



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER
2023

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



As a learning community committed to knowledge, education, and diversity, we are devastated by the violence we are seeing in the Middle East. These events can create shock and trauma for many of our students and neighbors throughout Lake and Mendocino Counties. The suffering they are experiencing

is unimaginable, and our hearts grieve as they grapple with the devastation of lives cut short, and anxiety over the fate of missing loved ones.

Mendocino College is committed to being an inclusive, caring, and diverse community committed to social justice during a time when bravado, force, and invective are growing in the public square. I'm proud to be part of an organization that lives up to its mission by promoting an inclusive environment.

If you, or someone you know at the college, would find it helpful to talk with a mental health professional, please reach out to our [Health and Wellness Services](#). It is open and provides many options to connect. Please be aware of the added emotions some of our students may feel and remember that we have resources available to them through Health and Wellness.

The college's [Employee Assistance Program](#) is available to all faculty and staff who need additional support.

Thank you for your ongoing compassion and support of our community.

In other news, I was able to attend the "State of the Redwood Coast Region: Our Elemental Economy" summit at the Ukiah Conference Center on September 21-22. The summit attendees included civic, non-profit, education, industry and tribal leaders from Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties to examine our future economic development and workforce needs. I found two presentations especially engaging and insightful. They were Drs. Manual Pastor and Chris Benner "Looking Forward: How to Weave Inclusion, Prosperity and Community". Their presentation focused on strategies from their new book *Solidarity Economics*, <https://solidarityeconomics.org/>. The other presentation was Dr. Robert Eyer, "Thinking Blue vs Singing the Blues: The Economy of California's North Coast".

I want to give a status update regarding the college's "Environmental Education Pathways Program" proposal to the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake, <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Blue-Ribbon-Committee-for-the-Rehabilitation-of-Clear-Lake>, requested by Trustee Anderson. Our proposal was approved by the committee and recommended to the State agency for funding in May 2023. However, the funding for this proposal was not included in the final State budget for 23/24. The feedback received from the funding agency, California Natural Resources Agency, was that the agency does not fund formal education proposals. Proposals typically funded are around environmental monitoring, rehabilitation, and research. I continue to attend the socio-economic subcommittee meetings. If funding priorities pivot, we can re-submit the proposal.

CALIFORNIA COALITION OF EARLY AND MIDDLE COLLEGES (CCEMC) DUAL ENROLLMENT CONFERENCE



A dynamic team of K-16 educators and dual enrollment students were honored to present at the recent CCEMC dual enrollment conference. The presentation featured Engaging Students in Student Services: Implementing a Dual Enrollment Ambassador Program. Dean Amanda Xu led a panel including, English faculty Vincent Poturica, K-16 Redwood Coast Co-Director from Sonoma State, Jennifer Bevington, Anderson Valley High School dual enrollment instructor Ali Cook, Mendocino High School counselors Anna Yanez and Liz Newkirk, and amazing students and dual enrollment ambassadors, Tricia Anguiano-Rubio (AVHS), and Anastacia Brodetsky (MHS). A room of over 70 attendees were able to hear directly from students on how the novel Dual Enrollment Ambassador Program helped them grow as students, while creating an accessible bridge for their peers to access the amazing student services available at Mendocino College in real time at their high school site. While at the conference, Mendocino High School was once again recognized as one of nine Exemplary Dual Enrollment Awardees, and the only recognized high school in the state north of Sacramento.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Exemplary Dual Enrollment

On September 18th I had the pleasure to be at Mendocino High School during filming for their California Exemplary Dual Enrollment Award. The California Department of Education, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/ed/>, selected Mendocino High School as one of nine high schools in California to receive this award. Dean Amanda Xu was also in attendance. The purpose of this award program is to identify and recognize schools that have exemplary dual enrollment programs and to allow these schools to share their exemplary programs and practices which have contributed to their success.

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION

As was mentioned by Academic Senate President Petti at September 2023 Board Meeting, Trustees and members of the public can access agenda and minutes of our public meetings on the Board Docs site <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/mendocino/Board.nsf/Public#>

The three public meetings are: Board of Trustees; Academic Senate; and Curriculum Committee. One can choose the meeting to view by clicking on the icon in the upper right-hand corner of the webpage.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Anyone interested in reviewing the District strategic planning documents can access them on our strategic planning webpage, <https://www.mendocino.edu/about/leadership/district-strategic-planning>, from the college's website. The three central strategic planning documents are the Educational Master Plan, Technology Action Plan, and Facilities Master Plan.

UHS @ MC EVENT

Mendocino College hosted 253 Ukiah High School seniors on Wednesday, October 4th. Students learned why Mendocino College is an excellent choice after high school and how they can apply for aid to pay for college. Students then attended workshops focusing on career and technical education, transfer opportunities, and toured the campus. To open the event, President Karas and Ukiah High School Principal Analese Alvarez talked to the students about the importance of pursuing a higher education and taking advantage of many opportunities ahead of them. We're hoping that this event becomes an annual visit so that we can work closely together with our largest feeder school. Director Anastasia Simpson-Logg coordinated this visit with Ukiah High School staff, but many college departments helped execute the event.

FINDING EVENT INFORMATION

There are many events, club activities, workshop and more happening in our District. There are several avenues to stay informed of all these items. On the College webpage, <https://www.mendocino.edu/>, one can access listings at: <https://www.mendocino.edu/events>

If social media is a better choice, we post on most channels including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).

EVENTS**Native Learning Symposium**

- Plants & Foods - Oct 13th (Lake)
- Contemporary Art - Nov 3rd (NCC)
- Language - Nov 17th (Ukiah)

Indian Child Welfare Film

October 12th at 9am - CVPA

Walking Moai Week 5

Oct. 16, 2023 From 12:30pm - 1:20pm

Promise of Paradise - Theatre

Oct 19 - Oct 22nd, CVPA

UC Application Workshop

Oct. 19, 2023 at 12:00 pm

Fall Teacher Institute

Oct. 20, 2023

CSU Application Workshop

Oct. 23, 2023

Dia de los Muertos

October 25th, Pomo Plaza

ICWA Video Project Screening Our Children Are Medicine

Oct. 26, 2023

Rocky Horror Picture Show

October 26th (RAT Club)

For a complete list:

<https://www.mendocino.edu/events>

ADD YOUR EVENT

To add your event to the

online Event Calendar, email:

TMockel@mendocino.edu with details.

K-12 FINANCIAL AID TRAINING FOR COUNSELORS

The Financial Aid Office hosted the Annual Statewide Financial Aid Workshop along with the California Student Aid Commission on September 29th. High school counselors from the district learned about the latest programs, new scholarships, and the changes in the financial aid application process. Mendocino College will once again continue to provide support to our K-12 partners in providing financial aid nights. However, with looming changes and delays in the financial aid applications, both federal and state, the delays and adjusted time schedule was communicated to curb expectations. Typically, K-12 partners seek financial aid nights with our staff starting in October and November each year. However, with the federal and state financial aid application delays we need to delay workshops until a more concrete schedule is released.

FINISH LINE SCHOLARS

The Finish Line Scholars program awarded scholarships to 26 students to support them in reaching their academic goals. Student Life and Support worked hand in hand with Financial Aid to review applications, verify student information, and follow up with students. Finish Line Scholars student support team developed tracking tools for workshop completion, counseling appointments and matched returning students with first year program mentors. All students were invited to an ice cream social to meet, greet and review program expectations. The event was planned and coordinated by student worker, Jacyln Horiguchi who has taken leadership as a returning Finish Line scholar to develop the mentoring side of the Finish Line program. Looking forward to Spring, the program will host another social event and work towards recognizing students for reaching their goals.

ENROLLMENT

The table below highlights the growth in the number of new and returning students to Mendocino College. The numbers are significantly higher than Fall 2022. They are also slightly higher than Fall 2019! These categories do not include K-12 students. These numbers reflect the outcomes of decided outreach, marketing, support services, and course scheduling strategies.

SEMESTER	NEW STUDENTS	RETURNING STUDENTS
FALL 2023	682	629
FALL 2022	507	552
FALL 2019	585	611

CALFRESH UPDATE

Our CalFresh team has been busy helping our students apply for CalFresh as well as submitting documents and preparing them for their interview with the county. It is important to us that we not only help our students apply but also educate them on what they are signing up for and what it takes to qualify. We are thinking of creative ways to catch our student's attention, so we have partnered up with our sports team to help us promote CalFresh! Our first post was with the women's volleyball team where we promoted the pictures on our social media platforms. We think partnering up with athletics is a great way to promote CalFresh to try and break the stigma of needing food assistance.

Kat Escobedo (Basic Needs/Cal Fresh Outreach) feels it is important in her role as coach and Basic Needs staff member to introduce our athletes to all the services we have on campus! Our volleyball team met with Steve Crossman (Counselor) about the academic side of transferring and the women's basketball and volleyball team will be meeting with Lisa Larimer Burtis (Mental Health Counselor/Coordinator) to talk about mental health counseling. Kat works closely with other coaches in Athletics to connect other students to resources through her Basic Needs/Cal Fresh office in the Athletics Department.

ADJUNCT FACULTY HONORED

Gary Gottlieb, Adjunct Faculty in Audio, was elected President Elect for the Audio Engineering Society and received the Fellowship Award for outstanding long-term service to the AES, its members, and its worldwide mission.

The Fellowship Award is given to a member who had rendered conspicuous service or is recognized to have made a valuable contribution to the advancement in or dissemination of knowledge of audio engineering or in the promotion of its application in practice.

Previously, in 2011, Gary received a Citation from AES, which read "in recognition of his outstanding service to the Society and to its professional and student members throughout the midwestern U.S., advancing the growth, appreciation, and knowledge of audio and technology."

For the full press release from AES, visit: <https://aes2.org/news/aes-2023-election-results/>

STUDENT AWARD

EOPS student, Dustelle Brooks, was named a 2023 New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and received a \$1,250 scholarship, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation. Dustelle was selected based on the score she earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition, which received over 2,400 applications. Dustelle was the top-scoring student from California. Dustelle is working towards her Associate of Science in Alcohol and Drug Studies and will complete her program this coming spring.

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COAST COLLEGE DAY



Mendocino College
Coast Center Presents

COLLEGE DAY

Thursday, October 19th
10am-12pm
Coast Center



- Learn about majors, careers, and student services.
- Free lunch and prizes!

The Coast will be offering College Day on Thursday, October 19th from 10am-12pm to support students in learning more about majors, careers, and student services. If you would like to participate please contact Amanda Xu at axu@mendocino.edu.



NORTH COUNTY FRIENDS
OF MENDOCINO COLLEGE
Willits Chamber Mixer




Please Join Us
For hors d'oeuvres, libations and raffle prizes on
Friday, October 20th • 5pm - 7pm
at the Mendocino College North County Center, 372 E Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490



MENDOCINO COLLEGE PRESENTS

NATIVE LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Friday, November 3, 2023 | 3:00-4:30pm

CONTEMPORARY ART

FREE AND OFFERED IN-PERSON IN UKIAH AND VIA ZOOM.
Reserve your spot now! www.eventbrite.com/cc/native-learning-symposium-1650149



LEARN MORE:
WWW.MENDOCINO.EDU/NATIVE-LEARNING-SYMPOSIUM



COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY DAY

On Tuesday, October 3rd, Mendocino College held the annual College and University Day. This year we had over 500 students participate from throughout the District, including K-12. Many area schools brought their students to our campus so the over 25 universities represented could speak to students about higher education options. Mendocino College faculty also participated by sharing information about our many Learning and Career Pathways. This year's event was coordinated by Transfer Counselor/Coordinator Mark Osea and many faculty, managers, and staff from multiple departments.



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UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ACTION WEEK



Undocumented Student Action Week

OCTOBER 16-20, 2023

Creating Belonging for Undocumented Students



As we approach Undocumented Student Action Week, we are pleased to share a [video message from Deputy Chancellor Daisy Gonzales](#) about the importance of supporting undocumented students.

Additionally, on Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., the ICanGoToCollege.com campaign is hosting a special virtual webinar for undocumented students and families that will focus on helping students enroll and get the support they need to reach their educational goals. Students who attend can enter to win prizes donated by iHeart Media to help with their college education. Please share this information with students and their families and encourage them to register and attend.

To support our outreach efforts and to show support for Undocumented Student Action Week, a [toolkit of customizable digital assets is available online](#), including:

- Zoom background
- Signature block
- Logo/header
- Call-to-Action flyer
- Social media sample posts

[Learn more and register for Undocumented Student Action Week events.](#)

UPCOMING

Details at www.mendocino.edu/calendar