

# **MESA** NEWS

## Skyline College MESA Newsletter

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FALL 2025

Volume 2, Issue 1



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# WELCOME!

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MESA Fall 2025 Orientation

Dear Skyline MESA Community,

Greetings from the MESA Team!

We're excited to bring you the second edition of *MESA News* - the bi-annual newsletter of the MESA program at Skyline College. This newsletter is a space to celebrate student success and showcase all the exciting events and opportunities that happen throughout the semester.

As we conclude the Fall 2025 semester, we are thrilled to share the remarkable accomplishments of our students and the wider Skyline community. This newsletter encapsulates our collective efforts and sets the stage for the exciting opportunities awaiting in the upcoming semester.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant MESA community.

Sincerely,

The Skyline College MESA Team



# FALL 2025 MESA TEAM

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## FACULTY AND STAFF



**Denise Hum**  
MESA Co-Director



**Stephanie Wells**  
Program Coordinator

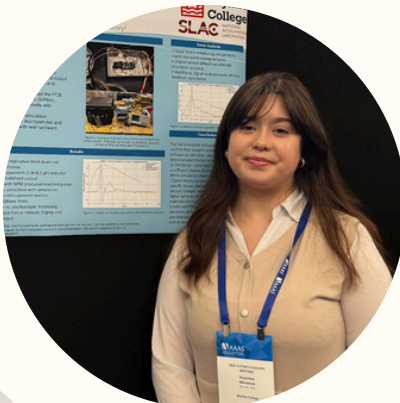


**Emilie Hein**  
MESA Co-Director



**Angela Serrano**  
MESA Counselor

## STUDENT ASSISTANTS



**Aryanna Mendoza**



**Ariana Cerna**



**Noel Amankrah-Bonsu**



**Aaron Torres Mendoza**

# FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS: CONFERENCES

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## SJSU CONFERENCE FOR ENGINEERING DIVERSITY

### San José, CA, October 2025

MESA and STEM students participated in the 2025 Conference for Engineering Diversity (CED) at San José State University. CED is an annual event dedicated to fostering inclusivity, innovation, and professional growth within the engineering community. The conference celebrates the power of diversity to drive innovation and shape



MESA and STEM students attend CED @ San José State



MESA and STEM students attend CED @ San José State

the future of the industry. Through engaging workshops, insightful panels, and interactive sessions led by industry professionals, students gained valuable exposure to topics such as professional development, career preparation, and the role of AI across various engineering fields. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

## UC DAVIS PRE-HEALTH CONFERENCE

### Davis, CA, October 2025

Skyline College and College of San Mateo MESA students attended the 23rd annual Pre-Health Conference at UC Davis, the nation's largest. The event included keynote speakers, deans panels, admissions workshops, and a pre-health fair covering diverse health professions—from medicine and veterinary medicine to nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, therapy, and more. Students connected with health professionals, admissions officers, faculty, and deans through interactive workshops and networking sessions.



Skyline College and College of San Mateo MESA students at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual UC Davis Pre-Health Conference



# FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS: CONFERENCES

## SACNAS NDISTEM CONFERENCE

**Columbus, Ohio, October 2025**

Five Skyline College MESA students, accompanied by MESA Co-Director and math professor Denise Hum and biotechnology professor Nick Kapp traveled to Columbus, Ohio to attend the SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference, one of the largest STEM



Skyline College MESA students and faculty at SACNAS



MESA students from across California at SACNAS

events in the country. The annual conference brings together thousands of students, professionals, and researchers from across the country to celebrate culture, share cutting-edge research, and expand opportunities for underrepresented groups in science. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

## MESA STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**San Francisco, CA, November 2025**

MESA students Aaron Torres Mendoza and Noel Amankrah-Bonsu connected with industry professionals in San Francisco during an invite-only STEM conference. MESA's Student Leadership Conference brought together hand-picked engineering and computer science students with industry to develop the next generation of STEM leaders. Held at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, this year's conference challenged students to design a product or service (in about 30 hours) aimed at addressing one of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).



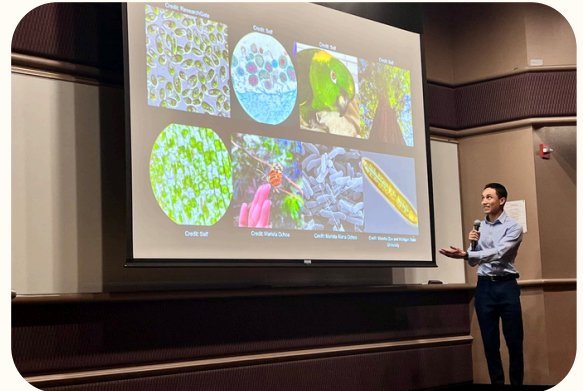
MESA students Noel Amankrah-Bonsu and Aaron Torres Mendoza, with Cañada College MESA Director, Rance Bobo

# FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS: UNIVERSITY VISITS

## STANFORD LAB TOURS AND CCOP SYMPOSIUMS

### Stanford University, August & November 2025

MESA students from Skyline College and College of San Mateo visited Stanford University for the Community College Outreach Program (CCOP) at Stanford Summer and Fall Symposiums—the culminating event of their CORE internship program, which provides hands-on research experience to community college students as they explore scientific fields,



MESA student Joncarlo Estrada presents research from his Fall CCOP internship



MESA students at Stanford Bio-X

gain technical skills, and grow more confident with guidance and mentorship. The university visits offered students an inside look at cutting edge research in Stanford Bio Labs, the chance to hear from their peers who completed the CCOP internship, and gain insight into life as a researcher and the many career paths available in STEM. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

## CSUEB MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOWCASE



MESA students dine at CSUEB with STEM faculty and staff

enjoyed a networking lunch with STEM faculty and staff at the Dining Commons, and participated in a department showcase in the Student Center CORE building. The visit concluded with an engaging student panel in the STEM Lab, with recent Skyline grads. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

### Hayward, CA, October 2025

Skyline MESA students were welcomed at CSU East Bay by the CSUEB MESA community. The day began with a warm welcome from the CSUEB MESA staff and the College of Science Dean. Students then explored the campus through a guided tour,



MESA students dine at CSUEB with STEM faculty and staff





# FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS: MESA EVENTS

## MESA ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Skyline College, STEM and MESA Centers, Fall 2025

MESA hosted a series of community-building events this fall—from our kickoff Open House with root beer floats, to the MESA Orientation with lego-building and a time management workshop, to the STEM Clubs Fair & Boba Social, and a cozy Fall Gathering with lunch and crafts. It's been a season full of connection, creativity, and sweet treats in MESA!





# FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS: MESA EVENTS

## STUDENT RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIP SHOWCASE

### Skyline College STEM Center, December 2025

MESA and STEM students from various majors shared their internship and research projects at the MESA Student Research Showcase and boba social. The event offered a supportive space for students to practice and build confidence in creating research posters, presenting their work, and connecting with peers, faculty, and mentors.

Attendees explored posters, asked questions, celebrated achievements, and learned about exciting opportunities for internships and research. The event inspired peers, helped other students discover new STEM experiences, and boba made it extra delicious!





# FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS: WORKSHOPS

## ACADEMIC AND CAREER WORKSHOPS

MESA offered a full slate of workshops this fall to support students' academic growth, career exploration, and personal development.

### August

- *ScholarMatch Transfer Support Session* — An introduction to a free program that pairs students with trained college coaches for personalized transfer and financial aid guidance.

### September

- *Career Narrative (“Elevator Pitch”) Workshop and STEM Resume Workshop* – in partnership with Skyline College Career Services.

### October

- *Growth Sector Internship and Mochi Donut Tour and Internship Application Workshop*
- *UC Application Workshop and PIQ Clinic* with UC Community College Transfer Services – UC application guidance and feedback from a UC transfer representative

### November

- *CCOP Internship Application Workshop* – support and insight in applying to the Stanford CCOP research internship, led by recent CCOP intern and MESA student Joncarlo Estrada.

Throughout the semester, *Maker Fridays* welcomed students into the Fab Lab, offering hands-on introductions to tools, machines, and creative fabrication projects.



# SCIENCE IN ACTION

The Science in Action Seminar Series is a bi-weekly series presented in partnership with the Skyline College Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Division, and the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement Program (MESA). Thank you to the following speakers who joined the Skyline community this semester to share their stories and expertise!



**Yuting Duan & Tin Htoo**, Skyline College Alumni & nEXO Research Trainees

*Fractal Growth in Physics: Simulating Diffusion-Limited Aggregation and Dielectric Breakdown*



**Rachel Curtis-Robles, PhD**, Communications Director, San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control District & Assistant Research Scientist, Texas A&M University

*One Health: Studying People, Animals, and the Environment*



**Byung-Jun Yoon, PhD**, Engineering Professor & Scientist, Texas A&M University and Brookhaven National Laboratory

*Generative AI In Action: How It's Changing Science and Engineering*



**Ashley Good**, Research Director, 2m Foundation and Owner, Fog City Entertainment & Gold Country Entertainment

*Remixing Life: How a DJ Became a Scientist — Beats, data, and defying labels in a multi-passion career*



**Rachana Agrawal**, Senior Firmware QA Manager, GoPro

*Beyond the Bug Hunt: A Journey in Quality Engineering*



**Celeste Matarazzo**, Cybersecurity Researcher, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

*How to Prepare an Effective Technical Poster*



**Rebecca Flores**, Intern Pipeline Programs Specialist, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

*STEM Internship Opportunities @ SLAC*



# LOOKING FORWARD



## COMING UP IN SPRING 2026!

### January 2026:

- Wed, January 7: Applications for the US Department of Energy Community College Internships (CCI) are due. <https://science.osti.gov/wdts/cci>
- Thurs, January 15: Applications for the Spring 2026 CCOP Internship at Stanford are due. <https://www.ccop.stanford.edu/apply-now>

### February 2026:

- February 7: Stanford Minority Medical Alliance (SUMMA) Conference (Stanford, CA)
- Late February: MESA Orientation and STEM Clubs Fair

### March 2026:

- March 19-21: Emerging Researchers National Conference (Atlanta, GA)

### April 2026:

- April 10-12: Happy Valley MESA Student Leadership Retreat (Santa Cruz, CA)
- Tour of SLAC (date TBC)
- April 17-18: MESA Transfer Conference (San Jose, CA)

### May 2026:

- Transfer Alumni “Ask Me Anything” - learn what it’s really like after transfer!
- MESA Graduation and End-of-Year Celebration

**More events, workshops, university visits, and industry field trips will be announced throughout the semester!**

**Have a great break and see you all soon!**

