



## STEP Partnership of San Diego (SPSD) STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP) Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)

---

### PROFILE

The National Science Foundation (NSF) selected San Diego MESA as a recipient of a \$1.9 million dollar Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (**STEM**) Talent **E**xpansion **P**rogram (STEP) grant to support the STEP Partnership of San Diego. Awarded to the college members of the San Diego MESA Alliance, comprised of Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Programs at San Diego City College (SDCC), San Diego State University (SDSU), and Southwestern College (SWC), this grant was one of only 22 awards from a pool of 174 submitted from across the United States in 2007. This is a five year grant to be implemented from 2007 to 2012.

MESA enables educationally disadvantaged students to prepare for and graduate from a four-year college or university with a math-based degree in areas such as engineering, the sciences, computer science, and mathematics. The NSF STEP grant allows the San Diego MESA Alliance to build on MESA best practices to develop a diverse skilled workforce for San Diego and the nation. In particular, the grant offers students new and exciting activities to expand their horizons and their opportunities via:

- Industry sponsored Training Academies
- Summer Team Internships
- StrengthsQuest assessment and analysis
- Faculty Advisors
- Professional Development with industry partners
- Scholarships
- Regional STEM Competitions
- San Diego Region Joint Planning Conference

For example, summer team internships in leading science and engineering firms across San Diego county provides students with opportunities to increase their knowledge and to develop skills for academic and workplace success, and ultimately to become part of the region's economic development.

SDCC MESA program alumnus, Jose L. Yvellez, graduated from SDSU (also in MEP) with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 2006. He now works for a company which develops space hardware for satellite applications and techniques that mitigate radiation effects. "I just want to express my sincere appreciation for the commitment and support of the MESA program at City College", said Yvellez. "Please keep aiding future scientists to pursue their dreams. You indeed made a difference in my life". Yvellez is now interested in pursuing an MBA.

"This program is extremely important here in Southern California, because one of our greatest competitive advantages is leadership in the STEM industries. The STEP Partnership will help enhance this existing advantage and bring opportunity to disadvantaged students. Those are values that we should all embrace!"

--Congressman Bob Filner



Contact Eric Pamintuan, SPSP Program Specialist, (619) 594-2680 or [epamintuan@projects.sdsu.edu](mailto:epamintuan@projects.sdsu.edu) for more information regarding this program.