



Report to the Community
San Diego Mesa College

Explore • Connect • Succeed

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Among the largest community colleges in California and the nation, San Diego Mesa College offers 158 associate degree and certificate programs. With more than 2,000 courses available each fall and spring semesters, as well as hundreds of courses during summer and intersession, the 104-acre campus in Kearny Mesa continues to transfer more students than any other community college in San Diego. Serving 22,000 students, the college provides one of the most extensive liberal arts, applied arts and applied sciences programs in the region. Among Mesa’s occupational programs are architecture, fashion, geographic information systems, multimedia, hospitality, culinary arts and event management, American Sign Language, interior design, radiologic technology, dental assisting, health information technology, physical therapist assisting, medical assisting, and animal health technology.

As many Californians know, 2008 claims the dubious distinction of being the year with the longest delay in passing a state budget, 87 days to be exact. For all community colleges in California this meant a delay of more than four months*1 during which time community colleges had to continue to operate without any state resources. It is extremely fortunate that the San Diego Community College District, due in large part to its effective leadership and management structure, was able to maintain operations without impacting services to students and community. One outstanding fact is that students were able to enroll, receive financial aid and continue to pursue their educational goals without interruption because our District accessed its reserves to cover more than \$800,0000 in student financial aid district-wide (\$204,354.00 of that for Mesa College students alone).

*1Community Colleges do not receive a June allocation and have to wait until the next fiscal year (July) to receive that payment. In the event that a State Budget is not passed in July, the delay is further exacerbated by this "payment" in arrears mechanism. Thus in 2008 Community Colleges received no allocation for the months of June, July, August and September.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

There are two operative terms that come to mind when I think of 2008, resiliency and commitment. It is against the backdrop of these two concepts that I would like to review our college over this past year by suggesting ways in which San Diego Mesa College has contributed to support our surrounding community, our region and our state.

California Community Colleges will soon celebrate their centennial. Since their founding in 1910 there have been many studies and reports about our mission, role and function. Whatever the focus of these studies and regardless of the background of the researcher conducting that study, one factor emerges time and again: that community colleges perform better precisely at times when the state and the local economy face greater uncertainty.

We are at our best when unemployment figures rise, the housing market declines, and plant closures threaten the local economy. We are equally important when the need for a trained and skilled workforce becomes critical. Our students and their families select community colleges as their first choice for retraining or career transition, and they realize that we are indispensable when four-year colleges and universities close their doors by establishing caps on enrollment due to budget constraints. In these cases, community colleges become the ideal place to complete the first two years of college while waiting to transfer.

During tough economic times, students and their families recognize that one of the ways to keep the promise of a college education is by taking advantage of low enrollment fees at community colleges. During such times obtaining an Associate Degree or Certificate and transferring thereafter to a four-year college or university to complete the baccalaureate degree makes even greater sense. This approach cuts the cost of a four year-degrees by more than \$40,000.

There is yet another powerful reason why community colleges contribute greatly to their communities and that is the critical role we play partnering with K-12 schools to address increasing drop-out rates in our schools and to provide an alternative for those who were not able to obtain a high school diploma. For these students, community colleges, through our adult and continuing education programs, provide the opportunity to complete a Graduate Equivalency Diploma or GED.

Only community colleges can provide this kind of access by keeping the door open for students to pursue higher education, complete the first two years of undergraduate instruction, and transfer to a four-year college or university.

Returning therefore to the two introductory terms in this letter, resiliency and commitment, the remainder of this report includes highlights and specific examples in which Mesa College has endeavored to provide service to our students, our community and to our region.

Rita M. Cepeda

Rita M. Cepeda, Ed.D., President
San Diego Mesa College

“San Diego Mesa College is among a distinguished group of institutions identified as being committed to diversity.”

~Andrea D. Mickle, President,
Minority Access, Inc.

Did you know...

- Mesa College celebrated its second year as a smoke-free campus.
- Mesa College now offers an Associate Degree in Elementary Education.
- Business and Biology are among the top four majors at Mesa College.
- Twenty-three percent of Mesa students are the first in their family to attend college.
- Mesa College graduates have a 95% acceptance rate to SDSU.



Changing the Status Quo

For every 10 Latino or African American students who enroll in community college, only four succeed in earning a degree or certificate or transferring in six years.*² That's a success rate of only 40 percent. Changing that statistic does not happen overnight, but an event created at Mesa College is making a big change in our graduation rate — so much so that the program has gained nationwide attention.

The African American Latino Male Leadership Summit this year served more than 450 youths. The event is one of several programs and services changing the course of success for underrepresented students at Mesa College.

*² Source: State Office, California Community Colleges 2007.

Basic Skills

Here's a startling statistic: more than 70 percent of entering students*² cannot read, write, or do math at the college level. The good news is that community colleges statewide, and Mesa College in particular, is doing something about it. Faculty-led committees are developing strategies that can be applied to their school, classroom or service area that can help all students be more successful. In June, Mesa hosted one of four Basic Skills Initiative regional meetings conducted statewide by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

Bridging the Path to Scientific Careers

Since the inception of the Bridges to the Baccalaureate program in 2005, 38 promising science majors have been selected as scholars in the prestigious National Institutes of Health-funded program and have been prepared for careers as research scientists. In September, Mesa College received word that the college had been awarded a \$1 million NIH grant to expand the program, opening doors and creating pathways for underrepresented students to explore science careers. For scholar profiles, see www.sdmesa.edu/bridges.

New Online Degrees

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges approved Mesa College's request to offer online associate degree programs in accounting and business administration. The commission also sanctioned the college's general education program through distance education.

Program Review

Every year, Mesa College engages in a "Program Review" — a primary vehicle for planning and measurement of institutional effectiveness at Mesa. This year, the Administrative Services division was integrated with the offices of Instruction and Student Services, bringing all divisions under the same program review process.

Accreditation

Much of 2008 focused on the college's self study as part of the process to reaffirm its accreditation in 2010 by the Accrediting Commission for Junior and Community College (AACJC), which is part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Planning began in the spring, committees formed, and serious research began in the fall. The self-review process is proceeding on schedule, with a projected completion date for the first draft set for summer, 2009.

Classified Skill Building

The college's first annual Classified Staff Development Conference launched in March. Over a two-day period, 144 employees attended 25 training sessions in topics ranging from life balance and stress reduction to web page creation to team building to ethics and diversity; 29 employees became CPR-certified.

Mesa College inspires excellence and champions innovation in what we teach, the way we teach, and the assistance programs we offer. We strive to help our students succeed while fulfilling our community's need for an educated and skilled workforce.

Each year, Mesa College faculty, staff, students and alumni earn honors and recognition that bring pride to the college and to the community. 2008 was no exception.

Did you know...

- The Work Experience Program at San Diego Mesa College was selected as the Outstanding Two-Year College Internship/Work Experience Program for 2008 by the California Internship and Work Experience Association (CIWEA).
- Mesa's Interior Design program is one of only 39 higher education programs in North America — and the only design program in San Diego County — endorsed by the National Kitchen & Bath Association.
- Nearly 250 international students representing more than 50 countries attend Mesa College each semester.
- Twenty-seven percent of Mesa students receive some form of financial aid.

Savoring Excellence

In Our Element

The Chemistry Technician program at Mesa College has become one of only 14 two-year college programs in the nation endorsed by the American Chemical Society (ACS). In a letter to Chemistry Department Chair Robert Fremland announcing its endorsement this spring, the ACS recognized the Mesa program for its strong focus on the biotechnology industry, high standards of excellence and strong industry partnerships.

World Class Competitors

The world-class Mesa College 2008 Olympian Speech and Debate Team brought home the gold after being crowned 2008 world class champions at the International Forensics Association tournament in London. Olympians Maura Lara and Jessica Haskin beat out teams from 35 universities and colleges to take home the title of international debate champs. Elsewhere, the team took nine awards and placed second overall at Concordia University; earned 17 debate awards — including a first-place team — at the Griffin Invitational at Grossmont College; and wrapped up the year with one silver and two bronze awards at the Fall PSCFA Southern California Championships.

See even more awards and accomplishments on pages 6 and 7.

Read All About It

Budding journalists of *The Mesa Press* student newspaper bested teams from 60 schools to earn top awards at the 2008 Journalism Association of Community Colleges state convention in Los Angeles. Among the honors, staff writer Clarissa Lock captured one of the top prizes, fourth place in the mail-in News Writing competition.

Of Scholars and Scholarship

In addition to the more than \$90,000 awarded each year through the Mesa College Foundation, Mesa scholars have distinguished themselves by receiving top scholarships.

For three consecutive years, Mesa College students have won a coveted Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship. International student and valedictorian Nasra Nimaga of Kenya collected the 2008 scholarship, worth up to \$90,000. Nasra now attends UCLA.

Six Mesa College students who only dreamed of foreign destinations are now studying abroad in South America, Europe, Asia, and on the Mediterranean coast. The six received a combined \$25,500 in National Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships, which offer competitive awards to low-income undergraduate students who have a passion and desire for international studies.

In April, the following professors were honored at a reception hosted by the President for achieving tenure and promotion to the rank of professor: **Becca Arnold**, Economics; **Donald Barrie**, Geology; **Janice Clymer**, Biology; **Laura Crandall**, Physical Therapy Assistant; **Kevin Hazlett**, Physical Education; **Mario Lara**, Fine Art; **Cesar Lopez**, Chicano Studies; **Thekima Mayasa**, Black Studies; and **Farshid Zand**, Chemistry.

DSPS Adjunct counselor **Lindsay Bailey-Cohen** was named “Client of the Year” by the State Department of Rehabilitation.

Food service worker **Jackie Petty** was named Classified Staff Person of the Year. Recognizing personal achievements that make a difference in the lives of others, the 2008 Unsung Hero award went to groundskeeper **Tony Provenzano** and Senior Accounting Clerk **Zod Schultz**.



Student government representatives and Dean Ashanti Hands (third from right) traveled to Washington, DC, in March for the American Student Association of Community Colleges National Spring Conference.

Accolades

American Sign Language Professor **Joseph L. Halcott** became one of only nine in the nation to be awarded the CLIP-R certificate from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

Professor **Jaye Van Kirk** was named Educator of the Year at San Diego's Asian Heritage Awards.

Karen Schneiter Williams, Chair of the Computer Business Technology Education (CBTE) department, was elected as incoming president of the prestigious National Business Education Association.

Athletics Director **Dave Evans** was named 2007-08 Junior College/Community College West Region Astro Turf Athletics Director of the Year, and assumed the role of President, National Association of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators.



After being named Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for the State of California, Senior Master Sergeant Donna Goodno, a California Air National Guard member, was among 12 Airmen announced by the Air Force Personnel Center as Air Force Outstanding Airmen for 2008. SMS Goodno is a 2007 graduate of Mesa College.

The Year in Review

January

An annual tradition, faculty, staff and students take home a trophy at San Diego's Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.



April

Diversity and culture are celebrated at Festival of Colors.



May

The community joins in to celebrate and give adjacent Tecolote Canyon a clean-up; City Councilwoman Donna Frye proclaims May 3rd Canyon Day in San Diego.



August

More than 500 incoming students and their families start college right by attending Student Success Day.



September

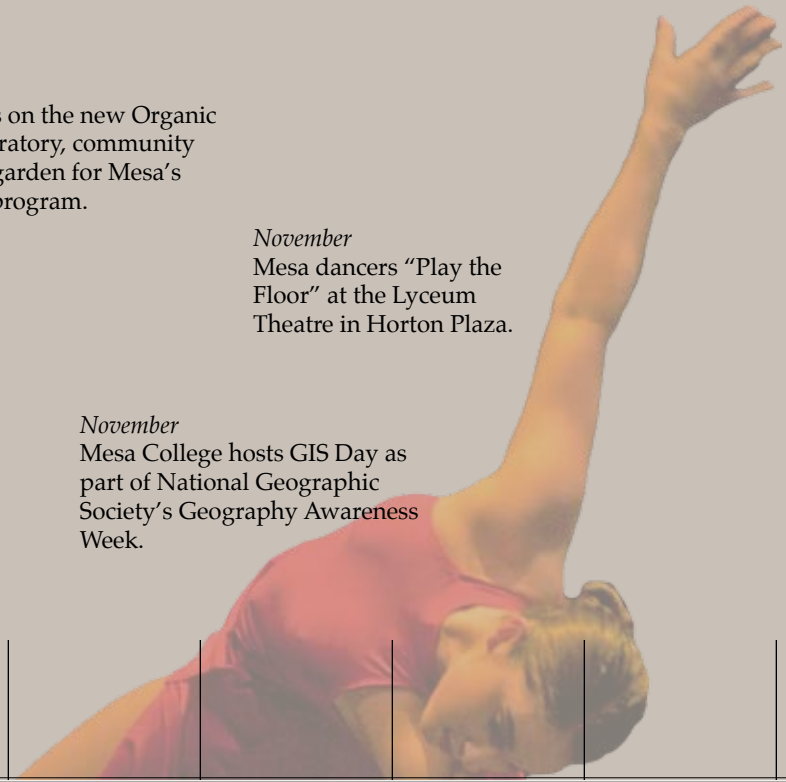
President Rita Cepeda addresses national journalists and Fellows attending the elite Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media's "Covering America, Covering Community Colleges" Fellowship Conference.

October

Ground breaks on the new Organic Garden, a laboratory, community resource, and garden for Mesa's Culinary Arts program.

November

Mesa dancers "Play the Floor" at the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza.



January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December



February

500 students learn about transfer opportunities to the nation's top historical black colleges and universities at the SDCCD's 13th Annual HBCU Transfer Day.

April

Fashion students won 14 awards, including Best of Show, in all merchandising and design categories at the 2008 Statewide Fashion Symposium held in Los Angeles.

May

Ground breaks on the Allied Health Building, the first instructional facility to be built at Mesa since 2003.

June

The Basic Skills Initiative Regional Meeting is hosted by Mesa College.

May

The 2008 graduating class of 1,267 celebrates at Mesa's 44th commencement exercises.



September

Ahead of schedule and under-budget, the Allied Health Building celebrates with a "topping off" ceremony.



October

Simulator goggles, sobriety tests, a crashed car, a mock funeral, an arrest and a DUI conviction are all a part of *Death Experience*, a drunk driving awareness event.

October

Bumble Bee Tuna Inc. is welcomed as a program underwriter for the Music Department's noon recital performances.

October

Dinner and a Drama makes its debut, putting the talents of Mesa culinary and performing art students on display in this cross-curriculum hit featuring a student-prepared gourmet meal at the MFusion cafe, followed by the student theatrical production of the "The House of Bernarda Alba."

December

Mesa Culinary students' annual gingerbread competition reflects the San Diego housing market.



Did You Know?

- Mesa students have tutored over 500 struggling readers through San Diego County's "Everyone a Reader" program.
- The free lunchtime Mesa Music Recital Hour, sponsored by Bumble Bee Tuna, Inc., happens Wednesday afternoons during spring and fall semesters.
- Mesa College participated in more than 300 community events, coordinated through the college's Outreach Office.
- There's a high school on the grounds of Mesa College. The MET graduated its first class in 2008 with 51 college-bound graduates.

Community Connections

High School Connections

The **Accelerated College Program** offers classes at 15 San Diego high schools taught by Mesa College faculty members. Approximately 800 high school students enrolled in political science and/or calculus and earned up to 15 semester units of transferable college credit without leaving their high school campuses. Other high school partnerships include "Fast Track" programs at Kearny, Clairemont and Mission Bay high schools and the Point Loma Academy.

Mesa College, in partnership with Sharp HealthCare and a group of SDSU professors, is also among the driving forces of the new **Health Sciences High and Middle College** (HSHMC), a vocational program setting that includes field work and internships in diverse healthcare environments.

Through the **Freshman Year Experience** (FYE), Mesa works with area high schools to encourage graduating high school seniors to pursue their educational, athletic and career goals. FYE helped more 291 students make decisions on academic courses, college success skills, English and math skill building, and information on career paths and vocational and certificate programs.

Each year, Mesa College invites principals from neighboring high schools to breakfast. Hosted by President Rita Cepeda, this annual **Principals' Breakfast** provides an opportunity to strengthen relations and develop collaborative programs to help students transition from high school to college.

Serving and Supporting Our Troops

Mesa College extended its commitment to the military family by giving priority registration to more than 70 active military members and veterans. The college serves veterans through the Veterans Assistance Office, and is also active in the **Military Spouse Education Program** and the **Wounded Warrior Program**. More than 1,360 certified veterans are enrolled at Mesa College, most planning to transfer to four-year institutions.

Fostering Student Success

Foster youths, who automatically age out of government-funded programs on their 18th birthday, experience tremendous barriers to educational success. In 2008, Mesa's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) department implemented a pilot program to help emancipated foster youths succeed. The FAST (**Fostering Academic Success and Transition**) program conducted its first Scholars Summer Institute, with 26 students currently enrolled in the program.

See www.sdmesa.edu/eops.

Service & Leadership

Mesa College community advisory boards play a critical role in increasing community awareness of the college's major career programs, as well as contribute to curriculum development and internship placement, and help to ensure that programs meet San Diego's needs for a highly skilled workforce. Members of various advisory boards include:

Amylin
Architects Hanna, Gabriel Wells
Biogen Idec
BioVerdant
City of San Diego
Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines
ISIS
James Brown & James Gates/Public Architects
Kaiser Permanente
Legoland
Naval Medical Center, San Diego
Palomar Pomerado Health
Pfizer
Proven Scientific and Genomics Institute
San Diego Convention Center
San Diego State University
Scripps
Sharp
Sycuan Casino & Resort
Starwood Hotels & Resorts
Tri-City Medical Center
US Grant Hotel
Veteran's Administration
Zoological Society of San Diego

To explore workforce partnerships and programs, call 619-388-2803

Make Mine Organic

In October, volunteers tilled the soil, weeded, added compost, and planted the first seeds and seedlings in a new organic garden located close to the Genesse entrance to Mesa College. Professors and local gardening experts were on hand to teach about earth-friendly gardening products and sustainable gardening techniques. The garden is a project of the **Mesa College Environmental Stewardship Committee**; find out more at www.sdmesa.edu/ecomesa.



Canyon Day Debuts

The community collaboration that is Canyon Day opened with a blessing from **Jane Dumas**, an elder of the Jamul Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and remarks by Councilwoman **Donna Frye**, who proclaimed May 3 Canyon Day in San Diego. The synergetic effort of more than 25 community groups and businesses, student clubs and the MET high school drew hundreds. Mesa College is surrounded on two sides by Tecolote Canyon.



When you enter Mesa College from the east, you'll see big changes at the gateway entrance to your community college. Thanks to San Diego voters, Proposition S (2002) and Proposition N (2006) construction projects are well underway, with numerous projects in the planning stages, and four projects on the east entry slated for completion in 2009.

Parking. It's been an interminable issue on campus, but with the completion of the new parking structure in spring 2009, students will have 1,100 additional parking spaces available. The adjoining Police Substation and Information Center is scheduled for completion in May.

The three-story, 50,000 square-foot Allied Health Building is nearing completion on-time and under budget. Coming in at nearly \$4 million less than the \$20 million estimated cost, the building is slated to acquire a Silver LEED Certification. Featuring state-of-the-art technology and laboratories, the three-story Allied Health Building will also serve to train the region's existing health care workforce in new technologies.



Among completed projects is the Mesa College Art Gallery renovation, including a new interior, prep room and an inviting arched patio entryway.

Building a Better Future

2009 Major Construction Projects	Expected Completion
Parking Structure	3/2009
Police Substation	5/2009
All Weather Track and Football Field Project	9/2009
Allied Health Building	11/2009
East Campus Road Realignment	12/2009

For a complete listing of SDCCD Proposition S and N projects, see: www.sdccdprops-n.com.



College and SDCCD officials don stethoscopes and laboratory coats to break ground for the new Allied Health Building.

Fiscal Responsibility

Deep reductions from the California State budget crisis will force San Diego Mesa College to serve more students with less resources. The challenge in 2009 and beyond is to continue to offer enough courses and services to ensure that our 22,000 students can continue to gain the academic knowledge and job skills they need and move toward graduation in a timely manner.

Systemwide, the California Community Colleges suffered \$39.8 million in net budget cuts in 2008-09 and anticipates similar reductions in 2009. SDCCD's share of the burden was \$5 million last year and is projected to reach \$4.8 million for 2009-10.

Unlike four-year institutions, community colleges cannot set enrollment caps. Our commitment to the community is continue to provide academic excellence, job security for our workforce, and to manage our resources wisely and with resilience during these times of economic turmoil and unparalleled budget cuts.

2007-08 Actual Expenses				
Category	2007-08 Final Budget	2007-08 Adjusted Expenses	2007-08 % Totals	FY 2008-09 Adopted Budget
Academic Salaries	33,731,030	33,884,919	63.84%	32,219,714
Classified Salaries	8,957,527	8,454,477	15.93%	9,276,669
Employee Benefits	9,692,317	9,781,061	8.43%	9,762,292
Supplies & Materials	752,432	482,505	0.91%	771,774
Other Operating Expenses & Utilities	454,831	414,673	0.78%	451,313
Equipment & Minor Improvement	104,067	61,703	0.12%	200,000
General Fund/ Unrestricted	53,692,204	53,079,338	100.00%	52,681,762

Funding the Future

Mesa College has established a process to facilitate grant writing, which is being developed to support the efforts of entrepreneurial faculty and staff.

The Mesa College Foundation has long championed a scholarship program that awards nearly \$90,000 each year to students. This year, the foundation has embraced new directions in alumni development and foundation growth.

Mesa College Foundation Board of Directors

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	Assistant Secretary

To learn more about supporting excellence and opportunities at Mesa College, call Mesa College Foundation 619-388-2746.

Going for Gold

The 20 men's and women's sports teams at Mesa College closed 2008 with gold and setting new records. For the first time in the history of San Diego Community College Women's Soccer programs, a team advanced to the prestigious State Final Four. Mesa College Women's Soccer did just that and went on to place second in the league playoffs.

Mesa's Football made the first round of the state playoffs and was named American Mountain Conference Champions. Mesa teams also scored big at the Pacific Coast Conference (PCC): **Men's Cross Country**, first place;

Women's Cross Country, second place; **Women's Volleyball**, second place; **Men's Water Polo**, third place; and **Women's Water Polo**, first place for the third consecutive year.

The Mesa College **Women's Water Polo** team was named the California Community College Commission on Athletics Scholar Team Recipient, having the best GPA of all of the California community colleges that participate in Women's Water Polo. The team, along with other scholar athletes, was honored at the college's first annual Student Athlete Recognition Ceremony in May.



Coach Kudos:

Thom Hunt, 2008 PCC Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year; **Susan Minnock**, 2008 PCC Women's Badminton Coach of the Year; **Renee Ross**, 2008 PCC Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year; and **Matt Kofler** and Mesa Football Staff, 2008 American Mountain Conference Football Coach of the Year (2008). Coach Kofler, a former Mesa athlete who went on to play for the Buffalo Bills and Indianapolis Colts, passed away in December, 2008.

In Beijing, alumnus **Felix Sanchez** (Mesa, 1997) took to the field. Sanchez, winner of 43 consecutive national and international track races, captured the Gold at the 2004 Olympics in the 400-meter hurdles. Sanchez raced but did not win a medal in 2008. "Mesa gave me the foundation I needed. Mesa grounded me," said Sanchez, who has kept in touch with his Mesa track coach and 1976 track and field Gold Medalist, **Arnie Robinson**. Also at the 2008 Olympics was Professor **Manny Bautista**, who managed logistics and transportation for the USA Track and Field team.

For more team and individual awards, go to www.sdmesa.edu/athletics

Facts on File

Annual Unduplicated Headcount

2007-08	33,417
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Headcount by Term (Unduplicated within Terms)

Summer 2007	11,260
Fall 2007	21,661
Spring 2008	21,714

Ethnicity

Fall 2007		
American Indian	194	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,445	16%
African American	1,281	6%
White	8,946	41%
Latino	4,045	19%
Filipino	1,070	5%
Other	574	3%
Unknown	2,106	9%
Total	21,661	100%

Age

Fall 2007		
Under 18	658	3%
18-24	12,525	58%
25-29	3,837	18%
30-34	1,726	8%
35-39	879	4%
40-49	1,241	5%
50 & over	795	4%
Total	21,661	100%

Gender

Female	11,711	54%
Male	9,948	46%
Unreported	2	1%
Total	21,661	100%

Fall 2007

First Generation College Students	4,907	23%
Students receiving financial aid	5,937	27%
Students receiving DSPS services (Includes unduplicated headcount for students receiving more than one service)	509	2%

Student Course Load

Fall 2007		
Full-Time (12 or more credits)	6,474	30%
Part-Time (Fewer than 12 credits)	15,187	70%
Total	21,661	100%

Degrees & Certificates Awarded (2007-2008 Academic Year)

AA/AS Degree	982
Certificate of Achievement	285
Total Degrees & Certificates	1,267

Top Five Majors

Selected by Students	
Undeclared AA/AS	6,364
Business	2,052
Transfer	2,043
Biology	562
Special Admissions Programs- Allied Health (Nursing, Physical Therapy, Dental Assisting, etc.)	804

Number of Employees

Contract Faculty	248
Adjunct Faculty	670
Total Faculty	918
Classified Staff	177
Total Number of Employees:	1,432

Mesa College student ambassadors assist prospective students in the admission process and represent the college in the community.





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