

# MESA/MPS/UndocuSTEM

Newsletter Fall 2025 - Week 4

## Your Week 4 with MESA: Growth, Support & Opportunities!

Welcome to week 4! What's happening this week!

- MESA Transfer Tuesdays!
- MESA STEM Talk-Breaking Barriers: A First-Generation Engineer's Journey from Oaxaca to Innovation.
- Explore Chemical & Materials Engineering at SJSU
- Conference UC Davis Pre Health Conference
- And more!

Explore the opportunities below and sign up for what excites you! Need help with midterms? Drop by MESA for tutoring, study support, and a great community! Let's make this quarter strong together!



## Meet our MESA Ambassador Denise Balaguera!

Hi everyone!  
 My name is Denise and I am a second year at De Anza and Foothill. This is my second year as a MESA ambassador and I am so excited to connect with you all!  
 I am majoring in biology, currently on the pre-med track, and hope to transfer to UC Davis or UC Irvine.  
 I am from Colombia and I love watching sitcoms or listening to music in my spare time. Please feel free to reach out if you want to talk or have any questions! Good luck this quarter!



## MESA Transfer Tuesdays!

Learn about the do's and don'ts, tips and tricks about the transfer process. What does a strong PIQ response look like? How do UC campuses evaluate applications in their admission decision? Everyone welcome!

- UC Santa Barbara-STEM Admissions (Oct 14th @ 3pm- PST Village)
- SJSU MESA & STEM Admissions (21st Oct 1:30pm-2:30pm)
- UC Berkeley-Mastering Your PIQs: Tell Your Story, Stand Out speaker (28 Oct 2025, 1:30-2:30PM, MESA Center S54)

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/odhWMHMDWh5LXP46>



## Breaking Barriers: A First-Generation Engineer's Journey from Oaxaca to Innovation

Rafael's career spans Genentech, Johnson & Johnson (surgical robotics), and now Innovative Sensor Technology in Las Vegas. As a first-generation student and formerly undocumented, he shares his journey to inspire others to pursue their dreams in engineering and beyond.

Date: Thursday, 16 Oct 2025

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

RSVP to Receive Zoom Link!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KsYk2gw331825tqlm9zptxyh5btK2aU7m04fvrIM/prefill>



## MESA/De Anza College Events

### Explore Chemical & Materials Engineering at SJSU

Virtual information session:

Why Choose Chemical & Materials Engineering at SJSU?

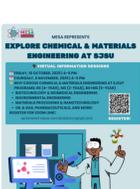
Programs: BS (4-year), MS (2-year), BS+MS (5-year)

- Biotechnology & Biomedical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Materials Processing & Nanotechnology
- Oil & Gas, Pharmaceuticals, and more!

Date and time:

- Friday, 10 October, 2025 | 4-5 PM
- Thursday, 6 November, 2025 | 4-5 PM

Register for Zoom Link: <https://forms.gle/pRhcLcH1avk38VV5>



## MESA Transfer Workshops!

Learn about the do's and don'ts, tips and tricks about the transfer process. What does a strong PIQ response look like? How do UC campuses evaluate applications in their admission decision? Everyone welcome!

- Mastering Your PIQs: Tell Your Story, Stand Out speaker: UCB (28 Oct 2025, 1:30-2:30PM, MESA Center S54)
- 6&13&20 Nov 2025 Drop-in For students preparing Transfer Application (1:30-2:30PM, MESA Center S54)

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/odhWMHMDWh5LXP46>



## MESA FALL CONFERENCES

Below are a few Conferences opportunities for MESA Students. Registration fees and accommodations (when out of state) will be provided by the MESA Program. ONLY MESA Students are allowed to apply. Deadline to register is Sept 26.

For opportunities that have limited space, all applicants will be evaluated, with preference given to students who have participated in the program.

RSVP Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AOidmNxlXgJlqaqWpCv5WZ72KsSpZVjAVDmEcba18Tk/prefill>

- Conference UC Davis Pre Health Conference (18 Oct 2025 at UC Davis), (15 Spots Available)

For more information: <https://prehealthconference.ucdavis.edu/>

- SACNAS conference (30 Oct 2025 at Columbus, Ohio), (8 Spots Available)

For more information: <https://www.sacnas.org/conference>

- Conference American Chemical Society Western Regional Meeting (25-28 Oct 2025 at 170 South Market Street, San Jose, California 95113), (5 spots available)

For more information: <https://www.acs.org/events/all-events/2025-western-regional-meeting-wrm.html>



## MESA STEM Talks presents "From housecleaning to Hardware Engineering"-Rebeca Lopez Valerio (Hardware Engineer @ Cisco)

MESA STEM Talks presents "From housecleaning to Hardware Engineering"

Rebeca Lopez Valerio Hardware Engineer @ Cisco

Hecha en Mexico (Mexican breed), Silicon Valley raised, Rebeca navigated an undocumented status to become a Hardware Engineer at Cisco Systems. She developed her technical background with a degree in Electrical Engineering from San Jose State University while running a sole proprietorship and an LLC.

Where: ONLINE (Zoom Link will be sent to those who complete this form)

When: Thursday, 11 Dec 2025, 6:00-7:00pm

RSVP: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0pk9OS2-3lrxGniUsCsoNW0fwecVTNzwhKbaGircy2QQ/viewform?usp=header>



## External Opportunity

### Santa Clara County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory Presentation

The presentation from Cordelia Willis consists of a 2-hour talk about the forensic work performed in the Santa Clara County Crime Lab. It virtually walks through all the different areas of the lab using photographs and case examples, showing how crimes such as homicides and sexual assaults are investigated.

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Crime Lab Training Room 250 W. Hedding St., San Jose (near Civic Center Light Rail)

For registration: Free & Open to the Public

Reservation Required: Email Cordelia Willis at [cwillis@lab.sccgov.org](mailto:cwillis@lab.sccgov.org)



## SLAC's Community College Internships

Looking for a summer internship? Come learn about SLAC's Community College Internships! Our internship programs are designed to provide interns with stimulating, real-world work experiences. Interns can work up to twelve weeks from May until September, depending upon department needs and school schedules.

Date: Tuesday, 4 November 2025

Time: 1:30-2:30 PM

Location: S55 PST Village

How to apply and for more information: <https://careers.slac.stanford.edu/slac-summer-internship-program>



## Research-Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunities at C-GEM!

You are invited to apply to C-GEM's Summer Undergraduate Research Program (C-GEM SURP) where you will have the opportunity to perform cutting-edge research under the mentorship of seasoned scientists.

C-GEM is seeking to expand the chemistry of the proteome, and projects span the chemistry-biology interface, including projects in organic synthesis, mass spectrometry, directed evolution, and structural biology. The program provides housing and board, a generous stipend, and support for travel to and from the research site. No prior research experience is required to participate!

Applications are due February 1st

Registration: <https://www.jotform.com/form/252316868865168>

For more information: <https://gem-net.net/join/undergrads/>



## Info Session-Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunities at C-GEM

Join us for an information session/Q&A in November to learn more about the details of the program and how to write a competitive personal statement for your application.

Date and Time: Thursday, November 6, 2025, 12-1 PM PT

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 3-4 PM PT

RSVP Info-Session: <https://airtable.com/appTCe1HhOERRZYIA/paguMqH2TYUdyMoR/form>



## Research Program-Lamat REU Program

The Lamat REU program participants engage in inquiry-based learning in astronomy and planetary sciences using state-of-the-art astrophysical simulations as a common pillar. We accept applications from all undergraduate students, but we particularly encourage students from community colleges to apply.

- Summer Program: June 22 - August 14, 2026
- Application Deadline: Monday, December 1, 2025 (PST)
- How to apply and for more information: <https://lamat.science.ucsc.edu/students/>

Questions? Contact Deana Tanguay, Managing Director: [dtanguay@ucsc.edu](mailto:dtanguay@ucsc.edu)



## Sierrathon - The PCB Design Challenge

Put your PCB skills to the test! Sierrathon is not your average design competition, it's a high-energy, fast-paced challenge where engineering students tackle a real-world PCB design problems under pressure. Over the course of one intense day, teams will simulate the design process, earning points for accuracy, efficiency, and innovation. The team with the highest score takes home the Sierrathon Champion title!

Competition details

Venue: San Jose State University, Room 285

Date: Saturday, November 22nd

Duration: One full day from 9 AM to 5 PM (~8 hours, including breaks and awards)

Teams: 1-5 students per team

Only students with basic PCB design skills will be qualified to sign up.

Registration and for more information: <https://www.protoexpress.com/event/sierrathon/>



## MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for potential STEM opportunities? Check out these websites

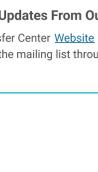
- [REU Finder for STEM undergraduates](#)
- [STEM Community College Resource](#)

## Get Updates From Our Transfer Center

Transfer Center [Website](#)

Join the mailing list through [this form](#).

## FEATURED @ DE ANZA



**Math, Science & Technology Resource Center (MSTRC)**  
Need some extra support? Stop by the MSTRC for additional tutoring and resources!

**Tutoring Subjects**

- Math
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Engineering

**Services Offered**

- [Drop-In Tutoring](#)
- [Weekly Individual Tutoring](#)
- [Group Tutoring](#)
- [In-Class Tutoring](#)
- [Workshops](#) (back by popular demand!)
- [Math Review and Preparation](#)
- [Math Modules](#)
- [Study Skills](#)



**UNDOCUSTEM**  
UndocuSTEM aims to support undocumented students in the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) through **accessibility, opportunity, and resources** by creating a program that **promotes equity, racial justice, leadership, and career development**. The UndocuSTEM Program was founded by students, and funded through the **LatinXCEL** grant from the **Silicon Valley Community Foundation**.

Arlyne - an UndocuSTEM Research Intern - who has worked together with volunteers to create an **excel sheet to track all the available internships** from this Fall. Take a few minutes to check it out!

**Connect with UndocuSTEM!**  
[Instagram](#)  
[Discord](#)  
 Email: [da.undocustem@gmail.com](mailto:da.undocustem@gmail.com)



**SACNAS (Society for Chicano and Native Americans in the Sciences)**  
De Anza College is in the process of getting a SACNAS Chapter. If you are interested in joining, **please fill out this interest form**

Yvette Alva-Campbell  
Yvette is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters