



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*

JACK KENT COOKE

FOUNDATION



Nine SDCCD Students Named Semifinalists for the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

Nine students from across the District have been named semifinalists for the 2026 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, including two from San Diego Mesa College: Oleksandr Sharlai and Derek Bedolla.

Sharlai, a biology and psychology student, tutors peers in STEM subjects, mentors student research, and has conducted research at Scripps Research and UC San Diego. Originally from Ukraine, he rebuilt his academic path after fleeing the Russian invasion and plans to pursue an MD-PhD in translational neuroscience to support refugee communities.

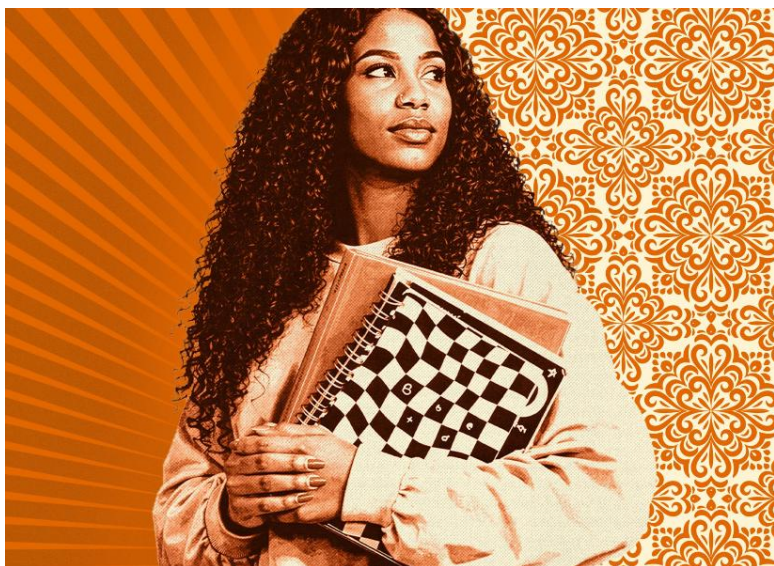
Final scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

To read more, click here for the [SDCCD News Center Article](#)

Join us at the San Diego Mesa College 33rd Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 4:30 pm in the Mesa College Gymnasium.

Together, we will celebrate the achievements of our students and honor the generosity of our donors. The evening will include appetizers, recipient recognition, opportunity drawings, and more.

[▶ View Sponsorship and Ticket Options and Register](#)



REVOLUTION: (RE)DEFINING BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS

In 2020, a dedicated coalition of leaders and advocates within the California Community Colleges pioneered the creation of Black Student Success Week. This annual event, observed during the last full week of April, offers a time to reflect on our commitment to the academic well-being of underserved students, including but not limited to Black and African American students.

The seventh annual Black Student Success Week is scheduled for **April 20 - 24, 2026**. This year's theme is *Revolution: (Re)Defining Black Student Success*. The 2026 Black Student Success Week shifts from institutional designations (BSIs) to an overall structural transformation, and calls for a deliberate redefinition of who higher education serves, how it serves, and who controls the narrative of Black student success.

For a full list of events, [click here for the flyer](#).

Join Us at the Linda Vista Fair and Parade!
Saturday, April 25, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
6900 block of Linda Vista Road

The [Linda Vista Multicultural Fair & Parade](#) is a free, family-friendly community celebration held annually in San Diego, bringing together food, art, culture, and entertainment. Taking place on April 25, 2026, the event features live performances, global cuisine, cultural exhibits, and activities for all ages, including a parade, kids zone, and art contest. Rooted in more than 40 years of tradition, the fair highlights the diversity and community spirit of Linda Vista while offering opportunities for local vendors, performers, and organizations to participate.



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.

The Puente Project Presents: Reyna Grande

The Puente Project invites the campus community to a special event featuring award-winning author Reyna Grande on Monday, April 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in MC-211. Grande, best known for her powerful memoirs and novels, explores themes of immigration, family separation, and the pursuit of the American dream through deeply personal and compelling storytelling.

The event will include a talk followed by a book signing, offering students and attendees the opportunity to engage directly with Grande and reflect on the lived experiences that shape her work. All are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP if you are bringing a class for purposes of chair set-up and refreshment orders.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE PUENTE
THE PUENTE PROJECT PRESENTS:
REYNA GRANDE
Reyna Grande is an award-winning author whose work powerfully illuminates the complexities of immigration, family separation, and the pursuit of the American Dream.
Monday, April 20, 2026
11:15am-2:00pm
SD Mesa College, MC-211
Contact Christie Allred
callred@sdccd.edu
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

ENROLLMENT *update*

As the second eight-week session stabilizes, we have an overall headcount of 21,275 and our FTES is 5,994. This dip below 6,000 FTES is primarily due to the second eight-week instructor drop for non-attendance process, with 249 individual students no longer enrolled in a second eight-week course compared to last week at this time. As a reminder, we are still well over our FTES target of 5,790. Sending appreciation to our Deans, Department Chairs, instructional teams, and instructors for all their hard work.



Golf Tournament Basket Donations from Departments

The Athletics Department is seeking donations for the first Annual Olympian Open Golf Fundraiser. If you have any gift cards, season tickets, sports memorabilia, or other desirable donations, please drop them off with Ryan Shumaker in the Athletics Department (ES Building, 2nd Floor).



Save the Date!

Golden Scissors Fashion Show Friday, May 22 at 5:00 PM on campus

Tickets are **on sale now** with early bird pricing:
<https://sdmesafashion.ludus.com/>

Thank you for supporting your Mesa College student-athletes.

Golden Scissors is our signature annual runway show and student showcase, featuring original student designer collections, a full-scale production, and an incredible collaboration across our Fashion, Culinary, Hospitality, and Music programs. It is always a highlight of the year and a truly special event for our campus community.

We would love to see you there and truly appreciate your support of our students!

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

Sawubona Mesa Community,

It's an incredible honor to be hosting numerous events for this year's Black Student Success Week! This week is important as we focus on the academic well-being of our Black and African American students throughout California community colleges. We have multiple opportunities to engage and connect with the Umoja community during this, so please save the following dates and come by! We look forward to the many familiar faces and hope to meet some new ones as well.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE umoja community			SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE umoja community			SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE umoja community		
BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS WEEK			BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS WEEK			BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS WEEK		
UMOJA CAMPUS KICKBACK			A SEAT AT THE TABLE			UMOJAFYING		
			UMOJA STUDENT PANEL			THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY		
12:00PM - 2:00PM THE QUAD			12:30PM - 1:30PM BT-218			12:30PM - 1:30PM KUP UNITY VILLAGE (14-201)		
Join us in celebrating and acknowledging the successes of our Black and African American students and the Umoja program. Come build community while learning about opportunities, resources, and your peers' achievements.			How does being connected to your culture impact your educational experience? Hear the lived experiences of our Umoja Scholars and join them as they elaborate on what they're learning in this journey.			Hear how embracing elements of Umoja can bring the campus community closer to Black student success. Join our students as they educate others in a call for increased social and educational support for all students from the perspective of Umoja Scholars.		
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
20	21	22	21	22	23	22	23	24

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 Represented at APAHE 2026](#)

San Diego Mesa College represented at the annual Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) Conference this past weekend. This year's theme is Legacies in Action: Courage and Resilience. Participants will engage in professional and leadership development, conference operations through volunteering, and attending and facilitating workshops to better understand issues affecting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders in higher education.

Mesa is sending a team of 35 participants, consisting of students, staff, faculty, and administrators. Fifteen of the participants are student scholars and leaders from the Kapwa Learning Community, AANHPI Peer Mentorship Program, Asian Pacific Diversity Student Club, and Mixed Student Union. They will be travelling with fellow student scholars from City and Miramar on Saturday where they will have the opportunity to connect and build community on the bus ride to Anaheim. Additionally, some of our scholars will be facilitating a caucus meeting for Mixed AANHPI members and allies, a student-led workshop on student leadership, and co-facilitating other workshops with faculty.



Great News from Financial Aid!

During the yearly All Financial Aid Directors meeting, hosted by the California Community College Chancellors Office, San Diego Mesa College was recognized as a top 10 California Community College with increases in paid Cal Grants to undocumented students.

[Click on the flyer to enlarge](#)

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
 Class of 2026
 MAY 29th, 2026 2:00 p.m.
 Mesa College, Merrill Douglas Stadium

The Commencement Ceremony is the end of your education for students who have completed or are expected to complete their degree/certificate requirements.

Who Can Attend:

- Summer 2025 graduates
- Fall 2025 graduates
- Spring 2026 anticipated graduates
- Summer 2026 anticipated graduates

Students must Apply for Graduation in their Student Portal to receive the invitation to RSVP for the Commencement Ceremony.

For more info, contact Mesa College Examinations Office
 619-388-2630 | www.sdmesa.edu/commencement
mesaexaminations@sdcc.edu

www.sdmesa.edu/commencement



LAVENDER CELEBRATION
 HONORING MESA STUDENTS
 TUESDAY, MAY 19th, 2026
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
 D-101

Join us for a celebration of diversity, resilience, and achievement of our LGBTQIA+ students at our Lavender Celebration Ceremony!

This event is a testament to the strength of our community and the importance of representation in academia. Let's commemorate this milestone with pride and solidarity, embracing the rich tapestry of identities that make our graduating class truly remarkable.

RSVP
tinyurl.com/2026LavenderCelebration

For more information, contact: Pride Center Coordinator
 Tasha Lata at tlata@sdcc.edu

Pride Center
www.sdmesa.edu/pride
 SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Request for disability-related accommodations should be made no later than 60 days prior to the event. Call 619-388-2774.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
 Career Services

MONTH OF APRIL APRIL 01 - 30
2026

APR 09
 11 AM - 12 PM
How To Follow-Up On Job Application
 Location: I4-201 (AVANZA Center) & Virtual On 20am
 Learn when and how to follow up, what to say, and how to avoid common mistakes after applying for a job application.

APR 13
 1 PM - 2 PM
Resume & Cover Letter Writing
 Receive support with your resume or cover letter.

APR 15
 11 AM - 12 PM
Introduction To Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS)
 Location: Virtual On 20am
 Understanding ATS, and how the AI programs are used in today's hiring process, and the impact they have on job seekers.

APR 23
 11 AM - 12 PM
How To Pitch Yourself At A Career Fair
 Location: I4-201 (AVANZA Center)
 Learn how to market yourself in a professional setting.

APR 29
 10 AM - 11 AM
SDCC District Wide Career Fair
 Location: San Diego City College
 Connect with employers and join us for our annual district wide Career Fair that will be held at City's campus.

(619)-388-2777 | mesacareer@sdcc.edu | I4-306, 3rd Floor | www.sdmesa.edu/career

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
 Transfer Center

SPRING TRANSFER COLLEGE FAIR

DEC San Diego Education Consortium

Join San Diego Mesa College and San Diego Education Consortium (SDEC) for our upcoming Spring Transfer Fair! Admissions reps from 20+ local and out-of-state colleges and universities will be there to talk about transfer options, financial aid & more!

April 23rd 2026
 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM
 Mesa College Breezeway
 619-388-2473
www.sdmesa.edu/transfer



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
 Dreamer Resource Center

MONARCH Celebration

Join us as we honor our Borderless Scholars students whose courage, resilience, and dreams have carried them to achieve their accomplishments.

This celebration is for every Borderless Scholar, not just graduating students! We'll be recognizing all achievements, whether academic, personal, or beyond.

Come celebrate YOU!

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Scan the QR or visit:
bit.ly/MonarchGrad2026 to RSVP
 Contact Information:
MesaDreamers@sdcc.edu



SAN DIEGO Community College District
 City College - Mesa College - Miramar College
 College of Continuing Education

BLACK GRADUATES & TRANSFER CEREMONY

Rite of Passage

Monday, May 11, 2026
 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
 San Diego City College

Celebrating Black Student graduates from Mesa, City, Miramar and CE

RSVP Link & QR Code
<https://bit.ly/2026SDCCDROPRSV>

SCAN HERE

If you have any questions, please contact 619.388.2884.



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
 Transfer Center

TRANSFER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

MAY 14TH
 11 AM - 1 PM
 MESA COMMONS (MC-211 A/B)

I'M TRANSFERRING TO
 UC Berkeley
 Go Bears
 #BERKELEYCALIFORNIA

Scan the QR or visit:
bit.ly/AcceptedFall26

The Mesa College Transfer Center invites you to celebrate your transfer acceptance! Please tell us where you got in to be invited to the event! (spaces are limited).

mesatransfer@sdcc.edu | 619-388-2473 | www.sdmesa.edu/transfer | I4-306

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*

SAFETY TRAINING WEEK

A Safer Campus Starts with You

Join us for a single session or the full series—morning and afternoon options available

MAY 12 FIRE SAFETY TRAINING
 9:30-11:30am
 2:30-4:30pm






MAY 13 FIRST AID TRAINING
 9:30-11:30am
 2:30-4:30pm



MAY 14 BREATHLESS CPR AND AED
 9:30-11:30am
 2:30-4:30pm




A Safer Campus Starts with You!
 We are pleased to announce Safety Training Week, a series of hands-on workshops designed to equip our campus community with essential emergency skills. Join us for a single session or the full series; morning and afternoon options are available to fit your schedule. First come, first serve - 25 participants per session.

Fire Safety: Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Education, and Fire Prevention
 May 12th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

First Aid: Basic Aid Techniques, Bleeding Control, and Evacuation Chair
 May 13th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

Breathless CPR and AED Demonstrations and Trainings
 May 14th 9:30-11:30am OR 2:30-4:30pm

Once confirmed, a calendar invite will be sent with the training location. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Safety Training Week Sign Ups – Fill out form](#)

WEEK
NEW!



EVENT PLANNING OFFICE HOURS

EVERY TUESDAY | 9:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.

Events and Operations will be holding weekly office hours! Please join us to receive support on event locations, space availability, and more!

NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM



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

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](#)

Mesa Emergency Management Website



[Click here](#) to learn which administrative areas are involved in managing our college operations.

OFFICE OF *Institutional Effectiveness*

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.

IE Office Hours – A Dedicated Time to Think Through Your Data Together

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Office is launching weekly Office Hours to serve as a partner for your data questions and ideas. Whether you're exploring data for program review or accreditation, thinking through how to use our dashboards, or simply trying to make sense of what the data is telling you, we welcome the opportunity to work alongside you. During the Spring semester, **from January 20 (Flex Week) through June 1**, we will pilot these new office hours. Join us **Tuesdays from 12:30–1:30 p.m.** in the IE Office (A-109). We have a conference room for collaborative conversations—and yes, there's coffee too!
We look forward to being your data thought partner.



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.**



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](#)



Join us for the San Diego Mesa College Olympian Open on **July 24, 2026**, at 12 p.m. as we tee off to support our incredible student athletes. This signature golf fundraiser brings together community leaders, alumni, and champions of education for a day of fun, connection, and purpose. Your participation, whether through sponsorships, donations, or in kind gifts, directly fuels athletic equipment and academic support that help our Olympians succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

[▶ Register and Donate](#)



Our **annual Mesa College Giving Day** will take place on the eve of our graduation commencement, Thursday, May 28th. This is a day where we join together to build community and support for Mesa and our students. With the help of Maria Teresa Rodriguez Rivera (Mesa Impactship Program Intern), Kiana Kikuchi, and Amanda Brown, we are elevating our efforts this year. Here's our timeline:

- April 20: Ambassador Toolkit Available
- May 4: #MesaGivingDay Kickoff
- May 28: #MesaGivingDay
- May 31: Deadline for #MesaGivingDay donations

We are seeking Ambassadors to help spread the word about #MesaGivingDay - anyone can support!

[▶ Join our Ambassador Interest List](#) for updates on how you can get involved

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](#)

