

California Community College Chancellor's Office
Internal Operations Division
Grants Administration Unit
Final Report
MESA

Please complete each page and return (1) original and (2) copies of the completed Final Report to the Chancellor's Office, Grants Administration Unit, 1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-6511.

Grant Number: 08-101-005

Amount Awarded:

\$ 73,033

Expenditures to

Date:

\$ 73,033

Project Title: MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM

District/College: El Camino Community College District

Project Director: Arturo Hernandez

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PLEASE NOTE: The final release of funds will be processed upon approval of the final report pages 1-12.

The *Final Report* is comprised of the following components:

- 1) **Project Summary:** All grantees must respond to questions 1A–1D, Fund for Student Success/MESA. These are essentially the “status” questions for your project.
- 2) **Project Work Statement:** *Objective Report* form: This page must be completed for each objective. If an objective/activity will not be completed by the specified objective date, please provide comments that clarify the reasons for the delay.
- 3) **Expenditure Budget Summary:** Check the box for July 1–June 30. *Project Approved Budget:* This is the state's portion of your total project funds; *Project Funds Expended:* These are your expenditures to date; *District Match Funds Expended:* Identify the amount of local funds provided to the project by the district; *Other Source:* Use these columns if your project is supported by funds that are local, but do not derive from the district's general fund.
- 4) **Expenditure Budget Detail Sheet:** This page is required for each funding source. Here you will provide a cost breakdown of each budget object of expenditure. For example, if the Expenditure Budget Summary lists \$3,100 expended in object of expenditure 2000 (noninstructional salaries), the Budget Detail Sheet would itemize the positions and amounts that represent the \$3,100 expenditure.
- 5) **Project Evaluation**
- 6) **Student Data/Reports**
- 7) **Project Recommendations**

The *Final Report* must be submitted on or before the specified deadline, unless the grant has been amended and the final report filing date has changed.

Chancellor's Office

District: El Camino CCD

1. Project Summary

- A. Provide a summary describing your efforts in accomplishing the goals and outcomes of the project: were objectives met, were goals modified, and was the project completed in a timely manner.

Throughout the 2008-2009 academic years, the El Camino College MESA program continued to promote the enhancement of student communication, leadership, and networking skills through the support of student club activities, volunteering opportunities and other on and off campus activities and events. Such events encourage student participation in activities and organizations that can assist in potential leadership, internship, scholarship, and transfer opportunities. The MESA network composed of the MESA Director and the math and science deans, counselors, faculty, and staff continues to support the campus wide efforts to promote further exposure to the support services available to math, engineering, and science students. Furthermore, funding support from the El Camino College STEM grant, awarded in 2008, has continued to enhance the MESA Center, the hub where a high volume of students are able to take advantage of the resources available for completing academic endeavors, attain transfer and campus information/opportunities, as well as enjoy an academic environment that promotes individual and group alternative study methods as our students network with peers and faculty. Students also had access to on-site academic counseling services, equipment (e.g. computers, calculators, printers, etc.), and academic supplies (e.g. books, manuals, etc.). Workshops and other resources to apply for internships, summer research opportunities and scholarships were also offered in MESA for our math and science students.

Most of the goals established for this project were completed in a timely manner. The opportunity to extend this grant helped to continue to employ a variety of on-going objectives for 2009-2010 that have been beneficial for staff and students. These objectives include additional academic and professional support for students in Summer 2009 and Fall 2009. For the summer, students were able to take advantage of two Academic Excellence Workshops (general chemistry I & II) as well as chemistry and physics tutoring services in the MESA Center. Preparing ahead for the Fall 2009 semester was also instrumental for MESA to effectively focus on student recruitment, staff scheduling, and investigate additional funding opportunities.

The only goals that MESA did not fully meet is the objective to assist at least 25 students to prepare to transfer to four-year institutions (Objective 8) and conducting early alert progress reports for MESA students (Objective 4, Activity 4.3). Although the activities in the deployment of Objective 8 were met and served to help many of our students (especially students interested in transferring next year), only 15 students were prepared to transfer. ECC MESA has a history of high student transfer rates, and while the last couple of years the objective was not met, the recent high volume of students recruited shows the potential for regaining the completion of this objective. Moreover, many of our new students are starting math at the algebra level, so it may take longer for these students to complete the necessary requirements to transfer. In terms of Objective 4, monitoring AEW effectiveness and participation, the objective was met, but this particular activity was difficult to accomplish due to short staff support and the increasing volume of students enrolled in the program. Nevertheless, MESA is constantly reassuring students of their potential to reach their goals by providing on-site counseling in the MESA center twice a week and meeting with the MESA Director; this aids enrollment in proper courses to transfer promptly, avoid delaying transfer opportunities, and avoid setbacks in academic performance.

El Camino College MESA is continually improving its methodology toward resource availability and personal and professional opportunities for students. We look forward to sharing the success of our continuing and new students, as well as the opportunity to continue to administer the resources that

have made the MESA program indispensable for students with educational and financial disadvantages.

1. **Project Summary** (*Continued*)

- B. MESA requires the strong institutional support of the project. Please identify who has been involved in this effort, and their contribution, i.e. CEO, CIO, CSSO, Faculty, etc. **BE BRIEF**

The El Camino College MESA program has received strong institutional support from Mr. Arturo Hernandez, MESA Director, Dr. Don Goldberg, Dean of Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Jean Shankweiler, Dean of Natural Sciences, Dr. Francisco Arce, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Thomas M. Fallo, Superintendent/President of El Camino College. The support from this team has been crucial to the on-going success of the MESA program and its students, and we look forward to continue working together to provide the best opportunities available for our math and science student community.

- C. **Briefly** describe student participation in professional chapters and organizations, as well as highlights of student internships

Participation with MESA serves as a gateway for students to participate in professional chapters and organizations; this experience builds effective networking relationships with other peers who share similar aspirations and goals on campus as well as at the national level. Among these professional chapters includes the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) chapter at El Camino College and the Pre-Health club on campus among others. ECC SHPE, with all board members affiliated directly with MESA, has particularly revamped its participation on and off campus by participating in events (in and out of state) that promote leadership and professional development. Moreover, summer internship opportunities were extremely competitive for 2008-2009. Encouraging more than 30 applicants with the application process, MESA assisted student placement to internship opportunities such as the UC Irvine Teacher Education Academy for Community College Scholars (1 student), the CSU Long Angeles Research Experience for Undergraduates (2), and the UC Irvine Saturdays with Scientists program for 2008-2009 (22).

- D. Please describe the efforts undertaken to ensure participation by students from groups with the lowest eligibility to four year institutions in math, engineering and science majors.

The "Student Eligibility Form" currently used to interview prospective MESA students has functioned effectively in ensuring that students joining MESA are from groups with the lowest eligibility to four-year schools in STEM supported fields. During the 2008-2009 academic years, MESA membership consisted of 68% Hispanics and 21% African American. El Camino is a Hispanic Serving institution and currently has a 32% Latino and 18% African American student population.

Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges
Educational Services Division

District: El Camino CCD
College: El Camino College
Grant Number: 08-101-005

5. Project Evaluation

- A. Identify and describe those activities that **were particularly effective** in reaching the goals and outcomes of the project.

There are three areas in which the MESA Program at ECC has been particularly successful. The sections of Beginning Chemistry and General Physics are numerous and it is difficult to find a scheduled time for AEWs that allow a maximum number of students to attend. The MESA program developed tutoring hours in the MESA Center to meet the needs of a majority of students in Beginning Chemistry and General Physics. The tutoring sessions are well attended by students in the MESA Center. The MESA Program has been effective in reaching a large number of students. Usage of the MESA Center has been monitored for the past two semesters and it was found that between 120-150 students per day have been making use of the MESA Center for tutoring, resources, study and counseling. Counseling services in the MESA Center are particularly effective. The opportunity for ECC students to visit an academic counselor in the Counseling Department is very limited, largely due to budget constraints. The presence of math and science counseling specialists in the MESA Center at regular hours has been a huge asset to the MESA students. In addition, this past year has seen the addition of a financial aid counselor and a counselor to assist students with transfer applications and personal statements with scheduled hours in the MESA Center.

5. **Project Evaluation** *(Continued)*

- B. Identify those activities that **were not** effective in reaching the goals and outcomes of the project, and explain why not.

The composition and role of the advisory committee is still in need of clarification. One major obstacle to the effectiveness of the advisory committee is finding a time for faculty members to meet on a regular basis. The faculty members are certainly willing to assist, but varied teaching schedules are definitely an impediment to regular meetings. The MESA Center is open long hours, at least sixty hours each week, including Saturday. However, the demand is there for longer hours for the center to be open. The hours of operation are limited by budget and personnel.

- C. Indicate if this evaluation was conducted by a project staff member or an outside evaluator. Identify the person responsible for conducting the evaluation.

Please check one:

Outside Evaluator **Staff Evaluator**

Evaluator Information:

Name: Dr. Jean Shankweiler
Title: Dean of Natural Sciences
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7. Project Recommendations

- A. Identify specific recommendations regarding this project. Take into consideration those who may wish to replicate this project within their own district and/or college, i.e., personnel required, facility space, materials, equipment, lead time in planning efforts, community and/or business support, institutional support, etc.

A recommendation for this project is to continue to foster the networking link between the MESA Director, math and science faculty, staff, administrators, and institution representatives (campus representatives); our mutual collaboration helps assess the performance of the program and develop more academic and financial opportunities for our students.

The MESA Director position is crucial in cultivating the support from campus officials as well as supervising the implementation of projects and objectives to consider the effectiveness of replicating an activity or perhaps consider an alternative support project that can better serve the needs of students and bolster participation. Moreover, as student membership increases, clerical and staff support is instrumental in assisting the MESA Director to monitor student participation and progress each semester as well as supervise the effectiveness of MESA resources. Staff support is also effective in monitoring the performance of Academic Excellence Workshops (e.g. ensuring that a room is available as scheduled, printing worksheets and solutions for facilitators, etc.).

Planning ahead during semester breaks has been an important asset to the development of program objectives. Establishing the availability schedules of MESA Director, clerical support, staff, and faculty prior to the beginning of a semester helps facilitate the organization of the program and its services for the semester, and facilitates training staff (e.g. facilitators)—if applicable in coordination with math and science faculty schedules—when necessary. Once staff is scheduled for a specific time, more effort can be placed on recruiting students (especially at the beginning of a semester) rather than scheduling staff support.

7. **Project Recommendations** *(Continued)*

B. General Comments:

One of the most interesting observations is that the El Camino College MESA student community has developed a very close peer-to-peer relationship that has broadened outside of the MESA Center to classes, meetings, and even social gatherings off campus. More importantly, MESA students are networking with students who have already transferred (often in their own field), and this is important in continuing to promote their goal of transferring by establishing links with students who have already experienced the process; this will assuredly make their own transfer experience less isolated and more welcoming if there is already a networking link to the campus that initiated through their participation with El Camino College MESA. Furthermore, many of our transfer students enjoy returning to MESA and serve as role models to other students pursuing similar goals.

In great part, the objectives this program has implemented has served to foster this networking relationship MESA observes in its students. Moreover, the opportunity to extend resources like tutoring in chemistry and physics for students who may not have been able to attend the Academic Excellence Workshops due to scheduling conflicts was an important asset that students utilized effectively. While main objectives are always of primary focus and concern, it is important and helpful to have alternative activities and resources that can promote the main objective of assisting student academic excellence and student transfer goals to four-year institutions.