



SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**MESA®**

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# Fall 2024 Newsletter:

**A recap of your favorite  
events and more!**



# Meet Ariana



Welcome to MESA, Ariana!

My name is Ariana Martinez and I am the MESA Director at SCC! I am a first-generation college student who grew up in Fairfield, California. I attended Solano Community College, where I earned two associate degrees in communication studies and liberal studies. After that, I transferred to Sacramento State and completed my bachelor's degree in communication studies. I'm bilingual in both English and Spanish and take great pride in my Mexican roots. Recently, I received a Master of Science degree in career counseling from Sacramento State.

Currently, I serve students from a career counseling lens. Prior to working at Solano Community College, I was a Student Support Specialist at MESA Sacramento City College. As a product of the community college system, I'm passionate about ensuring students feel supported throughout their academic journeys. In my free time, I enjoy watching sports, traveling, practicing Pilates, and spending quality time with my family and friends.



# August



## 08/28 - CalFresh Workshop

MESA had the pleasure of collaborating with the Basic Needs program to bring CalFresh to present their services in August.



Students had the opportunity to speak with representatives, collect resources, and even take home some groceries.







# September

## 09/05 - MESA Open House

MESA held an open house to showcase what we have to offer and to welcome new and returning students.



## 09/17 - Give me Liberty. or Give Me Pizza

With 2024 coming to a close with the presidential election, we were able to provide resources for voting students.



On national voter registration day, students came to the MESA center to meet with representatives to guide them on how to turn in their votes. Representatives were also able to help students register to vote.



# October



## Hispanic Heritage Month Events:

### 10/14 - Cafe y Compañía

- Live webinar on pathways to belonging, understanding naturalization, and lawful permanent residency in the US.



### 10/16 - CHISME Y LOTERÍA

- Inviting all students to join in the fun, playing lottery, Celebrating Hispanic Heritage, Culture and Comunidad

### 10/17 - Mis Derechos, Mi Hogar

- A housing education workshop for undocumented students and families.

Presented by Christina Rodriguez





# October



## 10/09 - Altec Representatives

Altec, located in Dixon, had 3 representatives in the Mesa Center to provide insight on what students can achieve with a degree in engineering.



## 10/10 - Grand Canyon University Guest Speaker

GCU visited the MESA center in mid-October to share transfer tips and educated students on the STEM majors they have to offer.

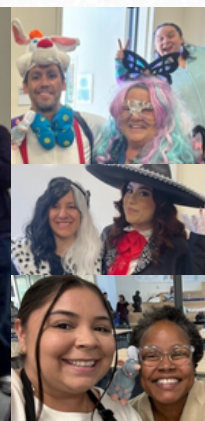
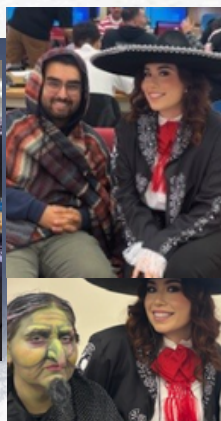


## 10/30 - Sherman College Guest Speaker

A representative from Sherman College, located in South Carolina, visited MESA at the end of October. Students had the opportunity to learn about different paths in medicine, specifically chiropractics.



Trick Or Sweet 10/31







X



## Collaborations:

As MESA, we are very proud that we have been able to collaborate with the Pre-Med club multiple times this semester!



Students interested in pediatrics got the chance to hear Dr. Jeff Garboko's insights on becoming a pediatrician on November 21st. He offered advice on the work and compassion needed for this career path.

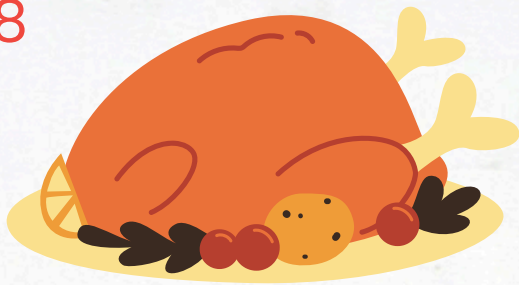
On November 26th, students were able to meet optometrist Dr. John Corpus from Kaiser Permanente. Dr. Corpus provided information on what it takes to be an optometrist from the eyes of an expert.



On December 5th, we had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Michela Molina, a primary care physician at Kaiser Permanente. Dr. Molina was able provide attendees with insights and guidance on med school and the journey it takes to become a physician.







# November

## 11/01 - UC Santa Cruz Guest Speaker

MESA Welcomed UC Santa Cruz to present their STEM majors. Students had the chance to learn what UCSC has to offer and gather more information on transferring.



## 11/02 - PreHealth Conference

UC Davis hold a yearly prehealth conference for future medical professionals can gather resources and network. Multiple MESA students were able to attend and learn more about their future careers.

# December

To prepare for final exams, MESA Teamed up with the Pre-Med club for **Cookies and Cram** in the MESA Center. Thank you to those who baked!



## Finals Prep

The Pre-Med Club presents...

### Cookies and Cram!

Need a study break or help preparing for exams?

Share your favorite cookies—store-bought or homemade—while enjoying a study session with free treats, tutoring, and peer support!

Date: Tuesday, Dec 3rd, 2024

Time: 1 PM - 4 PM

Where: MESA Center Bldg. 1500 Solano Main Campus,

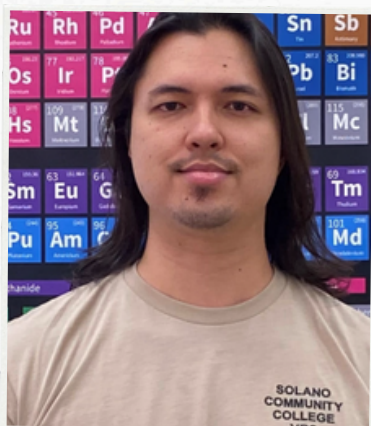


# December

## Meet The Tutors:



To finish the Fall 2024 semester, MESA onboarded two new tutor, Brandon & Romano. They will continue to tutor at the MESA Center next semester.



**Brandon**

**Hello there. I am a Computer Science and Psychology major. I encourage everyone to explore as much as we can about the world and its people across all disciplines, from the maths and sciences to the arts and humanities. I also love to get to know my tutees' interests, goals, and abilities over time because learning itself is a problem-solving process, too. Feel free to ask me anything or discuss technology or music once we defeat your studies!**

Subjects: Math 002,004, 051, 011, 012, 020; Bio 015; and CIS021.

**My name is Romano De Guzman II, I have had experience working with students of all ages, from preschool to college. I am comfortable in group settings or one-on-one tutoring. In addition to English, I am also able to speak Tagalog and some Spanish. If you ever need help, don't hesitate to reach out. I'll be more than happy to assist you! I'm approachable and patient, and my goal is to make learning a positive and productive experience for you.**

Subjects: Bio 002, 015, 016; Chem 001, 002, 160; and Math 051



**Romano**



# Our Fall 2024

## MESA Student Spotlight:

# Camaree McCully

Camaree is a computer science major at Solano. His hard work recently rewarded him with the DXD Pathways in Health Technology Internship through the MESA program.



Camaree is transerring to UC Davis next fall and will be studying cognitive science. His long-term goal is to become a surgeon to combine his passions for medicine and technology.

The "Pathways in Health Technology" internship is sponsored by the Stanford Center for BioDesign and Diversity by Doing.

***Thank you for being an  
Outstanding Student,  
Camaree!***





# ELIZA



My name is Eliza Velarde and I am the MESA Admin assistant. I received my bachelor's degree in psychology. Previously, I worked as a peer coach at Sonoma State University, where I had the privilege of assisting many first-generation students.

Helping students navigate their academic journeys was incredibly rewarding and allowed me to make a meaningful impact in their lives.

I have a passion for traveling and exploring new cultures. I also love to cook, and I enjoy spending quality time with my puppers, Dino and Paco. We may have already met if you stopped by the MESA Center but if not, please stop by! I am happy to help!



# TARYN

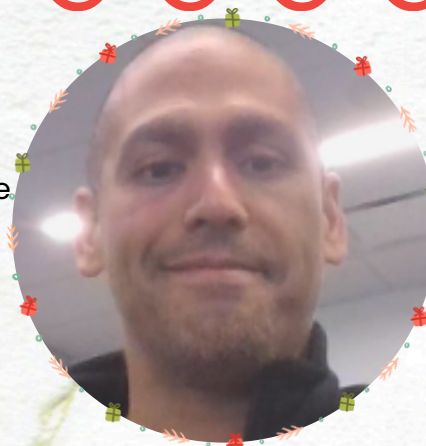
My name is Taryn, and I am a biology student here at Solano. I am also a student worker at the Solano MESA Center. My goal is to transfer to UC Davis in Fall 2026 and work towards going to med school. I am, and always have been, passionate about math and science. If you see me at the front desk in the MESA center, don't be afraid to say hi or ask any questions!

## Spotlight:

While attending SCC this semester, Taryn also attended Phlebotomy school through CalRegional in Vacaville. Through her hard work, she graduated in October and is now a Certified Phlebotomy Technician I.

## MEET THE STAFF

# COM



My name is Commodore St. Germain. I attended lots of community colleges as a student (including Solano, Diablo, and Napa), earned my BS biochemistry and BA chemistry from SFSU 2014, and my PhD in Biochemistry, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from UC Davis in 2020.

I've been teaching chemistry, biotechnology, and genetics around the bay area since 2019. I spend a lot of my time: with my family/friends/dogs, playing video games, watching true crime/anime, exercising, and talking (dreaming) about food.



# AMY

My name is Amy Dauffenbach, I have the privilege of being the Counselor for our awesome program. I have been at Solano Community College since 2000!! (WOW!).

I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and my Masters of Science in Career and School Counseling from Sacramento State. After spending two years teaching English in Japan, I knew I wanted to work in education. I love assisting students in reaching their academic and career goals. In my free time I enjoy being the Advisor for the Intervarsity Christian Club, hiking, swimming and spending time with my husband and cats! Be sure to schedule a MESA Counseling Appointment so we can connect soon



# End of Semester Field Trip **California Academy** **of Sciences**

