

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



WEEKLY UPDATES FROM

Prez Hands

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*

Truly Grateful for You!



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who played a role in making Commencement 2026 such a memorable and meaningful celebration. From the countless hours of planning and preparation to the behind-the-scenes coordination on the day of the event, your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to our students made all the difference.

Whether you welcomed guests, supported graduates, managed logistics, coordinated volunteers, worked on stage, ensured safety, or contributed in ways both visible and unseen, your efforts helped create an experience that our students and their families will cherish for years to come.

Commencement is a reflection of our collective commitment to student success, and this year's celebration was a beautiful example of what we can accomplish when we come together. Thank you for your time, energy, flexibility, and unwavering support in honoring the Class of 2026.

For 2026 Commencement photos, [click here](#). | For the Mesa Press Release, [click here](#).
For the 2026 Commencement video, [click here](#).

HAPPY 2026 CLASSICON WEEK!

Today kicks off Day 2 with more workshops centered around strengthening our Mesa Community. If you have signed up for this event, make sure you attend your sessions. For a workshop schedule (please note, some of these workshops are at-capacity), [click here](#).

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE



Summer 2026 Modified Work Schedule

Summer 2026 Modified Work Schedule

San Diego Mesa College will transition to its Summer 2026 Modified Work Schedule from June 1 through August 7, 2026, with many employees participating in a Monday–Thursday 4/10 workweek. The adjusted schedule supports operational efficiency while providing employees with greater flexibility during the summer months, with holiday observances coordinated at the manager’s discretion.

June 1, 2026-August 7, 2026

**Monday-Thursday
4x10s WORK WEEK**

Note:

Friday, June 19th - Juneteenth

HOLIDAY - observed on an alternate date at the manager’s discretion.

Friday, July 3rd - Holiday observed for Independence Day

HOLIDAY - observed on an alternate date at the manager’s discretion.



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](#)

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.

OFFICE OF *Instruction*



From First-Generation Student to Ph.D.: Alex Blanco's Journey of Research, Resilience, and Mentorship

As a first-generation college student, Mesa Bridges to the Baccalaureate alumnus, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and McNair Scholar, Dr. Alex Blanco continues to demonstrate the power of perseverance, mentorship, and academic excellence. After earning his bachelor's degree in 2019, Blanco recently completed his Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Idaho, where his research on wildfire behavior and forest resilience has contributed to multiple peer-reviewed publications and advances in vegetation management practices.

Beyond his impressive scholarly achievements, Blanco remains committed to supporting others through mentorship, crediting the guidance and

encouragement of faculty and community members who helped shape his journey. His story serves as an inspiring reminder that with determination, support, and a commitment to giving back, students can create meaningful change in their fields and communities.

To read more, [click here](#).

OFFICE OF *Student Services*

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>



EOPS Summer Readiness Program

Get a head start on your college journey this summer! The EOPS Summer Readiness Program offers incoming students the opportunity to earn college credit through PERG 110: Introduction to College while building community, exploring educational and career pathways, and preparing for a successful transition to college. Running July 6–24, 2026, this three-week program provides supplies, support, and valuable resources to help students start strong at San Diego Mesa College.



PERG 110 COLLEGE COURSE

EOPS SUMMER READINESS PROGRAM

JULY 6–JULY 24, 2026

Personal Growth 110: Introduction to College Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:35 AM - 12:30 PM 3 Week Course

Program Includes:

- Earn college transfer credit
- Supplies and materials provided
- Build community and connections
- Major selection & educational planning
- University tour & MUCH More!

****EOPS Program Participation not required****

Submit your interest form https://bit.ly/srp_su2026

For questions or more information, please contact Karla Trutna at ktrutna@sdccd.edu

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
EOPS

Click on the flyer to enlarge

OFFICE OF *Administrative Services*



NON-EVENT PARKING PERMIT REQUEST FORM

NEW!

WELCOME TO THE **EVENTS & RESERVATIONS PORTAL**

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.

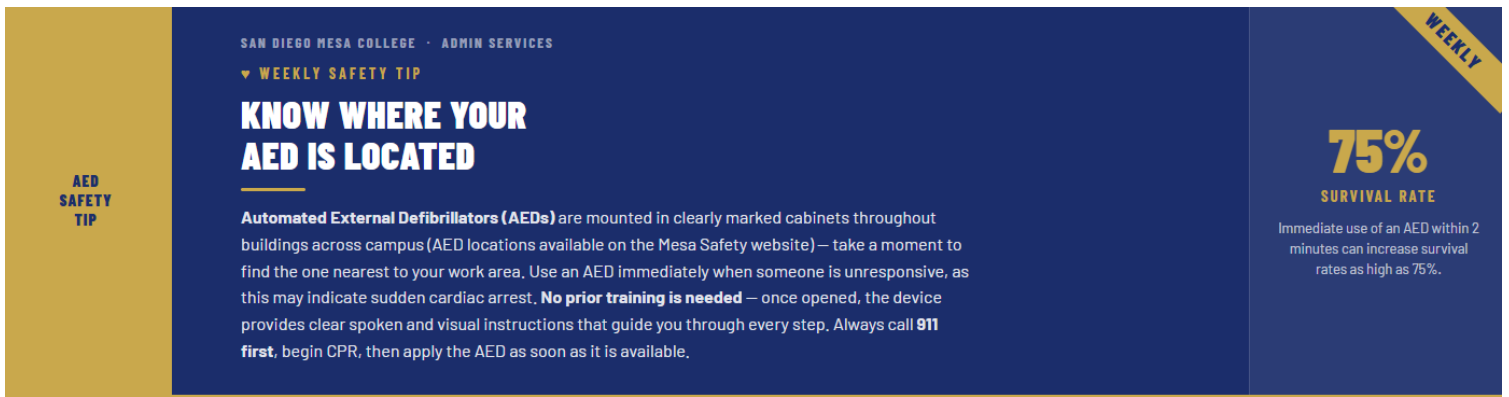
Event Parking:

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.



AED SAFETY TIP

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE · ADMIN SERVICES

▼ WEEKLY SAFETY TIP

KNOW WHERE YOUR AED IS LOCATED

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are mounted in clearly marked cabinets throughout buildings across campus (AED locations available on the Mesa Safety website) – take a moment to find the one nearest to your work area. Use an AED immediately when someone is unresponsive, as this may indicate sudden cardiac arrest. **No prior training is needed** – once opened, the device provides clear spoken and visual instructions that guide you through every step. Always call **911 first**, begin CPR, then apply the AED as soon as it is available.

75%
SURVIVAL RATE

Immediate use of an AED within 2 minutes can increase survival rates as high as 75%.

WEEKLY

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*



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."

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.



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](#)

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!

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