

MESA COMMUNITY REVIEW

Fall Quarter 2020



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.

ACCESS

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

COMMUNITY

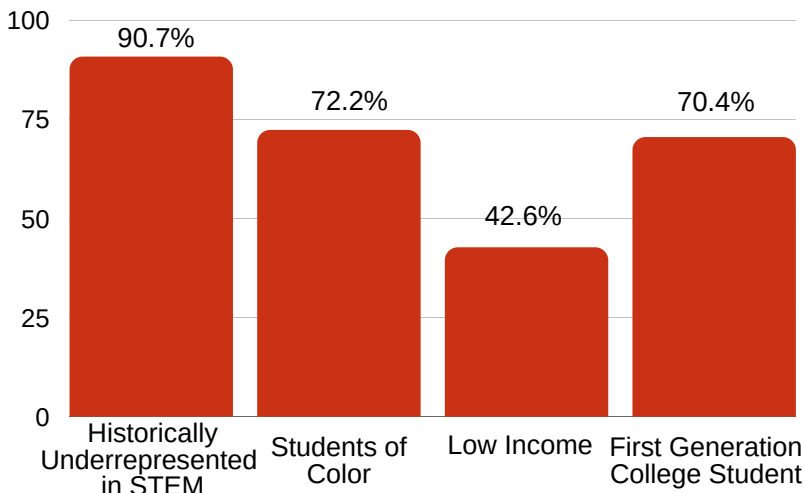
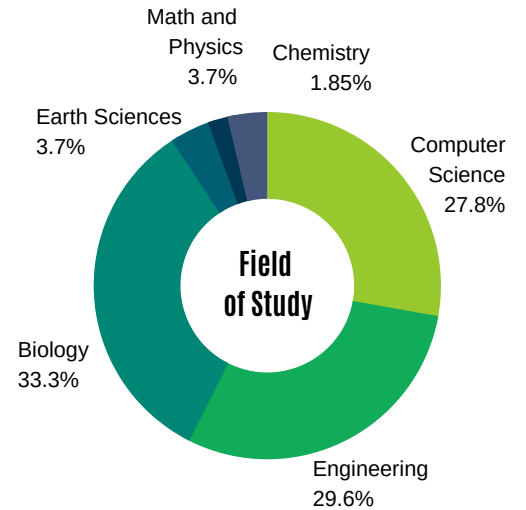
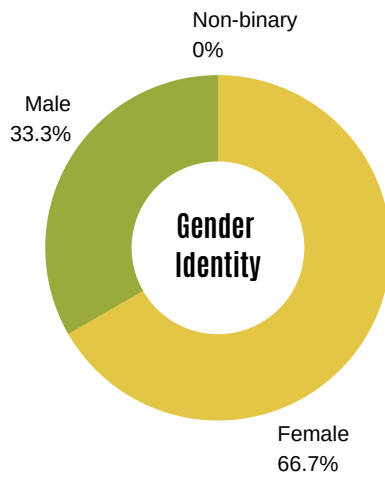
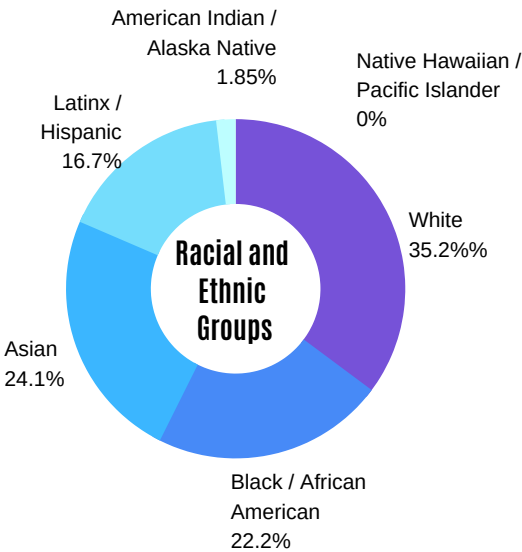
Together, we will build and be part of a community that empowers each other.

EQUITY

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

WHO WE SERVE: MESA STUDENTS

During Fall Quarter 2020, MESA served 54 students.



IN THIS EDITION

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WELCOME

We would like to start this newsletter with an acknowledgement of the land Edmonds College (EC) occupies. We acknowledge that we are on the ancestral land of the Coast Salish People, specifically the Snohomish People. May we always honor the Indigenous people of the land we are on - past, present, and future, wherever we go. If you would like to acknowledge the land that you live on, we suggest looking on native-land.ca or texting (907) 312-5085

Thank you for your commitment to dismantle institutionalized racism, sexism, and other systems of oppression that our students face every day. If there is one thing that 2020 has taught us, it is the need to do just this; for people to come together and take action to denounce and dismantle systems of oppression, specifically racism. Together faculty, staff, partners, and community can continue to come together to remove the barriers our historically underrepresented students face in their academic and career development. For some of you, this will be your first time learning about diversity, equity, and inclusion student support programs. We hope you take the time to grow within yourself and take action to create change.

This Community Review highlights a few MESA events, MESA resources, and most importantly, the students we serve. MESA students are leaders on and off campus, with powerful dreams to solve some of the world's most pressing problems. We are honored to have the opportunity to empower students, close equity gaps, and increase access. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to the change 2021 will bring.

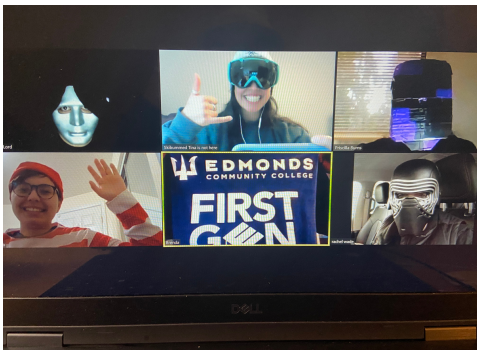
MESA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Virtual STEM & MESA Kickoff

To start the 2020-2021 school year, the STEM Division and ECMESA hosted the annual Fall STEM & MESA Kickoff virtually in September. Students gathered over zoom to learn about the many STEM clubs and resources available both online and on campus.



MESA Social Hours



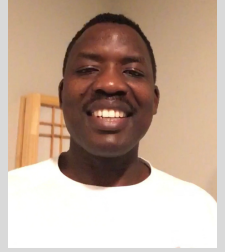
Above: Zoom Costume Contest!
Below: Pictionary drawing

Over the course of the Fall quarter MESA hosted MESA social hours to increase community engagement during this tough time. Social hour events included a Halloween Costume Contest, Pictionary, Among Us, Cards Against Humanity, and an Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest! We look forward to hosting more virtual socials during the Winter Quarter. Join us for fun, laughs, and to connect with the MESA Fam, including new students, returning students, and alumni!



NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Bernard Omollo



What is your major?
Computer Engineering!

What are your college goals?
Get an internship in an aeronautic or astronautic industry and maintain a GPA of 3.5 and above.

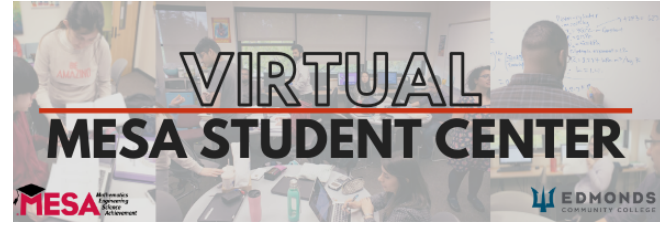
What are your career goals?
I would like to be involved in space exploration, development of artificial intelligence, and research on clean energy.

Why did you join MESA?
During my first quarter, I didn't know a lot about existing clubs at Edmonds, but after speaking to my instructor and attending a class on college resources, I came to identify MESA as the best program based on its goal and the opportunities it offers to STEM transfer students.

What ways are you planning on staying involved with MESA during Winter quarter?
Get engaged in professional development and workshops, attend weekly events, and utilize the MESA student center to gain core engineering concepts with support from a peer learning community.

VIRTUAL MESA STUDENT CENTER

Fall quarter at Edmonds College continued with classes fully online as the COVID-19 Global Pandemic unfortunately continued on. To help students continue to be successful in online classes and 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 continued offering virtual tutoring through Canvas discussions, Google Hangouts, email, and Zoom. Their flexibility and willingness to take on new challenges is greatly appreciated. We expanded our tutoring center to include two more tutors during Fall Quarter, bringing us to 4 MESA tutors: Tina, Jonida, Zambak, and Brooke!

30

**Classes with
MESA Tutors**

150+

**Hours of Virtual
Tutoring**

8

**Virtual MESA
Social Hour Events**

66

**Virtual Staff
Office Hours**

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.

MESA NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Lupita Cottrell

What is your major?

Biology!

What are your college goals?

My college goal is to move on to a 4-year college and then to go to either Med or PA school.

What are your career goals?

My career goal is to work in healthcare.

Why did you join MESA?

I wanted to join a like-minded yet diverse community to connect and network with.

What ways are you planning on staying involved with MESA during Winter Quarter?

Although it would be a lot of fun to hangout with the other MESA members in person, joining in on the Zoom social events will do for now. The Cards Against Humanity social event was entertaining and I look forward to other Zoom events and chatting with the MESA members!

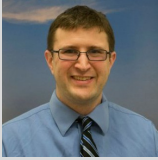


MESA Student Lupita Cottrell joined Fall 2020

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Tucker
Howie**

Department:
Engineering



What is your favorite thing about teaching?

I enjoy interacting with the students and watching their growth. In some ways the best part of the job is interacting with students outside the classroom as it is interesting to learn more about them and their passions. I also enjoy the challenge of teaching complex material and seeing the spark when a student begins to understand the material.

What does it mean to you to support underrepresented students at Edmonds CC?

Engineering is a discipline that requires overcoming significant challenges. These challenges are often overcome when people with diverse backgrounds work together to develop a solution as often a single viewpoint or idea is not enough. Diversity makes us stronger, more adaptable, and more resilient especially in challenging areas like STEM fields. I am proud to support the work that MESA does at Edmonds College as it provides the assistance and guidance to help our underrepresented STEM students achieve their goals and become role models for the students following in their wake. The dream is that one day we won't even need to use the term underrepresented because we will have an amazing, diverse workforce and the students who are working hard today will be a part of that change.

AFFINITY GROUP SPOTLIGHT

EDMONDS COLLEGE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS OFFICERS



Gwen Green

Major:

Technically Physics, but switching to Mechanical Engineering!

SWE Role:

President

Why SWE?

When I heard that the school was starting SWE up again, I was ecstatic. I work as the engineering lab tech on campus, and was blown away by how many unique tools and machines we have available, yet tend to go unused. I'm so excited to be able to expand our engineering knowledge through some fun projects!

What are you looking forward to in Winter Quarter?

Honestly, I'm just so happy to get it up and running. I'm sure everything that we end up doing will be amazing, but watching the growth of a new community has got to be the best part. The people I've met so far have all been wonderful, friendly people with similar interests and goals, and I'm looking forward to working with everyone!



SWE President Gwen Green

Caitlin Downs

Major:

Computer Science

SWE Role:

Vice President of Project Planning and Event Coordination

Why SWE?

I got involved because I was looking to become more involved and work with faculty and other students outside of a classroom environment while still maintaining a focus on my academic goals. I got the update that the Edmonds SWE club was seeking a recharter and I decided to dive in.

What are you looking forward to in Winter Quarter?

I'm excited for all the cool project ideas we've brainstormed so far and I'm looking forward to learning how to make those projects come to fruition so we can all have some fun and get some engineering skills under our belt.



Self Portrait of Caitlin Downs

Jacqueline Resto

Major:
Computer Science

SWE Role:
Secretary



Why SWE?

I have always enjoyed volunteering my time to serve others. As this opportunity became available in its first year at Edmonds College, I was overjoyed in serving as an advocate supporting women pursuing a career in Engineering, as I myself have found the same support and guidance.

What are you looking forward to in Winter Quarter?

I am excitedly looking forward to learning more each day about the world of Engineering. I hope that many will join us and become members of such a wonderful club that empowers women in Engineering. As the Society of Women Engineers motto says, *Aspire, Advance, Achieve!*

TRANSFER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Brooke Burson

Major?

B.S. in Mathematics

MESA Transfer Student and
tutor Brooke Burson



What university will you be transferring to?

University of Washington Seattle

What clubs for organizations were you involved with at Edmonds?

Robotics club (started it and served as president), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), MESA and learning support center tutor, and Math club!

What advice do you have for new students?

It's okay to not know exactly what major you want to pursue. Be curious and explore your options! It took me a year and a half to try out all sorts of STEM classes to finally realized that math was my favorite of all.

What research or other projects have you participated in?

Built a robot at NCAS in Houston and in robotics club. Honors physics research project about UV absorption by the ozone layer.

How has MESA impacted you with your transfer journey?

MESA has provided me with supportive advisors and peers! Watching other students in MESA overcome challenges and transfer to the school of their dreams has kept me inspired and confident that I could also transfer. Plus, Rachel, my primary advisor has been helpful in editing my application, helping me understand the transfer process, and be my overall sounding board when I need to talk something out.



MESA STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ellen
Bradley

What is your position with MESA?

AmeriCorps VISTA Access, Community, and Equity (ACE) Program Coordinator

Why is MESA important to you?

MESA is important to me because it was a program I didn't have access to when I was an undergraduate student at Gonzaga University. As an Indigenous women scientist, I certainly understand what it can feel like to be a historically underrepresented student try to make it through a STEM degree, in my case Biology! I am so excited that Edmonds College has a program specifically dedicated to assisting historically underrepresented students, and hope that I can help reduce the systemic barriers we STEM people face!

What advice do you have for MESA students?

Drop into my office hours so I can walk you through the MESA Airtable Resources database! There are so many incredible internship and scholarship opportunities available to MESA students and I want to help all of you become competitive transfer students!

JOIN THE #MESAFAMILY



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mesa@edcc.edu

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THANK YOU FOR READING

Stay Tuned for Exciting Events Happening During the 2020-2021 Academic Year

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