



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JUNE / JULY  
2024

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



Since the last Board meeting on May 8th, the district has had many year-end celebrations to recognize the achievements of our students. Highlighting some of the events were the Puente EOPS Awards, CAMP Ceremony, Fire Academy Ceremony, Nursing Pinning Ceremony, and 51st College

Commencement. Seeing all the students being recognized for their achievements, along with their family and friends, is the best capstone for the academic years one could want.

## SUMMER ENROLLMENTS

Summer enrollment across the district is significantly higher (50%) year-over-year. Equally impressive is the enrollment numbers are higher than the 2019 and 2018 pre-pandemic years. This is one of our largest summer enrollments at the college. This accomplishment could not be possible without faculty, classified staff, and managers working together to design a student-focused schedule of classes and work with partners to increase educational opportunities.

| SEMESTER    | ACTIVE STUDENTS | FULL-TIME | PART-TIME | TOTAL FTES |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| SUMMER 2024 | 1978            | 14        | 1964      | 321.02     |
| SUMMER 2023 | 1336            | 6         | 1330      | 214.2      |
| SUMMER 2020 | 1262            | 18        | 1244      | 238.47     |
| SUMMER 2019 | 1484            | 15        | 1469      | 235.66     |
| SUMMER 2018 | 1515            | 11        | 1504      | 238.99     |

## COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 24th was a beautiful day for the fifty-first commencement ceremony. The weather was perfect, the stadium seats and the hillside that sits alongside was filled with those celebrating the success of the 168 graduates that crossed the stage. Many thanks to all those that gave of their time to ensure the ceremony was a beautiful event for students and their families.



## SUMMER OUTREACH

The Outreach Team is wrapping up the 2023-2024 Reg-2-Go visits at high schools and turning their focus to community outreach events. Some of the scheduled events for the summer include the Fort Bragg NorCoast Rodders Car Show, Coyote Valley Big Time Celebration, Willits Frontier Days Hometown Celebration, Pinoleville Big Time Celebration, and Round Valley Blackberry Festival.

## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR**

Health and Wellness hosted the second annual Health and Wellness Fair on May 8th in Pomo Plaza. Several community organizations shared information, there were dance demonstrations and live music. Departments across campus showed up and shared wellness activities with students. We plan to continue this event next year.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Basic Needs hosted Produce Wednesdays nearly every week throughout the semester distributing fresh veggies and CalFresh information to students. Every week Student Life Specialist Naoto Horiguchi made a trip to the food bank to receive produce and prepared it for distribution with their team of student workers. Among them were student volunteers many of whom speak Spanish who helped us reach a wider range of students.

**REGALIA WORKSHOPS**

The Native American Student Resource Center hosted weekly regalia making workshops where students are invited to come and work on cultural projects in the Native Center. This semester students learned to make top knots for dance, skirts, learned new beading techniques, gathered plant materials and exchanged cultural knowledge. This space will continue year round and the NASSSP program will continue to reach out to students.

**LGBTQ+ STUDENT SUPPORT**

LGBTQ+ Student support continues to grow. Following this year's Queer Prom and LGBTQ+ Summit, Student Life and Support have increased equity efforts to engage students and build community. We are looking forward to Pride Month this year where we are sharing Pride buckets with the Ukiah campus and centers as well as Pride activities to build community and strategize on how we can collectively work together to remove barriers for LGBTQ+ students. We want all LGBTQ+ students to feel included, cared for and welcome at Mendocino College.

**GRADUATION AND TRANSFER EVENT**

A new graduation & transfer fair event was developed as a collaboration between our Transfer Center and Student Services departments. The goal was to support Mendocino College students to check in on their anticipated graduation plans, pick-up gowns, awards, take part in photo opportunities and ensure that all details were accounted for before walking down the aisle on May 24th. Students could have complex transfer questions answered on the spot and receive confirmation about their transfer plans. This is a new event we plan to hold annually to support our soon-to-be graduates. We offered several dates for grads to check in with our team and it was well received.





### PUEENTE EVENT

Our Puente Program held an End of the Year event to recognize the commitments these students and their families made to support a successful semester. Students enjoyed a delicious meal together, received awards for their achievements and had an opportunity to share their gratitude for those who supported them this academic year. Students were quick to thank the faculty, Leslie Banta, John Rall, and Apryl Guisasola for their extra support, guidance and encouragement. Families were also part of this event, and students were able to express their gratitude for the family's commitment to their education.

### EAGLE CONNECT UPDATE

Our Starfish (aka Eagle Connect) team is happy to announce that our Eagle Connect software is live. We are continuing our work with the consultants to help our staff and faculty onboard the early alert tool for our Summer and Fall sessions. We are developing new materials and support to ensure all staff and faculty know how to use these retention tools and creating organized systems to support college-wide usage. Working with the consultants has helped us to develop materials and strategies that will promote early adoption and sustained interest in integrating these tools into our work.

### YEAR-END EOPS STUDENT COUNT

The numbers of students being served by EOPS have reached pre-pandemic numbers. Preliminary numbers show that the EOPS office served 409 students in fall 2023 and 441 students in spring 2024, serving 515

### EOPS/CARE/NEXTUP CEREMONY

This year's EOPS/CARE/NextUp Awards Ceremony was held on May 10th. It was a very special evening for EOPS, CARE and NextUp students who graduated and/or who have maintained at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average. This year 232 students were honored for their academics and 66 for graduating. Those graduating received their Graduation Packet, which included their graduation cap, gown, 2024 tassel, Honors Cord (for those who are graduating with honors), PTK Stole (for those who are members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society) and a frame to display their degree/certificate. A dessert reception followed the ceremony, and students received a meal card to celebrate with their loved ones.

### EVENTS

#### Youth Volleyball Camp - 5th-8th Grade

July 8, 2024; 9:00am - 1:00pm

Mendocino College Gym

#### Native Summer Enrichment Program

July 8, 2024 - July 19, 2024; 12:30-5:00pm

Ukiah Campus - *Lunch provided*

### LOOKING AHEAD...

#### Week of Welcome

Aug. 19, 2024 - Aug. 23, 2024; 8:00am - 6:00pm

Ukiah Campus, Pomo Plaza

