



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUGUST  
2023

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



Since the last Board meeting in June 2023, the district has been busy delivering a successful summer session and gearing up for the beginning of the 2023-24 academic year. I had the pleasure of speaking at Kelseyville High School graduation in mid-June. Graduations are exciting events, and it will be great to welcome graduates to Mendocino College. The event ended with an impressive fireworks display.

Mendocino College was featured in articles over the summer. We were highlighted in the new State Chancellor Dr. Sonya Christian's June blog, <https://sonyachristianblog.com/2023/06/03/to-new-beginnings-june-2023/>. The Chancellor's Office team reached out to us to meet about dual enrollment and share best practices.

Dr. Tom Jackson Jr, President of Cal Poly Humboldt, referenced Mendocino College in an article he wrote for "College Matters", <https://www.times-standard.com/2023/06/22/college-matters-community-colleges-are-vital-partners-in-education/>. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with Humboldt. On a personal note, I was honored to be recognized as part of the naming of the Presidents Courtyard in Founders Hall <https://now.humboldt.edu/news/cal-poly-humboldt-honors-service-and-leadership>.

I was contacted by the Federal Department of Education's White House Initiative on Native Americans and Tribal Colleges and Universities, <https://sites.ed.gov/whiaiane/>. They are impressed with our work serving the Native American community. I had a good meeting to share practices and make introductions.

On campus, important milestone ceremonies continued over the summer. At the end of June, HEP held a graduation ceremony in Pomo Plaza. The graduation had a large turnout of family and friends to support the graduates. Trustee Martinez attended the event and spoke to the graduates.

It would not be summer without Shakespeare at the Lake. This year's production was "Measure For Measure". There was an impressive turnout both nights at Library Park. I enjoyed the Sunday evening performance. Performances took place in Lakeport at Library Park and Clearlake at Austin Park.

Lastly, congratulations to Vice President of Student Services Ulises Velasco. He has been selected as President-Elect of Colegas, <https://cccologas.org/>.

[www.mendocino.edu/president](http://www.mendocino.edu/president)



## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER**

Over the last month, students have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural activities. Bear Ford has beaded weekly with students (Peer Mentors) and staff teaching Peyote stitch, brick stitch and sharing stories. Students/Staff worked on beading feathers, pens, keychains, and earrings so they can share these teachings with students throughout the year.

**EVENTS****August 21-24**

WOW Information Week

**August 25**

Native Learning Symposium

**August 28-31**

WOW Party in Pomo Plaza Week

**August 29 @ 12pm**

Student/Staff photo in Pomo Plaza

**September 7**50th Anniversary Gallery Exhibit  
Closing Reception**September 29-30**

Plant &amp; Surplus Sales

**October 3**

College &amp; University Day

[www.mendocino.edu/events](http://www.mendocino.edu/events)**EAGLE SUPPORT CENTER**

The student support offices located in the old bookstore have a new name - the Eagle Support Center! The Eagle Support Center houses the Basic Needs Center, Native American Student Resource Center, CAMP, and the Dream Center. Stop by to say hello!

## ENROLLMENT

The Fall 2023 session begins August 21st. The enrollment numbers to date are positive. In every category there is significant growth in numbers year-over-year. Total FTES is 31% higher year-over-year. Enrollment has climbed to approach 2019 levels. This is the culmination of sustained work of staff, faculty, and managers to meet the educational needs of our communities. This is critical in maintaining our current and future funding levels as emergency protections due to the pandemic have ended. The district baseline FTES funding will be re-benched in FY2024-2025.

SEMESTER	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL FTES
FALL 2023	2509	699	1810	671.82
FALL 2022	1929	440	1489	510.51
FALL 2019	2238	717	1521	684.37

## MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS (MSI) FEDERAL DESIGNATIONS

The U.S. Department of Education has four MSI's for institutions of higher education (public/private).

- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (AANHSI)
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI)
- Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI)
- Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI)

For an institution to have one of these designations they must have a specific percentage of student headcount from the identified group. The required student percentage and average funding award amounts varies by MSI program.

The table below illustrates the number of 4yr/2yr public/private institutions that the Federal Department of Education has designated eligible for Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) programs. Of the 3,427 institutions nationwide, only 27 meet Native American Non-Tribal eligibility requirements. Of these 37 institutions, 22 are in two States, Oklahoma and Alaska.

Minority Serving Institutions Potentially Eligible or Eligible Institutions (US Dept. of Education)

## NEW STUDENT WELCOME

On Saturday, July 29th, multiple Mendocino College programs and departments collaborated on a orientation event for incoming students to the Fall semester. In total, over 55 students participated in the event. The morning general session included information being provided by Athletic Coach Kat Escobedo, Outreach Coordinator Malissa Donegan, Transfer Counselor/Coordinator Mark Osea and Vice President Ulises Velasco. Students then attended an information of their specialized program or learning community, including EOPS, CAMP, Pomo Pathway, etc. Students also had the opportunity to get support directly from the Library, IT, Admissions & Records, Financial Aid, and Counseling. There is an online New Student Welcome scheduled for August 8th to provide students another opportunity to get helpful information before the start of the semester.

## CAMP SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

CAMP scholars are taking CCS 124 and LIB 200 online and attending in-person to receive academic support. CAMP scholars enjoyed a fun campus tour and scavenger hunt, that included selfies with campus staff, so they get to know the services provided by Mendocino College in a fun way. CAMP scholars get to visit the Eagle Student Center on a daily basis, they get snacks and hang out in the area. Lunch is served on Thursdays. Support Specialist Maria Muniz led a self-portrait art workshop the second week of the Summer Bridge. Scholars have also enjoyed playing volleyball on campus. Scholars are now entering the third week of Summer Bridge, which started on July 10th. There are 30 CAMP scholars enrolled in Summer Bridge, 27 attend in-person.



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*Minority Serving Institutions Potentially Eligible or Eligible Institutions (US Dept. of Education)*

Minority Serving Institutions	Student Threshold	MLCCD Percent	# in United States	# in California
Hispanic Serving Institutions	25%	41%	535	169
Asian American and Native American Pacific Islanders	10%	3%	261	123
Native American Non-Tribal	10%	5%	37*	0

\*AZ, CO, MN, MT, NM, NC, OK, UT, WA

A MSI designation does not bring on-going funding resources to institutions. An MSI designation allows institutions to apply for competitive grant opportunities from federal agencies.

Regardless of the number of MSI designations an institution may meet, only one program type will be funded. Simultaneous awards from multiple MSI are not allowed. For example, an institution with a Hispanic Serving Institutions grant cannot apply for an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions grant. This institution could apply for multiple overlapping Hispanic Serving Institutions grants.

The number of grant awards, amount, and frequency is different for each MSI program. The table below is a comparison being four MSI programs.

Program	Last Award Year	Average Amount	Number Awarded
HSI	2022	\$2.9M	234
AANAPISI	2021	\$1.5M	32
NASNTI	2021	\$1.8M	8
AANHSI	2020	\$3M	3

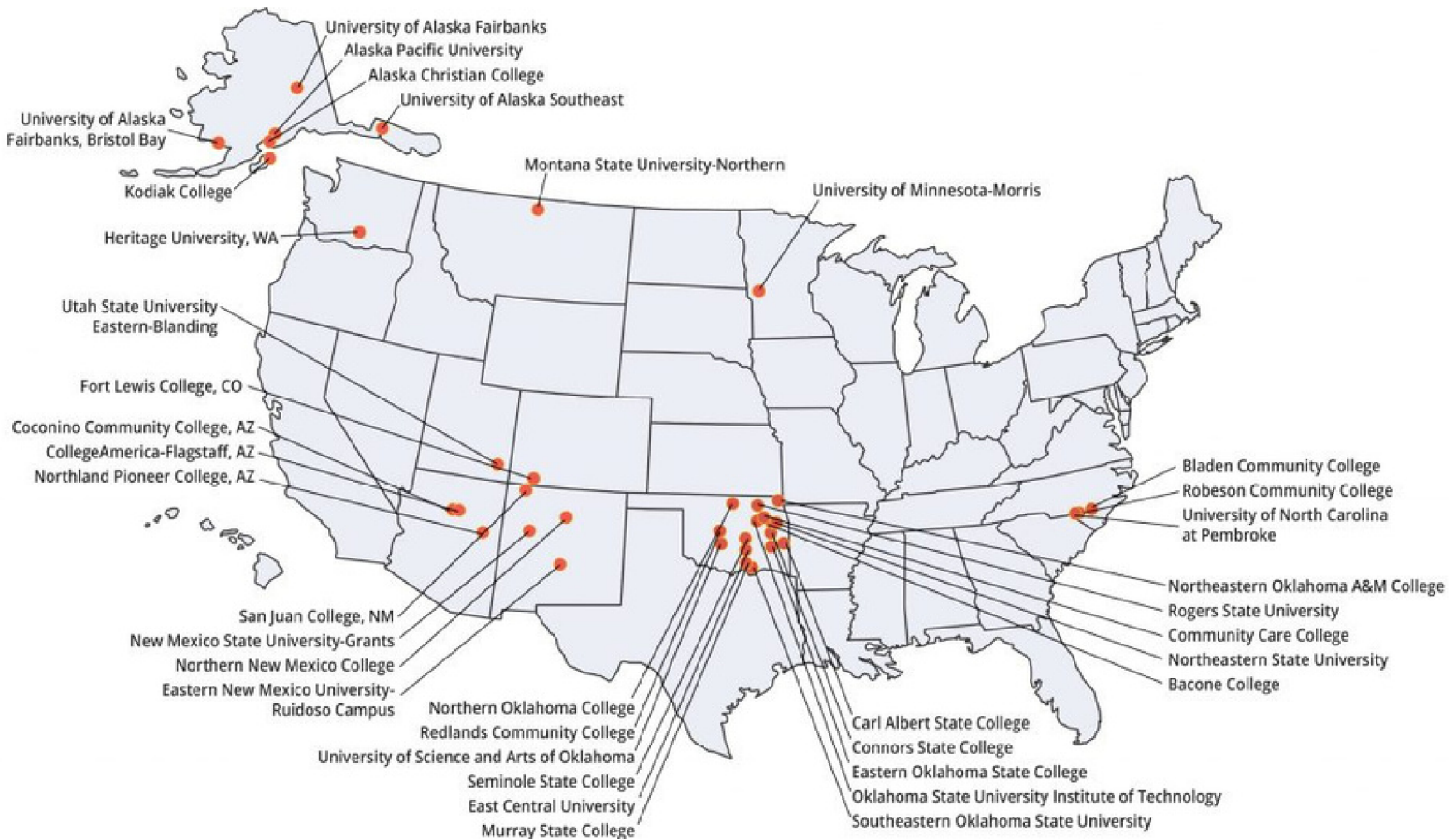
At Mendocino College, we were awarded a HSI grant in 2023. This means we would not be able to apply for grant funds from another MSI until 2028. Mendocino College could continue to apply for other HSI grant funds.

Mendocino College was recognized as an HSI in 2014 and has received two 5-year grants. Our student headcount is consistently higher than the minimum percentage required.

In 2022, Mendocino College adopted a two-year (2022-2024) district priority to achieve the highest percentage of Native American students in California Community Colleges. In 2023, we achieved this status. In 2023-2024 the focus will be to maintain this status. After maintaining this level future priorities will be to increase the percentage with an aspiration goal of 10%. The priority is to increase Native American student headcount.



## NATIVE AMERICAN NON-TRIBAL SERVING INSTITUTION MAP



Ref: <https://www.wiche.edu/key-initiatives/native-serving-institutions-initiative#:~:text=NASNTIs%20are%20federally%2Ddesignated%20public,percent%20American%20Indian%2FAAlaska%20Natives>

## DREAM CENTER

On July 31st, (19) Managers including our President and Vice Presidents participated in UndocuAlly Training provided by experts Sandra Guzman and Belinda Lum. This training is designed to introduce administrators to information necessary for understanding the experiences of undocumented students and students from mixed status families and introduce managers to the type of infrastructure they will need to build out at their campus, and best practices related to their service area. This training was an introduction to the ongoing work ahead to better serve undocumented students and their families. Follow up training will include: Break-out sessions based on the specific needs identified by the campus. We can provide breakout sessions in the following areas: Instruction, Counseling, and Student Services. The Dream Center will be leading these efforts with support of the institution.

## BASIC NEEDS AND CALFRESH

The Mendocino College Cal Fresh Program provides students with support when completing the Application and follow up directly with the County. Student workers within Basic Needs are cross trained in Cal Fresh. Moving into the Fall Semester, the Basic Needs team is planning to make appearances in classrooms to promote the program. Additionally, the team will be working with Marketing to update handouts and the usefulness of the website.

**NEW PROGRAMS - DEGREES & CERTIFICATES**

The Process for developing new programs is defined by the Guidelines for Program Management, a document developed and reviewed in the Education Action Plan (EAP) Committee. The following is an excerpt from that document:

A new program may be proposed by a variety of constituents including faculty, deans, staff, curriculum committee members, advisory committees, community members and students. The initiator of the new program will complete the New Program Concept Form (see Appendix H) and submit it to EAP for review. A Program Advisory Team (PAT) will be assigned to the proposed new program; however, if there is no impact on district resources or instruction, EAP can approve the new program by a vote of its members. In cases where advisory committees, community members and students are involved, a New Program Advisor may be assigned by EAP. Duties of the New Program Advisor will include:

- assisting the program initiator with the New Program Concept Form
- acting as liaison between the initiator and various campus groups including the curriculum committee and the Academic Senate as directed by EAP
- providing updates to EAP

The PAT for developing a new program will include at LEAST two faculty members (two FT or one FT & one PT), one Dean; and the Institutional Researcher. The initiator of the new program may also be included on the team. For Applied Academics programs, an advisory committee member may also be included. (Note: at least one Full Time faculty member should be from the same or similar discipline or be a Full-Time faculty member who is also on EAP or Curriculum Committee.)

After EAP has received the "New Program Concept Form," the PAT will review it and confer with the initiator if additional information is needed. The PAT will then determine whether to recommend, recommend with reservation or not recommend. The criteria for evaluating new program development are as follows:

- meets the College's mission statement
- addresses a significant student and /or labor market demand
- provides regulatory compliance and /or health and safety assurances
- increases student equity, access and retention
- provides expertise / training not currently available
- builds on / enhances existing programs (is interrelated and complementary to existing programs)
- has realistic requirements for human and physical resources

**Steps for New Programs:**

- The PATs report and recommendation will be brought to EAP for discussion
- EAP will review the PAT and either ask for more information, approve the recommendation or deny the recommendation
- VP of Academic Affairs will report on new programs to PBC
- Program and any new courses will be brought through the curriculum committee process

This process has yielded many new degrees and certificates over the past several years. Often a degree can be successfully shepherded through the process in a year or less, in particular when there is a full-time faculty member in the discipline and there are no significant resources needed, and no external approving agencies (accreditors).

Since 2019, the following degrees and certificates have been added to our Catalog:



## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**NEW: NON-CREDIT CERTIFICATES**

*These certificates of completion or competency require students to take a series of at least two non-credit courses. Non-credit courses and certificates are allowed in specific program areas, such as short-term vocational, ESL, Adult Basic Skills, and Adults with Disabilities.*

- Basic Computer Skills, Certificate of Competency (2019)
- Introduction to the Construction Trades, Certificate of Completion (2021)
- Automotive Chassis Specialist, Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Advanced Automotive Chassis Specialist Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Intermediate ESL Preparation, Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Word Processing Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Presentations Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Spreadsheets Certificate of Completion (2023)

**NEW: ASSOCIATE DEGREES**

*Associate Degrees require at least 18 units in an area of study and General Education. Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) are a type of Associate Degree developed in partnership with California State Universities and, in some cases, University of California. ADTs require the general education for transfer.*

- Physical Therapy Assistant Associate of Science (2019)
- Culinary Arts Management Associate of Science (2020)
- Associate in Science in Chemistry for UC Transfer (2021)

**CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES LOCALLY APPROVED**

*These Certificates and Degrees have been through our local processes but still need to be approved at the Chancellor's Office. We expect a 2024 effective date on the following:*

- Company Officer Certificate of Achievement (Fire Science)
- Fire Science Certificate of Achievement
- Cybersecurity Associate of Science
- Digital Forensics, Certificate of Achievement
- Network Defense, Certificate of Achievement
- Penetration Test Professional, Certificate of Achievement
- Communication Skills ESL Preparation Certificate of Competency

**CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES RECENTLY APPROVED IN EAP**

*These Certificates and Degrees have been approved through the new program process in EAP but have not yet been through the Curriculum Committee process. They still may be approved in time for the 2024 Catalog:*

- Associate in Science in Physics for UC Transfer
- Associate in Science in Hospitality Management for Transfer
- Laboratory Technician Certificate of Achievement

**NEW: CERTIFICATES OF SKILLS**

*These Certificates require fewer than 16 units. These Culinary Arts Management certificates are designed as "stackable;" when they are all completed will lead to the completion of the required CAM courses in the general CAM Certificate of Achievement or the Associate Degree*

- Beginning Baker, Certificate of Skills (2019)
- Intermediate Line Cook, Certificate of Skills (2019)
- Line Cook, Certificate of Skills (2019)

**NEW: CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- *These Certificates require at least 16 units in a Career Education area of study. Completing a certificate does not require General Education*
- Technical Theater Certificate of Achievement (2021)
- Advanced Automotive Hybrid and Electric Vehicles Certificate of Achievement (2023)
- Business Information Worker II Certificate of Achievement (2023)

**IN MEMORIAM**

The Foundation received word that former trustee Wade Koeninger passed away on June 30th. In addition to being a trustee, Mr. Koeninger was very involved with the foundation. He started the Adopt-A-Fifth Grader Program. Our thoughts are with his family and friends during this challenging time.