Providing a solution for California’s workforce needs

California faces a technical workforce crisis.

- The Labor Secretary projects a state shortage of 25,000 technical workers by 2016.
- Latinos, African Americans and American Indians comprised 43.7% of California’s population, but received only 13% of all science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees, the worst gap among all 50 states. At the same time, Latinos are the fastest-growing group in the state.
- Only Mississippi ranks lower than California in 8th grade science and math proficiency.

MESA offers a successful and cost-effective solution.

- 53% of MESA’s pre-college students who go on to college become STEM majors. Most are from among California’s lowest-performing schools.
- 97% of MESA’s community college students who enroll in four-year institutions transfer to universities as STEM majors. MESA also supports university-level educationally disadvantaged students who are engineering or computer science majors.
- MESA’s state funding allocation averages $207 per student—far less than the average $3,252 per participant spent through the Upward Bound and TRIO programs.
- MESA is supported by companies such as AT&T, Chevron, Hewlett-Packard, Pacific Gas and Electric, Sempra, Verizon, private foundations and federal sources.
- MESA has been replicated in over a dozen states.