



BLACK LIVES MATTER

MESA stands in solidarity with the Black community and is taking action to eradicate anti-Black racism in STEM.

The Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) program focuses on initiatives to improve diversity and retention of historically underrepresented students in the STEM fields, including African American, Latinx/Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and women students.

EQUITY

We believe that race and gender should not be predictors of STEM educational outcomes.

ACCESS

MESA students will have access to opportunities that will academically and professionally develop them into competitive STEM transfer students.

COMMUNITY

Together, we will build and be part of a community that empowers each other.

TAKING ACTION TO ERADICATE ANTI-BLACK RACISM

George Floyd. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. Three more Black lives that have been taken because of racism and police brutality. It is yet another unnecessary reminder of the urgent need to dismantle racism in all forms throughout every system (education, criminal justice, health care, etc.) within our country.

MESA is here because of racism within education and the STEM workforce. We will continue to support and stand with our Black students and hold institutions accountable for dismantling racism. MESA participated in the #SHUTDOWNSTEM day on June 10th and other trainings, webinars, etc. to reflect and take action to eradicate anti-Black racism in STEM at Edmonds College. MESA is developing an action plan to eradicate anti-Black racism at Edmonds College.

This is just the start of an awakening that has been needed for decades. We will be improving and adding services to best support and empower students as new and more needs are arising. We look forward to continue collaborating with students, faculty, staff, partners, and community to make these changes. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the MESA Director.

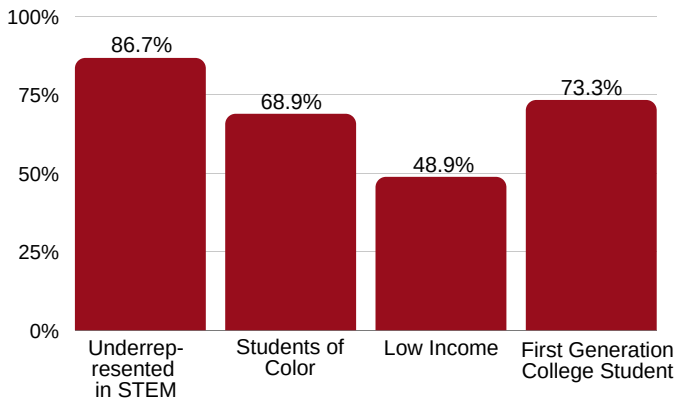
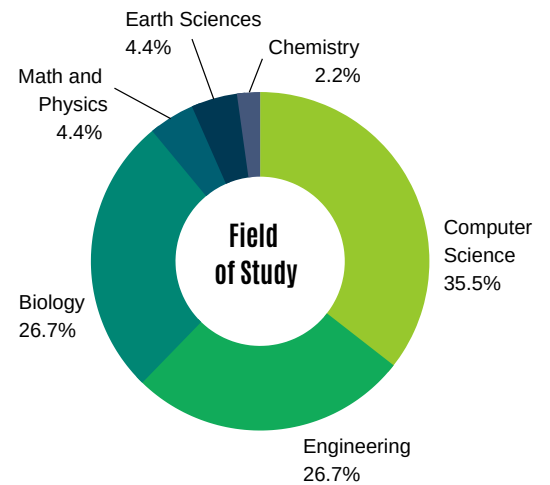
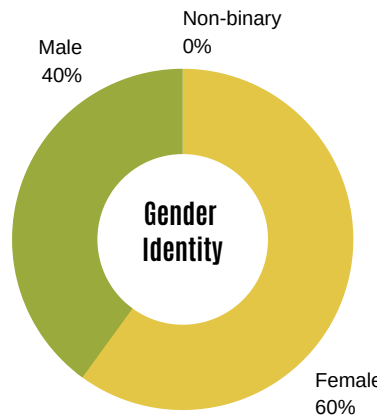
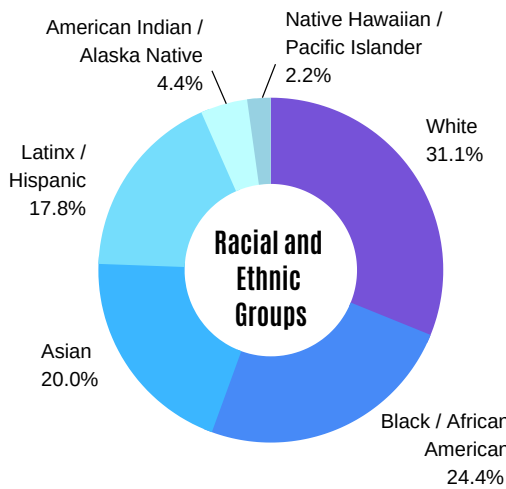
#BlackLivesMatter

IN THIS EDITION

- Who We Serve: MESA Students
- Virtual MESA Student Center
- Women's Empowerment Movement
- MESA Event Highlights
- Recent Supreme Court Rulings
- Where Do MESA Students Transfer
- Transfer Student Spotlight
- Looking Ahead: Edmonds Student Government
- Branding Updates
- Services and Activities Fees Funding

WHO WE SERVE: MESA STUDENTS

During Spring Quarter 2020, MESA served 45 enrolled students. Below are MESA Student demographics.



COVID-19 and the continued murder of African American/Black lives further exposed many compounding systems of oppression in education and society. The trauma of racism, economic impacts, lack of financial support for undocumented students, childcare availability, lack of technology access, and other factors impacted MESA students ability to enroll during Spring quarter. We are working to continue to modify and add program services to best serve students holistically, academically, professionally, and personally as well as advocate for systemic change.

VIRTUAL MESA STUDENT CENTER

Spring quarter at Edmonds College began with classes fully online due to the COVID-19 "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order from Governor Inslee. To help students transition to online classes and continue to provide support, staff moved many MESA services and resources online. The cornerstone of this effort is the Virtual MESA Student Center. Hosted in a Canvas group, the Virtual MESA Student Center features tutorials about how to use different online platforms, virtual advising, office hours, virtual tutoring, and events.



Virtual MESA Student Center welcome banner.

MESA tutors began offering virtual tutoring through Canvas discussions, Google Hangouts, email, and Zoom. Their flexibility and willingness to take on new challenges is greatly appreciated. MESA students preferred live tutoring through video chat over using the discussion boards. MESA students also experimented with different methods of sharing work including a virtual whiteboard and software like LaTeX to show equations and symbolic problems.



MESA also hosted Canvas discussions for other classes (CHEM, ENGR, BIOL) so peers could help other MESA students with questions if a tutor wasn't available.

“

"I couldn't imagine what I would have done if I didn't have access to the MESA tutors to help me during my online classes. I appreciated that they had a variety of hours/days available"

- Taylor, MESA Student, Engineering

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT MOVEMENT

MESA staff collaborated with other partners on campus and in the community to organize the 2nd Annual Women's Empowerment Event to honor women from Edmonds College for their academic achievement, overcoming obstacles, and community involvement.

MESA Alumni Hermione tirelessly advocated for this event to be established at Edmonds College last year after attending the National Conference for the College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), with support from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Thanks to Hermione's efforts and dedication thirty women were honored in 2019.



Since I participated in NCCWSL, I learned women are wonderful, open-hearted, magnificent, and ebullient non-stop achievers. I am proud to help create a program that provides meaningful connections for women from different areas of studies; encouraging them to celebrate the hard work of one another. I hope this Women Empowerment Movement will continue to showcase how empowering women are at Edmonds College.

- Hermione, MESA Alumni

This year faculty and staff nominated twenty seven women students from across campus for their impactful work and dedication, with seven of the award recipients being MESA students. Due to COVID-19, instead of an in-person ceremony, staff developed a Women's Empowerment website and sent out virtual awards to honor these women. These women have made an lasting impact at Edmonds and in the community. Check out the website below to read some of their stories.



tinyurl.com/wempower

MESA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MESA Virtual Kickoff: Connect to Community

To welcome MESA students back for the virtual Spring quarter, MESA hosted a Virtual Kickoff. During this event, MESA student connected and chatted about their classes, hobbies, and how they're dealing with social distancing and quarantine.



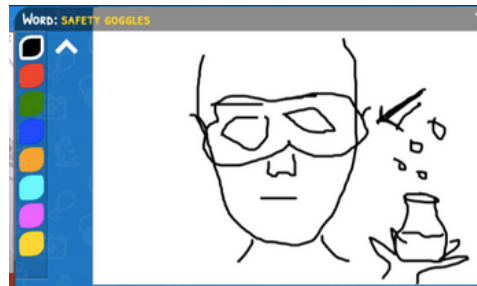
MESA students and staff during the Virtual Kickoff.

Though we can't meet in person, the MESA family is here to continue to support and empower each other. #MESAFamily

MESA Self Care Meditation

MESA hosted a weekly Self Care Meditation for students to center themselves and relax with a guided meditation for 30 minutes. MESA students are struggling with a variety of stressors including childcare, food and job insecurity, learning to manage online classes, and anxiety about COVID-19. This event is a reminder that mental and physical health are equally important.

MESA Virtual Game Nights



Sample drawing from virtual picture game.

To build community and connect MESA students during this virtual quarter, we hosted weekly virtual game nights. These events allowed students to connect in a low stress environment and laugh during a challenging quarter. Favorite online games were: Pictionary, UNO, Charades, and family-friendly card games.



"Game nights were everything. It was a chance for me to take a break from the crazy online classes and interact with my friends. MESA Student Center has been my home."

- Brenda, MESA Student, Informatics



"The MESA game night this quarter made me feel like I am still part of a student body."

- Jennifer, MESA Student, Environmental Science

MESA Boeing Panel

In partnership with Everett Community College MESA, we hosted a virtual panel with four Boeing professionals. We're thankful these amazing professionals were willing to share their time and insight with our students to help them learn more about engineering and the aerospace industry. Overall, 9 MESA students from different community college sites attended and learned tips about getting internships at Boeing and how to make themselves stand out in interviews.

MESA EVENTS CONTINUED

MESA Transfer Connections

In partnership with the 11 other MESA Community College sites and Washington MESA, MESA staff organized a series of events to connect transferring students with resources, current students, and alumni at 4 year institutions. During the first week of June, the MESA Community College Program hosted 8 virtual events featuring panels of current students and MESA alumni at the University of Washington - all campuses, Western WA, Central WA, Eastern WA, Gonzaga University, Washington State University - all campuses, Seattle University, and out of state universities.

Panelists answered questions about student life, tutoring, clubs, and resources on campus. Then students had the opportunity to connect and ask questions. A total of 64 community college students registered for these events. Many students appreciated the candid and open conversation about student experiences at each campus and learning which resources made the most impact on them.

“

"I like how the panelists answer the questions based on their experience, it was very useful and relatable."

- Spokane Falls Community College MESA Student, Mechanical Engineering

“

"We are all figuring things out together! It was wonderful to hear the variation of experiences among the panelists and incoming students."

- Panelist from UW Seattle, Marine Biology

Thank you to the other MESA Community College sites and Washington MESA for collaborating for these events!

STEM & MESA Awards

To honor and celebrate the achievements of STEM students, staff, and faculty during the 2019-2020 school year, the STEM Division and MESA hosted the Annual STEM & MESA Awards. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to host an in-person event, so staff developed an awards website and sent out virtual certificates to award nominees.

Faculty and staff nominated twenty-nine students for department awards. STEM students also nominated ten faculty or staff for Outstanding Faculty or Staff Awards. Additionally, Engineering Peer Mentors, STEM Tutors, and MESA Tutors received special recognition for their contributions.

MESA awarded three students with the Outstanding MESA Student Award for their compassion, involvement, and advocacy this year. MESA also honored faculty members Chuck Mueller and Gabrielle McIntosh for their commitment to MESA student success with the MESA Distinguished Student Service Award.

Several other MESA members were honored by other STEM departments. MESA students are active and valued members of the Edmonds College STEM community.

Spring 2020

RECENT SUPREME COURT RULINGS: LGBTQIA+ AND DACA

During June 2020, the United States Supreme Court handed down two important decisions with impact for the community.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In 2012, the Obama administration announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which granted some legal status to undocumented immigrants who arrived as children. Soon after taking office, the Trump administration announced they would be ending the program, sending a wave of uncertainty and fear through the DACA and undocumented community.

The Supreme Court ruled that the Trump Administration had not followed the proper procedures or offered adequate justification for suspending DACA. Though this is a very limited ruling and there will likely be more clarification about DACA, this is a small relief for many undocumented students.

We hope to see additional federal and state level changes, as well as changes in education, to support undocumented students as many internships, grants, scholarships, and most financial aid is not available to undocumented students.

Undocumented students are eligible for MESA and MESA Scholarships. Additional funding opportunities can be found in our MESA Conferences, Internships, and Scholarships Database. If you have questions about other resources, please reach out to the MESA Director.

LGBTQIA+ Work Protections

This quarter the Supreme Court also ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects workers from discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religious affiliation and national origin, also extends to cover gender identity and sexual orientation. Prior to this ruling, over half of state governments lacked anti-discrimination laws protecting gender identity or sexual orientation, and employees could legally be fired for this. This decision will not end discrimination and prejudice against the LGBTQIA+ community, however, it is a step towards equality.

MESA is committed to serving and advocating for/with our undocumented and LGBTQIA+ students.



Progress Pride Flag designed by Daniel Quasar.

TRANSFER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Dagim Demissie

What university will you be transferring to?

North Seattle College or UW Bothell, Undecided at the moment

Major?

Bachelor of Applied Science in Application Development

What advice do you have for new students?

One piece of advice I could give to new students is, make sure you always show up to campus and engage yourself in activities, either it's a club, group study or chatting with other student at the cafeteria or other places at the campus. This way you'll always be up to date with happenings at the campus and you'll build a great network with other students of your passion/focus of study.

Showing up to your instructor's office hours repeatedly has also a great impact in your academic success, that when you are connected with your teacher and review the lecture materials every day with your teacher, that'll put a strong bond between you and your class and you'll never be lost and that greatly contributes to you academic success.

What research or other projects have you participated in?

I did research about technology parental control systems for a Technical Writing course.

How has MESA impacted you with your transfer journey?

MESA has provided me with amazing resources and the scholarship program has also gave me financial relief in the times I needed it.

WHERE DO EDMONDS COLLEGE MESA STUDENTS TRANSFER

“

"MESA has helped me transfer successfully in many different ways. MESA has helped me financially during times I was not able to pay for things and stressing over money, as well as helping me to succeed in classes with help on work and most importantly I received more information through MESA then ever which I found the most helpful as I don't have anyone in my family that has graduated college."

- Nat, MESA Alumni, WSU Everett Electrical Engineering

“

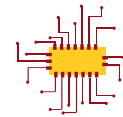
"MESA was instrumental in my success at Edmonds College. I received personal advising for my classes and also through the transfer application process. Most importantly, MESA was a support system of other traditionally underrepresented students also pursuing a STEM degree."

- Ariana, MESA Alumni, Brown University Applied Mathematics



UW Bothell

Majors:
Electrical Engineering



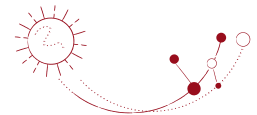
WSU Everett

Major:
Electrical Engineering



Brown University

Major:
Applied Mathematics



UW Seattle

Majors:
Informatics
Computer Science
Physics/Astronomy

LOOKING FORWARD: EDMONDS COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

MESA Student Zambak Colak, featured in the Winter 2020 Community Review, has been selected as the Edmonds Student Government Executive Officer for Administration! We are so excited to see MESA members making change in the Edmonds community and advocating for students.



“

"My goal is to ensure that all students feel welcome and comfortable to share their voice and that not only will it be heard but, that I will advocate for them for symbiotic results that improve our schooling and wellbeing."

- Zambak, MESA Student, Civil Engineering

BRANDING UPDATES

College Name Change

At the beginning of Spring Quarter 2020, college leadership made the decision to remove "community" from the Edmonds Community College name. Over the coming months, documents and signage will be updated to reflect the new Edmonds College name and logo. Leadership believes this change will help students have greater access to opportunities, attract more students, and reflect the new Bachelors of Applied Sciences programs on campus. The college is still committed to maintain its mission of *Teaching, Learning, Community*.

Changing the colleges name does not change MESA's focus on empowering historically underrepresented STEM students as they work to transfer to a 4-year institution and enter the workforce. We are committed to supporting underrepresented STEM students at Edmonds College and advocating for equitable opportunities, policies, and treatment on and off campus. Community will always be a key part of MESA's values and mission. We have also updated our social media profiles and handles to reflect the Edmonds College name change. Make sure you're following us to stay up to date about our events and opportunities!

Washington MESA Branding

Washington MESA, the supervisory body for all MESA Community College and K-12 sites, also updated their branding during this quarter. The MESA logo and colors have been adjusted. Edmonds College MESA marketing and materials will be updated to reflect these changes.



JOIN THE #MESAFAMILY

-  edcc.edu/mesa
-  mesa@edcc.edu
-  [@ECmesafamily](https://www.facebook.com/ECmesafamily)
-  [@ECmesafamily](https://www.instagram.com/ECmesafamily)
-  [showcase/ecmesa](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/ecmesa)

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FEES FUNDING

During Winter quarter, MESA applied for funding for 2 projects through the Edmonds College Student Government Services and Activities (S&A) Budget. After presenting to the Student Executive Board and S&A Fee Committee, we were notified that both projects received preliminary partial funding for the 2020-2021 school year!

MESA Scholarships

MESA requested funding to expand the scope and scale of MESA Scholarships. MESA has a limited amount of funding for scholarships including tuition and fees, books, university application fees, and conference fees. With the additional \$8,000+ of funding from the S&A Fee Budget, MESA will be able to expand scholarships for tuition, books, and university application fees. Additionally, MESA will be able to add scholarships for online course materials like Webassign or MasteringEngineering, which can cost over \$60 per quarter and are required for some STEM courses. MESA Scholarship types:

- 1 Tuition & Fees
- 2 Conference Fees
- 3 Books & Supplies
- 4 University Application Fees
- 5 University Confirmation Fee
- 6 Online Material Access Vouchers

STEM Conference Travel

MESA also requested funding to send students to national STEM affinity based conferences hosted by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and Society for the Advancement of Chicano/Hispanic and Native Americans In Science (SACNAS). Prior to receiving this funding, MESA has been able to take students to local and low cost conferences, but national conferences were not fiscally possible. National conferences allow students to connect with the broader STEM community, meet scientists and professionals that share their identities, and connect with new opportunities.

We're excited to support students these meaningful events that connect and inspire them. These conferences celebrate identities that have been ignored and oppressed, showing students they belong and are an integral part of the STEM community. STEM conferences are being impacted by COVID-19 and we will adjust to accommodate these changes.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Stay Tuned for Exciting Events Happening During the 2019-2020 Academic Year

Edmonds College does not discriminate on the basis of race; color; religion; national origin; sex; disability; sexual orientation; age; citizenship, marital, or veteran status; or genetic information in its programs and activities. The nondiscrimination language is available in multiple languages at edcc.edu/nondiscrimination.

