

# **#EquityAvengers – Centering Students of Color**

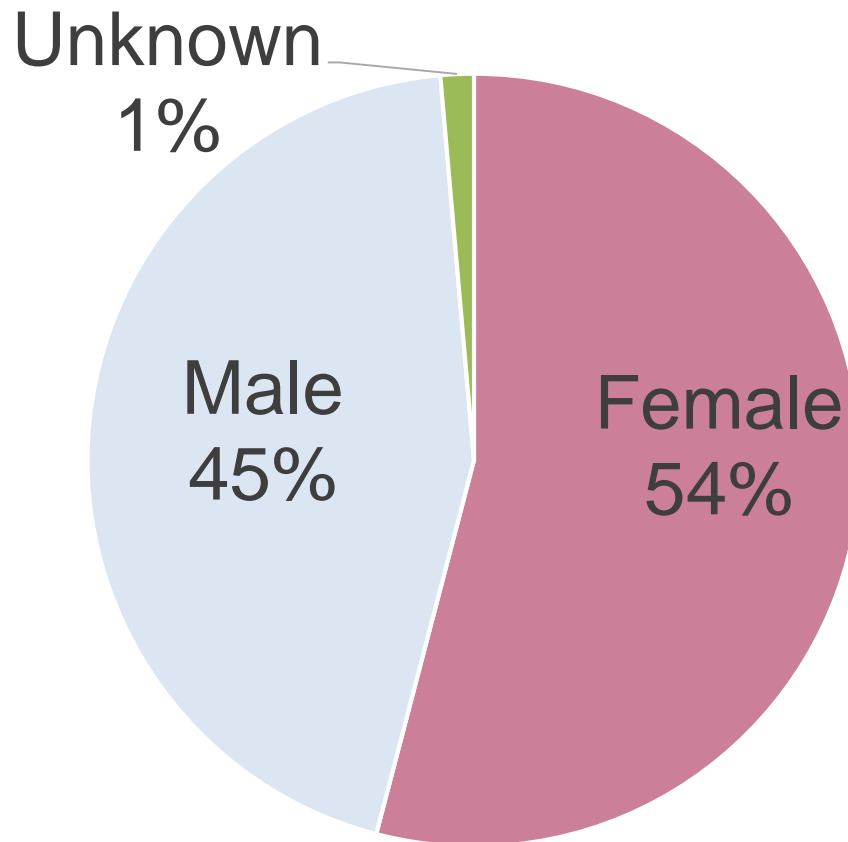
Keith Curry, Ed.D., President/CEO, Compton College

Pamela Luster, Ed.D., President, San Diego Mesa College

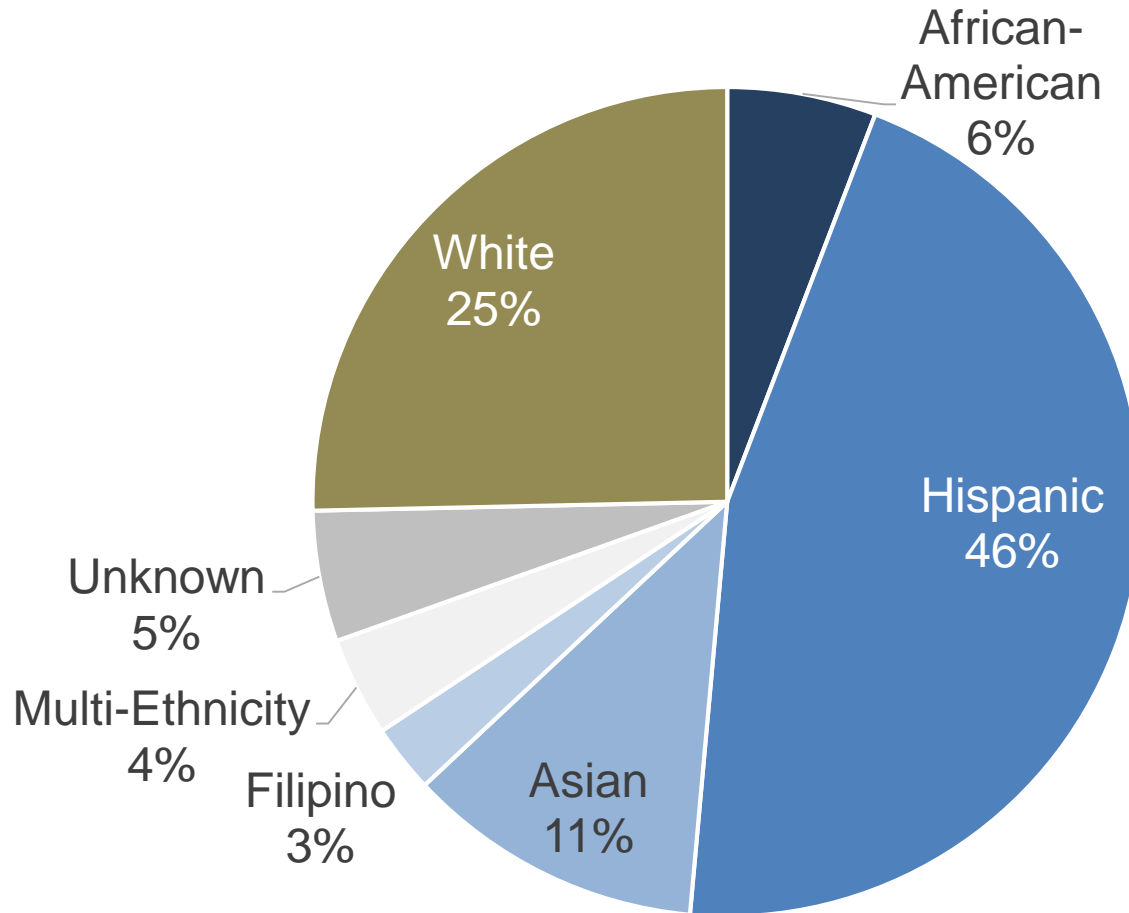
# *EQUITY AVENGERS*



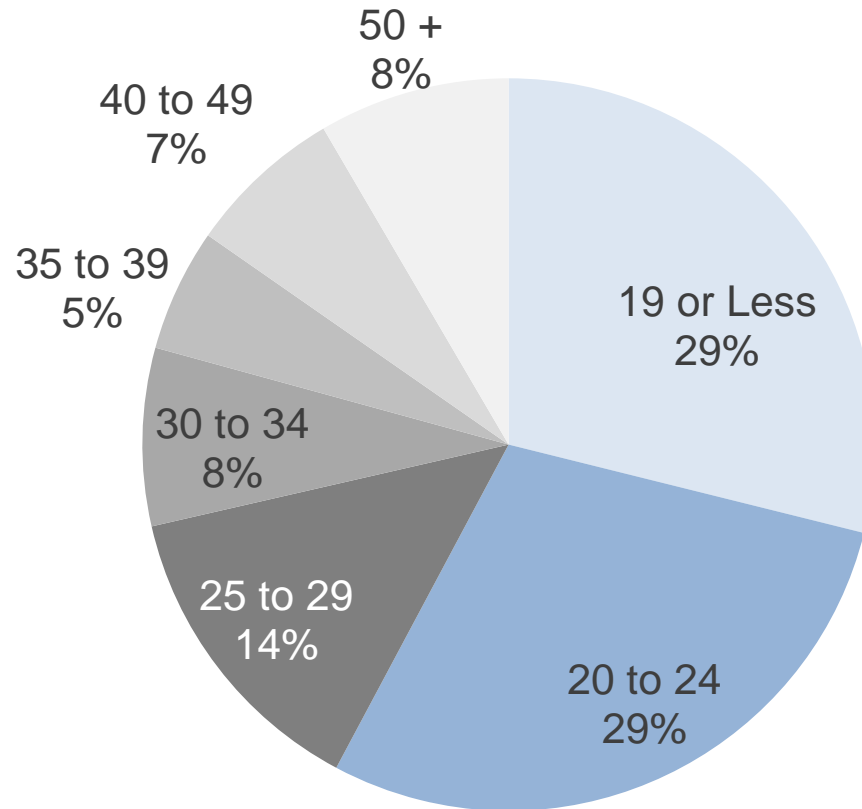
# California Community Colleges Demographics- Gender



# California Community Colleges Demographics- Ethnicity



# California Community Colleges Demographics- Demographics- Age



Three out of five students are 24 years old or younger.

# Resiliency

# **#RealCollege**

# **Califorina**

A photograph of Michelle Obama speaking at a Compton College event. She is wearing a white t-shirt with "COMPTON COLLEGE" printed in red. She is holding a microphone and has her right arm raised. The background shows a college building with palm trees and a banner that partially reads "TERM".

*"Compton College has a  
great story to tell!"*

*– Former First Lady Michelle Obama*

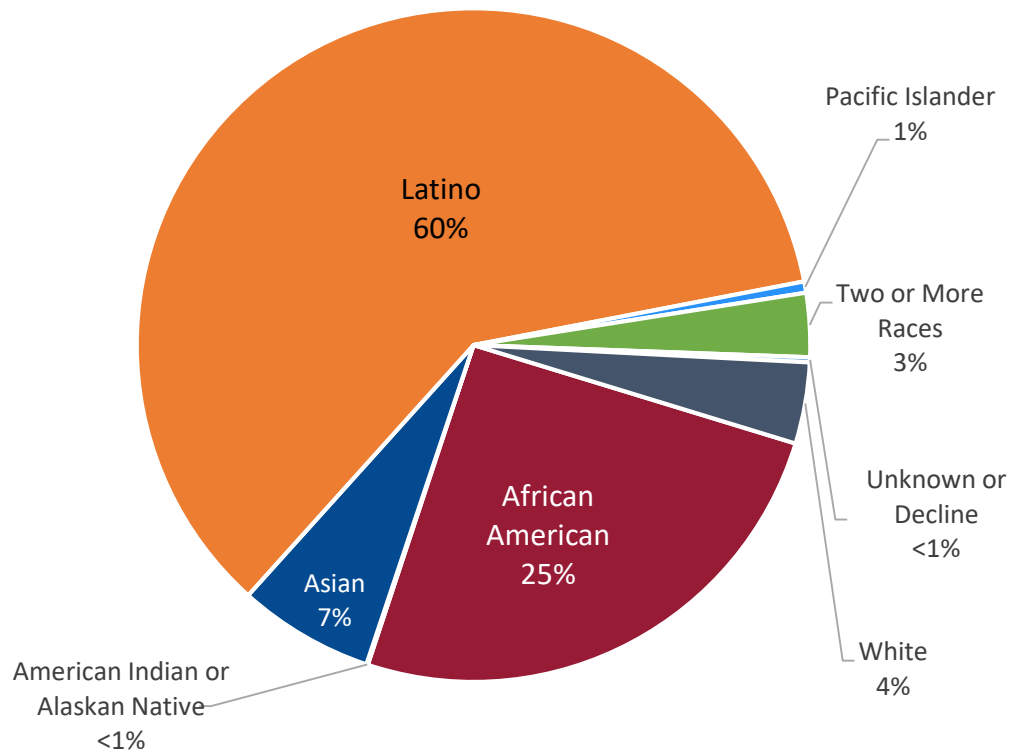
# COMPTON COLLEGE

#REALCOLLEGE – September 27, 2019



# Compton College Demographics

2017-2018



# Large Scale of Insecurity

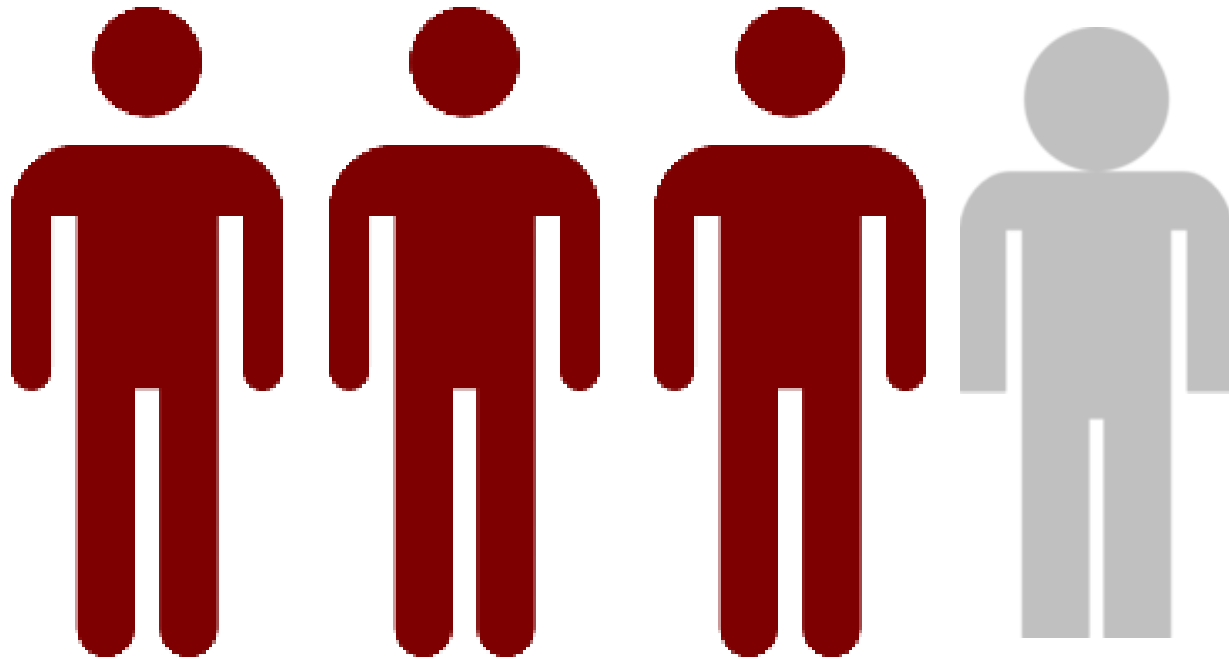
Compton College outpaces other community colleges in housing and food insecurity.

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	<b>Food Insecurity</b>	<b>Housing Insecurity</b>	<b>Homelessness</b>
<b>Compton College</b>	59%	68%	18%
<b>Average of 2-year colleges</b>	50%	60%	19%

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# 3 out of 4 students face some food and/or housing insecurity



# Housing Insecure

Several student groups stand out as having high levels of housing insecurity.

- 85% suffer from a chronic illness
- 85%+ of those 26 or older
- 82% of former foster youth
- 80% of Southeast Asian students
- 77% of students with children
- 77% of those who are employed
- 75% of black/African American students
- 70% of women

# Food Insecure

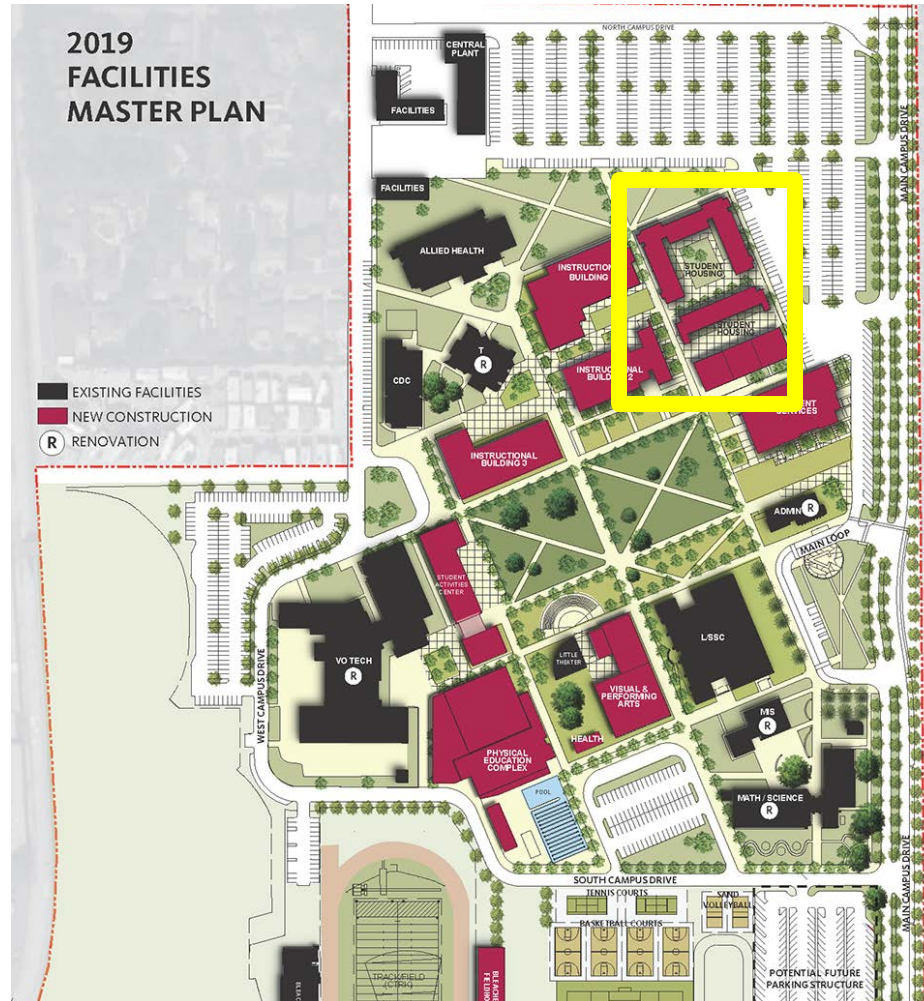
Several student groups stand out as having high levels of food insecurity.

- 80% of students previously convicted of a crime
- 79% of students with a chronic illness
- 71% of black/African American students
- 67% of students with children
- 65%+ of students 26 years old or older
- 65% of former foster youth

# How are we addressing these challenges?

- Established the Tartar Support Network in 2016-2017
  - Dedicated faculty, staff and managers
  - Coordinate showers, lockers and the Tartar Food Pantry
- Planning for Student Residential Housing at Compton College
- Supported funding for the student housing program in the 2019-2020 California State Budget
- Partnership with CivicSpark for a Fellow for the 2019-2020 year
- Partnership with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services
- Hiring a Student Services Advisor to address students' basic needs

# Student Residential Housing





*“ When I went to San Diego Mesa College, it was basically free, and now community college costs a lot of money and there are a lot of people who can’t afford it. ”*

*- Annette Bening*

# SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

#REALCOLLEGE – September 27, 2019



# Who We Serve

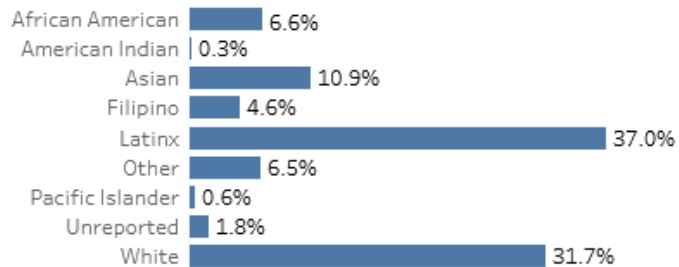
## Gender



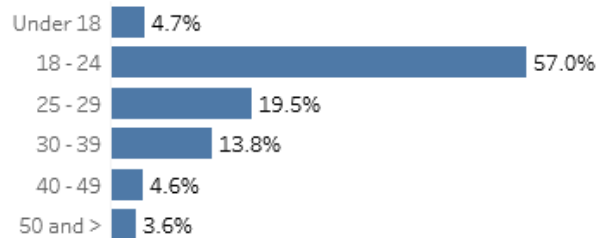
## First Generation



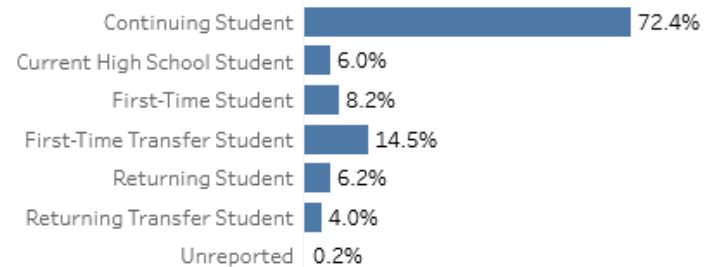
## Ethnicity



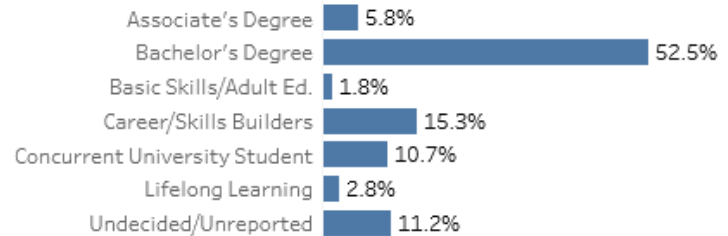
## Age



## Enrollment Status



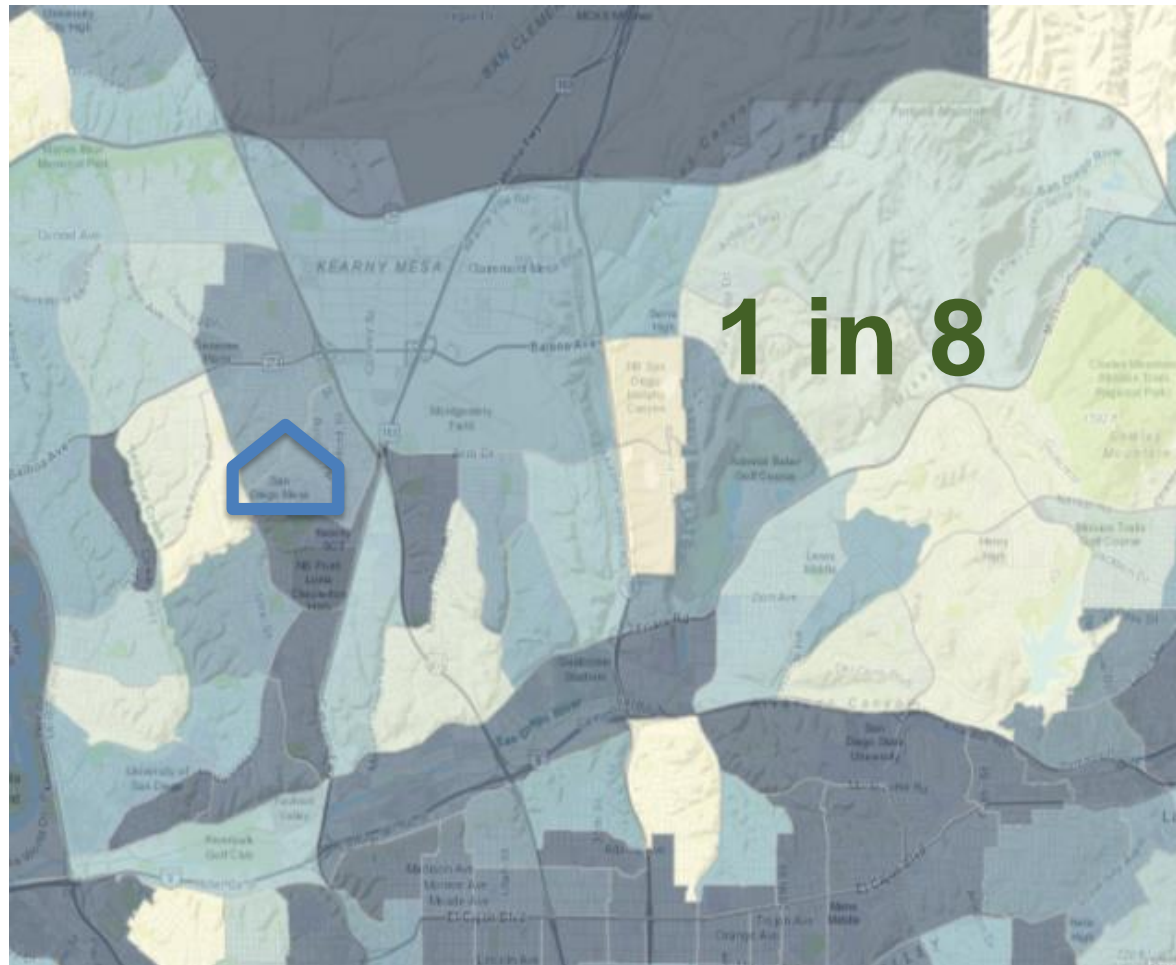
## Educational Objective



# Current Basic Needs Efforts

- Established The Stand: provides free food and professional clothing to students
- Partnering with Feeding San Diego and San Diego Food Bank to facilitate monthly farmers markets to provide fruits and vegetables to the Mesa College community
- Partnering with Feeding San Diego to coordinate CalFresh (food stamps) sign up days, to provide resources and support to our students to apply for CalFresh resources
- Partnering with Ronald McDonald House, through Feeding San Diego Retail Rescue Program, to provide weekly food distributions of perishable goods.
- Partnering with San Diego Food to provide monthly mobile markets, to begin October 2019
- Expanding The Stand to a One Stop Resource Center with co-located county and other public services.
- Fundraising with San Diego Mesa College Foundation \$250,000 for our Resiliency Fund.

# Food Insecurity in San Diego



# Students' Needs, Mesa's Response

## In the Words of One Student...

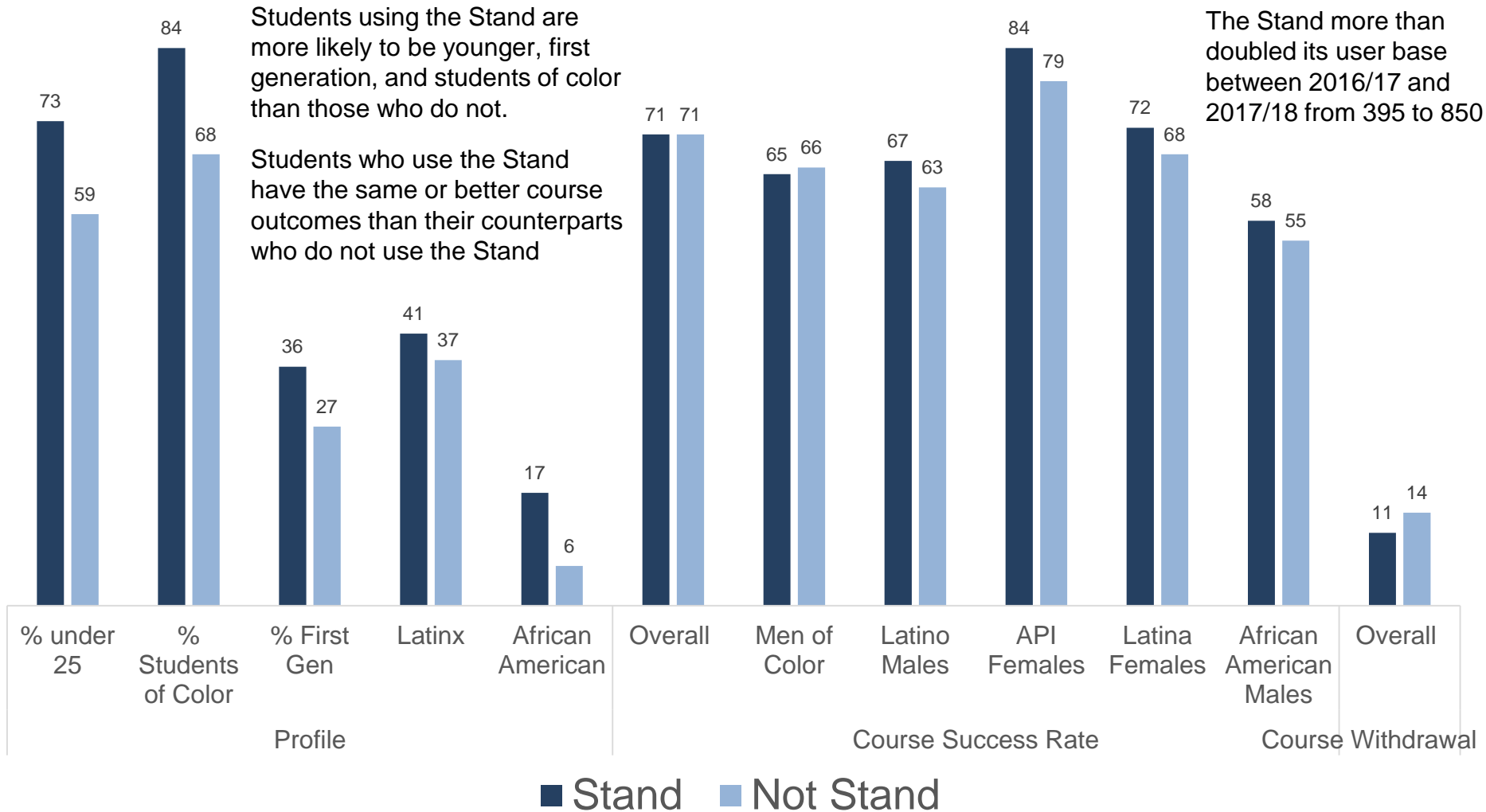
I was a recipient of Calfresh benefits until I enrolled as a full time student at Mesa college. The only way I could continue to receive benefits was if I were enrolled part-time or employed while being enrolled as a full-time student. From that point forward I had been **stealing food** from local groceries stores, until I was chased out of a Vons by one of their employees.

That incident ultimately **left me feeling helpless**. The next day I decided to ask around to see if there was any type of food assistance program on campus, which is when I learned that the stand was available to Mesa college students. If it wasn't for the stand, **I would have definitely dropped out of school**.

Those who truly know what it feels like to go without food know that **when hunger strikes** it is the only thing on your mind and **nothing else matters** until you can find a decent meal. From lack of concentration to fatigue, it is **almost impossible to focus** on the task at hand when all your body wants and needs is food. There were several time throughout the semester that I would not have been able to focus in class if I was not able to grab a snack from the stand beforehand.

**Words cannot explain how grateful I am** that the stand was available to me when I truly needed it.

# 2017-18 Stand Users and Non-Stand Users



A dark blue speech bubble graphic with a white border and a white drop shadow. The bubble is rectangular with a pointed bottom center. The text "Basic Needs Summit" is centered inside in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# Basic Needs Summit

# Agenda

## Basic Needs Summit

### Program Agenda

July 29, 2019

MC 211/AB – 9 am to 3 pm

**9 am – Addressing Basic Needs at Mesa College** (Dr. Pamela Luster, President)

**9:30 – Review of Current Student Success & Equity Efforts** (Johanna Aleman)

10:00 Break

**10:05 – Mesa College Mapping of Basic Needs Support** (Larry Maxey)

**11:15 – Collaborating With Financial Aid to Meet the Basic Needs of Students** (Gilda Maldonado)

Noon Lunch – **Table Topics Discussion** (Claudia Perkins/Claudia Estrada-Howell)

**12:30 – Mental Health and Behavior, the Impact of Basic Needs Insecurity** (Linda Gibbins-Croft/Claudia Perkins)

**1:15 – Tackling Issues of Homelessness** (Walter Phillips, CEO, San Diego Youth Services)

1:45 Break

**1:55 – Emergency Relief Funds & Mesa College Foundation, Setting Priorities** (Krista Stellmacher)

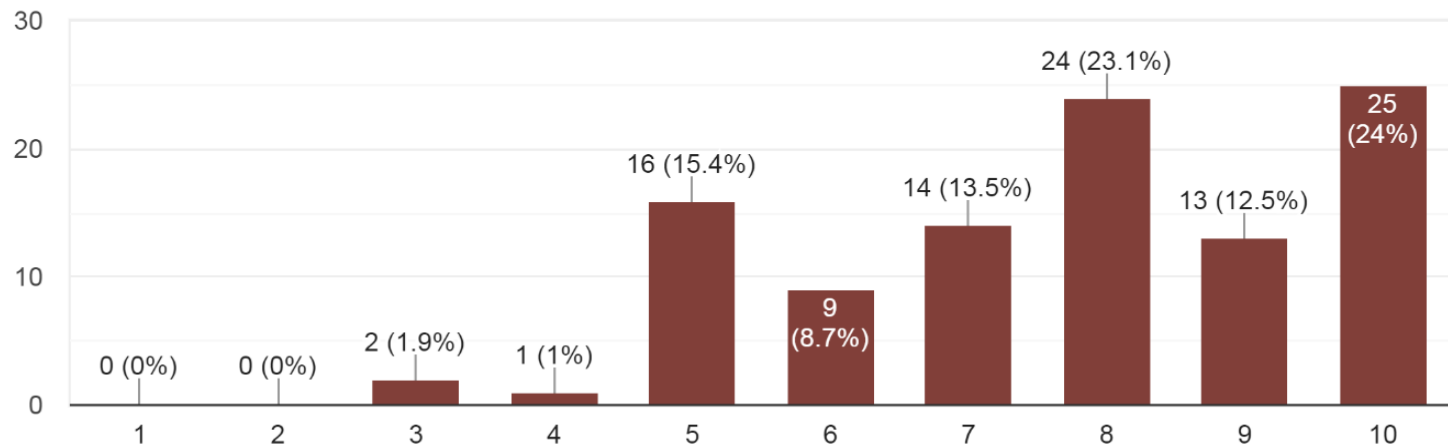
**2:25 – Moving forward, Take-away & Follow up** (Dr. Ashanti Hands, Vice President, Student Services)

**3:00 – Conclude**

# Campus-wide Survey Results

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how familiar are you with the college's efforts toward the basic needs concerns of our students?

104 responses

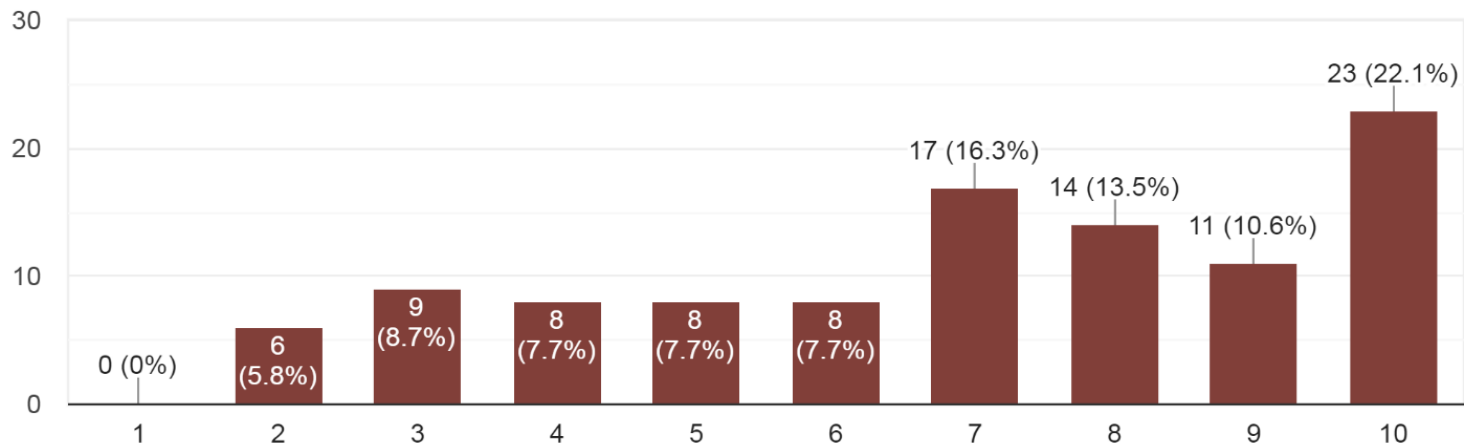




# Survey

2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how often do you engage with students who have food, housing, and/or other basic needs insecurity?

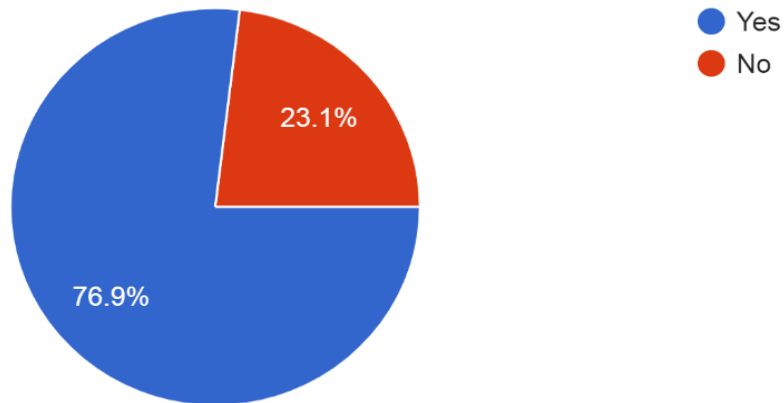
104 responses



# Survey

3. Do you as an individual do anything specifically to address the basic needs of students?

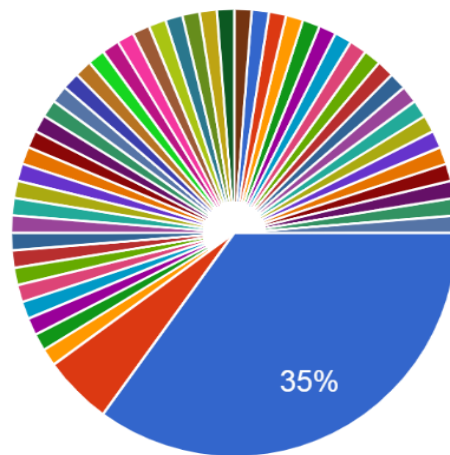
104 responses



# Survey

## 4. If Yes, what area of basic needs support do you provide?

80 responses



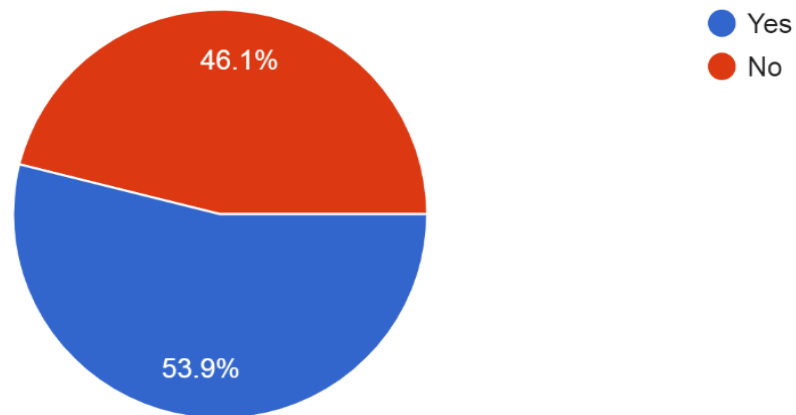
- Food
- Housing
- provide them with resources on and...
- Support for campus initiatives like T...
- Clothing
- counseling/guidance/emotional sup...
- food & resources on campus, wher...
- We get students who are lost in the...

▲ 1/7 ▼

# Survey

5. Does your "department/service area" do anything specifically to address the basic needs of students?

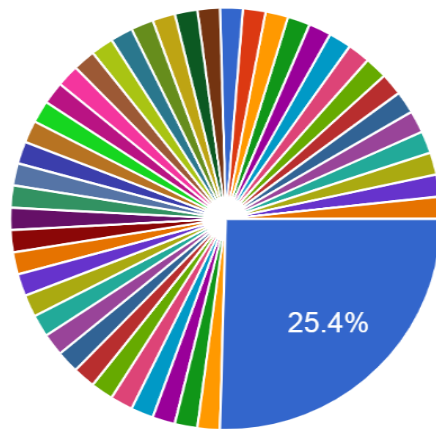
102 responses



# Survey

6. If Yes, what area of basic needs support does your department/service area provide?

59 responses



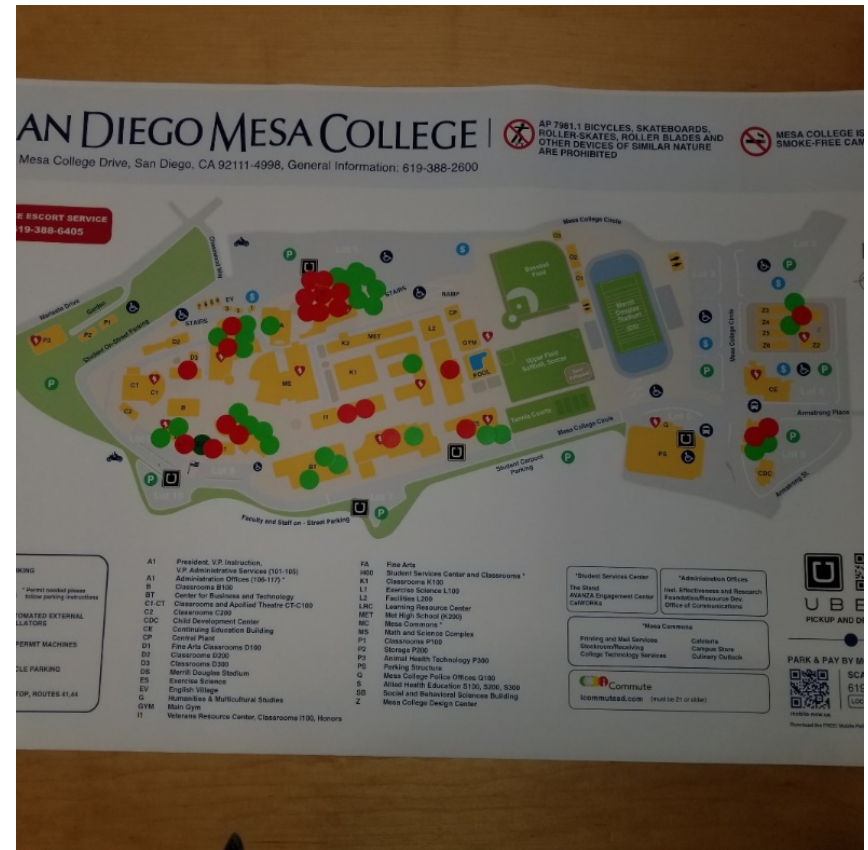
- Food
- Housing
- Veterans Emergency Relief Fund
- Resources, backpacks for homeles...
- Referral to Student Success and Eq...
- Stand contributions like shampoo, s...
- mental/emotional, counseling, guida...
- We provide a comfortable environm...

▲ 1/6 ▼

# Mapping Results, Food Individual/Departmental

## What We Learned:

- Beyond Institutional Efforts (Stand, Farmers Market, Pop Up) there are many available food resources for students
- Instructional faculty are greatly supportive in providing food resources to students



# Mapping Results, Other Individual Resources

## What We Learned:

- Many individuals are providing resources to support students including:
  - Affective Support (Pink)
  - Practical (Yellow)
  - Resource Information (Green)
- Campus wide, individual members of our community demonstrate care for our students
- Our community would benefit greatly from a centralized resource center



# Mapping Results, Other Departmental & Housing

## What We Learned:

- While individuals are more likely to provide supports to students, departments are less likely to have specific programs/initiatives
- Housing is by far a resource that we provide minimal support
- Only one department noted housing resources
- A primary focus of the Stand Resource Center needs to be housing resources
- We will need community support to address housing issue





# Reflection Activity

**What patterns do you notice? What jumps out at you?  
What are the themes?**

- Overlapping services in each location
- Need for resource support in every building
- Happening in a few building/not all
- Need for faculty support awareness of services
- Concentrated support in I-400.
- Perimeter (including Allied Health) has a lot support.
- Disposed- individual at time (sharing, lunch, bringing extra food from home for students)
- Housing support seems lacking
- Food and housing resources are mostly found at the perimeter.
- Direct/affective/referral are clustered/linked.
- Lots going on in SS center.
- Housing resources are most scarce.

# Reflection Activity

**Does the data challenge assumptions about how we are serving the basic needs of our students? If so, how?**

- Assumption that only SS supplies support, challenged by showing support in different departments and buildings
- Affective support IS SUPPORT!, following up is so important
- That housing assumption that resource is workable- (not always accurate)
- Not sure we know what all the data says (do not have raw data)

# Reflection Activity

**Is there anything that can be done to integrate resources and streamline services to students?**

- Syllabus- Faculty spend time going over services
- Training-outreach-retreat
- Little pantries?
- Embed support in classrooms
- (Section of café holding food without knowing who pays or not)
- Small distribution centers (increase accessibility)
- Comfort tent (regularly on campus- rather than occasional)
- Camp Mesa (campground) porta potties, trailer in showers
- Students can build recycled tiny houses?
- Habitat for humanity

# Reflection Activity

- Centralized resource hub- campus. Open on weekends?
- Partner with other community services that can work with us
- Train peer navigator for basic needs
- Peers experiencing insecurities
- They are developing shells in their fields and we'd want to pay them
- Weekend proctoring? Open to all students when less busy
- Housing opting
- We would have to reassess who we are on the weekends.
- 24/hr LRC? Issues with contracts
- Compile a list of food distribution points in the city, also child care

# Next Steps

- #RealCollege Convening – September 28-29, Houston Texas
- Connecting with Amarillo College
- Convening of the Stand expansion work group, September 3, 4 pm
  - Group will be making recommendations on what programs/services will should go into the space
- Convening of the Stand resiliency fund work group, tbd
  - Will work to determine the process for student access to the resiliency fund

# The Resiliency Campaign



**[www.sdmesa.edu/ResiliencyFund](http://www.sdmesa.edu/ResiliencyFund)**