

From: Mesa President's Office <MesaPresidentsOffice@sdccd.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 2:55 PM



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*

Welcome to the Fall 2026 Semester!

Welcome Back, Mesa!

I hope you are returning refreshed, reenergized, and ready for what promises to be an exciting year at Mesa College.

Our theme for 2026–27 is One Mesa. One Mission. It is a reminder that while our roles, programs, and responsibilities may be different, we are united by one shared purpose: creating the conditions that matter for our students to succeed. This year is about bringing the incredible work happening across our college together with greater intention, shared accountability, and collective impact as we continue our journey toward becoming the leading college of equity and excellence.

And we have so much to be excited about! From reaching major milestones with our Measure HH building projects, to new carpet in the LRC, to incredible student enrollment numbers, there is a real sense of momentum across our campus. Each milestone represents progress, possibility, and our continued investment in our students and one another.

I cannot wait to share more as we officially kick off the year at Convocation tomorrow. Come ready to reconnect, celebrate, laugh, and imagine what is possible when we move forward together.

One Mesa. One Mission. One incredible year ahead.

See you at Convocation!

President Hands

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



From Mesa Student to San Diego Art Giant

Mesa College Art Professor and former Mesa student **Misty Hawkins** was recently featured as one of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego's *Giants of San Diego*, a digital series celebrating and highlighting Black and Brown artists in the San Diego region. Hawkins, who teaches Life Drawing (ARTF 210) this fall, was recognized alongside fellow local artists, including **Chris Tucker**, and shares insights into her artistic process, self-portrait series, and experience teaching beginning artists. **Learn more and view the artist interviews through MCASD's [Giants of San Diego | Stories Behind the Art](#) series.**

OFFICE OF *Instruction*

Recap | AANAPISI Wraps Up the AAPI Community of Practice (Cohort IV) - August 4-6

AANAPISI wrapped up its fourth and final AAPI Community of Practice! 21 participants were immersed in data, history, student experiences, and culture—from the movements to the flavors—making the experience both meaningful and memorable. Participants deepened their understanding of how to better serve AAPI students by debunking the model minority myth, challenging the idea that AAPI students are a monolith, emphasizing the importance of disaggregated data, and more. We would like to thank our participants for their time and engagement, as well as their supervisors for supporting their participation. A huge shoutout to our AAPI facilitators—Patricia Guevarra, Ella de Castro, Ranmali Rodrigo, Eileen Hayward, Jennifer Park, and Charlie Lieu—for their leadership!



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
Library

LIBRARY TOURS

EXPLORE LIBRARY SPACES & RESOURCES!

AUGUST 24-27

MONDAY-THURSDAY
10 AM • 12 PM • 2 PM • 4 PM

CHECK IN AT THE FIRST-FLOOR FRONT DESK IN THE LRC.

RSVP APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED

Take a quick tour and discover everything the Learning Resource Center has to offer! Connect with librarians and library staff while learning about the spaces, services, and resources available to support your academic success.

RSVP appreciated, but not required.

[RSVP SIGN-UP FORM](#)

For inquiries or questions, please contact:

Dr. Edeama Onwuchekwa Jonah

ejonah@sdccd.edu

WELCOME WEEK

☀ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WELCOME WEEK! ☀

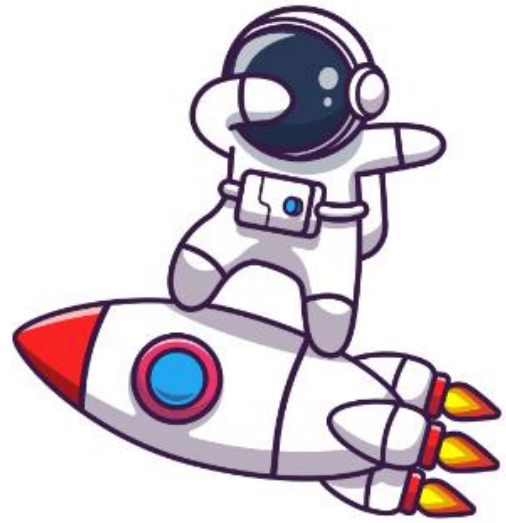
Help us create a memorable first impression for our students! Student Affairs is seeking volunteers for the Fall 2026 Welcome Week Information Booth on Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will assist students with navigating campus, connecting to key resources, 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

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



¡Latino/a/e Bienvenida!

Latino/a/e Heritage Month Kickoff
Celebrating Latino/a/e Students and
Colegas at Mesa College
Meet students and colegas
Learn about campus resources

Thursday, September 10, 2026
11:00am-1:00pm
Mesa Commons Quad

Everyone is welcome!
Food will be provided



For more information or accommodations,
contact Lidia@sdccd.edu

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE

ROOTED AND RISING
BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS
RESOURCE FAIR



Thursday, September 3th, 2026
11:00AM - 12:30PM
Student Services Building, 2nd Floor

Join us for an empowering event featuring
campus resources, networking, food, and music.
Everyone is welcome!



For any questions or accommodations, contact Lidia@sdccd.edu

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



PANEL
Who Am I?
Who Can I Become?
A Conversation on Leadership, Identity, and Belonging.

Monday, October 5, 2026 | 9:30-11:00 AM | Avanza Room, 14-202

Be inspired by a dynamic panel featuring women Mesa leaders from
Ibero-America as they share the stories, challenges, and experiences that
shaped their leadership journeys. Discover the power of your own identity,
recognize the strengths you bring to every space, and see what's possible
through the experiences of leaders who reflect the diversity of our campus.

For more information, please contact: almamesa@sdccd.edu

Si puedes verte ahí, puedes llegar ahí.
If you can see yourself there, you can get there.



SOMOS Mesa

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



ALMA
Alliance for Latine Mesa Achievement

The Alliance for Latine Mesa Achievement (ALMA) is Mesa
College's institutional committee dedicated to intentionally
centering and uplifting Latine students across all dimensions of
college life. As the Leading College of Equity and Excellence and a
designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), ALMA exists to
make that commitment structural, visible, and sustained. All are
welcome to join ALMA as we come together to weave community.

SOMOS Mesa

Join ALMA Tejiendo Comunidad | Únete a ALMA Tejiendo Comunidad
We meet virtually on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 3-4 PM.

To access Zoom link,
please email us at almamesa@sdccd.edu

[in](#) @Alliance for Latine Mesa Achievement (ALMA)
[ig](#) @sdmesaalma



FALL 2026

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
CARE • CalWORKS • The Stand
Mental Health Services

STUDENT PARENT HEALING CIRCLE

The healing circle focuses on creating a safe space for student parents. Children are always welcome!
Food will be provided!

DATES THURSDAYS
September 17
October 22
November 19
December 10

Time 3:00pm - 4:30pm

LOCATION
Family Resource Center
LRC, 1st Floor, Room 113

For Information & Accommodations
Grace Aumoevalogo
gaumoevalogo@sdccd.edu

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
CARE • CalWORKS • The Stand

Parent Cafe

FALL 2026
TIME 11:00AM-12:30PM
WEDNESDAYS
September 2 • 9 • 16
October 7 • 14 • 21
November 4 • 18

LOCATION
Family Resource Center (FRC) Room 113

Zoom: 825 6491 8782 Password: FALL2026

For more information or accommodations contact Mesa CalWORKS
(619) 388-2709
MESACALWORKS@SDCCD.EDU

To join more Student-Parent workshops & events Follow us on Instagram
@sdmesacare
@sdmesacalworks
@sdmesathestand

Connect with Student Parents to share experiences, build community, and discover helpful resources. From wellness to cultural reflection to academic support, every workshop offers something different and meaningful. Brunch is provided, and children are always welcome in our safe, child-friendly space on Mesa's campus.

FALL 2026

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
CARE • CalWORKS • The Stand

Welcome Back PARENT CAFE

Connect with Student Parents to share experiences, build community, and discover helpful resources. Brunch is provided, and children are always welcome in our safe, child-friendly space on Mesa's campus.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026
LOCATION: MESA QUAD
TIME: 11:00AM-12:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS CONTACT MESA CALWORKS
SDMESACALWORKS@SDCCD.EDU

FALL 2026

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
CARE • CalWORKS

MEET N' GREET

Kick off the new term with a Totally Rad 80s Bash! Meet the CARE & CalWORKS team, hear student parent stories, and get the scoop on resources to help you succeed! Children are welcome. Food provided. Please RSVP by scanning the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/MesaStudentParentsEvent

Thursday, September 24, 2026
12:00pm - 1:30pm
Avanza Center, 14-203
Second floor of Student Services Building

For more information or accommodations please contact Mesa CalWORKS at SDMesaCalWORKS@sdccd.edu

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!

WELCOME TO THE EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL

Threats to you through creating your event request.

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

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
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 *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:

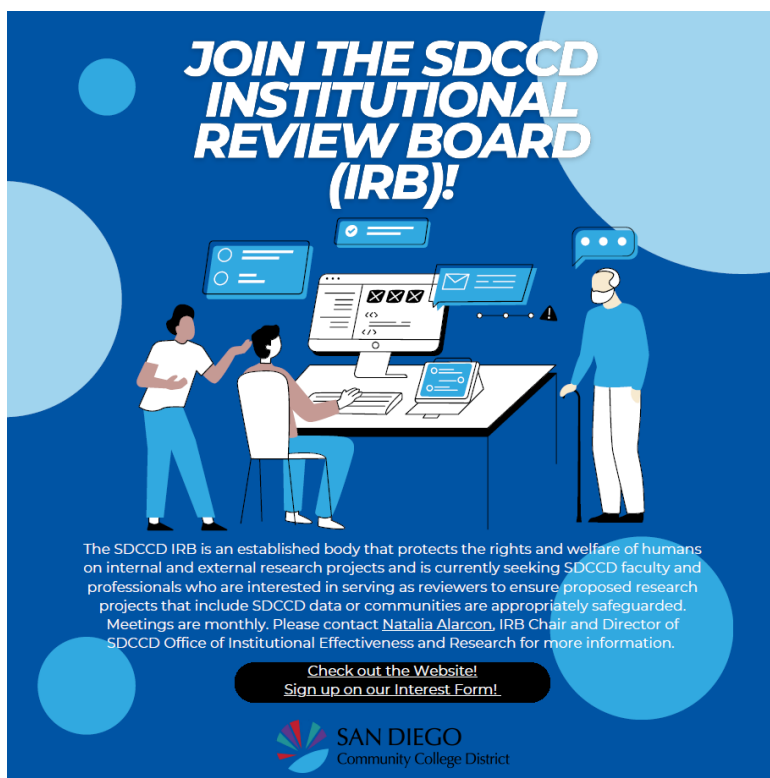
- 1-year term
- One 1.5-hour meeting per month
- Review of approximately 5-6 proposals per semester
- Onboarding and Human Subjects training required
- No summer meetings

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."



JOIN THE SDCCD INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)!

The SDCCD IRB is an established body that protects the rights and welfare of humans on internal and external research projects and is currently seeking SDCCD faculty and professionals who are interested in serving as reviewers to ensure proposed research projects that include SDCCD data or communities are appropriately safeguarded. Meetings are monthly. Please contact [Natalia Alarcón](#), IRB Chair and Director of SDCCD Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research for more information.

[Check out the Website!](#)
[Sign up on our Interest Form!](#)

 **SAN DIEGO**
Community College District



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](#)

