10th Annual Student Leadership Conference
“Future STEM Leaders, powered by MESA”
October 18-19, 2013 • Marriott Mission Valley - San Diego, CA

Thirteen San Diego City College MESA Program students attended the recently completed MESA Student Leadership Conference (SLC), held for the first time in San Diego. Sponsored by MESA industry partners and held each fall, SLC is a one-and-a-half day Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) undergraduate student development conference.

**SLC PURPOSE** - SLC is an opportunity for MESA students to develop the "soft skills" necessary to successfully transition from college to professional careers. Participating SLC students:

- Explored career opportunities
- Practiced their collaboration and problem solving skills
- Enhanced their oral, written, presentation and communication skills
- Developed interview skills

Industry partners held workshops, provided event speakers, conducted mock interviews and identified candidates for internship and full time STEM positions.

**SLC ATTENDANCE** - SLC was attended by:

- 204 selected MESA science, engineering and mathematics undergraduate students
- Over 30 MESA center directors from throughout the state
- MESA alumni from throughout the country
- Industry and government agency representatives

Distinguished SLC speakers included California State Senator Mark Wyland (38th District), Ignacio De La Torre – AT&T Regional Vice President, and Dr. Carlos Rodriguez – STEM Education and Workforce Research Scientist. Students were selected by their MESA directors based upon their demonstrated potential to be future leaders for their college, the MESA program, their community and ultimately, their professional field.

**2013 MESA Awards**

- MESA Champion: Southern California Gas
- Distinguished MESA Alumnus: California State Senator Alex Padilla (20th District)
- “Careers in Energy” Video Challenge Champions: Alejandra Martinez & Atl Arredondo – San Diego City College

*Photo by José Islas – Southwestern College

*Front row (l-r): Fatimata Sanogo, Maria-Victoria Charles (City College MESA Alumna) – Pratt & Whitney Aeropower, Silvia Morales – SDG&E, Lisa Zelkind – SDG&E, Alejandra Martinez, Diana Miranda

*Back row (l-r): Rafael Alvarez – MESA Program Director, Mauricio Marquez, Gilbert Magallon, Atl Arredondo, Joel Gomez, Marikris Racho, Leny Diaz, Jessenia Lara, Justino Guerrero, Bryan Vader, Jose Luis Ramirez*