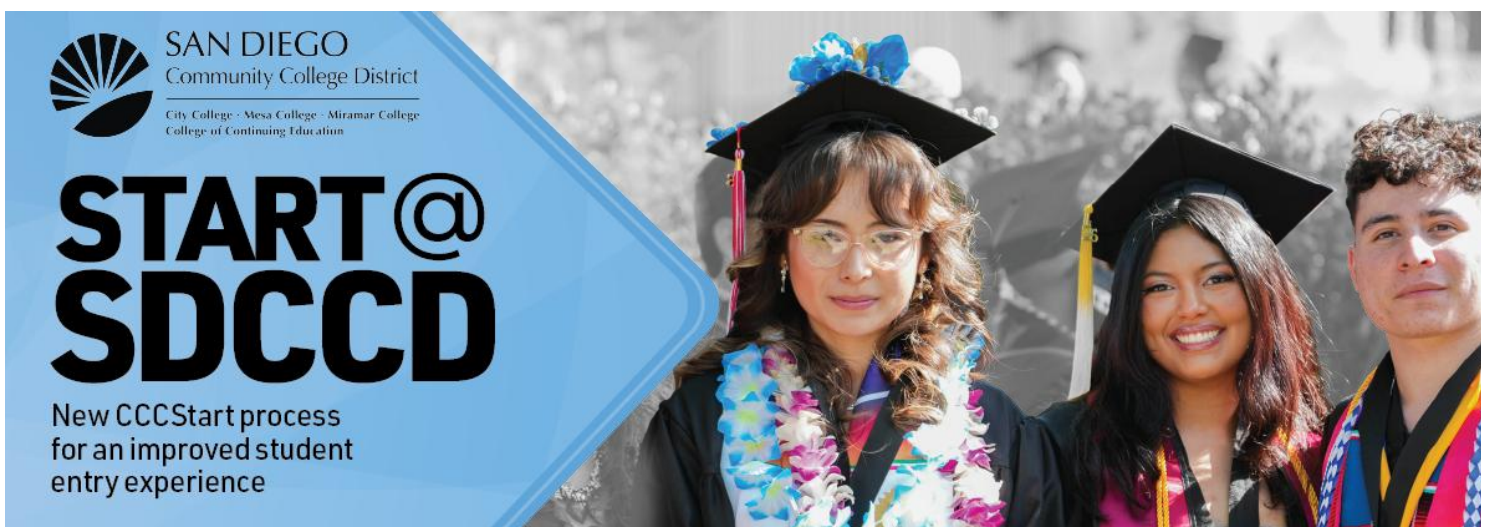


Thank YOU for Supporting Our Military-Connected Students!

Mesa College's Veterans & Records Team hosted its annual Veterans Emergency Fund BBQ Fundraiser with tremendous support from the campus community and the Culinary Arts Department. First-year Culinary Arts students helped prepare and serve 327 BBQ plates and 213 bowls of gelato, while the event generated an additional \$650 in donations. Together, these efforts raised a grand total of **\$5,213 for the Veterans Emergency Fund**, which provides critical support to Mesa's military-connected students during times of financial need. The event highlighted the power of campus collaboration and Mesa's continued commitment to supporting those who have served.

For photos from the event, please visit the [Mesa College Flickr Album](#)

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.



Beginning **September 15, 2026**, CCCApply will transition to **CCCStart**, introducing a new Start@SDCCD process designed to provide students with an improved and more streamlined entry experience.

Learn more about the transition and why the change is being made by watching this brief video: [Why CCCStart?](#)

ENROLLMENT *update*

Fall 2026 FTES is 6,284 and our headcount is 21,996. For Fall 2026, we are 101.9% 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 continue to increase, and we have 0.06% more students this week compared to last week.



Stay updated on the latest developments of our Olympian Athletes!

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

Recap | CAIR-SD's 19th Annual Gala - September 19

AANAPISI Director Leland Simpliciano was invited by the [SD API Coalition](#) to attend the [Council on American-Islamic Relations \(CAIR\) San Diego's](#) 19th Annual Gala. The event brought together community leaders, advocates, and partners from across the region to celebrate community, strengthen regional connections, and highlight issues related to civil rights, safety, and belonging within San Diego's Muslim communities.



ETHNIC STUDIES WORK BASED LEARNING COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

CALL FOR APPLICATION

This structured and facilitated Community of Practice space supports Ethnic Studies faculty to engage in learning, dialogue, and planning that will expand work-based learning (WBL) curriculum through a heart-mind framework grounded in the Ethnic Studies disciplines.

Emphasis will be placed on reimagining career exploration and preparation through cultural roots, local community organizations and partnerships, as well as the histories, knowledge, and lived experiences of historically marginalized and racialized communities.

**DEADLINE:
FRIDAY
OCT 2, 11:59PM**

CoP Dates/Times:

1 ST SESSION IN-PERSON	FRI / OCT 30 10AM - 2PM
2 ND SESSION IN-PERSON	WED THURS / JAN 20 & 21 10AM - 2PM
3 RD SESSION ZOOM	FRI / MAR 12 10AM - 11:30AM
4 TH SESSION IN-PERSON	WED / JUNE 9 11AM - 2PM

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

A COLLABORATION OF WBL, BLACK STUDIES, CHICANA/O STUDIES, AAPI STUDIES, AND ETHNIC STUDIES FACULTY COUNCIL

**COMPENSATION
1 ESU CREDIT / PARTICIPANT**



GOT QUESTIONS?

- DR. KATLIN CHOI, KCHOI@SDCCD.EDU
- DR. CANDACE KATUNGI, CKATUNGI@SDCCD.EDU

Mesa Work-Based Learning has partnered with Ethnic Studies Faculty Council to facilitate a paid Community of Practice on Work-Based Learning.

- **To apply,** use the QR code below or [click here](#).
- Need more details about the experience? [Click here](#).

We welcome you to join us in this opportunity for reflection, connection, and continued growth in exploring and advancing work-based learning curriculum through a heart-mind Ethnic Studies framework.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*



United in Community: Kapwa, Umoja, Puente & Pride Come Together

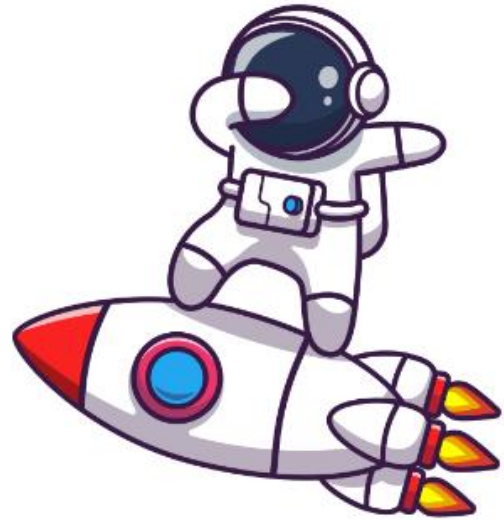
On September 16, 2026, Kapwa, Umoja, Puente and Pride Learning Community came together in unity to learn about the work of each program as well as to build solidarity between the students in the learning communities. Activities centered on team building and sharing personal identity artifacts that best describe themselves. The 100 students meet in the quad, followed by the display and discussion of personal artifacts in D-101 ending the activity with an Art Gallery tour given by Professor Moctezuma.

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>



Pride in Partnership: Strengthening LGBTQIA+ Student Support

On September 18, Mesa College's Pride Center hosted an [LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board meeting](#), bringing together students, faculty, classified professionals, administrators, Trustee Milgrim, and community organizations. Centered on student voice and meaningful dialogue, the conversation helped identify equity gaps, emerging needs, and opportunities to strengthen services and support for our LGBTQIA+ students. I am proud of our team for creating an intentional space for reflection, collaboration, and collective planning as we continue working to ensure all students feel seen, supported, and that they belong at Mesa.



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](#)

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

WWW.SDMESA.EDU/EVENTS

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.

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.

Reminder regarding parking permits for events, guest speakers, and meetings.

Event Parking:

All parking for events should be included as part of your Event Request in the [Events & Reservation Portal](#). Please keep in mind that all event requests must be submitted at least three weeks before the date of your event (longer for large events). More information can be found in the [Event & Reservation Portal FAQs](#).

Non-Event Individual/Group Permits:
Requests for non-event parking can be submitted via the [Non Event Parking Permit Request Form](#) now available on our [webpage](#), within the [Events & Reservations Portal](#). These would include requests that are not part of an “event,” such as guest speakers, departmental meeting attendees, etc. that do not require any other support.

 San Diego Community College District | FALL 2026

District Budget Forum



Daniel Troy
Vice Chancellor,
Finance & Business Services
Executive Business Officer

Monday
October 5th
2:30–4:30 pm
MC 211 A/B

Agenda

California Community College Funding

- California State Budget
- Proposition 98
- Community College Funding Priorities
- Economic outlook and budget risks

Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF)

- Base Allocation
- Supplemental Allocation
- Success Allocation

Understanding College Funding

- Unrestricted vs. Restricted Funds
- Ongoing vs. One-Time Funds
- Grant funding overview

Budget Planning Framework

- Three-Year Budget Cycle
- Structural balance
- Multi-year projections

Budget Allocation Models

- Budget Allocation Model (BAM)
- College Allocation Model (CAM)

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

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.**



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](#)

