

# MESA's Fall Travels



Four Clark College MESA students attended the National Diversity in STEM Conference in Phoenix.

Our MESA scholars had a busy fall term attending conferences, transfer fairs, internship info sessions, and workshops. Below is a list of MESA activities during fall term and upcoming opportunities in 2025.

## ***October 30: November 2: National Diversity in STEM Conference in Phoenix, AZ***

Four Clark College MESA students attended the nation's largest multidisciplinary and multicultural STEM diversity event. It was presented by the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science. Students were immersed in cutting-edge research, professional development, keynote sessions, and the Academic & Career Expo. The experience equipped them with valuable skills, scholarship information, and networking opportunities.



These Clark MESA students participated in the STEM Research & Transfer Fair in Seattle on November 14.

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***November 19: WSU Vancouver Workshop***

MESA hosted an Admissions and Financial Aid workshop with WSU Vancouver counselors. The sessions covered transfer admissions, scholarships, and financial aid, with one-on-one assistance with WSU Vancouver counselors.

***November 20: Introduction to Success Coaching***

In partnership with Clark College's Student Success Coaching program, we offered a session to connect MESA scholars with the college's Success Coaches who offer personalized guidance to help them navigate coursework, college life, and long-term academic planning.

***November 26: MESA Giving Event in Clark's MESA Center, STEM Building***

A gathering with games, food, and crafts for MESA scholars to build community, relax, celebrate their progress, and prepare for their finals.

***December 3: Summer Health Professions Education Program Webinar***

MESA hosted a webinar in collaboration with the Summer Health Professions Education Program for students to learn about its summer internships and application process. This transformative summer experience offers students opportunities to explore careers in medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and public health.

***December 5: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Community College Internships Info Session (virtual)***

MESA hosted a virtual info session with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory in Richland, Washington about its Community College Internships. MESA Scholars learned about paid internships for Summer 2025, key application dates, and the application process.

***December 12: Transfer Student Preview Day at University of Washington, Seattle***

MESA scholars attended University of Washington's Transfer Student Preview Day, designed for prospective transfer students to explore programs, services, and connect with academic departments. The UW College of Engineering hosted a lunch and info session just for MESA engineering students! It was attended by students from Clark, Columbia Basin, Edmonds, Everett, Highline, and Green River community colleges.

***December 13: Internship & Scholarship Application Work Session, Clark MESA Center***

MESA Scholars are invited to join their MESA peers for a focused session to work on their applications for internships and scholarships. With deadlines fast approaching for many of these opportunities, it is the perfect time to get started before heading out for winter break. Food, coffee, and snacks were provided to keep students energized as they work.

# Coming in 2025

January 9, 2025 : ISB Summer Internships Info Session



In partnership with the Institute for Systems Biology, MESA will host a virtual info session for students to learn about ISB's summer internships and why it's important for students to engage and participate in these experiences. ISB offers various internships for students interested in biology, chemistry, computer science, information science, applied mathematics, and engineering. ISB is an internationally renowned nonprofit institute in Seattle, which is dedicated to



studying and applying systems biology to unravel biological complexity.

***January 14: Health Sciences Career Panel***

In partnership with The Mentoring Project, we are excited to host a virtual health sciences career panel that offers MESA Scholars an opportunity to explore diverse health sciences careers. Students will gain valuable insights from experienced professionals and will ask the professionals questions during a Q&A session.

***January 25, 2025: Silicon Forest Tech Summit, Hillsboro, Oregon***

MESA plans to take several students to the Silicon Forest Tech Summit. The summit brings together the entire tech ecosystem, uniting emerging tech startups, established corporations, innovative technologists, and educational institutions. Students will have the opportunity to explore emerging tech, gain insights into advanced manufacturing, discover exciting career opportunities in the tech industry, and network with other students and professionals.

***January 28 & February 19: WSU Vancouver Office Hours for MESA Scholars, MESA Center***

We've partnered with WSU Vancouver and their admissions department to host office hours for MESA Scholars. WSU Vancouver's Admissions Counselor, Laura Arellano-Karki, will be available to meet with students and support them through the transfer admissions process, including completing their admission application.

***February 4: Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center Visit, Seattle***

MESA will be taking students to the Fred Hutch Cancer Center to explore cutting-edge research, discover exciting internship opportunities, and learn about careers in cancer research and

health sciences, participate in hands-on lab activity and tour lab facilities. Fred Hutch is renowned for its groundbreaking work in cancer treatment and its impact on both cancer and infectious diseases worldwide. As an independent organization, Fred Hutch also serves as the cancer program for University of Washington Medicine.

***February 21: Portland State University Campus Visit, Portland, OR***

MESA Scholars will visit PSU to explore their transfer options, learn about PSU academic programs, admissions, transfer process, financial aid, and to tour the campus.

***March 5-9, 2015: Annual National Society of Black Engineers Convention, Chicago, Ill.***

The NSBE Convention will gather students and professionals to promote Black excellence in engineering. The NSBE mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. Clark's MESA program plans to take several scholars to participate in this impactful event.

***March 14, 2025: iFLY STEM Field Trip and Indoor Sky Diving, Portland, OR***

We will be participating in a fun indoor skydiving experience at iFLY Portland! iFLY offers STEM visits including learning about the engineering and physics behind their state-of-the-art wind tunnel. Students will participate in an immersive, hands-on lab activity before experiencing the thrill of indoor skydiving.

## **MESA Q & A**

***Q: What is MESA?***

***A:*** MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) is a national

program designed to increase the number of historically underrepresented populations to succeed in STEM fields. This includes African American, Native American, Latino/Hispanic, and Pacific Islander/Hawaiian and women community college students who transfer to universities and earn STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) bachelor's degrees.

***Q: When did Clark College begin its MESA program?***

***A:*** Clark College began its MESA program during the 2018-19 academic year.

***Q: How many Clark College students participate in MESA?***

***A:*** Clark's program can serve up to 100 students. It currently serves more than 60 students.

***Q: Where is the MESA Center at Clark College?***

***A:*** Clark College has a dedicated MESA Center in the STEM building for studying and creating community, as well as opportunities for mentorship, assistance with books and fees, conference participation, campus visits, and more.

## **Learn more about MESA**

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- Book an appointment with MESA Director Román Lara [here](#).