Dear MESA Director,

On behalf of Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), welcome to the MESA family. You are embarking on an assignment that will be both challenging and gratifying.

MESA is one of the largest programs in the state to support educationally disadvantaged students so they can graduate from college with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees. You are now a part of a strong network of educators in California that supports those students’ aspirations and futures.

That network includes more than 65 other center directors across the state who serve more than 28,000 middle school, high school, community college and four-year college students. The collaboration among these educational segments follows the “One MESA” approach that makes the program so effective. California MESA is also the model for MESA programs in more than a dozen other states.

MESA’s strong partnerships with industry and legislators are other large motivators behind its success. Through industry collaboration and advocacy efforts, MESA educates elected officials and works with representatives in STEM sectors to further opportunities for our students.

MESA directors and statewide staff also collaborate and connect through two in-person meetings per year as well as various conference calls and webinars.

I encourage you to reach out to your fellow MESA directors for guidance and best practices. Many have dedicated long years to MESA and have the successful alumni to show for it. Please look to the MESA Statewide Office staff, including me, as resources for this exciting and fulfilling position.

If you haven’t already done so, please contact MESA Statewide Program Coordinator, Rita Torres at [rita.torres@ucop.edu](mailto:rita.torres@ucop.edu) (for pre-college, community college and university-level) and/or the Academic Affairs division at the Community College Chancellor’s Office, Debbie Velasquez at [dvelasqu@cccco.edu](mailto:dvelasqu@cccco.edu) (for community colleges) to schedule a new director’s orientation.

Sincerely,

Juanita Muñiz-Torres

Interim Executive Director

Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement