



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MARCH
2024

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



On February 27th, we hosted ACCJC President Dr. MC Powell at the Ukiah campus. Dr. Powell is travelling to member institutions to get to know colleagues throughout the region and to highlight promising programs and institutional transformation taking place. Vice President Polak, Vice President Cichocki, and I met with him. Coincidentally, Vice President Velasco was away on a ACCJC team visit at the time of Dr. Powell's visit. The meeting ended with a walking tour of campus. We highlighted the Eagles Support Center in Lowery, the automotive remodeling project, and ended at the agriculture department. The visit will be highlighted in a forthcoming issue of ACCJC on the Move.

I had the pleasure of attending a Pianists Benefit Concert on Sunday, March 3rd in Lakeport. Proceeds from the event will be dedicated to the annual scholarship fund of the Lake County Friends of Mendocino College which also supports the summer production of Shakespeare at the Lake in Clearlake and Lakeport. One of the six pianists was Mendocino College's instructor Elizabeth MacDougall.

SPRING 2024 ENROLLMENT

The Spring 2024 semester continues with strong enrollments, with an 11% increase in FTES over last year.

↑ 1,542 enrollments

↑ 103.17 FTES

↑ 642 students

Below is a chart showing a same day comparison across five semesters. If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

SEMESTER	DAY	ACTIVE ENROLLMENTS	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	CONTINUING STUDENTS	NEW STUDENTS	RETURNING STUDENTS	K-12 STUDENTS	TRANSFER STUDENTS	UNKNOWN STATUS STUDENTS	NUMBER OF SECTIONS	TOTAL FTES
SPRING 2024	44	11667	5103	881	4222	1964	295	622	1067	222	933	848	1025.24
SPRING 2023	44	10125	4461	680	3781	1636	269	573	1050	176	757	781	922.07
SPRING 2022	44	8267	3738	571	3167	1493	178	465	1015	154	433	681	833.33
SPRING 2021	44	7695	3331	665	2666	1568	122	403	724	203	311	497	904.68
SPRING 2020	44	10965	4537	872	3665	2066	229	510	913	322	497	801	1075.15

THEATRE ARTS

The Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department will present *Twelfth Night*, the musical March 7-17 in Mendocino College's Center Theatre on the Ukiah Campus. Originally produced by the Public Theatre in NYC in 2016, this joyous jazz funk musical adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved comedy *Twelfth Night* is set in a modern world inspired by the music and culture of New Orleans. This musical comedy about love and mistaken identities will run for two weekends only March 7-17, in the Mendocino College Center Theatre.

Opening night is Friday March 8. Opening night will include a free gala reception starting one hour before the show. The performance on Saturday March 9 benefits the Mendocino College Foundation and student scholarships. A free glass of wine is included with the ticket price for this performance. Following the opening weekend, additional performances are Thursday, Friday & Saturday March 14, 15 and 16 at 7:30 PM, and Sunday March 17 at 2 PM. Tickets (\$20 general; \$15 students and seniors) are available at the Mendocino Book Company, online at www.ArtsMendocino.org and at the door as available. The performance on Thursday March 14 is a special discount night, with all tickets costing only \$10. Audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

STAFF UPDATES

Please join me in welcoming the following new staff and faculty!

Raul Jacinto
Maintenance Technician

Filemon Lara-Lope
Career Center Specialist

Juan Jauregui
EOPS Counselor

Lisa Furlong
Business Instructor

Shirlee "Lori" Thomas
Ethnic Studies Instructor

Mindy Keegan
Administrative Assistant (VP of Student Services)

Erik Alfin
Web and Instructional Designer

Brian Williams
Program Manager NASSSP

Kyle Whiterock
Student Retention Specialist NASSSP

Maria Zepeda
Student Retention Specialist HSI (Ukiah)

Dariela Lopez
Student Retention Specialist HSI (Lake)

ARTS FACULTY RECOGNIZED



The Ukiah Daily Journal recently ran an article featuring two new Mendocino College arts faculty - Wesley Wright, full time ceramics instructor, and Jazzminh Moore, adjunct arts instructor and Gallery Director.

Read the article in full:

<https://www.mendocino.edu/news/mendocino-college-artists-wesley-wright-and-jazzminh-moore>



MESA FIELD TRIP



The attached photo is from a MESA field trip in May 2023 to the SETI Institute (we also visited SLAC National Laboratory). The photo depicts: Peter Jenniskens, MC instructor Tim Beck, MESA Director Eric Hoefler, Adjunct Instructor Morgan Jones, 8 MESA students and a cardboard cutout of Frank Drake. We are standing in front of the Drake Equation, used to estimate the number of active, intelligent and communicative extraterrestrial civilizations in our galaxy.

In 2016, instructor Tim Beck became involved with the SETI Institute's Cameras for Allsky Meteor Surveillance (CAMS) using equipment funded by the Mendocino College Foundation and installed at the Ukiah Latitude Observatory. The project uses video cameras to record the night sky looking for meteors and uses software to triangulate trajectories and calculate orbits of meteors. Several Mendocino College students helped with the commissioning of the Ukiah Latitude Observatory station, and to help analyze ten years of spectral data collected by the CAMS station on Sunnyvale.

FOOD INSECURITY SUPPORT

Our Food Pantry continues to grow and offers a variety of different items for students. The Food Pantry is open Tuesday through Friday (9:00am - 5:00pm), on Monday the Food Pantry is open from (9:00am - 7:00pm). Fresh Produce is now being offered every Wednesday (Avocados, Potatoes, Broccoli, Jams, Apples, Oranges, etc.). The Emergency fund is available for students experiencing hardship. Students are encouraged to reach out to Naoto Horiguchi in the Eagle Support Center to apply.

DREAM CENTER

The Dream Center continues to serve Undocumented Students. Counseling is available to students every Monday (5:00pm - 7:00pm). Mendocino College Dream Center is awarding a \$250 scholarship for the Spring 2024. The scholarship is intended to relieve some beginning of the year stress. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who is enrolled in at least 6 units, presents a financial need, and has an educational goal.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



"African Americans and the Arts" The Eagle Support Center celebrated Black History Month with color and love! On February 21st and 22nd, students were welcomed to participate in Handprint Art History in the Lowery Student Center, and they could take a paper handprint and write about three of the following options:

1. An individual they would like to honor.
2. A word or quote that expresses Black History Month.
3. Their feelings towards Black History Month.

Students took the time to memorialize, celebrate and express themselves. The Eagle Support Center plans to continue celebrating and elevating the Awareness Months throughout the year in partnership with Admissions and Records, the Library and other departments.

TRANSFER CENTER

Mendocino College has begun partnering with Sonoma State for regular visits at our Transfer Center. As part of SSU's Educational Pathways K126 program, we are hosting Christine Samaniego from SSU regularly in the Transfer Center spaces to promote the Liberal Arts programs offered to students.

STUDENT SUPPORT TOOL

The Counseling and HSI offices are leading the work with Starfish implementation. A soft launch planning is currently underway and cohorts of programs to include in the soft launch have been identified as Athletics (Women's Basketball), Disability Resource Center, Pomo Pathways, and the Puente Program.

VISION ALIGNED REPORTING

A team of 10 Mendocino College managers, faculty and staff attended a training in Sacramento on Vision Aligned Reporting. VAR will be a new process to collect and report data that directly aligns to student outcomes. Expected to launch in Fall 2024 for data collecting, the first report will be due in Fall 2025, but due to impact on multiple areas, work has begun this semester to ensure Mendocino College is ready for this new reporting expectation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As part of our HSI grant, we conducted the first of three trainings this semester for student-facing staff. As part of a partnership with Career Ladders Project, the training series kicked off on March 1st. Colleagues from all Student Services offices with other student-facing staff took part in this training that provided a foundational view of Mendocino College students, their demographics, and the funding and programmatic landscape for our community college.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DELAYS

The Financial Aid office has encountered various obstacles, including FAFSA delays and a lack of transparency from the US Department of Education (ED) regarding FAFSA data and related matters due to FAFSA simplification. Financial aid staff have been conducting their yearly outreach to high schools in our district to help students complete the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA). While some students have successfully submitted their complete application, others, such as students with undocumented parents, are still facing challenges. ED has stated that a solution will be available to students by the first half of March. The continued challenges and delays disproportionately affect students who depend on financial aid to attend college.

As a result of the delays, the California Student Aid Commission's Cal Grant March 2nd deadline has been extended to April 2, 2024. The financial aid office will continue to hold workshops to assist students in completing their application by the April 2nd deadline. Workshop days and times can be found on the financial aid office website at <https://www.mendocino.edu/financial-aid>.

FIRE ACADEMY



We are proud of the success of the Mendocino College Fire Academy, achieved through a dynamic collaboration with esteemed fire agency partners. These dedicated agencies—Ukiah Valley Fire Authority, City of Ukiah, Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Department, Anderson Valley Fire Department, and CalFire Mendocino—have generously contributed instructional time, equipment, engines, and facilities, transforming our vision into reality.

The FSC 90-Fire Fighter I Academy equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary for entry-level professional firefighters. Participants learn to perform their duties safely, effectively, and competently. The curriculum, combined with Emergency Medical Technician (EMS 135) training, meets the educational requirements for Firefighter I certification as established by the State Board of Fire Services. Notably, the program includes two overnight sessions, and successful completion of the wildland component earns students a CAL FIRE Basic Firefighter Certificate.

The current Fire Academy runs through May. To learn about future sessions contact Theresa Gowan at tgowan@mendocino.edu.



TEACHERS ON TEACHING

On March 2, teachers will come together to explore the importance of wellness in the classroom. This in-person event will inspire educators from K to college. Educators will discover innovative strategies to promote wellness, boost student engagement, and foster a healthy classroom atmosphere. Our expert speakers will share their insights, practical tips, and success stories. At Teachers on Teaching 2024, all educators will have the opportunity to network with like-minded educators, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. All who participate in this annual event will leave feeling rejuvenated and equipped with new tools to support student well-being.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (MARCH)

The National Women's History Month's theme for 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives and institutions. Women from every background have long realized that an uneven playing field will never bring equality or justice. Many feel the critical need to speak up and work harder for fairness in our institutions and social interactions.

During 2024, we recognize the example of women who are committed to embracing everyone and excluding no one in our common quest for freedom and opportunity. They know that people change with the help of families, teachers and friends, and that young people in particular need to learn the value of hearing from different voices with different points of view as they grow up.

Today, equity, diversity and inclusion are powerful driving forces that are having a wide-ranging impact on our country. As members of families, civic and community groups, businesses and legislative bodies, women are in the forefront of reevaluating the status quo. They are looking anew at what harmful social policies and behaviors exist and, often subtly, determine our future. In response, women in communities across the nation are helping to develop innovative programs and projects within corporations, the military, federal agencies and educational organizations to address these injustices.

It takes courage for women to advocate for practical goals like equity, diversity and inclusion when established forces aim to misinterpret, exploit or discredit them. Throughout 2024, we honor local women from the past and present who have taken the lead to show the importance of change and to establish firmer safeguards, practices and legislation reflecting these values. Following decades of discrimination, we are proud to celebrate women who work for basic inclusion, equality and fairness.

Who are the women in your community or organization that you will honor?

40TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

40th Annual - 2024 **WOMEN'S HISTORY GALA CELEBRATION**
SUNDAY, MARCH 3
 Doors open at noon;
 Program begins at 1 pm
SPACE THEATER
 508 W. Perkins, Ukiah



Mendocino College instructors and Loreta Rojas were honorees at this year's 40th Annual Women's Celebration of Mendocino Women's Political Coalition for our work advocating for Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity in our radio program on KZYX (MendoLatino and Making History: Latinos in Mendocino).

Making History Project has a promo, [first episode of podcast Nuestro Norte/Our North](#) that features another Mendocino College faculty, Instructor Teresa Rodriguez.

EVENTS

Naloxone Distribution Kick-Off Event

March 4th, 12-2pm, Lowery Student Center
 Training: 3-4pm, LLRC 4210

Wellness Workshop - Creating Study Spaces

March 6th, 1:30pm
 Ukiah LLRC 4112

Twelfth Night, the musical

March 7th - March 17th
 Center Theatre

Financial Aid Workshop - Coast

March 13, 2024 - 5:00-7:00pm
 Coast Center - Learning Commons

Financial Aid Workshop - Lake

March 15, 2024 - 5:00-7:00pm
 Lake Center - Room 7110

Financial Aid Workshop - Ukiah

Saturday, March 16, 2024 - 10:00am-2:00pm
 Ukiah Campus - Room 1280

Financial Aid Workshop - North County

March 20, 2024 - 10:00am - 2:00pm
 North County Center - Room 8010

Wellness Workshop -

Approaching Difficult Conversations
 March 20th, 1:30pm
 Ukiah LLRC 4112



CREATIVE STREAK

Works in Series

featuring

MONA CLIFF
 ESTHER SIEGEL
 SPENCER BREWER
 LINDA MACDONALD
 SHANNON SULLIVAN

Feb 18 - Mar 21

Mendocino College Gallery
 1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah

Gallery Hours:
 Tues: 3-6PM
 Wed: 12-3PM
 Thurs: 3-6PM

www.mendocino.edu/gallery

Opening Reception
 Feb 22nd, 4-6PM

"Working in a series allows me to explore a theme or concept in varied ways. I can work my way down a path to unexpected outcomes, which helps lead my work to areas of continued exploration..."
 -Mona Cliff