

# 2017-2018 Program Review

## MESA

### WCC - MESA Program Recommendations

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**Year of Review:** 2017-2018

**Type of Review:** Annual Update

**Program Description :** The Woodland Community College (WCC) Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program is one of thirty-one MESA Community College Programs (MCCP) in California. The WCC MESA program is one of the endowed programs and Yuba College is an un-endowed program in the Yuba Community College District. MCCP is administered through the University of California Office of the President (UCOP, mesa.ucop.edu) and funded through the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO, www.cccco.edu). The WCC MCCP is funded to serve 125 educationally and financially disadvantaged students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) majors whose goals include transfer to universities/colleges and the pursuit of baccalaureate degrees. The WCC MESA program is dedicated to supporting and increasing the number of underrepresented and educationally/economically disadvantaged students obtaining degrees in mathematics, engineering and the sciences.

The Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges authorized by the State of California to fund only community college MESA program applications that follow the 13 MESA components. The program components were developed collaboratively by the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges and the MESA Statewide Office of the University of California. The program is based on a rigorous academic plan that uses various components to guide and support students majoring in many Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The program's components help build an academically-based peer community to provide mutual student support and motivation. Program components have included: MESA Student Center, Academic Excellence Workshops, Career Planning/Workshops, Student Educational Planning (SEP), Transfer Counseling/Workshops, University Field Trips, Scholarship/Internship Opportunities, Community Service, and Peer Mentor Study Groups.

The primary intent and emphasis as described in this report is to enhance and support the increased numbers of financially and educationally underrepresented students transferring to four-year colleges or universities in STEM majors. The program looks for creative and innovative methods and activities to provide MESA students with the support needed to maintain retention and academic excellence outlined in the MESA grant.

**Executive Summary (Include a list of team members):** This report was prepared by the MESA Director, Deanna Pierro who also serves as the Student Success Resource Faculty. Annual reports and renewals are supported by Student Success Center Office Administrator Secretary, Carid Servin and Dean of Student Success and Institutional Effectiveness, Siria Martinez.

**Program Mission Statement:** MESA aims to provide science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) academic development to educationally and financially disadvantaged students in order to increase academic achievement and transfers rates to four-year institutions in calculus-based majors.

**Industry Trends and Program Data Analysis :** More recently, the demand for STEM majors has generated national attention. Compared to international counterparts, the United States is not producing enough science, engineering, or technology graduates to provide for our current industry demands. In 2009, only 10% of California's college degrees earned were in STEM fields. Even more discouraging for our local community, is that Latino, African American, and American Indian students were disproportionately underrepresented in those degrees.

MESA is specifically designed to combat those statistics, by simultaneously promoting both the increased support for and expectations of its MESA students. According to MESA statewide findings, 97% of MESA community college students transferred to four-year institutions as science, engineering or math majors. Undoubtedly, as we continue to develop our own program here at WCC and track the success of our transferring members, we hope to reflect these impressive results.

**SLO Assessment Summary:** Students involved in the MESA program are expected to receive academic support, information about scholarships, internships, and research opportunities, as well as partake in workshops, field trips and events. Assessment of these goals and expectations are imperative for the continued funding of the MESA program. To properly assess these goals, the MESA Director has implemented several new tools: 1) TutorTrac which is used to monitor center usage and attendance for Study Jams and workshops. 2) Canvas site exclusively for MESA students which allows students to upload their Student Education Plan, as well as track their own completion of the student MESA contract. 3) Survey Monkey which will be used as the platform for student surveys and as a way to glean information about student satisfaction and involvement. 4) Lacai which will aid in monitoring student progress and course completion.

**Future Goals and Program Direction:** In 2016-2017 the Woodland Community College MESA Program successfully met the objectives outlined in the RFA's Specifications, Terms and Conditions. However, there are some additional areas in which the WCC MESA program could improve in order to better serve MESA students. Some of these areas include student support, data collection and tracking, student leadership and engagement opportunities, student internship and scholarship opportunities, and building partnerships with other community and MESA organizations. Thus, the future goals of this program include making improvements in the areas outlined below:

1. Although the WCC MESA Program has been quite successful in growing the program, meeting goals, and launching initiatives, it has been quite taxing for the MESA Director -- whom also serves as the full-time Student Success Resource Faculty -- to accomplish this without additional support. In result, the MESA Director is often working late nights and weekends in order to meet the workload. The additional support of a part-time administrative secretary has still proven to not be enough to meet all MESA mandates and goals. To help alleviate this, we recommend hiring a full-time MESA Assistant Director to help with the extraordinary growth and workload.
2. The seventh objective of WCC's MESA program was most lacking, particularly in regards to partnerships with MESA Engineering Programs and MESA Schools Programs. In order to rectify this, the new MESA Director will be deliberate in contacting and developing partnerships with MEP and MSP programs. The new MESA Director has set the goal of establishing partnerships with at least two MEP and MSP programs by the end of the academic year.
3. Student progress reports and SEPs need to be better monitored and tracked, including GPA, course completion, units taken, etc. To do this, the MESA program has purchased a new tracking program, Lacai.
4. Creating study groups, although largely beneficial, is extremely challenging because of the difference in instruction. Finding a group of students who are enrolled in the same course, section, and have the same availability is time-consuming and, in some instances, impossible. To make this goal more feasible, establishing a cohort model which entails a course map for MESA students based on major is highly recommended, but cannot be accomplished without the help of a MESA Counselor. Because of a number of obstacles with counseling office, a MESA Counselor was not identified until fall 2017. Now having a designated MESA counselor in place, the program should be equipped to create a cohort model beginning fall 2018.
5. The WCC MESA program has gone through a number of transitions, including a new MESA Director. The transition of information from one Director to the next is an encumbrance upon the new Director and the program. In order to facilitate a smoother transition for new Directors, has been working to build procedural folders that house "How to" videos as well as important deadlines, documents, and events. Doing so will ensure that the relay of information is more coherent and the transition is more unified in the future.
6. Lastly but most importantly, MESA is largely dependent upon reliable data which has not always been prominent within and throughout the program. In order to rectify this and to align with the direction of the WCC campus in being data-driven, the MESA program will continue leveraging assessment tools, such as TutorTrac, Canvas, Lacai, and Survey Monkey.

**Feedback (Validation Team Use ONLY) :** For Validation Team Only.

**Are you ready to submit your final program review?:** Yes

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## Recommendation: MESA Specialist

Hire a part-time MESA Specialist to help meet recommendations and program requirements.  
Additional funding needed to support this position.

**Recommendation Priority:** 3. High Priority

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**Year(s) Requested:** 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017

**Request Date:** 12/08/2017

**Supporting Evidence :** This position has been proposed for the past three years. The program has not been able to meet all requirements outline in the RFA which are required for continued funding. Without the support the MESA program risks losing funding.

## Plan of Action

Meet with HR for plan of action with job description (Active)

**Budgetary Impact:** Step range from 1-4

**Timeline/Responsible Party:** Fall 2013/ MESA director, Veronica Torres

**Location:** Woodland Community College - All

**Perkins Eligible:** No

## Status

**Reporting Year:** Pre-2015

05/02/2013

**Recommendation Progress:** Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention

Meeting with HR 4-29-13

Meeting with AI, Vice President, 5-1-13

Discuss budget and positions that best meet the needs of the MESA program.

## Recommendation: Recommendation 1 – Increase Required Personnel

Recommendation 1 – Increase Required Personnel

- 1.1. Paid tutors are needed for the MESA students (MESA students encouraged to be tutors).
- 1.2. MESA Assistant Director needed to assist MESA Director and students in order to meet program goals and rapid growth.
- 1.3 . Re-class current clerical assistant to full-time admin position to help with budget tracking and paper processing.

**Recommendation Priority:** 3. High Priority

**Year(s) Requested:** 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018

**Request Date:** 12/08/2017

**Supporting Evidence :** After submitting 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 annual reports, it is clear that there are a number of areas that need to improve in order to ensure funding. Additional personnel will help ensure that the goals are met and funding is continued.

## Recommendation: Recommendation 2 - Improve data collection and tracking accuracy

- 2.1 Student Education Plans (SEPs) directly delivered to and accessed by MESA Director and support staff via Lacai.
- 2.2 Create student profiles using Lacai profile feature to track students' progress toward completion of contractual agreement mid-semester by utilizing surveys and TutorTrac reports.
- 2.3 Tag all MESA students in Colleague, the campus-wide reporting tool. This will then feed back into TutorTrac; thus, ensure that all data is accurately aligned
- 2.4 Actively gather student transfer information by utilizing alternative forms of data collection, such as social media accounts and modes of informal communication

**Recommendation Priority:** 3. High Priority

**Year(s) Requested:** 2016-2017, 2017-2018

**Request Date:** 12/08/2016

**Supporting Evidence :** MESA grant funding is reliant on accurate data which requires a set of new assessment tools and increased efforts in tracking progress.

## Recommendation: Recommendation 3 – Improve partnerships with

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## community members and related organizations.

- 3.1 Establish at least one new membership each year with a STEM-related organization.
- 3.2 MESA Director will reach out to local MEP, MSP and other MESA related programs and coordinate meetings with program representatives in order to devise a plan to improve partnership.
- 3.3 Have faculty serve as MESA Faculty Mentors.
- 3.4 MESA Director will actively reach out and establish at least two new relationships with community businesses and organizations each semester.

**Recommendation Priority:** 2. Medium Priority

**Year(s) Requested:** 2016-2017, 2017-2018

**Request Date:** 12/08/2016

**Supporting Evidence :** Partnerships with other MESA related programs is one of the goals outlined in the RFA and is required for continued funding.