

About MESA

MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) is a statewide program for students historically underrepresented in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) industries to successfully earn degrees and pursue STEM careers. The SCC MESA program serves about 140 students each semester, providing services that include a study center, tutoring, academic excellence workshops, counseling, transfer preparation, and connection to industry and STEM careers. MESA was born out of the civil rights movement in 1970 through a partnership between UC Berkeley and Oakland Technical High School to address racial disparities in STEM. Since then, MESA has expanded across California in K-12 education, community colleges, and universities. Los Rios piloted the first community college program in 1989, and we still offer MESA at American River College, Cosumnes River College, and Sacramento City College, providing STEM students with tools and guidance to successfully transfer to a university and earn a bachelor's degree.



Meet the staff!

[Lorena Jauregui](#) - Faculty coordinator

[Brittani Kelly](#) - Student personnel assistant and counseling intern

[Maristella Bacod](#) - MESA counselor

[Aaron Poletti](#) - MESA Program Assistant

Moved to Staff Research Associate In the Shock Compression lab at UC Davis

[Aliyah Penn](#) - MESA Program Assistant

Now getting PhD in Cellular and Molecular Medicine at Johns Hopkins University

[Abel Perez](#) - Counseling intern

[Ariya Bhutani](#) - Counseling Intern

[Dr. Devoun Stewart](#) - Faculty Sponsor



Lorena Jauregui



Maristella Bacod



Aliyah Penn



Devoun Stewart



Brittani Kelly



Ariya Bhutani



Aaron Poletti



Abel Perez

* BRAG ALERT * MESA Scholars placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in MESA Statewide Idea Accelerator Program Summer 2021

I'd like to take a moment to recognize some of our MESA Scholars (now alumni) who participated in the MESA Statewide Idea Accelerator Program over the summer and whose teams placed in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places! We are so proud of you! I hope this also encourages other students to participate in similar enriching STEM opportunities!

Here are their presentations if you'd like to check them out:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4h6N3VUYzL-9613oqjaDB4T5XBa-jyG6>

1st place: Pioneers of Tony (Fire & Communication Network)

Team Members: Emerald Nash & Liliana Figueroa

Schools: American River College & Sacramento City College

2nd place: Peddlers (U Bike Lock)

Team Members: Weihao Zhu, Terry Clay, & Zhaoyi Chen

Schools: Sacramento City College

3rd place: NAMTAR (Health App)

Team Members: Esau Romero Luna, Ray Espinoza, & Robanjeet Singh

Schools: UCR, Mission College, & Sacramento City College

Congratulations MESA 2022 Transfers

Spring 2022

David Nunez - CSU Sacramento - Computer Science

Alexandre Santos - CSU Sacramento - Mechanical Engineering

Fall 2022

Mansoor Ali - CSU Sacramento - Computer Science

David Bautista - CSU San Diego - Electrical Engineering

Curtis Berry - CSU Sacramento - Computer Science

Jianan Cai - UC Berkeley - Electrical Engineering

Aldo Chavez - CSU Sacramento - Civil Engineering

Lauren Cortez - UC Davis - Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior

Jomari Fernandez - CSU San Francisco - Mechanical Engineering

Charlotte He - UC Davis - Global Disease Biology

Breanna James - CSU Sacramento - Graphic Design

Yifan Liu - UCLA - Science

Juanita Zorely Lizama Sotelo - UC Davis - Animal Science

Kariya Logan - CSU Sacramento - Early Childhood Education

Andrea Padilla - CSU Fullerton - Liberal Studies

Shazil Raza - UC Davis - Computer Science and Managerial Economics

A Year In Review

8/20: MESA fall kick off social - welcome MESA scholars and team to start the fall semester

10/11: MESA workshop: time management - MESA interns host a series of workshops based on common questions that students have

10/15: MESA workshop: self-care and stress relief

10/22: MESA workshop: resume building

10/25: SACNAS 1st meeting (chapter/club started @ SCC) - SACNAS has been around for over 50 years and is a huge national program with lots of affordable and inclusive/equity-minded STEM opportunities for students dedicated to historically underrepresented students in science

10/29: MESA workshop: Halloween social

MESA Student Clubs



Multicultural Engineering Coalition (MEC)

Co-Advisors: Eric Wyles & Lorena Jauregui

Club President: Isabella Campos

Contact: <https://sites.google.com/view/multicultural-engineers/mec-home>

This club serves students interested in engineering and computer science careers, and was founded in Fall of 2019 as a collaboration between the professional chapters of SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers), NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), and SWE (Society of Women Engineers). To build a sense of community among Sacramento City College science and engineering students and increase the number of culturally responsible scientists and engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community through outreach and community engagement activities, project-based team collaboration, and professional development support.

MESA Student Clubs

AMSA Diversity In Medicine

Advisor: Lorena Jauregui

Club President: El-Elyon Bailey

Contact: saccitymesa@gmail.com



AMSA – Diversity in Medicine
American Medical Student Association

This club serves students interested in pre-medical and pre-health careers, and was founded in Fall of 2019 to connect students with peer mentors, with professionals in the healthcare industry, and with opportunities and activities that enhance their career preparation. This also serves as the AMSA (American Medical Student Association) Pre-Med Club chapter, AMSA fosters a community of future physicians through education and advocacy.

Transfer Spotlight

Lauren Cortez

UC Davis

Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior

Transferred Fall 2022



My time at Sacramento City College was some of the best and most foundational parts of my educational career. Coming into college, I honestly had no clue what to expect, and for the first year, I sort of felt as though I was walking around in a bit of a haze until I joined MESA. Once I had joined MESA, I was able to add more structure to my educational life beyond just my courses providing me with skills that I've taken with me since transferring. Being a part of MESA helped demystify college for me and really taught me that the people in these institutions actually do want to help students succeed and reach their goals.

Beyond this MESA also provided me with a very supportive community that encouraged my growth in the STEM field by opening so many doors for me. Most importantly, MESA has provided me the opportunity to give back to my STEM community by working with and encouraging other community college students to further their education, providing support along the way. My time with MESA, while it has been online, has been the most valuable ever and it continues to give even since I've transferred to UC Davis. I will forever be grateful to MESA and will forever hold it near and dear to my heart.

A Year In Review

11/5: SCC club day (virtual) - both MESA and MESA affiliated clubs joined

1/12: STEM equity workshop - Dr. Nagassam (STEM equity coordinator and physics professor) worked on approaches to increase the number of underrepresented minorities who graduate college with STEM degrees at SCC

1/13: MESA virtual spring kick-off social

1/29: Dr. Lorena as guest speaker for pre-med CC: Dr. Lorena was invited to be speaker presented on imposter syndrome for pre-med students

2/11: MESA student workshop - REU (research experience for undergraduates) by Aliyah Penn

Student Spotlights

Jennica Limcaco
Sacramento State
Civil Engineering



I'm a Civil Engineering Senior Student and MESA Mentor at Sacramento State. During my second semester, I was selected to represent Sacramento State MESA at the MESA Student Leadership Conference (October 28, 2022 - October 29, 2022) at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley due to my strong academic standing, leadership, and participation in MESA. Out of over 200 MESA Students at Sacramento State, only 10 students were selected. Currently, I work as a MESA Mentor. I provide one-one-one peer support throughout the academic year. Essentially, First-Year MESA students schedule an appointment with me which allows me to share my experiences which includes my personal experiences, exposure and knowledge about how to be a successful college student and strategies for eliminating barriers to academic, personal, and professional success. Furthermore, I assist with the promotion and planning of Sac State MESA related events through welcome events, assemblies, and tabling events.

Erica Sosa
Transferring to UC Davis
Chemistry Major



Starting at Sacramento City College as a non-traditional student, I faced a steep uphill climb. Five years out of high school, I had to work my way up from the most basic fundamentals of math and writing. Yet, I refused to be held back by these challenges. Originally, I had my sights set on becoming a veterinarian. However, after taking a challenging chemistry course, I discovered a newfound love for the subject. Despite feeling unsure about switching from biology to chemistry, it was during a Chemistry 400 course with Professor Atkins that I realized how much I enjoyed the subject. Unfortunately, my schooling was entirely online due to the pandemic and I ended up failing a semester. This experience left me feeling hopeless about my ability to transfer to a 4-year college. It wasn't until I joined extracurricular activities, like MESA and SACNAS, that incredible opportunities began to present themselves. Through my participation in NASA-affiliated programs like L'Space and NCAS, I landed an internship at NASA Ames Research Center, where I discovered a newfound passion for astrobiology. I worked under the tutelage Dr. George Cooper and Dr. Andros Rios in the Exobiology Branch, where I helped in their research of The Origins Of Life and answering the big question, "Where did we come from?". This experience only served to intensify my passion for the subject, and I am now determined to pursue astrobiology as a career. My time at Ames Research Center gave me invaluable hands-on lab experience and taught me how to conduct research. Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet and learn from numerous NASA scientists, and I even learned how to create and present a poster presentation.

I want to inspire other non-traditional students to believe in themselves and their dreams. Despite the obstacles we may face, with hard work and dedication, anything is possible. My journey has taught me that we can overcome any challenge, and with perseverance, we can achieve amazing things.

A Year In Review

2/17: Black history STEMinar panel - 4 panelist (all black STEM PhD professionals and some former cc students) discussed ways STEM studies and/or careers can improve individual and communities lives

2/25: SCC clubs day for MESA and MESA clubs

2/25: MESA student workshop: time management and organization skills -
Hosted by Abel Perez

4/1: SCC student resource fair - hosted by CAEB, MESA promoted to students

4/29: MESA scholar celebration - 1st in person activity since March 2020, Large turn out of students, transfers, counseling interns, team members, and our Dean Angie