



MESA NEWS

Skyline College MESA Newsletter

SPRING 2026

Volume 2, Issue 2



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WELCOME!



MESA Spring 2026 Orientation

Dear Skyline MESA Community,

What a semester it has been! As Spring 2026 comes to a close, we are so proud to pause and reflect on everything our students have achieved: in the classroom, in community, and beyond.

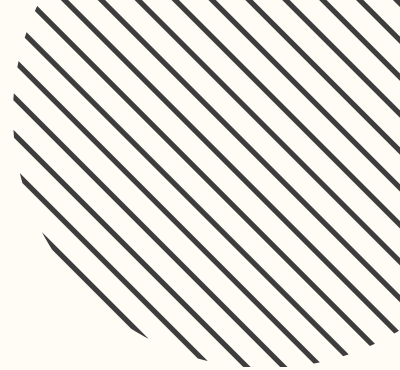
This edition of MESA News is more than a recap; it's a celebration. You'll find highlights from this semester's events and a special recognition of the students who are transferring on to four-year universities. Watching our MESA family take that next step is one of the greatest joys of this program, and these students deserve to be celebrated loudly and wholeheartedly.

As first-generation college students, every milestone our students reach carries extra weight. This semester, our students secured internships, conducted research, and presented their work on national stages. And for those who showed up — to class, to MESA, to yourselves — that matters just as much. Showing up is where everything begins, and we are proud of each and every one of you for doing exactly that.

To our transferring students: you've worked hard, grown tremendously, and made Skyline MESA proud. We can't wait to see what you do next.

Sincerely,
The Skyline College MESA Team

SPRING 2026 MESA TEAM



FACULTY AND STAFF



Denise Hum
MESA Co-Director



Stephanie Wells
Program Coordinator



Emilie Hein
MESA Co-Director



Angela Serrano
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STUDENT ASSISTANTS



Aryanna Mendoza



Ariana Cerna



Noel Amankrah-Bonsu



Aaron Torres Mendoza



**Jhoselin Escobar
Rodriguez**

SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS: CONFERENCES

STANFORD UNIVERSITY 35TH ANNUAL SUMMA CONFERENCE

Stanford, CA, February 2026

On Saturday, February 7, Skyline College MESA students, accompanied by MESA Co-Director Denise Hum, attended the 35th Annual SUMMA Conference at Stanford University. The sold-out event brought together hundreds of aspiring healthcare professionals from across California and the nation, including many first-generation community college students pursuing careers in medicine.

Throughout the day, students heard inspiring keynotes from medical students, physicians, and professors who shared their personal challenges and practical advice on preparing for medical school. Students described the conference as both affirming and motivating, gaining valuable insight into mentorship opportunities, admissions, and future



MESA and STEM students attend SUMMA @ Stanford University

healthcare career pathways. The trip reflects Skyline College MESA's commitment to connecting students with transformative experiences that help make their academic and professional goals feel within reach. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

DAY OF SCIENCE 2026

SAN MATEO, CA, FEBRUARY 2026

On February 28, STEM students from Skyline College attended the annual Day of Science event hosted at the College of San Mateo (CSM). The event was organized through a collaboration between the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program and the Stanford Community College Outreach Program (CCOP) at Stanford University.

Students heard from researchers, STEM professionals, and Stanford trainees who shared their educational journeys and advice on future opportunities in science and medicine. Through workshops, panels, and breakout sessions, Skyline students



Skyline College and College of San Mateo MESA students at the 4th Annual Day of Science Conference

gained valuable insight, motivation, and resources as they continue pursuing their academic and career goals in STEM. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS: CONFERENCES

EMERGING RESEARCHERS NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN STEM

Atlanta, Georgia, March 2026

Eight Skyline College students traveled to Atlanta on Mar 19 - Mar 21 to attend the Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in STEM with physics professor Dr. Polin Yadak and MESA Co-Director Denise Hum. During the conference, students presented research, connected with peers and graduate programs, and gained valuable experience in STEM.



Skyline College Students Attend ERN Conference in STEM



Skyline College Students Attend ERN Conference in STEM

Students described the trip as inspiring and transformative, building confidence in research, presentation skills, and future academic goals. The conference gave Skyline students the opportunity to see themselves not only as learners, but as future researchers and innovators. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

MESA STUDENT LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Santa Cruz, CA, April, 2026

Skyline College MESA students attended the 30th Annual MESA Student Leadership Retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains, joining students from across California for a three-day STEM and leadership experience. Students participated in hands-on workshops, leadership activities, and networking sessions



MESA students at Statewide MESA Leadership Retreat



MESA students at Statewide MESA Leadership Retreat

while also connecting with peers statewide. The retreat also helped students build confidence, form new friendships, and gain motivation for their future academic and STEM goals. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS: UNIVERSITY VISITS

MESA STUDENTS VISIT UC SANTA CRUZ

UC Santa Cruz, April 2026

About 20 Skyline College and College of San Mateo MESA students visited University of California, Santa Cruz on April 10, 2026 to learn about transfer opportunities and student support programs.

The visit included presentations on admissions, housing, and support services, followed by a student panel featuring recent transfer students involved in STEM research.



MESA students at UC Santa Cruz campus



MESA students at UC Santa Cruz

Students also toured campus labs and explored the natural environment, including the redwood trails and ocean views.

The experience gave students valuable insight into transferring to a UC and inspired many to consider UC Santa Cruz as a future option. Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

MESA STUDENTS VISIT UC BERKELEY



MESA Students at UC Berkeley

Berkeley, CA, April 2026

On April 16, Skyline College MESA students visited UC Berkeley for a STEM-focused transfer experience designed to help them better understand university life. During the visit, students received information about admissions, financial aid, housing,



MESA students at UC Berkeley

and student resources, while also hearing advice from current transfer students about succeeding academically and socially. A guided campus tour allowed participants to explore Berkeley's academic environment firsthand, leaving many students feeling more informed, motivated, and confident about their own future transfer goals.

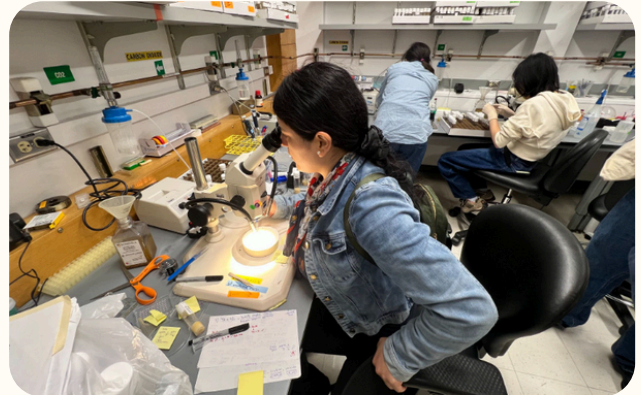
Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS: UNIVERSITY VISITS

MESA STUDENTS VISIT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Stanford University, May 2026

MESA students from Skyline College joined students from other California community colleges for a visit to Stanford University's CCOP Spring Symposium, which focuses on research opportunities in STEM. The event included lab tours in fields like biology and cancer research, a career panel with former community college students now in STEM careers, and presentations from current interns.



MESA students at Stanford University Lab



MESA students at Stanford University

CCOP also offers upcoming opportunities, including a summer Career Development & Transfer Bootcamp that helps students prepare for transfer and research careers, and the CORE internship, a paid 10-week research program at Stanford labs open to community college students. Two Skyline MESA students - Jasmin Khuu and Joncarlo Estrada - completed the CORE internship in Spring 2026, and four Skyline MESA students have been selected for the summer internship. Both the internship and bootcamp aim to support students through mentorship, research experience, and career preparation in science and engineering.

Read more in [Skyline Shines](#).

SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS: MESA EVENTS

MESA ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Skyline College, STEM and MESA Centers, Spring 2026

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!



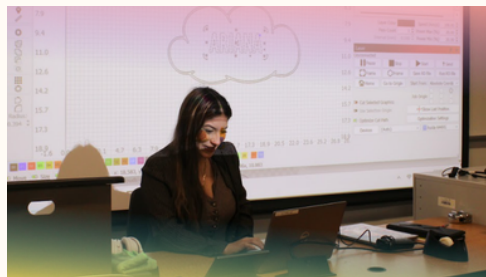
SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS: WORKSHOPS

ACADEMIC AND CAREER WORKSHOPS

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

FABRICATION FRIDAYS

Fabrication Fridays is a series of hands-on workshops offered by MESA students for Skyline students, staff, or faculty interested in the makerspace. Spring 2026 workshops were run by Engineering student Ariana Cerna. She introduced participants to practical skills in engineering and technology. Through sessions such as 3D printing and design, laser cutting, soldering, Arduino programming, and KiCad circuit design, students gain experience in modern making and prototyping tools.



FABRICATION FRIDAY APRIL MAY 2026

DATE	FRIDAY	WORKSHOP	LOCATION
APRIL 10	FRIDAY	3D Print: Learn How to Make a Trinket	Fabrication Lab: Building 7 - Room: 7310
APRIL 17	FRIDAY	Laser Cutting: Make a Keychain	Fabrication Lab: Building 7 - Room: 7310
APRIL 24	FRIDAY	Soldering: Learn the Basics	Fabrication Lab: Building 7 - Room: 7310
MAY 1	FRIDAY	Arduino: Flashing Lights	Fabrication Lab: Building 7 - Room: 7310
MAY 8	FRIDAY	KICAD: Learn to Design a USB PCB	Fabrication Lab: Building 7 - Room: 7310

TIME: 11AM - 12:30 PM

MESA

Community College Outreach Program at Stanford

APPLICATION WORKSHOP

APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 1ST
COME BY FOR PERSONALIZED SUPPORT!

- Get tips and insights about applying to CCOP and succeeding in the internship program.
- Hear about the screening process of applicants, navigating the internship process, and standing out as a candidate.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
5:00 - 6:00 PM
STEM CENTER
BLDG 7 ROOM 7303

Lili Tamon, CCOP
Joncarlo Estrada, Skyline Student & Current CCOP Intern
Claire Chiang, CCOP

Questions?
Contact Emilie Hein - heine@smccd.edu



CCOP APPLICATION WORKSHOP

This workshop was designed to help students strengthen their applications for Stanford's Community College Outreach Program (CCOP), CORE Internship, a 10-week research internship for community college students, helping bridge the gap between community colleges and leading research institutions. Joncarlo Estrada, a current CCOP intern completing his second session in the program, offered his experience in the program, along with tips for a strong application. The application workshop provided guidance on building a strong profile by focusing on key application components such as academic preparation, personal statements, and research interest. Students also received tips and feedback to better present their experiences and increase their competitiveness for the program.

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!



Milena Popovic | Contractor Scientist, NASA Ames Research Center

Life, Curiosity, and Everything In Between: Origin of Life and Early Genetic Systems



Kaneiya Desai, Ranim Jihaz, Erin Takeshima, and Sophia Tsai | Bioengineering Honor Society, UC Berkeley

Start Here -> Bioengineering @ Berkeley: Bioengineering Honor Society and Student Development



Mowen Tan | Student & Research Volunteer, Neil Chi Lab, UC San Diego

From Skyline to Research Lab: DNA Sequencing & Single-Cell Biology: Heart Regeneration Research and Biomedical Career Path



Noelle Sanvictores | Research Associate II, Vaxart, Inc.

From Skyline to the Future of Biotech: Molecular Biology Research and Biotech Innovation



Dmytro Bkov | Group Lead in Computing for Chemistry & Materials, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

From Chemistry Lab to Supercomputing, My Path in Science: Theoretical Chemistry Research and Scientific Career Journey



Ronin Morata | SFSU Student and IBM Z Student Ambassador

A Transfer Journey into Enterprise Computing: Mainframe Technology Career Advocacy and IBM Z Learning Path

SCIENCE IN ACTION



Augusto Llamas De Los Reyes | 3D Data Labeling Analyst
The Human Side Of Tech Careers in the Age of AI: Creative Technology, AI, Leadership, and Navigating Modern Career Challenges



Michael McKerns, PhD | Staff Scientist, Los Alamos National Laboratory
From Summer Project to AI Research: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Scientific Software Innovation



Celeste Matarazzo | Cybersecurity Researcher, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Cybersecurity Research - A Data Science Perspective: From Skyline to Research Lab: Cybersecurity Research, Emerging Digital Threats, and Future Solutions



Engineering and Computer Science Students | UC Merced and UC Berkeley
Undocumented Students in STEM - Experiences Across Campuses: STEM Student Panel on Undocumented Experiences in Engineering and Computer Science



Amada Jibaja | Project Coordinator at Stanford University
Turning Experience Into Impact: A Path to Public Health & Data: Public Health Research, Health Equity, and Data-Driven Community Care

MESA 2026 GRADUATES

We celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of all our students! In particular, congratulations to the MESA students graduating or transferring in 2026!

Julian Affolter | Biology | transferring to San Francisco State University

Assem Alghaithi | Computer Science | transferring to UC Berkeley

Anuoluwapo Amuwo | Biology | Deciding transfer

Andrea Anderson | Neuroscience | transferring to UC Santa Cruz

Myo Aung | Computer Science | transferring to UC Berkeley

Anthony Calvario | Molecular & Cell Biology | transferring to San José State University

Ariana Cerna | Mechanical Engineering | transferring to CSU Long Beach

Samanta Chang | Data Science | transferring to UC Berkeley

Erick Diaz Alvarez | Computer Science: Computer Game Design | transferring to UC Santa Cruz

Jhoselin Escobar Rodriguez | Computer Science | transferring to UC Santa Cruz

Joncarlo Estrada | Biology | transferring to San Francisco State University

Alberto Estrada | Computer Science | Undecided

Bryan Estrada Torres | Mechanical Engineering | transferring to San Francisco State University

Rianne Angelica Garcia | Biology | Deciding transfer

Melissa Gonzalez | Data Science | Deciding transfer

Evan Horne | Earth Science | transferring to UCLA

Jasmin Khuu | Human Biology | Deciding transfer

Christopher Lee | Cognitive Science | transferring to UC Davis

Martha Lopez Beltran | Biology | transferring to San José State University

Steven Melendrez | Electrical Engineering | transferring to San Francisco State University

Aryanna Mendoza | Electrical Engineering | transferring to UCLA

Libni Murillo Martinez | Biology | transferring to CSU Chico

Poe Chan Myayt | Electrical and Computer Engineering | transferring to UC Berkeley

Yuliia Nazarko | Computer Engineering | transferring to San José State University

Audrey Tom | Biology | transferring to UCLA

Aaron Torres Mendoza | Mechanical Engineer | transferring to UC Merced

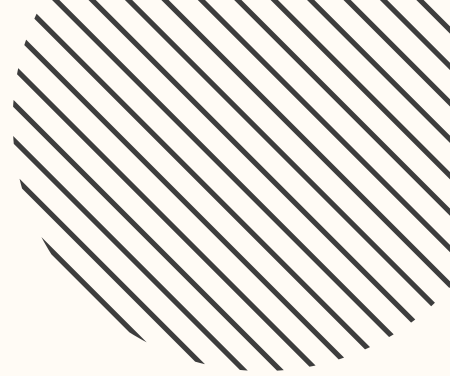
Samuel Wong | Computer Science | transferring to San José State University

Wesley Wu | Statistics | transferring to UC Davis

Rami Zeidan | Computer Science | transferring to San Francisco State University

Tommy Zhang | Computer Science | Deciding transfer

LOOKING FORWARD



SNEAK PEEK AT FALL 2026

June 2026:

- SIRENS: Summer Immersion in Research and Experimentation for Next-gen Scientists

July 2026:

- Wed, July 1, 2026: Applications for the Summer Career Development & Transfer Preparation Bootcamp through CCOP are due. <https://ccop.stanford.edu/bootcamp>
- Wed, July 15: Applications for the CCOP Fall 2026 CORE Internship at Stanford are due. <https://ccop.stanford.edu/core>

August 2026:

- Date TBD: Stanford Field Trip: CCOP Summer Symposium

September 2026:

- Date TBD: MESA Orientation and STEM Club Fair
- Date TBD: Student Research and Internship Showcase

October 2026:

- October 17: Pre-Health Conference at UC Davis
- October 24: Conference for Engineering Development, SJSU
- October 28 - 31: Physics Workshop and SACNAS Annual Conference in Southern California

November 2026:

- Date TBD: Stanford Field Trip: CCOP Fall Symposium

More conferences, events, workshops, university visits, and industry field trips will be announced in the Fall! Stay tuned! Have a great break and see you all soon!

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**MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING,
SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT (MESA)
AT SKYLINE COLLEGE**