

MESA NEWSLETTER

16007 CRENSHAW BLVD., TORRANCE, CA 90506

FALL 2009



MESA AWARDED \$12,000 EDISON GRANT!

El Camino College MESA is proud to announce a \$12,000 grant from Southern California Edison (SCE). As MESA continues to explore alternative sources for funding, this fortunate opportunity will bring more resources to students in the upcoming academic year. ECC MESA gives a special thanks to SCE as well as the ECC Foundation for supporting MESA's goals to improve the academic and research experience of our students; the rewards students can receive for striving toward academic excellence in math, engineering, and science fields; as well as the improvement of resources available that can help encourage effective performance in and outside the classroom. The grant will award one summer internship for a student next year, a scholarship, and help purchase graphing calculators as a loan to students who cannot afford to purchase one.

MESA: A RESOURCE TOWARD YOUR FUTURE

Success at ECC depends as much on your grades as the environment students create around their studies. A solid learning and networking community, like MESA, can help you build the foundation for the development of personal and professional skills that are essential to any field of study.

The MESA Center (MCS 100F) is the central location where math, engineering, and science students create a collaborative study environment and continue to foster the networking community that can help them succeed. MESA is responsive to the needs of its growing community and ensures that students are active in their career and making the best use of internship, scholarship, industry, and transfer university information. Resources like the Academic Excellence Workshops in math and chemistry, chemistry and physics tutoring, and academic counseling are some of the major components that help our students become better focused and goal oriented. *Story continued on Page 4.*



MESA Study Center (MCS 100F)



MESA Study Center (MCS 100E)

MESA Center

MESA Program
MCS 100E/F

310-660-3593

ext. 3887

MESA@elcamino.edu

MESA Center Hours

Mon-Thurs 8 am - 7

Friday 8 am - 4

Saturday 9 am - 3

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AND MUCH MORE!

MESA SPRING 2009 TRANSFER DINNER CELEBRATION



(left to right) MESA students Veronica Ixtupe, Vanessa Rivera and sister Liza Rivera at the MESA Spring 2009 Transfer Dinner.

The MESA Spring 2009 Transfer Dinner on June 3, welcomed campus administrators, math and science faculty, students, family, and friends. Amid a busy environment with more than 100 guests visiting the MESA Center, students were busy studying for exams or preparing for finals, but still managing to enjoy the event and grab a bite to eat. This event celebrates the accomplishments of both transfer-ready (see Page 8) and continuing students throughout the academic year. It is a great opportunity to see what our students are accomplishing, where they are headed, and the awards they have received from MESA or other funding sources for the benefit of their education. *Story continued on Page 5.*

MESA/NSF S-STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

The MESA National Science Foundation (MESA/NSF) Scholarship is a statewide effort to assist low-income, under-represented and educationally disadvantaged students pursuing math, engineering, or computer science degrees. Scholarships are awarded to Rising Sophomore or Transfer-Ready MESA students who have been active in the program and have maintained a strong academic performance. Congratulations to the winners from El Camino College MESA!

RISING SOPHOMORE

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| Johanna Zamora | Civil Engineering | \$12,500 |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|

TRANSFER READY

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------|
| Alma Barrera | Civil Engineering | \$10,500 |
| George Cendejas | Electrical Engineering | \$10,500 |



MESA/NSF 2009 Winners (left to right) Alma Barrera, George Cendejas, and Johanna Zamora at the MESA Spring 2009 Transfer Dinner.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

MESA is proud to recognize the accomplishment of the following students. These students have taken the initiative to apply for and successfully receive internships or scholarships to assist their academic goals. MESA encourages students to continue applying for alternative funding sources as they pursue their education at ECC and beyond. Congratulations!

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Carla Plaza | UCI Teacher Education Academy for Community College Scholars |
| Ronald Calderon | CSULA Research Experience for Undergraduates |
| Hadasa Reyes | CSULA Research Experience for Undergraduates |
| Jose Pablo Contreras | CSULA Research Experience for Undergraduates |
| Udayabagya Halim | Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory |
| Hadasa Reyes | Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarship for Math and Science |
| Vanessa Rivera | Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarship for Math and Science |
| Tamara Restrepo | El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship |
| Joan Ngwuta | El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship |
| Alice Ho | El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship |
| Senai Tsegazeab | Manhattan Beach Rotary Scholarship |
| Yamil Flores | Osher Foundation ECC Scholarship |
| John Wyatt | Robert H. Anderson Memorial Scholarship |
| Chidera Chime | SSTARS Honors Transfer Program |
| Teresa Nieves | Hispanic Scholarship Fund |
| Luis Carranza | Riddle Scholarship for Math and Science & The John Medina Scholarship |

The MESA/NSF Scholarship for Rising Sophomores will help me facilitate school expenses and prepare for my future transfer prospects next year. It took a while for my family to grasp that this was money that we didn't have to pay back, but since then my family and I have been ecstatic to see my hard work literally pay off!

Johanna Zamora
MESA Student
Civil Engineering Major

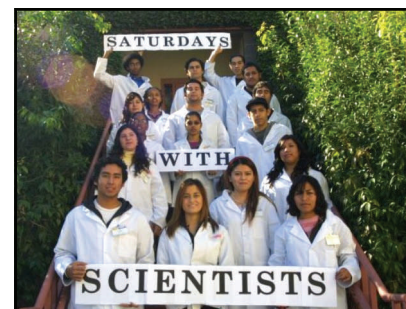


Hadasa Reyes at the CSULA REU Laboratory in Summer 2009.

SATURDAYS WITH SCIENTISTS PROGRAM AT UC IRVINE

The UC Irvine Saturdays with Scientists (SWS) program is designed for community college students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math majors and careers. Twenty-two of our students joined SWS and had the opportunity to interact and work with UCI scientists, attend guest speaker sessions, and tour the research facility. Through programs like SWS, students are able to visualize their prospective career goals, learn how to be competitive in the UC transfer process, and gain an outlook at the possibility of graduate school education. The 2008-2009 program was held for five Saturdays throughout the academic year. Student participants earned a paid stipend of up to **\$725** upon completion of the program. MESA congratulates the following students for their acceptance and participation.

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Edmond Abdou | Courtney Hamilton | Hadasa Reyes |
| Nancy Abongwa | Veronica Ixtupe | Lucy Rivera |
| Luis Carranza | Lucy J'aime | Jose Tapia |
| Freddy Carrillo | Jesus Jaimes Diaz | Senai Tsegazeab |
| Brandon Davis | Myron Jimenez | Johanna Zamora |
| Melissa Ellis | Manuel Monteverde | Tizita Zewdie |
| Yamil Flores | Teresa Nieves | |
| Jose Guardado | Tamara Restrepo | |



El Camino College Saturdays with Scientists participants at UC Irvine.

SWS helped me venture into the possibilities of graduate school early in my career. Learning about UC Irvine's cutting edge research and facility, aided by the speaker sessions with professors who discussed their research projects, was an inspiring and motivational experience for any student considering the future possibilities of their career at the research level.

Myron Jimenez

MESA Transfer Student

Molecular Toxicology Major

MESA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WORKSHOPS

MESA Academic Excellence Workshops (AEW) parallel courses in trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus I & II, and chemistry 4, 1A, 1B, 7A & 7B. Academic Excellence Workshops are designed to provide additional practice to the material covered in class through a peer-designed worksheet and a group-oriented environment. The peer facilitator helps foster a learning environment through a worksheet designed with math or science faculty feedback. As a reward for academic performance and participation, MESA students who participate in at least 40 to 80% of an AEW offered for a semester and receive a grade of "B" or better in their course may be eligible for a stipend. For Fall 2009, MESA is conducting a pilot AEW for Intermediate Algebra for STEM majors. Check AEW Schedule for details.

AEW STIPEND RECIPIENTS

Math 191

Chad Germany

Gustavo Marquez

Chemistry 1A

Johanna Zamora

Chemistry 1B

Patrick Dao

Chemistry 7B

Ronald Calderon

Beteliem Ghebreyohannes

Myron Jimenez

Tamara Restrepo

Michael Shodiya



Fall 2009 AEWs



MESA LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The MESA Leadership Retreat for Spring 2009 was held at the Happy Valley Conference Center in Santa Cruz, California from April 17 through 19, 2009.

Scheduled during spring break, this activity is designed to get students out of campus and into a field location where MESA students from other MESA programs in the state come together to relax, have fun, and learn how to develop their communication, leadership, and networking skills.

MESA students enjoy guest speaker lectures, hiking, and academic games among other activities that help keep MESA students busy and motivated during their stay. Students learn to appreciate and foster teamwork skills by working together in various projects and games, and also enjoy challenging activities that demonstrate the need for teamwork to accomplish a goal.

MESA students are selected based on availability and participation in the program.



MESA students (left to right) Yamil Flores, Joan Ngwuta, Luis Carranza, Alma Barrera, Veronica Ixtupe, Chad Germany, Hadasa Reyes, Mario Gregory and Arturo Hernandez, MESA Director, at the Happy Valley Conference Center in Santa Cruz, CA.

MESA: A RESOURCE TOWARD YOUR FUTURE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

MESA helps bridge the gap between faculty and students through resources like the MESA Academic Excellence Workshops (AEW) (see Page 3) and the MESA Study Center (MCS 100F) facility. These two primary resources help motivate our students to succeed and take the initiative to become resourceful as they promote group study and collaboration.

Our students are known for spending many hours in MESA every week trying to complete a task or work on a physics problem on the board. Among various resources, the availability of tutors for physics are in constant demand, and our students are using this resource effectively. The determination of our students and the enthusiasm and good nature they show toward one another is only a glimpse of the academic and networking environment students enjoy in MESA. We make our best efforts to monitor and make accessible the resources that can help all of our students succeed, and the cooperation of staff, faculty, and students helps in this endeavor.

Research experience is also a fundamental part of a student's experience. MESA helps facilitate access to resources like the MESA Internship Handbook that helps promote student exposure and development of summer enrichment programs, like the CSULA Research Experience for Undergraduates program, that can help students become competitive transfer applicants.

Myron Jimenez, transferring to UC Berkeley for Fall 2009 as a molecular toxicology major, is a great example of a student who utilized all the resources available to his advantage. Jimenez attended AEW's in math and chemistry since he joined MESA in 2006. In Summer 2008, Jimenez participated in the UCLA Bridges Program and was our facilitator for chemistry 1A in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009, and our chemistry 1B facilitator in Summer 2009. "Being a MESA Facilitator has been a great learning and leadership experience. The ability to work closely with faculty for the benefit of students, while mastering the material along the way, is an invaluable skill I will take with me to UC Berkeley," Jimenez asserts. As we continue to help students communicate with peers and faculty, we are paving the way for a communication and networking relationship that is instrumental to success, as Jimenez quickly discovered.

Make the decision to join a program that can provide essential resources for your future, but remember that you have to take the necessary steps and commitment to get the most out of MESA. Help make MESA a resource that can guide you to your future success as many of our students have done.

It felt good to leave the city for a couple of days and work on my personal and leadership development through the MESA Leadership Retreat this past Spring. Interacting with MESA students from other campuses and working together on various activities and projects helped me create a positive outlook on the importance of networking and team work.

Yamil Flores
MESA Student
Biology Major



MESA students Myron Jimenez (UC Berkeley Transfer) and Vanessa Rivera (UC Davis Transfer) at the 2009 El Camino College Graduation Ceremony.

MESA SPRING 2009 TRANSFER DINNER

Our students always have a great time networking with each other during this event. As they listen to the words of encouragement from our guest speakers, the value of MESA echoes through each speech. MESA is changing the lives of students, and MESA alumni can certainly attest to that. Among the special invited guests were MESA Alumni Oscar Perez, Melvin Martinez, Steven Lopezlavalles, Ana Orellana and Gerardo Sandoval. They returned to MESA to share the celebration of our students' achievement, and to share a bit about their own experiences with MESA and their transfer process. Oscar Perez is a recent graduate from UCLA and is currently working for the ConocoPhillips energy company. Melvin Martinez and Steve Lopezlavalles graduated from Cal Poly Pomona, and now Martinez works for HDR while Lopezlavalles works for Northrop Grumman. Ana Orellana also works for Northrop Grumman as she finishes her final year at CSU Long Beach. Lastly, Gerardo Sandoval graduated from CSU Northridge and is now teaching. These students made the best use of MESA while at El Camino College and have moved on to positions that have merited their achievements. MESA is thrilled to have these students return to MESA and share their experiences with our students.



MESA Alumni (left to right) Oscar Perez, Melvin Martinez, Steve Lopezlavalles, Arturo Hernandez, Ana Orellana, and Gerardo Sandoval reunited at the MESA Spring 2009 Transfer Dinner.

A forthcoming special edition newsletter will highlight in more detail the experiences of our transfer students.

MESA can have a significant effect on the lives of students, and this is precisely the type of commitment we like to see in our students each year. As a community, MESA and its students work together to create the best opportunities possible. Success is as much a debt to hard work as to building the bridges along the way of your career that will continue to help you throughout your studies. As we look forward to future students participating in the MESA Spring 2010 Transfer Dinner, we want to see more students succeed and return to MESA to share their own success stories.



MESA Spring 2009 Transfer Dinner

As a transfer student, the MESA Transfer Dinner was very special to me. I enjoyed seeing everyone together, but I also felt a little sad that I was leaving it behind. I can't wait to succeed at UC Santa Cruz so that I can return to ECC MESA and share with students my own experience, as many other MESA students have done in the past.

Tamara Restrepo
MESA Transfer Student
Biochemistry Major

SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (SHPE)

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) chapter at El Camino College is committed to improving the leadership and networking skills of students pursuing engineering careers.

Join us in our voyage to discover how we can become competitive applicants, get a job in industry, and learn what opportunities are available after we graduate. ECC SHPE is building a community of engineers who can interact in various community and volunteering opportunities as a way of continuing to develop the enhancement of personal and professional skills.

We are planning various activities for this next academic year, so if you are an engineering major interested in reaching out to your future possibilities don't hesitate to contact us.

Johanna Zamora

ECC SHPE Chapter President

elcamino_shpe@yahoo.com



(left to right) Hadasa Reyes, Johnny Torres, Gustavo Marquez, Arturo Hernandez, and Victor Tafolla at the SHPE Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

MESA DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Since its inception in 1999, the MESA California Community College Program (MESA CCCP) at El Camino College assists students from low-income and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds as they prepare to transfer to four-year universities in math, engineering, and science-based fields. Our goal is to ensure these students transfer to four-year universities with a sense of academic responsibility, as well as the need to network and develop the communication, leadership, and research skills that will be extremely important as our students pursue higher education and future employment opportunities.

With more than 200 continuing MESA students and participants—and more to come in this new academic year—MESA continues its mission to enhance the educational experience, resources, and goals of students in math, engineering, and science-based fields. The continued support from campus officials and deans has been extremely helpful in maintaining the MESA program present in the on-going budget discussions. The student and campus support for MESA, as well as other pending projects with math and science faculty, encourages a prolonged influence that will help maintain MESA a prevalent resource for students at this campus in the future.

As you consider the success of our students throughout 2008-2009 in this MESA Newsletter, it should also serve as a reminder of the continued commitment MESA will strive to achieve for the 2009-2010 academic year and beyond. This new academic year offers MESA and students another opportunity to continue excelling and promoting careers on and off campus through summer internships, scholarships, and other networking opportunities. We look forward to the success of our continuing and transfer students, and wish the best of luck to prospective transfer applicants for Fall 2010. Apply early, and finish strong!

Arturo Hernandez, MESA Director

COUNSELOR CONNECTION

We would like to welcome all of you to a very exciting journey this fall. Some of you are continuing your journey and others are just beginning. Either way, you are part of a distinguished community of learners who share common interests and who will be taking similar courses. As counselors, we believe that the fall semester is very important to you. It sets the tone for your success as new or continuing students. You have already made a sound decision by opting to join the MESA Program, which has a history of supporting students whose majors require math and science courses. Our goal is to help you continue to make good decisions that will benefit you personally and professionally.

If you are new to MESA, you will soon benefit from an orientation that will be offered early in the semester. You are always welcome to come to the MESA Center to study and to receive support from everyone. You will find students who are willing to study with you and discuss concepts relevant to the courses you are taking.

We look forward to meeting all of you in the MESA Center or in our offices in the Counseling Center. At that time, we will assist you in creating an educational plan to help you achieve your academic goals as quickly as possible. Remember to see us early so that you can complete your MESA application and verify that you are taking the right courses. If you already have an educational plan from another counselor, you still need to have it reviewed by a MESA Counselor and placed in your file.

If you encounter any personal or academic challenges, please come to us as soon as possible so that we can make every attempt to help you. There are many academic support programs and resources available. We can aid in referring you to these services and letting you know where they are located. If you change your major or transfer university, you likewise need to see us so that we can review your educational plan and make any necessary changes.

If you are a continuing student, keep in mind that the fall semester is particularly important for those of you who are submitting transfer applications. Deadlines are critical, especially for your financial aid. For fall admissions, the official period for CSU applications is October 1—November 31 and the filing period for UC applications is November 1-31. The ECC Transfer Center will offer UC Personal Statement Workshops in October. We recommend that you attend our 6th Annual Transfer Conference, which will be on Friday, October 23rd, from 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

It is important to know that the CSU's are no longer accepting applications for the spring semester. They are decreasing the number of students who will be offered acceptance letters. It will be important to maintain a strong GPA (grade point average) and complete most of the preparation in the major.

If you will be applying for financial aid for your four-year institution, remember to apply January 1 through March 2. You can always update the information on your FAFSA before the May 1 deadline if necessary. (Financial aid deadlines vary among universities, so check for deadlines with the Financial Aid Office at the institution(s) you will be submitting applications.)

We welcome all of you to El Camino College this fall, and we hope to get to know those of you who are new to the MESA Program. Just stop by and introduce yourselves to us and don't ever hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance at all. Our purpose is to help you achieve your goals and aspirations. We consider your success our success. Our hours in the MESA Center are posted in the MESA Center or you can ask the MESA Center Staff.

Our very best,

Madeleine Carteron and Ken Key

The counseling services in MESA have been an extremely helpful asset for me. The counselors are sincerely concerned about our success and easily accessible in MESA. I have even received support from them with my essays for scholarships. I feel confident that I have a strong academic plan, and you should too!

Chad Germany
MESA Student
Physics Major

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & SERVICES 2009-2010

MESA Center—Located in MCS 100E/F, the MESA Center is conveniently open at least 60 hours weekdays and weekends.

MESA Academic Counselors—MESA Counselors, Madeleine Carteron and Ken Key, are available in MESA on Mondays from 12pm-3pm and Wednesdays 12:30pm-4pm. Contact MESA for further details or availability.

Academic Excellence Workshops—MESA offers AEW support in Math 80, 170, 180, 190, 191 and Chemistry 4, 1A, 1B, 7A, and 7B. AEW availability may vary per semester. AEW are free and open to students enrolled in the course for AEW subject. Please see MESA for scheduling and availability each semester.

Tutoring—MESA offers tutoring services in most physics and chemistry subjects. Availability may vary per semester. Please see MESA for scheduling details.

MESA Internship & Scholarship Handbook—MESA encourages students to search for summer enrichment or research experience for undergraduate programs. The MESA Internship Handbook usually becomes available in December, but most opportunities do not finalize their program availability until January. Please see MESA for more updates.

MESA Leadership Retreat & Conferences—MESA sponsors selective leadership retreat events and conferences that assist in student leadership development and networking skills. Contact MESA or SHPE members for more information.

MESA Open House—Every year MESA hosts an Open House event where faculty and students can tour the facility and gain knowledge of the services we provide.

Guest Speakers—MESA schedules various speakers from industry or universities to host workshops for our students. Schedules may vary per semester. Dates are TBD.

University Representatives—University representatives visit MESA and discuss their programs and services with our students. Dates are TBD.

Tours—MESA and the Transfer Center help encourage student participation to industry and universities. See the Transfer Center for more details.

Available schedules and services may vary per semester. Special consideration is given to the ECC Transfer Center for the availability of their resources and activities each year. Please see MESA Center for more details about these resources.

My journey has taught me the importance of communication and the power of networking and building relationships. Nobody knew that I needed help. I had to look for it. I had to reach out. As soon as I realized I couldn't do it alone I sought out help and found it. It is so important for one to have a support system.

Ana Orellana

MESA Alumni

Aerospace Engineering Major



N. Grumman Speaker Ramon Coronel



Chemistry tutor (right) Johnny Torres

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Fall 2009 Transfer Students

MESA congratulates its students and participants for achieving success at El Camino College and moving forward to universities that will continue to foster their future career goals in math, engineering, and science-related fields.



Transfer Students at the MESA Transfer Dinner in Spring 2009.



(left to right) Arturo Hernandez and MESA tutors and AEW facilitators transferring for Fall 2009: Johnny Torres, Myron Jimenez, Freddy Carrillo, Jose Guardado, Ninh Le, and Crown Kingmaithong.



(Left to right) Song Gao, Dr. Thomas Fallo (El Camino College President) and Chidera Chime, at the 2009 ECC Graduation Day.



(left to right) Myron Jimenez, James Dewberry, Song Gao, Arturo Hernandez, Chidera Chime, Johnny Torres, and Tamara Restrepo.

| NAME | MAJOR | UNIVERSITY |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chidera Chime | Aerospace Engineering | Cal Poly Pomona |
| Patricia Barron | Aerospace Engineering | CSU Long Beach |
| Kristofer Mendoza | Animal Biology | UC Davis |
| Vanessa Rivera | Animal Science/Biology | UC Davis |
| Thu Minh Van | Biochemistry | UCLA |
| Tamara Restrepo | Biochemistry and Molecular Biology | UC Santa Cruz |
| Massoud Daquiq | Biochemistry and Molecular Biology | UC Berkeley |
| Ronald Calderon | Biology | UCLA |
| Jose Pablo Contreras | Biology | UCLA |
| Thurmond Hosey | Biology | Clark Atlanta University |
| Ahmad Karimi | Biology | UC Irvine |
| Myvi Nguyen | Biology | UCLA |
| Tizita Zewdie | Biomedical Engineering | UC Irvine |
| Udayabagya Halim | Chemistry | UCLA |
| Alma Barrera | Civil Engineering | USC |
| Crown Kingmaithong | Civil Engineering | UCLA |
| Meskerem Zewdie | Civil Engineering | Cal Poly Pomona |
| John B. Wyatt | Computer Science & Engineering | UC Merced |
| George Cendejas | Electrical Engineering | Cal Poly Pomona |
| Freddy Carrillo | Electrical Engineering | CSU Los Angeles |
| Song Gao | Electrical Engineering | UC San Diego |
| Patrick Dao | Mathematics | UC Irvine |
| Timmy Ma | Mathematics | UC Berkeley |
| Ninh Le | Mechanical Engineering | UCLA |
| Mahin Khan | Mechanical Engineering | UC San Diego |
| Victor Tafolla | Mechanical Engineering | Cal Poly Pomona |
| James Dewberry | Mechanical Engineering | UC Davis |
| Albert Tjoeng | Mechanical Engineering | UC Berkeley |
| Jose Guardado | Mechanical Engineering | Cal Poly Pomona |
| Michael Kwon | Mechanical Engineering | UC San Diego |
| Elise Yerelian | Molecular & Cell Biology | UC Berkeley |
| Myron Jimenez | Molecular Toxicology | UC Berkeley |
| Eric Castellanos | Neuroscience | UCLA |
| Tamara Cutler | Neuroscience | UCLA |
| Sandi Karcher | Nursing | Sonoma State University |
| Kelly Humphrey | Physics | UCLA |
| Julio Rodriguez | Physics | UCLA |
| Johnny Torres | Psychobiology | UCLA |