

College of Marin

MESA PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

August 2024



2023-24 BY THE NUMBERS

75 Members

10 Transferring students

72 Events

10,427 Center visits

MESA tutoring for **16** STEM classes

Weekly facilitated study groups
for **6** STEM classes

7 NASA Interns

All **13** MESA Components completed!

It's been a very busy first year as an official MESA program! We've grown our cohort, hosted many activities, developed all thirteen MESA components, and graduated ten students to transfer universities. We are so incredibly proud of our MESA students and have enjoyed seeing them become more invested in the program and their STEM identities.

In the coming year, I hope to see our students becoming more involved in MESA: regularly studying in the MESA space, meeting with Guadalupe, attending facilitated study groups, etc. I also look forward to meeting with our MESA Advisory Council of students, faculty, staff, community partners, and representatives from local industries. Finally, this Fall we will be taking MESA students to the amazing SACNAS Diversity in STEM conference in Phoenix.

There's so much to look forward to!

-Nicole McIntyre, MESA Director



TRANSFER STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We are so very proud of the MESA students who graduated this Spring and will be pursuing STEM degrees at a four-year university:

- **Diego, Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley**
- **Fayeza, Biochemistry at UC Davis**
- **Isela, Mechanical Engineering at UC Davis**
- **Kate, Chemical Biology at UC Berkeley**
- **Leila, Operations Research at Princeton University**
- **Matthew, Food Science at UC Davis**
- **Omar, Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences at UC Berkeley**
- **Sam, Mechanical Engineering at UC San Diego**
- **Victor, Biology at San Francisco State University**
- **Zully, Business Administration at UC Berkeley**



MESA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MATEUS VENEROSO

My name is Mateus and I am from Brazil. I am a computer science major, actively involved in various programs and initiatives. I am a member of MESA, MAPS, and the IT department at College of Marin. This fall, I will be the IT Coordinator for Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. I started college four years ago with ESLN classes and have since collaborated with NASA on a robotic project and run my own IT company. This summer, I am a CCCI intern with STRAW, where my internship is aimed at increasing racial diversity in the environmental field. Additionally, I am participating in a sustainability fellowship with President Eldridge at COM, where I will collect data from college buildings and plan for the college's sustainable future. Finally, my internship at Point Blue Science Conservation involves restoring the watershed and conducting environmental education and restoration.

MESA has significantly helped me throughout my career, providing me with numerous opportunities, including field trips to universities like LA and the Conference for Engineering Diversity. It has changed my life for the best, and I really appreciate all the support and opportunities it has given me. I plan to transfer to a university in fall 2025 to further pursue my passion and continue making a positive impact. So, now tell me, what would you do for your passion?



INSPIRING WORDS FROM OUR SPRING CELEBRATION

When I first arrived at COM, I failed to find a community. I only saw it as a commuter school. Students would drive into that parking lot, walk to their classes and walk back once they were done. So I followed suit, and for a year, I only focused on my classes and nothing else. In the end, I was burnt out. I started to regret my decision of starting at a community college because I saw it just as a place where you get your prerequisites done for cheap and get out; nothing else.



That is until I joined MESA. Here is where I found that community college is more than just prerequisite classes. I had been thinking that doing internships and research all came later, once you had transferred. I was wrong, and thankfully so.

After attending an informational session for internships at the Buck Institute hosted by MESA, I applied to the program. Last week I finished my semester internship at Buck and I'm going to be working there again this summer. Through experiences such as a local college tour to Davis or a fully funded college tours trip to LA, having discussions with industry professionals, and being amongst students and faculty that share similar aspirations as me, MESA has brought me closer to COM than ever before.



Here is where I found the community that I had failed to find my first few semesters at COM. And for that I would like to thank all MESA staff, faculty, members, and tutors.

-Aadesh Bamane. MESA Student



AAUW MARIN AWARDS WOMEN IN STEM

In May, the Marin chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) generously awarded four MESA members with "Women in STEM" grants. The winners were celebrated for their academic commitment, career goals, and positive impacts in their community.

Congratulations to:

- Donna Garcia Vazquez
- Michelle Gantos
- Isela Sosa Mendoza
- Reva Siu-Masset



MESA'S VISIT TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITIES



Over Spring Break, a cohort of 19 College of Marin students traveled to Southern California to tour potential transfer universities. The group consisted of students from the MESA and MAPS learning communities and the Transfer Club.

We visited the University of Southern California, UC Los Angeles, UC Riverside, and Cal Poly Pomona. While away, the group built a strong rapport, witnessing a Starlink launch in Santa Monica and visiting Downtown Disney, LACMA, and Venice beach.



"The SoCal trip was a really positive experience that allowed me to see campuses I otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to visit. I connected with both graduate and undergraduate students who shared their experiences with me. Not to mention, I got to travel and bond with an incredible MESA/MAPS group. It means a lot now that we're back on campus to see those familiar faces wherever I go, making the STEM space much more welcoming."

-Reva Siu-Masset

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: REVA SIU-MASSET

Hello! My name is Reva and I'm a MESA student majoring in environmental studies and urban planning. Last summer, I got to intern at Point Blue Conservation Science in Petaluma as a field technician, where we got hands-on lessons about ecology and community building practices while helping restore watershed vegetation. As a cohort of local BIPOC environmentalists, it was an amazing opportunity to bring together my goals of equity, STEM, and environmental justice, and I do my best to carry over those lessons.

On campus, I co-lead the Environmental Action Club where we are helping establish a formal sustainability subcommittee on campus. With support from MESA staff and peers, I also founded the Heritage of Asia and the Pacific club as COM's first Asian/Pacific islander student organization. I'm a big believer in the intersection of STEM and people power to get things done, especially among underrepresented population. I'm so glad to have an organization like MESA supporting, not only my activities on campus, but my goals beyond academia. In just the first year that I've been part of it, MESA has shaped my journey for the better by funding my attendance to conferences and hosting study sessions so I can continuously build my knowledge. I'm sure it will only get better from here, so I'm super excited to see what else is in store for next semester!



WELCOME DR. EMILY FOX, MESA FACULTY SPONSOR

I'm thrilled to spend the next year as a MESA faculty sponsor!

I began my education as a community college student at City College of San Francisco (CCSF). Like many community college students, I faced challenges such as working to pay the bills and caring for my sick mother.

I will never forget the semester I performed miserably on my first physics exam because my mother had collapsed the night before and was rushed to the hospital. I had no idea this was an appropriate time to reach out to the physics instructor and ask for an extension, I just went in and took the test. This particular physics instructor had a policy of dropping the lowest exam score, which helps account for events like this in student lives, without relying on student self-advocacy. The support I received from that professor, and the CCSF community at-large, made a big difference in my ability to persist. I spent eight years at CCSF, finding my path, and eventually transferred to UC Berkeley to study molecular environmental biology, and then to UC San Francisco to study molecular biology and biochemistry.

Working as a community college biology professor is my dream job, so I would like to thank all the students for pursuing their education at College of Marin, enabling the dream. My experience with a physics professor that anticipated student needs and built them into course policy has stuck with me as an educator today. I do my best to pay forward the understanding and support that I received to the students I work with today, including the MESA community. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, rock climbing, and playing board games.



COUNSELOR CORNER



Hola!

We are all done with our first year as a MESA program! To me, this is a moment full of two feelings: reflection and gratefulness. Reflecting on so much growth that has happened as a community and within each one of us, looking back at our first days not knowing many in the halls to now being able to recognize others and smile. Gratefulness for being able to learn so much from each other, to share laughs and headaches but always with the purpose of sharing knowledge and growing.

From day one, my ongoing goal has been to build a community within MESA and to learn from each one of you; thank you for your help in continuing to accomplish this with me.

As we prepare to return this fall, I am looking forward to hearing about students' breaks, adventures and (for some) summer courses. Continuing to support student growth and success, we will be introducing the

following:

- Mid Semester Grade Report
- Semester Milestones in CANVAS Assignments

We will be explaining more about these during our Fall Retreat! Can't wait to be confused with you and cheer you on as you explain physics in the MESA center whiteboard!

A quote that I identify with our first year and going into our second:

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better" - Maya Angelou

-Guadalupe Jimenez Martinez, MESA Counselor

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

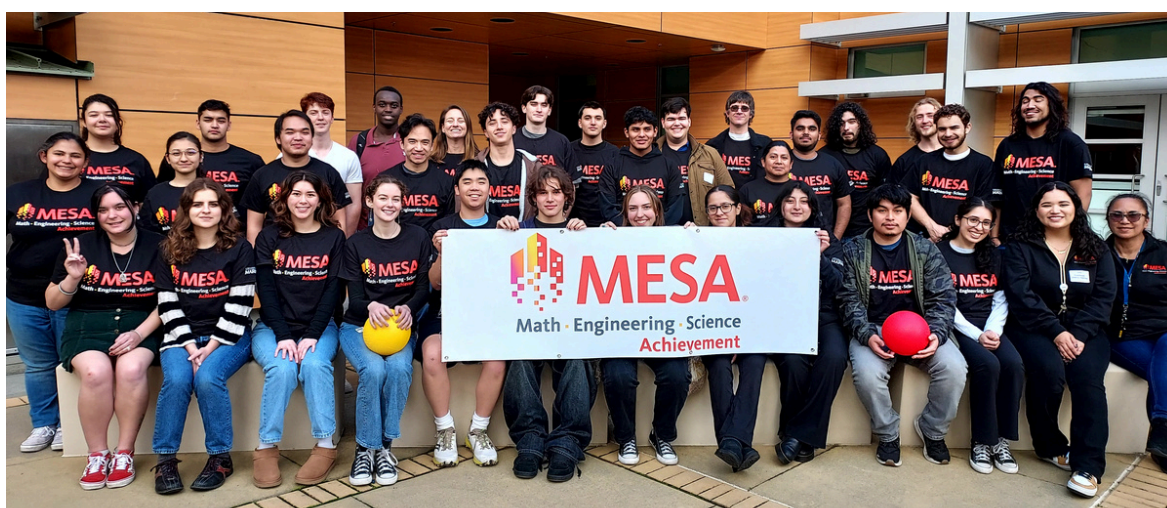
As a reminder, to join the MESA cohort, students must meet a series of eligibility criteria:

- Studying a calculus-based major in a STEM field
- Intend to transfer to a four-year university
- Be a first-generation college student (parents did not graduate with a four-year degree)
- Demonstrate financial need by receiving financial aid (including the California Promise Grant or Pell Grant) or by participating in an EOPS, CARE, CalWORKS, or TRIO outreach program
- Have not previously earned a bachelor's degree
- Be a US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or AB540

Friends of MESA:

Students may join the “Friends of MESA cohort” if they meet the above requirements but EITHER demonstrate financial need OR are a first-generation college student.

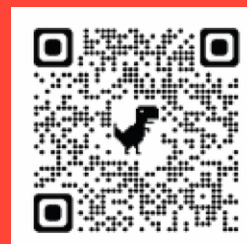
Learn more at www1.marin.edu/MESA or on instagram at @MESA_at_COM



SAVE THE DATES

- 7/17 Field Trip to Archer Aviation in San Jose
- 8/13 MESA Student Retreat
- 8/15 MESA Advisory Council Meeting
- 9/9 MESA Open House
- 9/23 STEM Career Panel w/ The Buck Institute
- 10/11 Empower Tomorrow w/ Novato USD
- 10/19 Conference for Engineering Diversity
- 10/30-11/3 SACNAS NDiSTEM Conference

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