

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: **07-101-005**

Amount Awarded: **\$90,545**

Expenditures to **\$87,569**
Date: _____

Project Title: **MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM**

District/College: **El Camino Community College District**

Project Director: **Arturo Hernandez**

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Project Monitor: **Lynn Miller**

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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
California Community Colleges
Educational Services Division

District: El Camino Community College
College: El Camino College
Grant Number: 07-101-005

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 2007-2008 academic years, the El Camino College MESA program continued to strive for the improvement of resources for its students and to help promote the academic success and potential internship and transfer plans of new and continuing students. The communication and networking alliance between MESA and the math and science campus deans, counselors, faculty, and staff has allowed MESA the ability to grow and become well-known throughout campus. Every year, MESA creates a comfortable environment in the MESA Center, the hub where things get done throughout a semester, so that students can be exposed to an academic and social environment among peers.

Many of the goals established for this project were completed in a timely manner. However, the opportunity for an extension to the grant helped to modify several on-going objectives for 2008-2009. Among these modifications included additional support for students during the Summer 2008 and Fall 2008. Students were able to take advantage of math and science tutoring, academic counseling, effective equipment (computer maintenance, etc.) to complete assignments, and extended open hours, particularly during finals week. Additionally, MESA was able to prepare ahead of time for the upcoming Fall 2008 semester, which is always crucial for our recruitment activities.

The only goal that MESA did not meet its full potential is the objective to help at least 25 students prepare to transfer to four-year institutions (Objective 8). We did assist at least 16 MESA students in the transfer process for the 2007-2008 academic years, and perhaps this drop in numbers—keeping in mind that in the past we have often exceeded the transfer student objective—can be the result of our recent increase in student membership in the last few years. Many of these students are directly from high school—and therefore require some time to transfer—but we are certainly optimistic of meeting—if not surpassing once again—our MESA student transfer objective. Furthermore, MESA is constantly reassuring students to meet with academic counselors at least once per semester—and our counselors are still available for drop-in counseling twice a week in the MESA Center—to ensure that proper courses are taken in a promptly manner to avoid delaying transfer opportunities.

El Camino College MESA is continually looking for ways to improve the resources and opportunities available for our students. We look forward to sharing the success of our students, and continue providing 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, Ms. Barbara Perez, Vice President of Human Resources, Dr. Francisco Arce, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Thomas M. Fallo, Superintendent/President of El Camino College. The support from this networking community has been crucial to the 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 community of students.

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

Participation with MESA is a gateway for students to participate in organizations such as the SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers) chapter at El Camino College and the Pre-Health club on campus among others. In encouraging and supporting MESA student access to these resources on campus, the goal of MESA is to help students network and build relationships among peers with similar goals. Moreover, these resources directly encourage student participation in activities like internships off campus. For the academic years of 2007-2008, MESA assisted in the student placement to internship opportunities such as the A-Star program at UC Merced (1 student), the B-STAR program at Chico State University (3), the UCLA Bridge Program (2), the UCLA CENS Program (1), the CBST Center for Biophotonics at UC Davis (1), and the CSU Dominguez Hills Alliance for Minority Participation program (9).

- 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 potential MESA students has been an effective way to ensure that students joining MESA are from groups with the lowest eligibility to four year schools in the MESA supported fields. During the 07-08 academic year, the MESA student membership consisted of 67% Hispanics and 19% African American.

5. Project Evaluation

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

The following activities have been particularly effective:

- (1) The open study center (2.1 – 2.5) for MESA students and others with majors in calculus-based disciplines is very popular among students. The Center provides a home based for students, is equipped with computers, is the site for counseling, and special events. As a result the sense of community among science, engineering and mathematics students is very strong.
- (2) Counseling opportunities for students (8.3) at the MESA Center is popular and fully scheduled. Limited “drop in” counseling is also available for students. The MESA counselors are specialists in counseling science and engineering students. The number of MESA students who transferred in the current year has slightly fluctuated downward; this may be due to students entering El Camino College with less preparation. Possibly, because of costs, some students are delaying transfer to university.
- (3) Encouraging students to apply for summer research opportunities and scholarships has resulted in strong numbers of participants in research and a leading number of winners of MESA NSF scholarships.

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.

Less effective

- (1) Recruiting students to participate in Academic Excellence Workshops (4.1) is a perennial challenge. A few scheduled AEW's were cancelled.
- (2) Not all students have a completely up to date educational plan (8.4) in their counseling file. The limits of counselor time is a factor. The College's development of online educational plans may help to improve this activity.

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. Don Goldberg**
Title: **Dean of Mathematical 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.

The main recommendation for this project is to keep building a positive networking community between students, faculty, staff, administrators and different institution representations (campus representatives) that can help open more opportunities for students, but also provide ideas for the program. The strong connection built at El Camino College with MESA, as well as the constant supervision of the MESA Director who facilitates accessibility to the program and supervises its effectiveness as much as he searches for opportunities to develop the program, serves as foundational to the success of this program.

7. Project Recommendations *(Continued)*

B. General Comments:

The opportunity to extend resources like tutoring for our students was very beneficial to the students who took advantage of this opportunity. Often, conflicts with Academic Excellence Workshop schedules were resolved with assistance in the MESA Center for core science courses (chemistry, physics, etc.). It is a great asset to have the support of an education system like the AEWs, but also independent tutoring that can fill-in the gaps workshops may not fulfill.