

MESA COMMUNITY REVIEW

Winter Quarter 2021



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 prepare them to be competitive STEM transfer students.

COMMUNITY

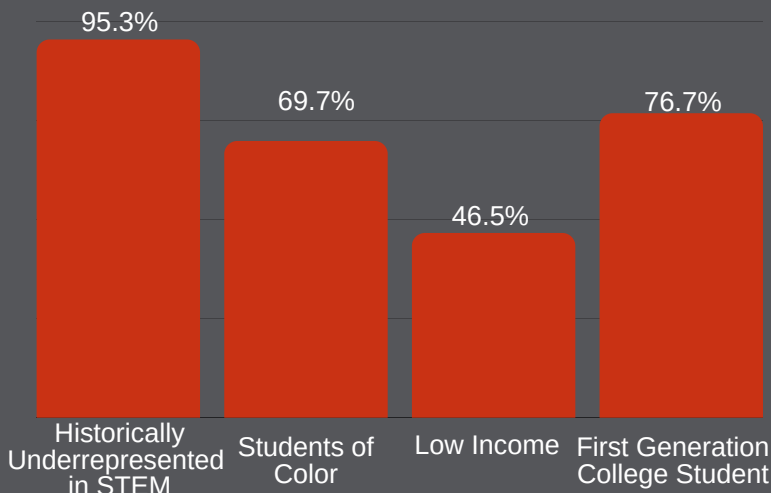
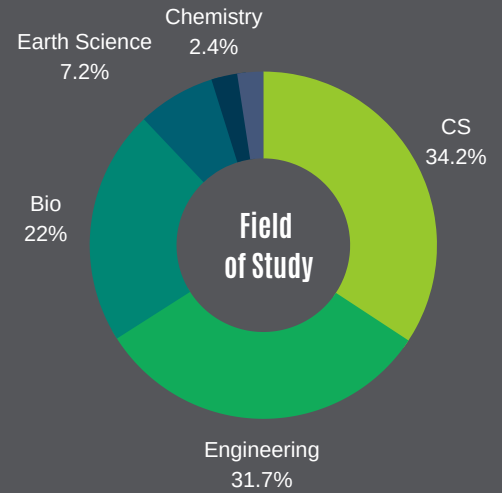
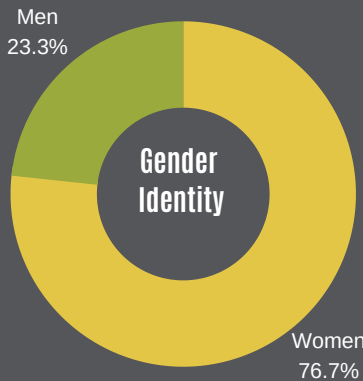
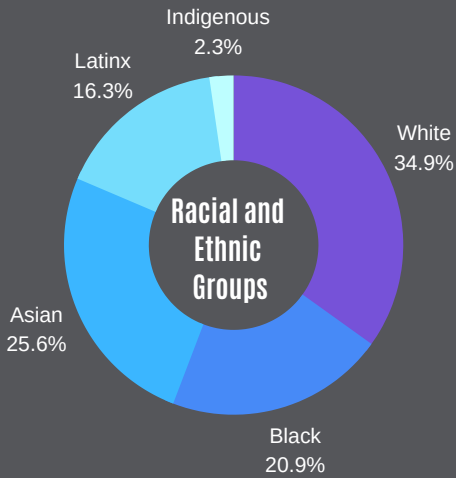
Together, we will build and be part of a community that empowers each other.

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 43 students.



IN THIS EDITION

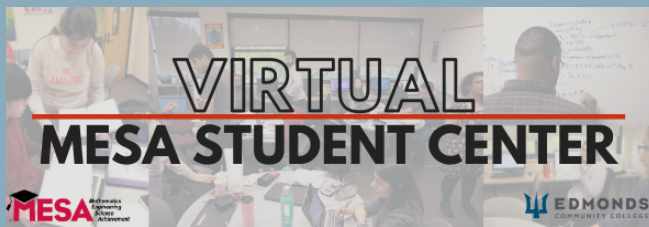
- Welcome
- Virtual MESA Student Center
- New MESA Director Highlight
- MESA New Student Spotlight
- MESA Faculty Spotlight
- MESA Alumni Spotlight

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 the past year 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 community 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.



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.

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 one more tutor and hours on the weekend during Winter Quarter, bringing us to 4 MESA tutors: Tina, Zambak, Brooke, and Feny!

25

**Classes with
MESA Tutors**

130

**Hours of Virtual
Tutoring**

1

**Virtual MESA
Social Hour Events**

50

**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.

NEW MESA DIRECTOR!

Turi Christensen



What is your position with MESA?

I am the MESA Program Director at Edmonds College.

Why is MESA important to you?

People need opportunities to reach their potential. For some, these opportunities readily present themselves through family networks, quality schools, good neighborhoods and neighbors, and other situations. This is not the case for many, though, and that is why MESA is so important. MESA connects students with opportunities. As a MESA Program Director, I advocate for students so that they are included in opportunities that highlight the skills they have already developed and allow them to grow new skills. It is through education and experiences that students are then able to reach their potential.

What advice do you have for MESA students?

Connecting with a community is a sign of strength. Asking for help is a sign of strength. So often, we are told we must do it on our own, and it is true that we all have individual responsibility to take steps to improve our lives. However, individualism is not a healthy, long-term paradigm. We need our community and the sooner we build a healthy, caring community, the sooner we will reach our goals with our mental and physical health intact. MESA is your community. We welcome you and support you. Do not isolate yourself from your MESA community. Instead, go to tutoring, attend office hours, use the physical and virtual MESA student spaces, and don't be afraid to embrace and be embraced by your MESA community.

NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jordan Williams

What is your major?
Computer Science

What are your college goals?
To obtain a Chinese/Japanese/CS BA and a Game Design Certificate from WSU

What are your career goals?
I want to create a video game studio creating games and animation based from African mythology cultures and literature.

Why did you join MESA?
To have a support network to allow me to be close to my goals and dreams of creating a platform for Black cultures in Fantasy Game Design.

What ways are you planning on staying involved with MESA during Winter quarter?
Attending info sessions and following emails and canvas updates along with attending planned event



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Fanuel Abraha

What is your major?
The major that I'm working towards is Computer Science.

What are your college goals?
My goal in College is to complete all the classes I need from Edmonds Community college in order to transfer to UW Bothell. After I transfer, I plan to complete the classes I need to get my Computer Science Degree from UW Bothell.

What are your career goals?
My career goal is to get my Computer Science major and work at a high technology firm like Microsoft and Amazon.

Why did you join MESA?
I joined MESA because it offers unique variety of services that support students like me through our journey to become a competitive STEM transfer student. I love the resources and connections that MESA offers. It is very easy to get lost academically in College. MESA gives students like me a clear pathway towards our goals by providing us with all the materials and resources we need.

What ways are you planning on staying involved with MESA during Spring quarter?
I'm planning on staying involved with MESA during spring quarter by participating in MESA events and by taking advantage of all the resources available for us students.



EDMONDS COLLEGE AmeriCorps

WEDNESDAY JAN. 20 6PM

MESA TRANSFER & ALUMNI PANEL

SEE CANVAS FOR ZOOM LINK

MESA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MESA Transfer and Alumni Panel

MESA Among Us Social Hour

Over the course of winter quarter MESA hosted a Transfer and Alumni Panel, the RiSE & MESA Personal Statement Workshop, MESA Among Us social hour, and the SHPE Resume Review to increase community engagement during this tough time. We look forward to hosting more virtual socials during the Spring Quarter. Join us for fun, laughs, and to connect with the MESA Fam, including new students, returning students, and alumni!

RiSE & MESA Personal Statement Workshop

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Resume Review

AMONG US

Tuesday February 9 6-7PM BRING A FRIEND!

MESA SOCIAL HOUR AMONG US PT. 2

See Canvas for Zoom link

RELATIONSHIPS IN STEM EDUCATION PRESENTS RISE

PERSONAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP

Need help writing your personal statement? Come learn some tips about what to write (and not to write) in your personal statement.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH 1-2:30PM VIA ZOOM
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81705519917

For more information or questions, email rise@edcc.edu

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.

SHPE Leading Hispanics in STEM MESA Edmonds College

JOIN SHPE PUGET SOUND FOR A PRESENTATION ON

- RESUME BEST PRACTICES
- BREAKOUT ROOMS FOR TAILORED RESUME ADVICE
- GET YOUR RESUME READ BY PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK AT BOEING, MICROSOFT, ACCENTURE, AND MORE!

RESUME WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY MARCH 3 4-5:30PM

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

REGISTER HERE: HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SHPE RESUMEWORSHOP

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Lori Hayes



Department:
Biology

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

I genuinely enjoy teaching biology and discussing with students the complexities of the human body, not just because the subject matter is fascinating, but also because it allows me to reach students on a personal level when we discuss the real-world applications of anatomy and physiology. Getting students passionate about biology so that they become life-long learners or even engage in careers in healthcare or biology is a rewarding part of the connections we make with students as instructors.

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

As the nursing club advisor and A&P instructor, I have the privilege of working with students embarking on careers in healthcare. The educational path to a medical career can be long, expensive, and challenging; however, together with MESA we can help students navigate this journey to make that process accessible. Today the need for healthcare professionals is increasing particularly for those from diverse backgrounds. By helping underrepresented students achieve their dreams of becoming doctors, dentists, medical technologists, and pharmacists my hope is that these students will be able to work in the communities bringing much needed healthcare to populations who do not always have access to affordable care and serve as role models to future generations.

NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Jessica Izutsu

What is your major?

Currently, I am working on my Biology transfer degree that will turn into a Restoration Ecology Bachelor's, and quite possibly a Master's.

What are your college goals?

I want to finish this transfer degree at Edmonds and transfer to UW in either spring or fall of 2022 - I am still debating. Funding has a big impact on that decision.

What are your career goals?

My ultimate dream is to own and operate a sustainable, small-scale production farm that has lodging space and community programs so I can marry all of my interests (travel & hospitality and ecology).

Why did you join MESA?

I joined MESA to be more involved in the school and get support with resources in the STEM field, as well as network with peers of similar interests.

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

I want to finish my transfer plan and take some workshops. If there is ever an in-person event, I would love to meet other MESA members face-to-face.



Vianne Bui-Nguyen

What is your major?
Informatics

What are your college goals?

To transfer to UW Seattle in Winter 2022!

What are your career goals?

I would love to use my Informatics degree to become a data scientist. The data science field has seen huge growth in recent years and a career in data science would be the perfect opportunity for me to use my interests in statistics, computer science, and business for good!

Why did you join MESA?

A new friend I made in my computer science class this quarter told me about all the scholarship and internship opportunities MESA had given her. I definitely didn't want to miss out on such amazing opportunities during my last few quarters at Edmonds!

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

I'm looking forward to attending workshops to get help on my transfer application, going to social events on Zoom and making new friends, and taking advantage of all the amazing opportunities that will make me a competitive transfer student!

MESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Athmar Al-Ghanim

What is your major?

I am a running start student thus am aiming all the credits in my General DTA degree towards Psychology.

What are your college goals?

I intend to use my degree in psychology to pursue medical school and finally become a psychologist. I am open to other types of medicine as well, but this is what I am currently considering.

What are your career goals?

Regardless of what career I land on, I want to make an impact on people's lives for the better.

Why did you join MESA?

Knowing the hundreds of clubs Edmonds College has to offer, I chose MESA because the resources and close knit community it provides.

What ways are you planning on staying involved with MESA during Spring quarter?

I strive to be even more active in MESA by engaging in more student activities and using the MESA student center even more than I already do!



JOIN THE #MESAFAMILY



edcc.edu/mesa



mesa@edcc.edu



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[showcase/ecmesa](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/ecmesa)

MESA ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Maria Notario

What university do you currently attend?

I am now in my 3rd quarter of UW Seattle!

What is your major?

I am an astronomy major, I am going to double major in astronomy and comprehensive physics! Just waiting to hear back from physics now.

What clubs or organizations were you involved with at Edmonds?

I was in quite a few clubs at Edmonds but for some reason they didn't really meet? I was in the Math club and bee club. I was and still am with MESA <3, I am also working in the math center and LSC.

What advice do you have for new students?

The best advice I can give is what I learned from being in MESA, which is to reach high, don't let things or doubt be in your way. And advocate for yourself! It is incredibly important to allow yourself to feel and know that you're worth it and you're right where you're supposed to be. It can certainly be difficult at times. But it's important to dust yourself off and get back up if you fall down. Another thing is, surround yourself with good people. Allow yourself to cry when you need to, you'd be surprised how much better you can feel after crying. The last and most important thing that I want to add is although it's important to choose your battles, don't go down without a fight. In some cases where you feel like you will fail a class, try to make it till the end, even if you don't pass you'll learn really important skills and lessons for next time!

What research or other projects have you participated in?

Currently I am affiliated with the GWA group, which allows undergraduates to work with physicists on gravitational wave astronomy and related topics.

How has MESA impacted you with your transfer journey?

MESA was incredibly important to my journey, I can confidently say that I wouldn't be where I am today without MESA. To this day I encourage everyone to join Mesa. Mesa is amazing, I could talk for hours about the difference it has made in my life, including introducing me to some of my closest friends!



THANK YOU FOR READING

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

