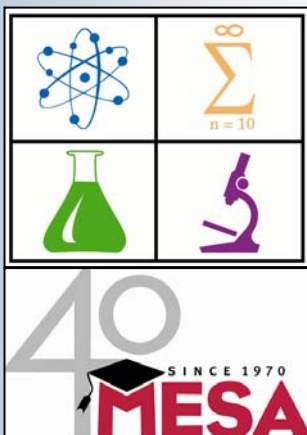
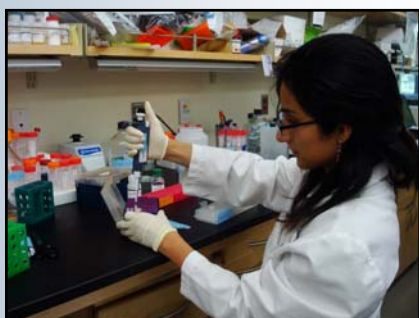


CELEBRATING FALL 2010 TRANSFERS



During the spring 2010 Transfer Dinner, our MESA|ASEM students along with math and science faculty and administrators celebrated the successful transfer of 62 students. Overall, about 56 percent of students have transferred into the sciences while 44 percent transferred into engineering fields.

ENHANCING YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE



MESA Program

MCS 100F/E

310-660-3887

MESA@elcamino.edu

MESA Center Hours

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

More Headlines Inside!

Fall 2010 MESA Transfer List 2-3

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Counselor Connection 10

Calendar of Events & Services 12

AND MUCH MORE!

Fall 2010 Transfer Students

NAME	MAJOR	UNIVERSITY
Adam Castle	Aerospace Engineering	Ohio State University
Pan Gyn Kweon	Aerospace Engineering	UC San Diego
Evaristus Soubih	Pharmaceutical Engineering	UC San Diego
Aaron Mitchell	Bioengineering	UC San Diego
Kevin Kline	Chemical Engineering	UC Irvine
Tina Amintaghavi	Chemical Engineering	UC Irvine
Michael Chavez	Chemical Engineering	UC Santa Barbara
Cory Klett	Chemical Engineering	UC Santa Barbara
Asgedom Woldekidan	Computer Engineering	CSU Northridge
Binh Dinh	Computer Science and Engineering	UCLA
Luis Carranza	Electrical Engineering	UCLA
Carolina Chica	Electrical Engineering	UC Irvine
Senai Tsegazeab	Electrical Engineering	UC San Diego
Hussein Kadiri	Electrical Engineering	UC Berkeley
Mario Gregory	Electrical Engineering	CSU Los Angeles
Yasamin Komeilizadeh	Engineering Management	CSU Northridge
Fernando Reyes	Mechanical Engineering	Cal Poly Pomona
Josimark Grajeda	Mechanical Engineering	Cal Poly Pomona
Hadasa Reyes	Mechanical Engineering	Cal Poly Pomona
George Kovatchev	Mechanical Engineering	Cal Poly Pomona
Daniel Perez	Mechanical Engineering	CSU Northridge
Shin Scott	Mechanical Engineering	UC Berkeley
Mark Gault	Mechanical Engineering	UCLA
James Dinh	Mechanical Engineering	UC San Diego
Minna Yoon	Mechanical Engineering	UC San Diego
Esteban Flores	Mechanical Engineering	USC
Jesus Jaimes Diaz	Mechanical Engineering	USC

(left to right) Raj Gohil, Chad Germany, Hussein Kadiri, Betelihem Ghebreyohannes, and Mr. Arturo Hernandez at the ECC Graduation Ceremony.



(left to right) Mr. Arturo Hernandez, Timothy Johnson, Raj Gohil, Quynh Pham, Matthew Chan, and Chad Germany preparing for the ECC Graduation Ceremony.

Fall 2010 Transfer Students

NAME	MAJOR	UNIVERSITY
Christina Solis	Astrophysics	UC Berkeley
Nelly Chuqui-Owens	Biochemistry	UC Berkeley
Richard Sturcke	Biochemistry	UC Davis
Quynh Pham	Biochemistry	UCLA
Alexander Lamb	Biochemistry	UCLA
Brian Lydon	Biochemistry	UCLA
Jeremy S. Nguyen	Biochemistry	UCLA
Nhat Vy Pham	Biochemistry	UC Berkeley
Prudent Oji	Biochemistry	UC Berkeley
Sandra De Mel	Biology	UCLA
Carla Plaza	Biology	UC Irvine
Huy Nguyen	Biology	UC Irvine
Iman Arafa	Biology	UC Irvine
Daniel Malek	Biology	UC San Diego
Michael Shodiya	Chemical Biology	UC Berkeley
Matthew Chan	Chemistry	UCLA
Thomas Wade	Computer Science	CSU Los Angeles
Jiao Yang	Economics	CSU Long Beach
Maryam Ilkhani	Economics	UCLA
Taichi Natake	Environmental Science	UC Berkeley
Alice Ho	General Biology	UC San Diego
Melissa Ellis	Interdisciplinary Studies with Informatics	Arizona State University
Reynaldo Cardenas	Mathematics	CSU Northridge
Timothy Johnson	Mathematics	CalTech
Kristin Holmbeck	Mathematics	Loyola Marymount University
Rain Kim	Microbiology	UCLA
Edmond Abdou	Microbiology	UCLA
Sara Ahmed	Microbiology	UCLA
Shaun Novin	Molecular Biology	UCLA
Betelihem Ghebreyohannes	Pharmacy	Western University
Chad Germany	Physics	UC Berkeley
Pruthvirajsinh Gohil	Physics	UCLA
Joe Udeochu	Physiological Sciences	UCLA
Michael Cahn	Pre-Nursing	LA County School of Nursing
Jhenzier Gordon	Sports Medicine	University of San Francisco

MESA/NSF Scholarships

ECC MESA students continue to reign over the annual MESA National Science Foundation (MESA/NSF) Scholarship. This scholarship is a statewide effort that supports low-income, under-represented and educationally disadvantaged students pursuing math, engineering, or computer science degrees. To date, the MESA/NSF award has been awarded to 36 ECC students, totaling \$404,000 in scholarship support. Congratulations to our 7 selected winners this year!



(left to right) Eduardo Mendez, Luis Carranza, Daniela Moreno-Lopez, Kimberly Harry, Ernesto Sosa and Mr. Arturo Hernandez at the Spring 2010 ECC Math and Science Division Awards.

Ernesto Sosa
Daniela Moreno-Lopez
Kimberly Harry
Eduardo Mendez

Luis Carranza
Fernando Reyes
Esteban Flores

RISING SOPHOMORE

Bioengineering	\$12,500
Computer Engineering	\$12,500
Mechanical Engineering	\$12,500
Mechanical Engineering	\$12,500

TRANSFER READY

Electrical Engineering	\$10,500
Electrical Engineering	\$10,500
Mechanical Engineering	\$10,500

MESA|ASEM American Honda and Southern California Edison Scholarships

Thanks to the sponsorship of American Honda and Southern California Edison, MESA awards \$8,000 worth of scholarship support to the following continuing and transfer ready MESA|ASEM students. Eligible candidates were selected among participating MESA|ASEM students who demonstrated a high participation with MESA and a good academic standing. MESA especially thanks the MESA|ASEM Scholarship Committee for their help in selecting the best candidates for this scholarship opportunity. The MESA|ASEM Scholarship Committee included Mr. Jeff Cohen, Ms. Susan Taylor, Dr. Teresa Palos, Ms. Susan Prieto, Dr. Ana Tontcheva, and Mr. Ken Key.

Hadasa Reyes	Mechanical Engineering	\$2,000
Nelly Chuqui-Owens	Biochemistry/Molecular Biology	\$1,000
Michael Shodiya	Chemical Biology	\$1,000
Mark Gault	Mechanical Engineering	\$1,000
Chad Germany	Physics	\$500
Marilyn Hernandez	Pre-Optometry	\$500
Teresa Nieves	Mathematics	\$500
Jesus Jaimes-Diaz	Mechanical Engineering	\$500
Yamil Flores	Biology	\$250
Joe Udeochu	Biology	\$250
Johanna Zamora	Civil Engineering	\$250
Njie Takere	Chemical Engineering	\$250



(left to right) Dr. Don Goldberg, Mr. Arturo Hernandez, Hadasa Reyes, Yamil Flores, Teresa Nieves, Johanna Zamora, Nelly Chuqui-Owens, Chad Germany, Mark Gault, Michael Shodiya, Dr. Jean Shankweiler, Njie Takere, and Joe Udeochu at the Spring 2010 MESA Transfer Dinner.



(left to right) Hadasa Reyes and Marcella Low, Public Affairs Manager for the Southern California Gas Company, at the Gas Company 2010 Scholarship Award Luncheon.

ECC Scholarship Recipients

Thanks to the El Camino College Foundation and sources like the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the following students were selected as scholarship recipients for various awards. Join MESA as we celebrate the scholastic achievement of our students and their determination to seek opportunities that can help them financially support their academic endeavors while at ECC and beyond.

Hadasa Reyes	Nissan North American, Inc. Scholarship	\$2,500
Michael Shodiya	Natural Science Presidential Award	\$2,000
Timothy Johnson	Mathematical Science Presidential Award	\$2,000
Chad Germany	Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarship	\$2,000
Dung Ngo	Foundation International Student Scholarship	\$2,000
Tina Amintaghavi	Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarship	\$2,000
Pruthvirajsinh Gohil	Virginia and Thomas Riddle Scholarship	\$2,000
Wing Yau Kwok	Foundation International Student Scholarship	\$2,000
Joe Udeochu	Grace Elizabeth Karmen Brown Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
Van Custodio	El Camino Foundation Scholars Award	\$1,000
Jorge Izquierdo	El Camino Foundation Scholars Award	\$1,000
Luis Carranza	Louis and Susana Garcia Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
Carla Plaza	SSTARS Transfer Student Award	\$1,000
Carla Plaza	El Camino Benefactors Award	\$1,000
Ernesto Sosa	El Camino Benefactors Award	\$1,000
Heather Conrow	El Camino Benefactors Award	\$1,000
Kimberly Harry	Kinder Morgan WIT Scholarship	\$1,000
Teri Jordan	Kinder Morgan WIT Scholarship	\$1,000
Carlos Sanchez	Osher Foundation Scholarship	\$1,000
Yamil Flores	Osher Foundation Scholarship	\$1,000
Lucia Rivera	Osher Foundation Scholarship	\$1,000
Noor Bala	Julius Sumner Miller Scholarship	\$1,000
Hadasa Reyes	Southern California Gas Company	\$1,000
Senai Tsegazeab	Southern California Gas Company	\$1,000
Marilyn Hernandez	SSTARS Continuing Student Award	\$500
Maryam Ilkhani	El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship	\$500
Michael Shodiya	El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship	\$500
Nelly Chuqui-Owens	El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship	\$500
Edmond Abdou	El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship	\$500
Sandra De Mel	El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship	\$500
Joan Ngwuta	El Camino Foundation Donors Scholarship	\$500
Hussein Kadiri	Robert H. Hesse Memorial Scholarship	\$400
Martin Klosi	Robert H. Anderson Memorial Scholarship	\$300

MESA|ASEM Students Recognized at Campus Award Ceremonies

General Chemistry Achievement

Award

Michael Chavez
Jonathan Creecia
James Dinh
Timothy Johnson
Jeffrey Kim
Jaclyn E. Kwan
Brett Lopez
Sarah Maasarani
Taichi Natake
Joan Ngwuta
Young S. Park
Justin Seifert
Njie Takere

Calculus Award

Michael Chavez
Ziye Feng
Pruthvirajsinh Gohil
Vito Iala
Alexander Lamb
Masaki Sono
Minna Yoon
Luis Carranza
Austin Cathey
Binh Dinh
Hussein Kadiri
Martin Klosi
Brett Lopez
Nhatvy N. Pham
Michael Shodiya
Asgedom Woldekidan
Engineering Awards
Michael Chavez
Binh Dinh
James Dinh
Jesus Jaimes Diaz
Minna Yoon

Freshman Chemistry Award

Brett Lopez

McQuerry Award for General Chemistry

Jeffrey Kim

General and Organic Chemistry

Achievement Award

Rain Kim
Nelly Chuqui Owens
Prudent Oji
Joe Udeochu

Campbell Family Award in

Organic Chemistry

Prudent Oji

Jack Wolf Chemistry 21A/21B Award

Jaclyn Gallegos

Mathematics Faculty Awards

Austin Cathey

Hussein Kadiri

Martin Klosi

Nhatvy N. Pham

Michael Shodiya

Computer Science Awards

Austin Cathey

Timothy Johnson

Hussein Kadiri

Excellence in Physics Award

Nhatvy N. Pham

Commendation for

Outstanding Performance

Mark Gault

Timothy Johnson

Nhatvy N. Pham

Commendation for Pretty

Darn Good Performance

Martin Klosi

Masaki Sono

Distinguished Biology Achievement

Award

Aaron Mitchell
Joe Udeochu

General Biology Achievement

Award

Jeffrey Kim
Nelly Chuqui Owens
Taichi Natake
Jonathan Creencia
Sandra De Mel
Nhatvy Pham
AMATYC Math Contest
Timothy Johnson
Binh Dinh

Commendation for Distinctive

Performance

Division of Mathematical Sciences

Austin Cathey

Binh Dinh

Hussein Kadiri

Martin Klosi

Teresa Nieves

Masaki Sono

Division of Natural Sciences

Sandra De Mel

Sarah Maasarani

Aaron Mitchell

Nelly Chuqui Owens

Nhatvy Pham

Joe Udeochu

Mathematical Sciences Division

Presidential Scholar

Timothy Johnson

Natural Sciences Division

Presidential Scholar

Michael Shodiya

(left to right) Austin Cathey, Tae Ah Kim, Michael Shodiya, Beixi Liu, Martin Klosi, Nhatvy Pham, and Dr. Massood Seyedin at the Math and Science Awards Ceremony.



(left to right) Quynh Pham, Dr. Ana Tontcheva, Nhatvy Pham and Man Duong at the Math and Science Awards Ceremony.

Internship and Summer Enrichment Programs

This year, several students were able to attain internship opportunities through an array of sources like the Edmondson Internship at the Clinical Research Lab at the UC Davis Medical Center and as far as the Ohio State University Research Experience for Undergraduates. MESA congratulates the initiative of these students to seek research experiences and enrichment programs in their field of study. See pages 8-9 for a list of research profiles and program descriptions.

Carla Plaza Edmondson Internship at the
UC Davis Medical Center

Nelly Chuqui-Owens CURE Program – City of Hope

Daniel Malek Clinical Care Extenders Internship

Joan Ngwuta CSULA Research Experience for Undergraduates

Fernando Reyes Student Independent Research
Internship (SIRI) at JPL

Mario Cabrera National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NASA)

Michael Shodiya Ohio State University Research Experience for Undergraduates

Vito Iaia JPLUS Award

UC Irvine Saturdays with Scientists



(left to right) Manuel Monteverde and UC Irvine Faculty Director Dr. Debra Mauzy-Melitz at the UCI SWS closing award ceremony.

The UC Irvine Saturdays with Scientists (SWS) program targets community college students interested in science, technology, engineering, and/or math majors and careers. Students attended the UC Irvine campus for five Saturdays throughout the 2009-2010 academic year and experienced hands-on activities and lectures with top researchers. Additionally, students learned the importance of setting career goals as well as the UC application process. The UCI SWS selected 13 students from the El Camino College MESA program. Students also received a \$400 stipend for their participation. Congratulations to our students!



MESA/ASEM students examining the human brain during the UCI SWS program.

SWS 2009-2010 Participants

Luis Carranza

Mark Gault

Manuel Monteverde

Lucy Rivera

Heather Conrow

Raj Gohil

Teresa Nieves

Hadasa Reyes

Yamil Flores

Veronica Ixtupe

Carla Plaza

Senai Tsegazeab

Johanna Zamora

ECC MESA Students Dominate Inaugural MESA Math Competition



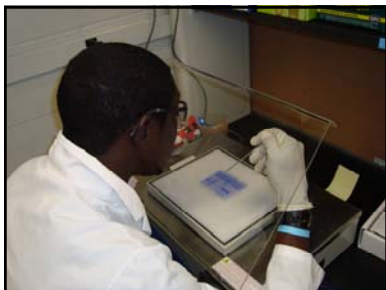
(left to right) Fernando Reyes and Timothy Johnson at the MESA Day Award ceremony held at UCLA.

The inaugural MESA Community College Program Math Competition hosted 183 students from 19 community college campuses. The competition, modeled after the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Student Math League Test that El Camino College also uses, consisted of algebra, trigonometry, pre-calculus and analytical geometry. ECC MESA's own Timothy Johnson (First Place Winner), Fernando Reyes (tied Second Place Winner), and Asgedom Woldekidan (Third Place Winner) dominated the competition, bringing home the top three awards. In responding to the experience of the competition, Timothy Johnson says that it was the El Camino College Math Competition that helped him prepare for his triumph at this state competition. Timothy Johnson won the El Camino College Math Competition for the last two years and has transferred to CalTech for Fall 2010.

Research Profiles: Connecting MESA Students to Research Experiences

MICHAEL SHODIYA

Michael Shodiya joined MESA in 2008 and is now a MESA alumni transferring to UC Berkeley as a chemical biology major for Fall 2010. He worked for MESA as a facilitator for the Academic Excellence Workshop in Organic Chemistry and also as a General Chemistry tutor last year. He was selected as the Natural Science Division Presidential Scholar and has been a very active MESA student. He feels that MESA has been an essential resource to his success at El Camino College and looks forward to his future at UC Berkeley.



“Over the summer, I participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates program at Ohio State University. I worked with Trm10, a tRNA methyltransferase that methylates the N1 position of guanosine at position 9 on some tRNAs. The focus of my project was to test whether conserved base GC base pairs on the acceptor and TΨC stems act as recognition elements for this enzyme. I learned common lab techniques such as PCR and protein expression and purification as well as specialized enzyme assays using 32P labeled nucleotides. It has been a wonderful experience for me, and everyone interested in science should take advantage of such a good program next summer. I found this program through the network I made in MESA, and I couldn't have done it without the good letters of recommendation from the MESA Director and Dr. Tontcheva. For this, I am very grateful. To my

fellow MESA students, keep believing in yourself, work hard, and continue to seek excellent opportunities like this. Above all, never give up on your goals and never quit on yourself.”

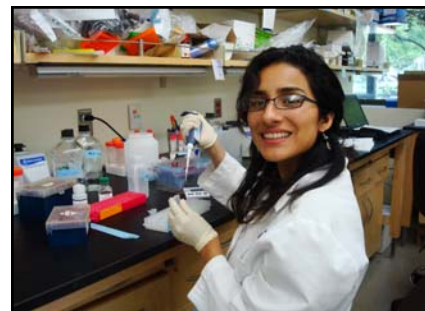
-Michael Shodiya

NELLY CHUQUI-OWENS

Nelly Chuqui-Owens has been a participant of MESA since 2009 and is transferring to UC Berkeley to pursue a biochemistry major for Fall 2010. Nelly was the recipient of the MESA|ASEM Scholarship in Spring 2010, and was also a candidate for the Natural Science Division Presidential Award among other recognitions. After joining MESA, Nelly gained the confidence to realize that nursing was not enough for her; she wanted to pursue a medical career in the future, and she is on her way!

“This past summer I was an intern for the City of Hope Beckman Cancer Research Institute in Duarte, California. I was part of the Division of Gene Regulation and Drug Discovery Lab. The emphasis of my lab team involved researching the mechanisms of liver regeneration by targeting two important bile acid receptors. This was accomplished by first using gene targeting, and later gene knockout techniques. I had the opportunity to perform most of the techniques with the guidance of my mentor, and I thought that this experience was incredible! I hope that more students are able to achieve hands-on experience in their field. For me, this opportunity only reaffirms the commitment I have for my career, and motivates me to keep moving forward at UC Berkeley. It takes a lot of work to make your dreams come true, but I can assure you that it is worth the effort when you are working and doing something you love!”

-Nelly Chuqui-Owens



CARLA PLAZA

Carla Plaza has learned to value everything she does since joining the California Army National Guard in 2007. She joined MESA in 2009 and is now a MESA alumni transferring to UC Irvine as a biology major for Fall 2010. Last year she participated in the UC Irvine Teaching Education Academy for Community College Scholars as well as the 2009-2010 Saturdays with Scientists Program at UC Irvine. Carla has always maximized her MESA experience, education, and especially her volunteer work with the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base where she uses her Emergency Medical Technician certification to help the community with vital medical services.



“In summer 2010 I participated in the Hugh Edmondson Internship at the Clinical Research Lab at the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California under the mentorship of Dr. Christopher Polage, Director of the Clinical Laboratory for the UC Davis Medical Center. Dr. Polage was conducting research about *Clostridium difficile*, which is a gram positive bacteria that causes nosocomial infections in admitted patients at the hospital. I am part of the degradation study of human stool samples for the quantification by real time PCR of this bacteria, so a stool sample was collected and submitted to different time periods. DNA is then extracted and quantified, and the result will indicate the amount of bacteria cells at each specific point. This result may be the indication of the level of infection acquired by the patient. I took advantage of everything MESA had to offer and I hope you will take seriously all the opportunities that can enhance your career!”

-Carla Plaza

JOAN NGWUTA

Joan Ngwuta joined MESA in November 2008 as a biology major. She is an active MESA student, and recently received the ECC Foundation Donors Scholarship. Joan is currently the facilitator for the Academic Excellence Workshop in beginning chemistry. She feels that MESA has played a crucial role in her accomplishments so far through the staff and peer support she's encountered throughout her academic journey, and we look forward to her continual success at ECC and beyond.

"Working under the department of chemistry at CSU Los Angeles, I have come to love the whole process of research. My internship this summer focused on the study of environmental toxicity, which included the study of the aquatic community. We collected sediment and water samples every week or two from creeks and watersheds, specifically the Ballona Creek Watershed in Los Angeles. The water contains a host of anthropogenic pollutants that pose health risks to the marine community. The research aimed at studying sediment toxicity and impairment caused by poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), organic chemicals, as well as metals in these water sites. It also included studying water column toxicity and identifying sources of pollution. Methods applied in this sampling and analysis included: acid digestion with concentrated nitric acid, organic extractions, and concentration of samples. We also used Atomic Absorption spectrum and the GC to analyze results. The measurement of trace pollutants in sediment and water samples enabled us to establish a current record of pollutant levels at each sampling site, and then examine the evolution of pollutant concentrations as a function of time since these sites had been studied in previous summers. Another part of the research included studying peroxy radical formation and how it contributes to the formation of ozone. This summer research opportunity has been one of the best aspects of my academic journey, and I highly recommend that you participate when opportunities like this arise!"

-Joan Ngwuta



MESA Student Plans Mission to Mars for NASA

MARIO CABRERA



The last time NASA worked with an ECC MESA student was in Summer 2005 when Steve Lopezlavalle (now working for Northrop Grumman) participated in a traineeship called the Spaceflight and Life Sciences Training Program (SLSTP) at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. Half a decade later in Spring 2010, Mario Cabrera became a participant of the National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Mario first joined MESA in July 2008 as an aerospace engineering major. Mario has worked as a facilitator for the Academic Excellence Workshop in Intermediate Algebra since last year. He is an active MESA student who effectively uses the resources made available in MESA toward his academic success.

"The application process for the NCAS program was simple and quick; all that was needed was an unofficial transcript, letter of recommendation, a personal statement, and completing the application which did not take more than 15 minutes. The time consuming part came with the four assignments that we had to submit within two weeks apart from each other. These four assignments consisted of an abstract, budget and timeline, proposal, and a drawing of a robotic mission to Mars. Although the assignments were time consuming, I applied my time management skills to do well in my classes while also take advantage of this opportunity. I was fortunate to be one of the chosen to travel to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas for a three-day experience that made all the effort that I put into each assignment worthwhile.

Before the trip, everyone was divided into different groups. Every group had to design a rover with the help and advice from a mentor. We then had to test the rover on an obstacle course, present its components, and explain the goals which we planned to accomplish if our rover were to be designed for a mission to Mars. We were also taken on a tour of the Johnson Space Center. One of my favorite places toured was the Apollo 13 Mission Control Room where we were fortunate to meet the flight director Gene Kranz.

Overall the experience was great because not only did we get to see things that people on tours do not get to view and especially meet key people like Gene Kranz and Astronaut Mario Runco, but we also worked and made long-lasting connections with people from different backgrounds and ethnicities. When I first applied, I did not imagine it would have been as great as it was. I encourage other students to apply because the work that you put in will definitely pay off."

-Mario Cabrera



MESA 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. Be sure to check the UC TAG (Transfer Admission Guarantee) Programs and see if any CSU's and private colleges/universities also have similar programs. 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.** Private Colleges/Universities application dates vary so check with a transfer counselor for the application dates. The ECC Transfer Center and MESA will offer UC Personal Statement Workshops beginning in October.

It is important to be aware that under the current economic climate in the state of California, the California State University, and the University of California systems are continuing to limit opportunities for spring admissions. This requires students to maintain strong grade point averages (GPA) and complete most (if not all) of the preparation for the major. There are other opportunities to transfer both fall and spring semesters if you are considering some out-of-state colleges or universities.

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. Counseling hours in the MESA Center are posted in the MESA Center or you can ask the MESA Center Staff for updates.

Our very best,

Madeleine Carteron



Ken Key

The El Camino Community College District is committed to providing equal opportunity in which no person is subjected to discrimination on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or retaliation.

Recognizing Math and Science Faculty Support

In order to maximize the use of our resources for math, engineering, and science students, a major component to this enterprise for 2009-2010 was the collaboration of math and science faculty. Math and science faculty allow us to promote our resources during brief class visits, take their time to bring their students to tour the MESA|ASEM Study Center, and especially offer their time to help our facilitators and tutors be prepared to meet the needs of the material covered in their classes. To all of our math and science faculty, thank you for being so supportive of our program and for your collaboration with MESA in helping students achieve their academic pursuits at El Camino College and beyond.

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES FACULTY—A. Martinez, A. Minasian, A. Seyedin, B. Bayssa, D. Perinetti, D. Westberg, Dr. Sampson, Dr. Hyman, Dr. Sheynshteyn, Dr. P. Wozniak, F. Faridpak, J. Cohen, J. Evensizer, J. Sims, K. Numrich, L. Beckett-Lemus, L. Wapner, M. Bateman, M. George, P. Yun, R. Horvath, R. Lewis, S. Bickford, R. Taylor, S. Taylor, G. Fry, and Dr. L. Kjeseth.

NATURAL SCIENCES FACULTY—Dr. C. Drew, Dr. P. Doucette, Dr. A. Grant, Dr. R. McLeod, Dr. S. Potter, Dr. A. Tontcheva, Dr. M. Jimenez, P. Arasasingham, S. Prieto, Dr. P. Hacking, N. Kadomoto, L. Leonardo, Dr. E. Goldmann, and Dr. T. Palos.

MESA Academic Excellence Workshops & Services

MESA Academic Excellence Workshops (AEW) are designed to assist students in intermediate algebra, trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus I & II, as well as beginning chemistry, general chemistry I & II, and organic chemistry I & II. AEWs are supervised by a peer facilitator who develops worksheets and solutions that provide students with additional practice of the material covered in their courses while also encouraging group study and networking. As a complement to AEW, MESA also provides facilitated group study sessions for target subjects, and tutoring services in chemistry and physics. As a special incentive for MESA students, MESA provides a stipend for participating in at least 40 percent of a given AEW, and for receiving a grade of “B” or better in their class.

For 2009-2010, MESA awarded 13 stipends for students who met the requirements to receive a stipend. MESA congratulates these students for taking the time to participate and enhance their knowledge of a given subject via the AEW services.



(left to right) Spring 2010 AEW Crew Mr. Arturo Hernandez, Brett Lopez, Alexander Lamb, Michael Shodiya, Chad Germany, Quynh Pham, Mario Cabrera, Ernesto Sosa, Timothy Johnson, and Elizabeth Bermudez.

Fall 2009 AEW Stipend Recipients

Math 190
Kimberly Harry \$100
Yolanda Villacreses \$100
Chemistry 4
Kim Nguyen \$100

Chemistry 1B
Sandra De Mel \$100
Chemistry 7A
Richard Flor \$100
Richard Sturcke \$100

Spring 2010 AEW Stipend Recipients

Math 80
Jose Chaidez \$50
Math 190
Jesus Guzman \$100
Mohammad Pezeshki \$100

Chemistry 1A
Mario Cabrera \$50
Chemistry 7A
Sandra De Mel \$100
Timothy Joh \$100



(left to right) Vito Iaia, Alberto Marroquin, Diana Gomez, Jesse Cisneros-Solis, Magen Prado and Mr. Arturo Hernandez at the Spring 2010 MESA Leadership Retreat.

Spring 2010 MESA Leadership Retreat

Joining 20 MESA community college programs across the state, ECC MESA students—Vito Iaia, Alberto Marroquin, Diana Gomez, Jesse Cisneros-Solis, and Magen Prado—attended the annual MESA Leadership Retreat at the Happy Valley Conference Center in Santa Cruz, California around spring break. This leadership retreat helps provide hands-on experience for students in math and science-based fields, as well as engage in network-oriented activities with peers. Participants attended specific field-study projects like engineering design and the notorious physics-inspired Mystery Spot building. All of the activities and guest speaker sessions promote the need for communication, leadership, team building, and networking skills.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND SERVICES

Available schedules, times and services may vary per semester and use. Special consideration is given to the **ECC Transfer Center** for the availability of their resources and activities each year in addition to MESA-sponsored activities and events. Please visit the MESA|ASEM Study Center for more specific details and dates for these and other resources throughout the 2010-2011 academic year.

MESA|ASEM Study Center - Located in MCS 100F/E, this space is equipped with the necessary tools and resources that can help math, engineering, and science students meet the demands of their classes as well as network with other students taking similar courses. The MESA|ASEM Study Center is conveniently open over 70 hours weekdays and Saturdays.

Academic Counseling - Every MESA|ASEM student is required to have a current Educational Plan on file. To meet this demand, academic counselors Madeleine Carteron and Ken Key are available weekly in the MESA|ASEM Study Center to meet with students.

Academic Excellence Workshops (AEW) - Led by an experienced peer facilitator, AEWs provide students with additional practice of current core math and science courses. See schedule for details about specific AEW subjects offered each semester.

Facilitated Group Study Sessions - Sessions are designed to encourage students to study under the supervision of a facilitator who will be able to assist students with conceptual questions and provide a different approach to a problem. Check schedule for availability.

Tutoring Services - MESA provides free tutoring services in core physics and chemistry courses. Check MESA for schedules each semester.

MESA Internship & Scholarships - MESA Internship Handbook and scholarship information are available throughout the year.

MESA Leadership Retreats & Conferences - MESA will help develop the leadership and professional skills that will make students competitive applicants for any opportunity through field-study focused activities and guest motivational speakers in math and science fields.

Financial Aid Workshops - Find out whether you are eligible to receive additional financial assistance or need guidance in the process through MESA-sponsored workshops.

Personal Statement—Students receive personal statement assistance for UC applications, internships, scholarships, appeal letters of all kinds, and other relevant assistance from experienced staff. Consult MESA staff for more information.

Resume Development - MESA develops workshops to help students strategize academic and work experience with resume-building skills.

Guest Speakers - Local industry, university, and other support service program representatives from various sources help promote networking and knowledge of desired fields of study.

University Representatives - University representatives are invited to showcase the services offered from their campus for math, engineering, and science majors.

Tours—Students are able to tour universities and local industries to visualize their future transfer or work prospects. Check out tentative tours to the UCLA Tokamak Laboratory and the Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

Student Professional Organization—MESA collaborates with math and science organizations like SACNAS and SHPE to promote student leadership development and professional networking opportunities.

MESA Director Message

Welcome prospective and continuing MESA|ASEM students to the 2010-2011 academic year! While many are at the onset of their community college experience, many will be preparing to transfer, and I wish the best luck to these students! We have a history of students succeeding in this endeavor, and I am certain that our students will continue to contribute to the success peers have established.

Our collaborative community has done its utmost to provide opportunities that can academically and financially assist our students to move ahead in their education, and I appreciate everyone who has contributed to this endeavor, especially the El Camino College Foundation and the Grants Office. I consider every year as an opportunity to continue to improve our resources, and I am confident that our students will continue maximizing their education and participation to become competitive applicants for research, leadership and professional development, and transfer opportunities.

- Arturo Hernandez



MESA Newsletter Staff

MESA Director - Arturo Hernandez

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