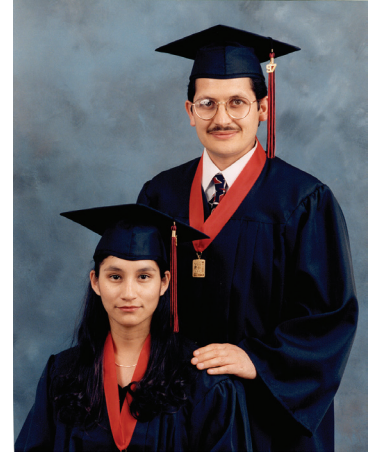


Mr. and Mrs. Aldrete Make Endowment Gift for MESA Scholarship Support

For the Aldretes, the SDSU MESA program helped them achieve their academic goals of becoming engineers and it's also where they met. Making a gift to endow a scholarship for MESA is something they'd been thinking about doing for several years.

On behalf of the College of Engineering, we are pleased to announce that Alfredo Aldrete (BSEE 97') and Sandra P. Aldrete (BSME 97') have made a gift to establish the "Alfredo Aldrete and Sandra Pulido Aldrete MESA Endowed Scholarship" for Engineering. The Aldretes are long time donors to the MESA program providing both philanthropic gifts and gifts of volunteer service and leadership. Alfredo is a RF Communications Test and Evaluation Engineer at G2 Software Systems and Sandra is a Systems Engineer at Northrop Grumman.



As a United States Air Force Veteran, Alfredo used his GI Bill to pursue his education at SDSU. Alfredo chose SDSU as it was close to home, he liked the semester system, and SDSU accepted credits he'd already earned at the Community College of the Air Force. Sandra transferred from San Diego Community College to SDSU because her major was offered, tuition was very reasonable, and she also chose to stay close to home.

They both credit the MESA program with much of their academic success. According to Alfredo, the MESA study groups were a cornerstone for his completion of tough classes and it helped him build a network of friends and upperclassmen. For both Alfredo and Sandra, scholarships, study groups, and internships helped them achieve success. A MESA study group is where they met. According to Alfredo, MESA also provided opportunities to work on undergraduate research projects within the College. Sandra wants students to know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and that being an engineer is a great career choice.

Since their graduation in 1997, the Aldretes have remained active in MESA (formerly known as the Minority Engineering Program (MEP)) by providing annual scholarships, serving on the MESA board, and volunteering for various College efforts. Both agree that when they were in college the annual MESA banquet, where scholarships are announced and donors are recognized, was like the "Oscars" and it also provided the opportunity to sit and network with hiring managers and company representatives.

According to the Aldretes they are pleased to support the program so that other students can benefit like they did. "It's a pleasure for us to make this gift. Much of our academic success can be attributed to

MESA, and we feel blessed to be able to give back to the program," Alfredo said.



If you happen to see the Aldretes at a business function, in the community or on campus (after we're back in person), please feel free to express appreciation for their generous gift of endowment support for MESA.

The College of Engineering is grateful to all those who provide much needed philanthropic support. If you or anyone you know is interested in supporting the College of Engineering, please contact Kate Carinder, Senior Director of Development for the College of Engineering at: kcarinder@sdsu.edu.