



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APRIL  
2025

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



On March 20th I had the pleasure to attend the North County Center hosted College Day. Hundreds of high school students from Northern to Southern Mendocino County came to the Willits Center to learn about our program, connect with local agencies, and


attend workshops. The North County Center team with staff support from the other centers and Ukiah did an excellent job highlighting the center and the exceptional programs we offer.

If you have had the chance to drive on Perkin's Street in Ukiah, you may have noticed the two banners on the parcel at Main/Perkins. This parcel is intended for future student housing. We will keep the community posted on the college webpage [www.mendocino.edu/student-housing](http://www.mendocino.edu/student-housing).

The month ended with the final performances of Mendocino Stories. This was Reid Edelman's final production for Mendocino College. Reid is retiring at the end of the spring semester. Mendocino Stories was a timely production focused on our local communities.

Between March 24-28 was spring break. During this week of no classes, I hope everyone had some personal time to enjoy themselves. I had the opportunity to celebrate Greek Independence Day on March 25. Many national movements in the 19th century took inspiration

from the United States and our Declaration of Independence expressing universal rights such as "certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Greece's struggle gave birth to the national motto of Greece, "Eleftheria i Thanatos" (Ελευθερία ή θάνατος), which translates to "Freedom or Death".

I appreciate the students who spoke at the March Board meeting on the issue of cultural smudging. We are determined to provide a way to support these practices at the college. Prior to the March Board meeting, I reached out to begin that process. In that message, I noted that "I am beginning a process to develop guidelines. It will take consultation and time to complete the guidelines; however, in the end, we will have inclusive guidelines to support the cultural integrity of our Indigenous/Native American students, faculty, staff, and guests." I welcome beginning the consultation process. 




*Reid Edelman at his Retirement Soiree Fundraiser for the Friends of Mendocino College Theatre Fund*



## BLUE ZONES


I am pleased to announce that Mendocino College has been designated a Blue Zones Approved Worksite. Blue Zones is a nationally recognized leader in well-being transformation, and this certification underscores our commitment to the health and well-being of our employees.

As part of the certification process, Mendocino College earned an outstanding 90 out of a possible 78 points, demonstrating our strong foundation in supporting employee wellness. Moving forward, we are committed to sustaining and expanding these efforts to ensure the continued well-being of all staff.


We will celebrate this milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony during the Health & Wellness Fair on May 7th from 1:00–2:00 p.m., with the fair open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. I invite you to join us at this important event. 



## NATIVE STORYTELLING


On March 20th, we had a very well attended Native Storytelling event at the Ukiah campus. It was a collaboration with Professor Lori Laiwa Thomas, from our ethnic studies department and the NASSSP program. The event was greatly supported by the Native American club. Our Director of Student Life and Support, Bonnie Lockhart, played a large role in making the night a success. 

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ADMISSIONS & RECORDS STAFF

Several of our Admissions & Records Team have, or will be, attending conferences and trainings in the next month. Beronica Leon, Admissions & Records Technician, attended the Chief Student Services Officers (CSSO) conference before spring break. She and Sheryl Miralles, Admissions & Records Technician, will attend the California Association of Community College Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACCRAO) conference in late April. On April 8th, the Admissions & Records Technicians and the Director of Enrollment Services, Anastasia Simpson-Logg, along with Dean Smith and Instructor Molly Thomas, will attend the MAP Regional CPL Training to learn more about using the MAP system to create equivalencies for military training and CTE industry certifications. 



## FRAUDULENT APPLICATIONS

Admissions & Records continues to work diligently to ensure the applications for admission processed are from legitimate students. Fraudulent applications continue to plague most community colleges in California, and it takes a significant effort to review each application to determine if it is fraudulent or legitimate. Since fall 2024, the Admissions & Records Team has been reviewing and hand keying all online applications to ensure Mendocino College is enrolling, and issuing aid and other resources, to legitimate students. We are also working with a consultant to add automated measures to assist staff in the review/fraud determination process and to streamline the application entry for legitimate applications. In the last year, we have seen a 50% increase in online applications, much of that due to fraudulent application submissions. 




## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATES**

As you may have read in the news, the Federal Department of Education is poised to undergo significant staffing reductions. While the specific impact on programs and projects is still unclear, it is important to note that our general fund exposure to federal funding is minimal. Our general fund revenue totals around \$35 million, with only \$69,000 coming from federal sources. Detailed budget information can be viewed on the college website.


However, there are grant programs in our restricted budget that rely entirely on federal funding, including the High School Equivalency Program (HEP), Hispanic Serving Institutions Grant (HSI), and Perkins (CTE) funds. The status of these funds depends on actions from the Federal Department of Education and the Federal Budget Act.

Our most significant connection to the federal government is through our authorization to distribute student financial aid (Pell grants). This funding is critical to our students, and any federal decisions could affect disbursements, deadlines, and program requirements. At this point, nothing has changed, and we will continue to operate as usual. It is disheartening that federal decisions may have a significant impact on our students.

MLCCD programs and practices comply with federal laws, California codes and regulations, and the Constitutions of the United States and California. We will continue to uphold our Mission, Vision, and Values. 

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

On March 14, 2025, a federal judge ordered the mass reinstatement of fired federal workers at 18 agencies, including the Education Department. This decision follows a major reduction in workforce at the U.S. Department of Education earlier this week, which affected hundreds of attorneys, student aid workers, and civil rights office staff. While department officials have stated that the reduction in force will not affect the work of the department's Federal Student Aid office, its civil rights investigations, or how federal funds are distributed, these actions raise questions about the future of federal support for higher education. Notably, [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov), the federal website for student loans and financial aid, experienced an outage last week, contributing to ongoing uncertainty about the department's ability to maintain essential services.


The federal administration has indicated through an executive order its view on federal Department of Education programs. This included proposing that student financial aid be moved to the Small Business Administration (SBA). The Department of Education has announced a 50% cut in its workforce and the SBA announced a 40% cut in its workforce. Additionally, the Department of Education will be closing seven of the Office for Civil Rights 12 regional offices. The San Francisco regional office is slated to be shuttered. 




**ICE PROTOCOLS**

In response to inquiries about what would happen if ICE came onto campus and detained a faculty or staff member and what protections are in place regarding personal employment information, I would like to provide the following information:

- If a federal immigration enforcement official, such as an ICE agent, requests access to a campus, MLCCD personnel should immediately refer the official and their request to the Office of the Superintendent/President.
- The Office will work with MLCCD's legal services to determine the lawfulness of the request.
- Similarly, if an ICE agent requests access to a student's information/record, MLCCD personnel should refer the request to the Office of the Superintendent/President, which will work with legal services to make a final determination.
- If an ICE agent refuses to follow the above protocols, MLCCD personnel should immediately call campus security at 707-468-3155.
- Even if no direct request is made by an ICE agent, MLCCD personnel and students should report the presence of federal immigration enforcement officials on any MLCCD campus by calling 707-468-3071.

Regarding employee immigration status, MLCCD will only provide information in response to a lawful subpoena as required by law. The district does not sponsor work visas for employment, and it is unlikely that an immigration enforcement official would come to campus concerning employee immigration status. If you have specific concerns, please reach out to your supervisor or human resources. 

**CSU BUDGET CUTS**

The CSU system is facing a challenging fiscal landscape. The system began this year with a \$200 million funding gap, and the Governor's proposed 2025/26 State budget includes a 7% reduction in funding for the CSU system. This fiscal outlook has led to difficult proposals from our CSU partners, including program reductions and the elimination of athletics at Sonoma State University, program reductions at Cal Poly Humboldt, and the closure of the Tiburon Field Station at San Francisco State University. These changes may affect our students' transfer pathways and opportunities. Our excellent counseling faculty are available to assist students in their decision-making process. 



**DROP-IN  
COUNSELING**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**9 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 4 pm**

**In-person at Ukiah Campus  
or via phone (707) 468-3048**




**Red Cards are available in all  
Student Service offices, or online at  
[www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas](http://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas)**




**ZTC NEWS****PTA Degree  
Goes OER****ZTC AT MC**

We are excited to share that the Chancellor's Office has awarded Mendocino College's Zero Textbook Cost Program with two more grants. PTA was awarded to support their faculty in authoring new OER for their degree program. That will be 10 new OER courses in the field! The other grant will help us support at least two more-degree programs or certificates of achievement to be fully ZTC with an emphasis for OER.


- Do you have questions about ZTC/LTC?
- Are you curious about OER and how to find/remix/adapt for your courses?
- Do you have questions about copyright, author rights, fair use, Creative Commons Licenses or attributions?
- Are you wondering about a free course material and if it is truly "open"?
- Do you need ancillary materials for your course (ZTC or not)?
- Interested in Library Resources that can enhance your course or assignments?

Reach out to Textbook Affordability Librarian, Gabrielle Visco, MLIS at:  
[gvisco@mendocino.edu](mailto:gvisco@mendocino.edu) 

**2ND ANNUAL GRADUATION AND TRANSFER FAIR**

In preparation for graduation, which will be held on Friday, May 23rd, Articulation Officer Osea and the Admissions & Records Team will host the 2nd Annual Graduation and Transfer Fair. This event, offered for 4 days on the Ukiah Campus, is designed to celebrate our graduating students and assist those transferring to four-year institutions by connecting them with the resources and support they need for a smooth transition. In conjunction with other Student Services and Support Departments, this will be an opportunity to confirm students are on track to graduate and/or transfer, ensure they have all the needed information to participate in the annual graduation and other upcoming ceremonies, hand out regalia and other items needed for these celebrations, have studio photos taken with a professional photographer and/or selfies with a celebratory Mendo backdrop, and to get students excited about the culmination of their hard work! 

**7TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES LGBTQ+ SUMMIT**

The Pride Program is hosting a virtual watch party for the 7th Annual California Community Colleges LGBTQ+ Summit in MacMillan Hall, Room #1170. Join us on April 15th and 16th, from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the LGBTQ+ community, discover ways to support our students, and engage in meaningful discussions from a place of love and understanding. 



## PRIDE PROGRAM UPDATES CONT.

### Pride Program

The Pride Program will be hosting a Sock Puppet Pop-up at the Coast Center April 21st from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. We are excited to see everyone there.

### Rainbow Alliance

The Rainbow Alliance is a new student-led club for the LGBTQ+ community and allies. Join us for Chat and Chill on Wednesdays in the Transfer Center to connect and be part of an inclusive space!

### CONTACT

Thais Springer, *LGBTQIA2S+ Program Specialist*  
pride@mendocino.edu | (707) 467-1007 ext. #1007

### LOCATION & HOURS

Eagles Nest, Lowry Building, #781


Mon., Wed., & Fri. from 10:00 am-4:00 pm 



### BASIC NEEDS UPDATE

Basic Needs successfully hosted its very first Produce Wednesday at two different centers, Lake Center and Coast Center in late February. This outreach event provided fresh produce to approximately 100 students in total, expanding our efforts to support food security across multiple locations. The overwhelmingly positive response highlights the growing impact of our services and strengthens our commitment to reaching more students in need.

On March 10, the Basic Needs center and ASMC hosted an exciting Student vs. Staff Volleyball Game, along with an Appreciation Event for the Basketball Team, to recognize their dedication and hard work. The day was filled with enthusiasm and friendly rivalry. Students and staff gathered in a fun and energetic setting, promoting teamwork through friendly competition.

In addition, Basic Needs attended the Lake Center and Willits College & Career Day events. These outreach efforts are key to our mission to help students at different locations, making sure they have the services they need to succeed. 





**OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

The Outreach Team is in the heart of their Reg-2-Go work as they work with local high school seniors to complete the steps to become a student and prepare to meet with a counselor to select classes before the registration periods for summer and all open.

In addition to their Reg-2-Go work, the Outreach calendar has been filling up with local events, and our Team will represent the college at the following local events:

- **April 10:** Lower Lake High School College and Career Day (Lower Lake)
- **April 12:** Redwood Valley Rancheria Spirit Run (Redwood Vly)
- **April 19:** Clean Canvas 2025 (Willits)
- **April 19:** Coyote Valley Earth Day Celebration (Redwood Vly)
- **April 22:** Cahto Tribe Earth Day Event (Laytonville)
- **April 26:** Big Valley Youth Summit (Lakeport)
- **April 27:** 10th Annual Día del Niño Celebration (Ukiah) 

**HR CORNER**

Human Resources with Mendocino College provides a supportive atmosphere to all current and future employees. Your friendly Human Resources Team would like to highlight some useful links:

**Check Out Open Positions**

- [Employment Opportunities](#)


**Training Opportunities**

- [Training with Keenan SafeColleges](#)
- [Vision Resource Center](#)

**Access Collective Bargaining Agreements**

- [Collective Bargaining Agreements - 2024/25](#)

**Retirement Links**

- [CalPERS - Classified Employees and Managers](#)
- [CalSTRS - Certificated Employees & Educational Administrators](#)
- [403\(b\) Supplemental Retirement](#) 

**EARTH DAY****APRIL 22, 2025**

**Guest Speakers | Live Music | DJ | Karaoke | Art Pop-Up Photo Booth | Plant Display | Electric Vehicle Display Health & Wellness | MC Clubs | Info Tables | & More!**

Join the ASMC for an exciting Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2025, at Mendocino College! Let's come together to honor our planet and learn how we can make a positive impact on the environment. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow students and contribute to a greener future!

**Questions? Contact:**


Diandra Acosta at [diandra.acosta@student.mendocino.edu](mailto:diandra.acosta@student.mendocino.edu)

Russell Furlong at [russell.furlong@student.mendocino.edu](mailto:russell.furlong@student.mendocino.edu) 



**HEALTH & WELLNESS UPDATES**

- April is **Alcohol Awareness Month**. [Click here](#) for information on how alcohol impacts the body.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> is **Wear Denim Day**. Look for activities for students and staff in and around Pomo Plaza at lunchtime (11:30-1), including food distribution, public health, MCAVHN, and Health and Wellness. For more information about wearing denim on this day, [click here](#).
- The **Health & Wellness Fair** is on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11-2 pm. Lunch will be provided, and each organization attending has been asked to provide an activity that promotes one of our three resilience-building areas: calm body (health), life skill proficiency (agency), and quality relationships (connection). Please share this information with students. If you want suggestions on how to incorporate the fair into your curriculum for the day, please reach out. I'm happy to brainstorm with you. On this day, we'll also be celebrating an important Blue Zones milestone for our college at 1 pm!
- Just a reminder: we have added **Eagle Connect** to the many ways you can refer a student to Health & Wellness Services.

If you have any questions or would like Health & Wellness to present in your classrooms, please reach out to [wellness@mendocino.edu](mailto:wellness@mendocino.edu). 



## Circle of Support

Compassionate • Confidential  
Non-Judgmental

All are welcome. No registration needed.  
Refreshments provided for students.

**2nd Thursday of each month**  
(5/08)

Ukiah Campus | 12:30-1:20  
Library Conference Room 4232

Facing challenges? Need to share?  
Feeling Overwhelmed? You're Not Alone.

For more information, visit  
[www.mendocino.edu/wellness](http://www.mendocino.edu/wellness).

## Save the Date!

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR  
**MAY 7, 2025 | 11 AM - 2 PM**





## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

THE MENDOCINO COLLEGE GALLERY PRESENTS

ANNUAL JURIED  
STUDENT ART SHOW

APR 24 - MAY 18



## 2025 ANNUAL JURIED STUDENT ART SHOW

APR 24 - MAY 18, 2025

*Opening Reception: Thurs, Apr 24th 4:30 - 6:30pm*

The Opening Reception will include an interactive Draw-a-thon in coordination with the MC Dance Repertory Company. Dancers from the Spring Dance Festival will model in costume for anyone who would like to draw. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

**Gallery Hours:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 12:30 - 3:30 pm, and by appointment. The Gallery is also open for theatre performances, including the Spring Dance Festival, May 1st- 4th.

[www.mendocino.edu/gallery](http://www.mendocino.edu/gallery) | [gallery@mendocino.edu](mailto:gallery@mendocino.edu) 

SURPLUS  
SALE

APRIL 25 | 9AM-2PM | MC RED BARN

MENDOCINO COLLEGE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT &amp; HORTICULTURE CLUB

## SPRING PLANT SALE

Venta de plantas de primavera

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH

9 AM - 5 PM

SAT., APRIL 26TH

9 AM - 3 PM

FEATURING  
Heirloom Vegetables  
California Natives  
Shrubs & Berries  
Drought Tolerant &  
Hard to Find Plants

Presentando  
Verduras tradicionales de "heirlooms"  
Nativos de California  
Arbustos y bayas  
Plantas tolerantes a la sequía y plantas  
que son difíciles de encontrar



Mendocino College Department of Agriculture Greenhouse  
1000 Hensley Creek Rd., Ukiah, CA 95482



MENDOCINO COLLEGE PRESENTS:

18th Annual  
FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYSMAY 15, 16 & 17 AT 7:30 PM  
IN THE LITTLE THEATRE

## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

# What's Next in ATHLETICS

## WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Wed. Apr. 2 at 12:00 PM VS Shasta | AWAY\*

Wed. Apr. 2 at 2:00 PM VS Shasta | AWAY\*

**Fri. Apr. 4 at 3:00 PM VS Feather River | HOME\***

**Sat. Apr. 5 at 12:00 PM VS Feather River | HOME\***

**Sat. Apr. 5 at 2:00 PM VS Feather River | HOME\***

**Fri. Apr. 11 at 3:00 PM VS Siskiyou | HOME\***

**Sat. Apr. 12 at 12:00 PM VS Siskiyou | HOME\***

**Sat. Apr. 12 at 2:00 PM VS Siskiyou | HOME\***

**Tue. Apr. 15 at 10:00 AM VS West Hills Coalinga | HOME**

**Tue. Apr. 15 at 12:00 PM VS West Hills Coalinga | HOME**

**Wed. Apr. 16 at 3:00 PM VS Shasta | HOME\***

**Fri. Apr. 18 at 3:00 PM VS Yuba | HOME\***

**Sat. Apr. 19 at 12:00 PM VS Yuba | HOME\***

**Sat. Apr. 19 at 2:00 PM VS Yuba | HOME\***

## MEN'S BASEBALL

**Tue. Apr. 1 at 2:00 PM VS Laney | HOME\***

Thu. Apr. 3 at 2:00 PM VS Laney | AWAY\*

**Sat. Apr. 5 at 1:00 PM VS Laney | HOME\***

Tue. Apr. 8 at 2:00 PM VS Napa Valley | AWAY\*

**Thu. Apr. 10 at 2:00 PM VS Napa Valley | HOME\***

Fri. Apr. 11 at 1:00 PM VS Napa Valley | AWAY\*

**Tue. Apr. 15 at 2:00 PM VS Contra Costa | HOME\***

Thu. Apr. 17 at 2:00 PM VS Contra Costa | AWAY\*

**Fri. Apr. 18 at 1:00 PM VS Contra Costa | HOME\***

Tue. Apr. 22 at 2:00 PM VS Yuba | AWAY\*

**Thu. Apr. 24 at 2:00 PM VS Yuba | HOME\***

Fri. Apr. 25 at 1:00 PM VS Yuba | AWAY\*



# denotes an Exhibition

\* denotes a Conference

**Bolded Event denotes a Home Game**

## EVENTS

The regular seasons for three of our sports teams (Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer, and Women's Volleyball) began in September. Come out to cheer on our student-athletes. Details can be viewed on the [Events page](#), or the [Athletics page](#). The monthly [student newsletter](#), *The Eagle*, provides a listing of upcoming events and campus news too.

### Weaving Wednesdays

3rd Wed. Every Month | 1 - 3:00 pm | Eagle Support Center

### Regalia Night

Thursdays, 5:30 - 8:00 pm | Lowery Student Center

### Produce Wednesday

Every Wednesday | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Ukiah Campus

### LGBTQ+ Summit

April 15 & 16, 2025 | 9:00 am - 2:30 pm | Library Room 4210

### Sock Puppet Pop-Up

April 21, 2025 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Coast Center

### Earth Day Celebration

April 22, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Pomo Plaza

### Chat + Chill: Rainbow Alliance Meeting

April 23, 2025 | 1 - 3 pm | Transfer Center, Ukiah Campus

### Student Art Show

April 24 - May 18, 2025 | Various Hours | College Gallery  
*Opening Reception & Draw-A-Thon: April 24, 4:30-6:30 PM*

### Surplus Sale 2025

April 25, 2025 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | MC Red Barn

### Latino Student Retreat

April 25, 2025 | 8:00am - 1:30pm | Center Theatre

### Spring Plant Sale

April 25, 2025 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Mendocino College Garden

April 26, 2025 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Mendocino College Garden

### Graduation and Transfer Fair 2025

April 29, 2025 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Transfer Center

May 7, 2025 | 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Transfer Center

May 13, 2025 | 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Transfer Center

May 22, 2025 | 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Transfer Center

### Spring Dance Festival

May 1, 2025 - May 4, 2025 | Various Times | Center Theatre

### Middle College Senior Signing Day Celebration

May 2, 2025 | 1:00-2:00 pm | Eagle's Nest

### EOPS Graduates Celebration

May 6, 2025 | 12:00-2:00 pm | Lowery Atrium