

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 10:10 AM

Subject: DRAFT: Weekly Update from Prez Hands - Week of August 10, 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!

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OFFICE OF THE *President*



PSI BETA

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
IN PSYCHOLOGY

San Diego Mesa College Student Earns National Leadership Award

San Diego Mesa College congratulates Kristin Wilhite on earning First Place in the Psi Beta National Leadership Award, a prestigious national honor recognizing outstanding leadership among community college psychology students.

This achievement reflects Kristin's dedication to scholarship, leadership, and service, as well as the mentorship of Professor Van Kirk, whose guidance supports high-impact learning opportunities through Mesa College's Psi Beta chapter.

Congratulations to Kristin and Professor Van Kirk on this outstanding national recognition!

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Summer 2026 Modified Work Schedule



The Summer 2026 Modified Work
Schedule ends Friday, August 14, 2026

**The regular 40-hour
work week resumes
Monday, August 17, 2026**

The Summer 2026 Modified Work Schedule will conclude on Friday, August 14. Effective Monday, August 17, employees will return to the College's regular 40-hour, Monday through Friday work schedule.

We appreciate everyone's flexibility during the summer schedule and thank you for your continued support of our students and college community

Join us for **Fall 2026 Convocation** as we come together to celebrate the start of a new academic year and our shared commitment to student success.

Thursday, August 20, 2026
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Mesa College Gymnasium

Theme: *One Mesa. One Mission.*

Agenda

- 8:00a - 8:30a | Coffee and Pastries in Mesa Gym
- 8:30a - 10:00a | Program with Campus Highlights, Updates and Olympian Spirit awards
- 10:00a - 10:30a | SDCCD Chancellor Visit
- 10:30a - 10:40a | Breakout Instruction and Transition Time
- 10:40a - 11:25a | Breakout Sessions I (45 mins)
- 11:25a - 11:30a | Transition
- 11:30a - 12:15p | Breakout Sessions II *(45 mins)
- 12:15p - 1:00p | Lunch in the Mesa Quad

Please access the [Convocation RSVP form](#).

Please access the [Convocation Breakout Schedule webpage](#).

SAVE THE DATE

FALL 2026 CONVOCATION

Thursday, August 20, 2026

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Mesa College Gymnasium



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE



Nominate an Olympian!

The San Diego Mesa College President's Office is accepting nominations from the San Diego Mesa College Managers and Supervisors for the 2026 Fall Semester Olympian Spirit Award. This award was established in August 2016 to recognize faculty, administrators, and classified professionals who have shown their Olympian Spirit through their exemplary contributions to the campus community.

For more information and to nominate a deserving colleague, [click here](#).



LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
CLOSED
FOR RENOVATIONS

During the summer, the LRC Building will be closed from June 8 - **August 21, 2026** for renovations. Library services and tutoring support will continue at the temporary locations listed below.

Circulation and Help Desk Services

B-106 *Open until August 20th

- Laptop checkout and returns
- Calculator checkout and returns
- Computer and printing stations
- Course reserves
- Book checkout and returns
- Study spaces with whiteboards
- Book scanner

Research and Study Space

D-108 *Open until August 6th

- Librarian research assistance
- Individual study spaces
- Study spaces with whiteboards
- New books available for checkout
- Library materials return

Tutoring Services

K-108A *Open until August 6th

- Onsite tutoring | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Virtual tutoring | 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Library services are available **Monday - Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** and closed Friday - Sunday. For questions or more information, please contact 619-388-2696 or mesalibraryrequest@sdccd.edu.



Institutional Innovation and Effectiveness
INNOVATION AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

AI Professional Development Framework 2026-2027

Every II&E workshop, panel, and community of practice is tagged to one of three progression levels from the UNESCO AI Competency Framework - faculty and staff can choose sessions by skill level, not by calendar order.

UNDERSTAND	APPLY	CREATE
Grasping foundational AI concepts, terminology, ethics, and societal implications. No prior experience assumed. LEVEL 1	Hands-on practice using AI tools ethically and effectively in real coursework and day-to-day work. Assumes foundational understanding. LEVEL 2	Designing, configuring, and innovating new AI solutions, activities, and workflows — guided by ethical, human-centered judgment. LEVEL 3

All offerings will be tagged using the above framework.

Fall 2026 Highlights

UNDERSTAND

- Classified Professional Speaker Series
- Faculty Speaker Conversation Series
- Student Panel — Designed and Led by II&E's Student Interns

APPLY

- K-16 AI Convening — Work Ready in the Age of AI: Equipping Students for Careers in an AI-Powered World

CREATE

- Equitable Assessment: Getting Started with the EquiGrade Guide Bot

2025-2026 Snapshot

900+	150+	30+	150+
Enrolled in the AAAI Micro-Credential (Students, Faculty & Staff Combined)	AAAI Micro-Credential Badges Issued (Students, Faculty & Staff Combined)	Professional Development Workshops	Attended InnovAltion Day (AI Day)
4	3	3	5+
AI Speaker Conversation Series	Community of Inquiry & Practice Sessions for Online English Faculty	Panels: Student, Faculty & Industry	State & National Events: Better Together: California Convening on AI in Higher Education

Scan to Access:



AI Professional Development Framework 2026-2027

What you are seeing is the District's II&E AI Professional Development Framework for 2026 through 2027. Every workshop, panel, and community of practice offered through Institutional Innovation and Effectiveness is tagged to one of three progression levels drawn from the UNESCO AI Competency Framework: Understand, Apply, and Create.

The framework enables us to talk the same language and choose sessions based on your own skill level or interest. If you have never used an AI tool, **Understand** is where you start; no prior experience is assumed. If you are already using these tools in your courses or your daily work, **Apply** is built for you. And if you are ready to design or configure something new, **Create** is where that work happens.

Last year, more than 900 students, faculty, and staff enrolled in the AAAI Micro-Credential, and II&E offered more than 30 professional development workshops. The QR codes on this slide will take you to the fall offerings. There is an entry point here for everyone, at every level of experience.

Click the flyer to the left to enlarge.



MESA Students Gain Hands-On Research Experience at UC San Diego

This summer, eight MESA students successfully completed an eight-week mentored research internship in the UC San Diego Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Lab, gaining valuable hands-on experience, dedicated mentorship, and the opportunity to build their confidence as emerging researchers.

The program culminated in a student research symposium on July 30, where all eight students presented their original research findings to faculty, mentors, and peers. For seven of the eight participants, this marked their first academic research presentation. The returning student researcher was also recognized as this year's MCRC Best Oral Presentation winner!

Pre- and post-program assessments showed growth across all measured areas, including research confidence, technical skills, and sense of belonging in STEM. The greatest gains were seen in students' identities as researchers and their understanding of mentor relationships. Students shared that being trusted with meaningful, hands-on responsibilities helped them see themselves as part of the research community while strengthening their preparation for future transfer and academic opportunities.



Retail Management Certificate Program Expands Workforce Partnerships

San Diego Mesa College's Retail Management Certificate (RMC) program continues to strengthen pathways between workforce development and higher education. This summer, Professor Howard Eskew received the Good Neighbor Award from Goodwill Industries of San Diego County, recognizing Mesa's transformative partnership with Goodwill's Management Development Program (MDP).

Through Mesa's Credit for Prior Learning process, Goodwill MDP graduates can now earn three college units toward the RMC program, formally recognizing the rigor of their leadership training while creating a seamless pathway to continued education.

Recruitment efforts are already underway to welcome MDP graduates to Mesa, with additional sessions planned for August. The program is also exploring a new partnership with Viejas Casino & Resort, including opportunities to bring the RMC program to Viejas employees and develop potential paid internships for Mesa students.

These growing partnerships reflect Mesa's commitment to connecting education, workforce development, and career advancement throughout our region.

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

WELCOME WEEK

☀ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WELCOME WEEK! ☀

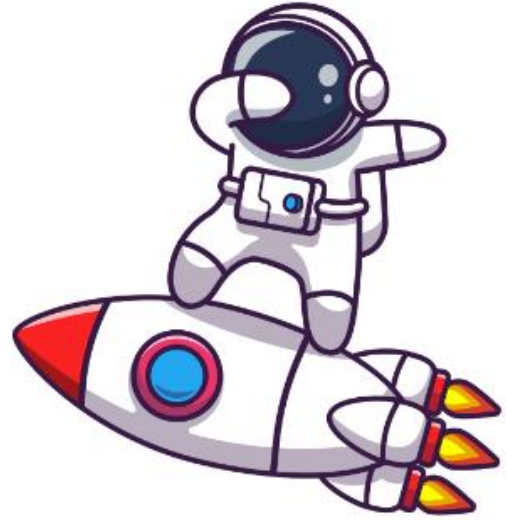
Help us create a memorable first impression for our students! Student Affairs is seeking volunteers for the Fall 2026 Welcome Week Information Booth on Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will assist students with navigating campus, connecting to key resources, and starting the semester with confidence. Interested? Please email Courtney Lee at clee@sdccd.edu with your availability.

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

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

RSVP TODAY FOR
ALICE TRAINING
Active Shooter Training & Preparedness



We are excited to invite you to our upcoming ALICE Training taking place on Friday, August 21st, 2026 from 8:00-12:00pm in G101. ALICE, which stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate, was developed with the concept in mind that civilians needed a set of skills to learn to take drastic steps in order to survive an active shooter situation, crucial steps until first responders could arrive to neutralize the threat. College Police has a team of Certified ALICE instructors that provide ongoing training classes to the community year round.

If you are interested in this training, please fill out the form below. **The deadline to register is August 18th.**

[ALICE Training Registration – Fill out form](#)

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!

WELCOME TO THE EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL

This webpage is for submitting your event request.

Create Event

Edit Event

Non Event Parking Permits

For non-event parking permits, please enter an event request and click the 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

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.

Notice: Effective Monday, April 6, the Business Services Office will close at 12:00 PM daily for walk-up service to accommodate year-end processing. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this busy time.

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

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

Summer IE OFFICE HOURS

A DEDICATED TIME TO THINK THROUGH YOUR DATA TOGETHER

EXPLORE DATA
for program review or accreditation

NAVIGATE
our dashboards

UNDERSTAND
what your data is telling you

COLLABORATE
on questions, ideas, or projects

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

Let's work through them together! ☆

We look forward to being your data thought partner.

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.



On behalf of the SDCCD Institutional Review Board (IRB), we are sharing that the district is seeking Mesa College faculty participation on the IRB from Fall 2026 through June 2027.

The IRB supports the review of research involving human participants and helps promote ethical research practices across the district. This opportunity may be a good fit for faculty with experience or interest in research methods, human subjects research, ethics, program evaluation, or applied inquiry.

Commitment details include:

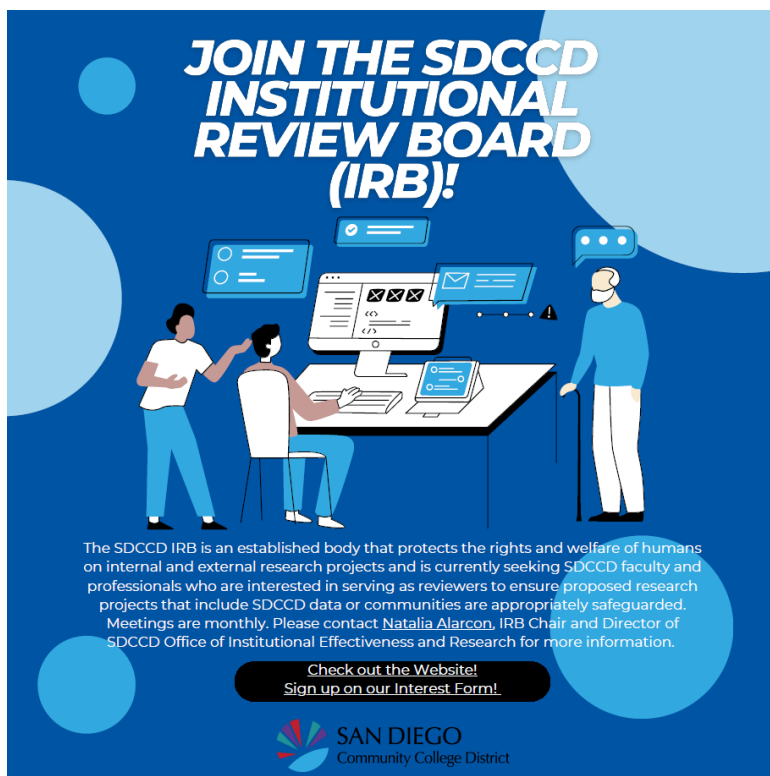
- 1-year term
- One 1.5-hour meeting per month
- Review of approximately 5-6 proposals per semester
- Onboarding and Human Subjects training required
- No summer meetings

Interested faculty are encouraged to reach out to Natalia Alarcón, District IRB Co-Chair, at nalarcon@sdccd.edu.

Learn more by clicking these links:

[SDCCD Institutional Review Board](#) | [IRB Steps to Become a Member](#)

Thank you for your considering this opportunity."





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](#)

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](#)

