March 4, 2014

MSP SITE DIRECTORS / PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS / CAMPUS FISCAL OFFICERS

Dear Colleagues:

Attached you will find the Request for a MESA pre-college site MESA Program Plan (MPP) for the three year period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. The packet includes nine documents:

- MPP Narrative Guidelines (MS Word)
- 2014-2015 Cover Sheet
- Budget Documents (MS Excel):
  - Part A & B Templates (Projected Cash & Matching Funds. Projected Dollar Equivalency of In-Kind/Cost-Share Contributions)
  - Budget Narrative Template (MS Word)
  - Budget Narrative Example
- School Information Template 2014-2015 (MS Excel)
- Goals Overview Template (MS Word)
- Industry Advisory Board Profile Template (MS Word)
- MESA Logic Model

If you do not find all nine documents, please immediately contact Rita Torres at 510-987-0221. (This information will also be posted in the MSP Staff Section of the MESA Statewide website on March 10, 2014.) One other Appendix is requested but that is of your own format.

Overview: The current State of California budget is considerably improved yet we expect the impact on MESA and other student development programs to be limited. We are planning for a flat budget year – no loss of funding but no increase – at the state level. Within the University of California Office of the President, we have been told to prepare for some restructuring and reduction. We intend to handle any cuts in the Statewide Office and avoid any contract reductions to center budgets. Although we do not know what the exact amount of available funds will be for 2014-2015, we do know we must continue our work at the highest level our funding allows. We must continue to plan for the future.

While our budget situation has stabilized somewhat, MESA is also at the implementation stage of a three-year strategic planning process. The direction dictated in that plan will affect the context for our 2014-2017 MPP. The connection between center plans and the strategic plan must be clear and there have been modest changes in outcomes to support strategic outcomes as well. Please read the instructions for each section of the MPP carefully and respond to what is asked in this version of the MPP.

Availability of funding and number of sites: The number and amount of awards for MESA sites has always been dependent on the availability of funds. For the upcoming three year period, we expect that, depending upon availability of funding, we may be able to continue to fund the present number sites at amounts up to the 2013-2014 level. Field Station applicants should plan on serving 4-6 middle and high schools and full Sites should plan on serving 8-14 middle and high schools with our
recommendation to serve minimums of 40 students per middle school and 80 students per high school. As usual, funding derived from MESA Statewide cannot directly support K-5 school programs.

While we do not expect this to happen, as always, it is possible that funding levels could become so low that it would be necessary to reduce the number of current centers (and/or the amount of support for each) in order for MESA to remain a viable statewide program. If this happens at any point before or during the next three year contract period, the MESA Statewide Office, in coordination with the MESA Intersegmental Steering Committee, will re-evaluate all submitted MPPs and progress to date to make funding decisions based on the comparative rigor and strengths of all centers. Should there be an increase in MESA funding during this period, a similar process will be used to allocate additional resources.

**How Centers will be evaluated:** The Governor’s proposed budget recommends MESA funding for FY2014-2015 remain stable. However, two additional factors influence the final allocations to centers. First, the final budget, when signed, may reflect the legislature’s attitude toward the programs as well and second, the combination of past reductions with inflation over the years has significantly reduced the buying power of the MESA contract dollar. Therefore, we may not be able to issue contracts for comparable amounts to FY2013-2014 and/or to all the current sites. **Knowing this, bear in mind that your FY2014-2017 MPP may be competitively re-evaluated on an annual basis.**

At this time, if requested, Centers should be prepared to address contingency plans for operations that would maintain a MESA presence in the school districts served. MESA would clearly benefit from having as many centers open as possible but the level of operation will depend on amount of available funds, local support and resources, and what is considered a necessary and appropriate level of service for students.

**New Centers:** Requests to establish new centers using state funds will not be considered for 2014-2017.

We look forward to receiving your completed MESA Program Plan on or before April 25, 2014. Please contact Juanita Muniz-Torres at 510-987-9381 or juanita.muniz-torres@ucop.edu, or Rita Torres at 510-987-0221 or rita.torres@ucop.edu with any questions you may have about the MESA Program Plan. Thank you for your continued dedication to MESA.

Sincerely,

Oscar F. Porter, Ph.D.
Executive Director
California MESA

cc: Director Muñiz-Torres, MESA Coordinator Torres, MESA Manager DeMattos, UCOP