



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT


MAY  
2025

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



This past month has been full of activities and events throughout the district. Thank you to the countless volunteers and departments that supported these events. Some of the events were the Latino Student Retreat, Annual Student Art Show, Spring Dance Festival, Spring

Plant Sale, EOPS Celebration, Health & wellness Fair, Mendocino College Jazz band Concert, Lake Center Registration Fiesta, Coast Center Registration Fiesta, Mendocino College Choir Concert, and Graduation & Transfer Fair.

On April 24th, I had the opportunity to attend the Mendocino Healthcare Education & Workforce Summit (last year's summit was in Lake County). Pamela Heston, our director of employer partnerships, was one of the summit organizers. The event was a strong reflection of our community's commitment to addressing local needs and strengthening our healthcare system. Mendocino College had a strong representation of staff, managers, and faculty (Filemon Lara-Lopez, Molly Thomas, Suzanne Hewitt, Amanda Xu, Julie McGovern, and Euline Olinger). 

## Happy Retirement

**CONGRATS, SPRING & SUMMER 2025 RETIREES!**

After a long and committed career with Mendocino College, these lucky folks are turning the page and starting a new chapter!

**REID EDELMAN**

Professor Emeritus: Theatre Arts – 25 years

**BART RAWLINSON**

Professor Emeritus: English – 22 Years

**SUE BLUNDELL**

Professor Emerita: Biology – 37 Years

**MICHELLE SNIDER**

Professor Emerita: Math – 15 Years

**GINGER MYKLEBUST**

Professor Emerita: Child Development – 37 Years


**KARL BYRN**

Instructor: History – 10 Years 



## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**52ND COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**


Preparations are underway for the 52nd commencement ceremony, scheduled for Friday, May 23rd at 6pm on the Stadium Field, Ukiah Campus. In advance of the ceremony and in support of students through the transition, the first of four scheduled Graduation & Transfer Fair dates were a success! The Transfer Center was filled with students throughout the event and were able to receive guidance with their transfer, confirm their graduation status, borrow caps and gowns for the graduation ceremony, have professional photos taken, and pick up graduate packets from their programs. 

**NURSING PROGRAM**

Along with community partners, faculty, and staff, I was able to attend the Nursing Program Advisory Committee meeting. Great information was shared about the program. I want to highlight two pieces of information: acknowledgement of our clinical sites and 2024 graduate placements. Our program could not run without community partners being sites for student clinical rotations in various nursing subject areas, like ER, Pediatrics, and OB. Our program depends on clinical partners in three counties (Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma) to ensure all types of clinical rotations are available to students. Below is a list of our clinical site partners.

- Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital
- Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Hospital
- Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Hospital
- Cloverdale Healthcare Center
- Dialysis Center, Inc.
- Hospice Services of Lake County
- Lake County Jail
- Mendocino Community Health Clinic
- Mendocino College Child Development Center
- Northbrook Convalescent Hospital
- Redwood Cove Healthcare
- Santa Rosa Behavioral Health Hospital
- Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital
- Sutter Lakeside Hospital

Our program successfully provides nurses to our local hospital and health providers. **100% of the RN Class of 2024 passed the NCLEX (RN licensing) exam on the first attempt.** Below is the employment location for the Class of 2024.

- Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Hospital- 11
- Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital- 1
- Sutter Lakeside Hospital- 4
- Petaluma Valley Hospital- 1
- Hospice Services of Lake County- 1
- Cloverdale Healthcare Center- 2
- LifeWest Critical Care Transport- 1
- St. Alphonsus (Boise, Idaho)- 1 






## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATES

I am writing to provide important updates on several topics that have been raised recently, including federal government changes. My goal is to keep you informed, mitigate any anxiety, and ensure transparency.

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.


President Trump signed an Executive Order targeting federally recognized institutional accreditors. ACCJC, our regional accrediting agency, plays a vital role in channeling Pell Grants, student loans, and research funding to eligible institutions. ACCJC accreditation ensures institutions meet rigorous academic standards and protects students and taxpayers from fraud and low-quality education.

I want to make you aware of a recent federal court ruling that has immediate implications for the Department of Education's recent actions related to DEI. A federal judge in Maryland paused enforcement of the Department's February "Dear Colleague" letter, which warned that federal funding could be withheld from schools found to be engaged in discriminatory practices under Title VI. In the injunction, the judge noted the lack of formal process behind the letter's release and warned that it could have a chilling effect on free and open discourse within schools.

On April 25, the Associated Press reported the federal government is reversing the termination of legal status for international students after many filed court challenges around the U.S., a government lawyer said. The lawyer read a statement in federal court in Oakland that said ICE was manually restoring the student status for people whose records were terminated in recent weeks. A similar statement was read by a government attorney in a separate case in Washington on Friday. The lawyer said it would apply to all students in the same situation, not just those who had filed lawsuits. ~ Tim Karas, President 

## MENDOCINO COLLEGE EARNS BLUE ZONES PROJECT WORKSITE APPROVAL

Mendocino College is proud to announce that it has officially been recognized as a Blue Zones Project Approved Worksite. This significant achievement marks a major step forward in our mission to support the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. It underscores our proactive approach to fostering a culture of health, longevity, and connection throughout our campus community. To celebrate this milestone, Mendocino College hosted an official Blue Zones Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony during our Health and Wellness Fair on May 7th.

The Blue Zones Project - Mendocino County is a community-led wellness initiative inspired by global regions where people live the longest, healthiest lives. The project collaborates with organizations and cities to reshape environments, policies, and social networks, making healthy choices easier and more accessible to everyone. 








## MENDOCINO COLLEGE AG STUDENTS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION LIVING LAB

Mendocino College Agricultural students have been gaining hands-on ecological restoration skills at the College's new emergency access road in Ukiah. The mile-long access road, completed last year in collaboration with Granite Construction and the Mendocino College Foundation, was a resiliency project to provide secondary egress in and out of campus in case of emergency. As a condition of federal and state construction permits, the College is required to plant and maintain over 30,000 native grasses, shrubs, and trees. These plantings will help both re-establish and increase wetland areas and habitat that were disturbed by construction activities.

Mendocino College Agricultural Studies professor Kurt Voight and Director of Facilities Planning, Operations & Sustainability, MacAdam Lojowsky, saw an opportunity for collaboration. ***"I saw 30,000 plants that needed to get irrigated and put in the ground before April and knew we needed help,"*** said Lojowsky. "I asked Kurt if he thought his students would be interested in being a part of it. His immediate answer was 'absolutely!'"

With the remediation consulting by Ukiah-based North Coast Regional Management, Mendocino College maintenance and grounds staff laid thousands of feet of irrigation to ensure that these plants establish and survive. Ag students had the opportunity to learn about large-scale

## NEW KIWI ABOR

Our Landscape Construction class is hard at work building a brand-new kiwi arbor in the Mendocino College gardens, designed by a student and built entirely by students. This rebuild replaces an ageing structure that has stood for years, and it's just one example of what hands-on education looks like in action. 

irrigation design and different strategies to water this vast number of plants. In addition to specific planting specifications, many of the shrubs and trees also need protective cages to assist in their establishment. All of these aspects were incorporated in this living lab lesson. Working under the directives of actual permits provides students with valuable lessons, explains Professor Voight, ***"It's great real-world experience on a professional jobsite to be able to work with other students on a common goal. And, it's doing something good for the school. It's hard work- being out there, digging holes, but the students had a lot of fun, I had a lot of fun today."***

Once all 31,905 grasses, shrubs, and trees are in the ground, Mendocino College will need to prepare and submit annual reports each year for the next five years with an identified survival threshold of 80% of the plants. Both Voight and Lojowsky see opportunities for future collaboration on this project. ***Photos on next page...***



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS




*Mendocino College Agriculture students participate in planting and maintaining 30,000 native grasses, shrubs, & trees as a part of the Ecological Restoration Living Lab. *






**COUNSELING UPDATE**

The Eagle Connect software is wrapping up its first year of accepting early alert flags, referrals, and sending kudos to students. We are improving the practices across the college and integrating them into new department workflows to help support student success. The next big project is to transition our counseling appointments to using the Eagle Connect (online) scheduling system in a scaffolded approach. Our Disability Resource Services and Veteran's Counselors will use it this June, EOPS/CARE/NextUp and CalWORKs will begin in the Fall, and all other departments will use it in the following Spring 2026. This approach will help us to fine tune it as we roll out the features. 

**PRIDE PROGRAM**

On April 15-16, 2025, the Pride Program hosted the CCC's 7th Annual LGBTQ+ Virtual Summit. The summit offered the opportunity for students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to come together, learn, share innovative ideas, and develop strategies to improve campus programs and student support services. Collectively, Mendocino College had over 60+ attendees. Through dynamic trainings, inspiring speakers, and student testimonials, we explored how to transform our institutions and make lasting structural changes to better serve LGBTQ+ students across CCC campuses.


In May, LGBTQIA2S+ students who are graduating or transferring are invited to celebrate with the Pride Program at the Graduation and Transfer Fair. Students can come pick up their stole and gift bag on Thursday, May 22nd, 3-6 pm. For more information, please write to [pride@mendocino.edu](mailto:pride@mendocino.edu). 

**FULL-TIME FACULTY ASSOCIATION**


During the last Faculty meeting of the 24/25 year, the Full Time Faculty Association honored and celebrated several outstanding people. Congratulations to this year's 2025 Full Time Faculty Association's Excellence Award Recipients:

- **Adriaan Leon**: Classified
- **Menaka Olson**: Part-Time Faculty, Communications
- **Casey Terrill**: Full-Time Faculty, Mathematics

The Faculty Association awarded each with a plaque and a \$300 check for their dedication to and excellence in their work at Mendocino College. Their nominees shared many wonderful attributes of these individuals. Adriaan, Menaka, and Casey's names have been added to the Excellence Award plaques outside the Vice President's Office in MacMillan Hall.

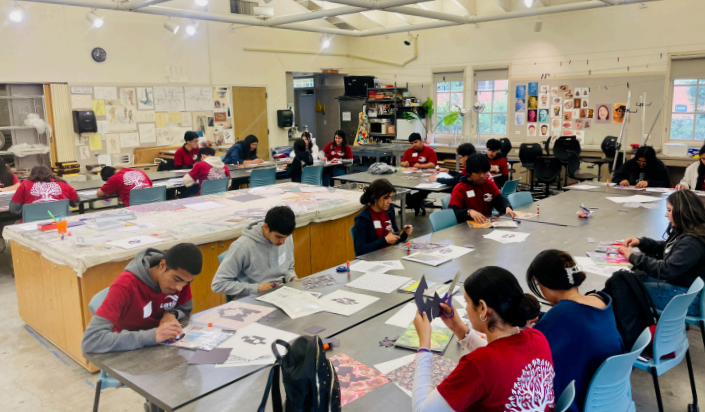
Finally, a big congratulations to three faculty retirees, **Reid Edelman**, **Sue Blundell**, and **Bart Rawlinson**. Thank you to our presenters for sharing stories and the impact they have each had on our students. We wish them the best in their well-deserved retirement. 

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Admissions & Records Technicians, **Beronica Leon** and **Sheryl Miralles**, attended the California Association of Community College Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACCRAO) conference before spring break. This conference allows staff to meet with peers from colleges throughout the system and receive vital information regarding legislative changes, and collaborate with peers on best practices. 




## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS


**COMMENCEMENT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Mendocino College 52nd annual Commencement Ceremony is right around the corner, and we are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help make the ceremony a smooth, successful, and memorable event for our graduates and their families.


Volunteers are essential to this celebration and will aid with tasks such as setting up the stage, greeting guests, distributing programs, helping with graduate line-up, and more. Your support ensures that this special day runs efficiently and is enjoyed by all. There are a variety of volunteer slots available throughout the commencement date (Friday, May 23rd, Ukiah Campus), all in 1–2-hour increments. Learn more about volunteer tasks and sign up through the following link: <https://signup.com/go/EtJvKCz>

Thank you for considering being a part of this meaningful occasion. Together, we can give our graduates the celebration they deserve! 

**LATINO STUDENT RETREAT**

On Friday, April 25th, Mendocino College hosted the 37th Annual Latino Student Retreat. The event was a big success. Hundreds of high school students from our service area attended a day filled with excellent information about their future education. The keynote speaker for the event was Dayci Carrillo Lopez, an author who shared her experience as an immigrant rights advocate. 

**EOPS, CARE, NEXTUP CELEBRATION**

On Tuesday, May 6th, EOPS/CARE/NextUp celebrated their graduating students with a dinner event. The evening was filled with joy and camaraderie as students, staff, and faculty came together to honor the achievements of the graduates. This year, 107 EOPS/CARE/NextUp students are graduating with their certificates or degrees. Students received their Graduation Packets, which included a cap, gown, 2025 tassel, Honors Cord (for those graduating with honors), PTK Stole (for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members), a frame for their degree or certificate, and an EOPS medal to wear over their gown. The event marked an important milestone in the students' academic journeys. 





## PHISHING: DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

Phishing attacks are one of the most common and dangerous threats in today's digital world. Whether you're at home, at work, or browsing the web on your phone, phishing can strike at any moment—and often when you least expect it.

### What Is Phishing?

Phishing is a type of cyberattack where criminals impersonate legitimate sources to trick you into revealing sensitive information such as passwords, credit card numbers, or personal data. These attacks often come through:

- **Email:** Messages that appear to come from trusted sources like banks, tech companies, or even coworkers.
- **Websites:** Fake pages that mimic real ones, such as login screens for email or online stores, are designed to steal your credentials. Scammers often try to mimic the IT Department. Always double-check!
- **Text messages or phone calls:** These methods, known as “smishing” and “vishing,” are also used to lure unsuspecting victims.

## Common Red Flags

Be on the lookout for these signs of a phishing attempt:

- ◀ Unexpected or suspicious links
- ◀ Poor grammar, typos, or generic greetings like, "Dear user"
- ◀ Urgent or threatening language (e.g., "Your account will be locked!", **\*\*ACTION REQUIRED\*\***)
- ◀ Requests for sensitive information, especially through email
- ◀ Slightly misspelled URLs or web addresses that don't look quite right

## How to Protect Yourself

- **Always verify:** If something seems off, contact the company or person directly using a trusted method.
- **Hover before you click:** Hovering over a link often reveals its true destination.
- **Use multi-factor authentication (MFA):** This adds an extra layer of security even if your password is compromised.
- **Stay informed:** Phishing tactics continue to evolve. Being aware is a strong first line of defense.
- **Install updates:** Keeping your software up to date helps protect you from known vulnerabilities.

## Final Thought

Phishing thrives on distraction and urgency—two things we all experience daily. Taking a few moments to pause, verify, and think before clicking can make all the difference. When in doubt, don't click and report the message to your IT or security team.

## Mendocino College IT Help Desk

Email: [it-help@mendocino.edu](mailto:it-help@mendocino.edu)

Tech Support Website 



## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS


## NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SUCCESS & SUPPORT PROGRAM (NASSSP) UPDATE

The Native American Student Success & Support Program (NASSSP) funds were received in Fall 2023. This program is intended to strengthen pathways to and through the College for Native American students, ensure their educational success, develop leaders, and increase the number of NA mentors. By the end of that semester, we hired a Student Retention Specialist and a Program Manager.

**Student-based Goals:** **a).** Increase our student transfer rate to CSU or UC systems; **b).** Generate higher persistence rates; **c).** Develop pathways toward leadership roles; **d).** Create student mentorship roles; **e).** Maintain connection and outreach with K-12 students; and, **f).** Create a cohort approach and foster a sense of belonging.

- **Data Collection:** Improved the way Native American student data is gathered/reviewed. This has improved student in-reach opportunities.
- **Community Connection:** Engaged with tribal communities for programs and activities to build a sense of belonging at an earlier age for students.
- **Student Leaders:** The NASSSP Center has hired student mentors in alignment with the intent to increase leadership opportunities. The center has supported the student club's advocacy efforts on campus, helping them navigate the college's processes. Current Student Body President and Student Trustee are Native American.
- **Pomo Pathway:** Maintained support for the Pomo Pathway cohort to encourage success in the first year of college, which includes the creation of study groups.
- **K-12 Student Support:** Staff have led the Native American Student Enrichment Program, which introduces Native American students from 5th-12th grade to the college campus and courses. Also, the team have joined outreach efforts.
- **Utilization of EagleConnect:** Embraced the use of this tool to better connect with students.

**Challenges:** The amount of resources it takes to deliver the quality and wraparound services from the local communities can be a challenge. Also, the team have been asked to create or maintain events or strategies which are impractical.

**Highlights:** The most recent number of Native American students enrolled actively at Mendocino college is 411 students, higher than our most recently reported number of 379 (2023/2024). *Native American students experienced an 11% increase in retention from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, compared to the previous year.* Also, out of 240 continuing Native American students, 119 of them had an education plan. The 50% rate is higher than that of our general student population. 

## 39TH ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN MOTIVATION DAY MAY 16TH, 2025 | 9 AM-2 PM



WORKSHOPS

FEATHER DANCERS

LUNCH PROVIDED



Native American youth in middle school and high school across Lake and Mendocino Counties are invited to attend.

1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah Campus

To Participate, Contact: NativeAmerican@mendocino.edu | 707-468-4603






## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS




### K'EDI WADIM (WALK WELL) GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Our Pomo Pathway students have been working diligently with their instructor, Cassie Terrell, on many math problems and projects throughout the semester. Cassie has offered much of her time in our center, where she supports students in the Math 170 course in the hope of the greatest success possible. In addition to Math 170, our Pomo Pathway students have also been offered a special project in their Public Speaking course, instructed by Menaka Olson, where they have the opportunity to work with one of our Native American Student Resource Center's student mentors to learn and speak their Native language (Northern Pomo) and how to introduce themselves in our more traditional way.

The really exciting part is that the students will be able to introduce themselves in Northern Pomo language during our **K'edi Wadim (Walk Well): A celebration of Native Graduates & Pomo Pathway completion event being held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:30-8 PM.** This event is where our Native graduates and Pomo Pathway participants can receive some graduation swag, recognition for their accomplishments, and blessings with their families and friends. 

### KRENOV NAMED ARTS CHAMPION

The Arts Council of Mendocino County announced their 2024/2025 Mendocino County Arts Champion Honorees, with the Krenov School receiving the award for the Education Category. Krenov School Program Director Laura Mays was also honored. Mays assumed the role of director and lead instructor in August 2011. She was a member of the classes of 2002 and 2003, the last class that Krenov taught and the first without him. Her well-developed views on the importance of craft assure a continuation of qualities that distinguish the work of the Krenov School's Fine Woodworking students.

The Krenov School Graduation Show, running daily May 17-26 at Mendocino Village's Highlight Gallery, offers a perfect opportunity to view the fine woodwork the school has become renowned for. [Read more at Willits Weekly.](#) 

### THE KRENOV SCHOOL AT MENDOCINO COLLEGE GRADUATION SHOW 2025

**MAY 17TH-26TH**  
OPEN DAILY 11AM - 4PM

**HIGHLIGHT GALLERY**  
10480 Kasten St, Mendocino, CA 95460





## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**HR UPDATES****Recent Staffing Changes**

**Damon Webb** will be moving to Event/Utility Worker from the Security/Utility Worker effective 5/07/2025. Following an internal transfer process, Damon was selected to transfer to Event/Utility Worker. Damon has worked with the District in a variety of ways, with expertise in event preparation and a focus on safety.


**Welcome Spring 2025 New Hires!**

**Scott Morgan** - Business Services Technician, MacMillan Hall; effective 5/01/2025.

**Congratulations, Spring & Summer 2025 Retirees!**

After a long and committed career with Mendocino College, these lucky folks are turning the page and starting a new chapter! **Reid Edelman, Bart Rawlinson, Sue Blundell, Michelle Snider, Ginger Myklebust, and Karl Byrn** – we wish you well!

**Congrats to Faculty Attaining Tenure for Fall 2025**

- **Lisa Leonard**, Nursing
- **Mark Edward Osea**, Transfer Counselor/Coordinator & Articulation Officer
- **Michael Pratt**, Automotive Technology
- **Debra Summit**, Nursing
- **Chatnaree Upton**, Mathematics
- **Kurt Voigt**, Agriculture 

**HR CORNER**

Human Resources at 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](#) 





## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**ZENI NAMED LAKE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Mendocino College welding instructor, Michael Zeni, has been named the 2025 Lake County Teacher of the Year for his work as the agricultural mechanics teacher at Kelseyville High School. Zeni received the honor on Friday, May 9, during Teacher Appreciation Week, and will go on to represent Lake County in the California Teacher of the Year competition this fall.

*“Michael Zeni has transformed the student experience by blending academic rigor with real-world skills. His work-based learning program is not only innovative, it’s life-changing,”* said Mike Jones, Principal of Kelseyville High School. “He has built powerful community partnerships that give students access to long-term professional success.”


According to Zeni, “What truly influenced me to be a teacher is being able to coach from the sidelines while my students become the awesome people that they thought they could never be.”

“Michael Zeni exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding educator. His dedication to student success goes far beyond the classroom. Whether he’s staying after school to coach students in welding, mentoring new teachers, or connecting kids to real-world career opportunities, Mr. Zeni brings passion, precision, and heart to everything he does. We’re incredibly proud to have him represent Kelseyville High School as Lake County’s Teacher of the Year,” Jones said.

***Congrats from all of us at Mendocino College, Michael!***

To read the full article, visit the [Lake County News](#)  here.

**UUSD AT MENDO**

On May 2nd, 60 seniors from UHS and South Valley visited campus and enjoyed a CTE presentation by Molly Thomas, campus tours, and attended either a financial aid or counseling presentation. The day was capped off by lunch in Pomo Plaza and time for students to meet with various Student Services departments to ask questions or work through processes. This was a collaborative event supported by the Student Services Team. 

**MAY UPDATES  
FROM THE LIBRARY****REDress Display**

Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Awareness REDress will be up through the end of May. We encourage everyone to visit the library to view the display.

**EXTRA LIBRARY HOURS FOR FINALS**

The Library will be open additional hours to help students prepare for finals.

- Saturday May 10, 10 am – 2 pm
- Saturday May 17, 10 am – 2 pm

**ALL LIBRARY MATERIALS ARE DUE 5/23**

- BOOKS
- CALCULATORS
- CHROMEBOOKS
- OVERDUE ITEMS

Pay it forward! Returning library items helps the next generation of students.

**NO LATE FEES!**





Mendocino College  
**HISPANIC-SERVING  
INSTITUTION**

## HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION GRANT UPDATE

During Fall 2023, Mendocino College received an HSI grant. The grant funds were used to hire four staff members (a coordinator and three Student Retention Specialists) dedicated to supporting student retention efforts, specifically Latinx students.

**Student-based Goals:** **a).** Increase the retention/persistence rate of second-year students; **b).** Increase the number of students completing transfer courses; **c).** Increase the award/degree/transfer completion rate of students; and, **d).** Decrease the number of degree/transfer units completed by students. These were some of the activities:


- **Education Plans:** During the Spring 2024 semester, the Retention team reached 168 first-time students without education plans and provided follow-up support.
- **Undeclared Student Contact:** During the Fall 2024 semester, a list of undeclared students was identified for follow-up. After reaching out via email, text, and phone, 79 students officially declared a major/area of study.
- **Math & English Completion:** HSI Retention team reached out to students who had previously failed (less than a C passing grade) their math or English course. Students received “to-do” item and follow-up support through EagleConnect.
- **Re-enrollment Efforts:** A list of unregistered students from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 was identified. 161 of the 268 students on the list enrolled for the Spring 2024 term and 90 in the Fall 2024 term, supporting retention/persistence efforts.

**Professional Development Goals:** **a).** Implement equity-based practices; **b).** Student-facing staff participating in equity-based training facilitated by the Career Ladders Project.

- **The Career Ladders Project** has facilitated training two times per semester for staff.

**Challenges:** Thus far, the biggest challenge has been related to the staffing of the HSI Retention Team. Since receiving the funds, we have hired and lost three Retention Specialists. Two to personal reasons and one for a management position at the College.

**Highlights:** We have seen an improvement in graduation rates for students. For 22/23, the 100% time to graduation rate was at 7%, meanwhile, the 23/24 rate increased to 15%. There was also a similar increase when comparing the 150% time to graduation rate for the two years: for 22/23, this rate was 24%, while the 23/24 rate increased to 31%.

Also, the implementation of EagleConnect, a data management, communication, and referral system, has allowed for more collaboration between departments. 

**UKIAH SYMPHONY**



# Dvořák the Epic

**SATURDAY, MAY 17 • 7:30 PM**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18 • 2:00 PM**

*Featuring our Youth Concerto Competition Winners*



flutist, Sungdu Bae



violinist, Serena She

**MENDOCINO COLLEGE CENTER THEATRE**

**TICKETS AT THE DOOR**

*or online at*

**UKIAHSYMPHONY.ORG**



**PRE-CONCERT TALK  
ONE HOUR BEFORE  
EACH CONCERT**



## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

## HISPANIC/LATINEX ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

As part of our Alumni Spotlight series, the Mendocino College Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Office would like to spotlight: **Eduardo Alatorre-Acevedo**. Eduardo's story encourages us to push forward and pursue our passion areas.

### **Eduardo's Journey within Higher Education**

Eduardo describes himself as a non-traditional college student due to the amount of time it took Eduardo to complete his educational goal at Mendocino College. Due to different health-related concerns, it took Eduardo eight (8) years to complete his coursework at Mendocino College. In that time, he completed almost 100 college credits and earned an Associate of Science in Geology and Earth Science.

Initially, though, Eduardo's family pressured him to earn a degree in Engineering, except Eduardo didn't like his engineering or math courses. Eduardo's interests included geology, including astro-geology, and geobiology. And so, Eduardo decided to pursue his passion despite going against what his family wanted him to pursue. Although Eduardo's family initially became upset that he had not decided to pursue an Engineering degree, his parents came around after he shared his passion for geology with them, teaching them the information he was learning in his courses.

***Eduardo's passion for Earth Science started at an early age. Even as a kid, Eduardo would read every book he could related to the Earth and astronomy.*** Later on, in high school, Eduardo began to volunteer at the Taylor Observatory in Kelseyville, where he would share his knowledge and passion with those visiting the observatory.

It was Eduardo's overall curiosity to learn that led him to attend Mendocino College. Eduardo described the process of obtaining his associates as tough. Due to his health issues, Eduardo found himself being placed on academic probation multiple times. But even despite these challenges, Eduardo found people on campus who were willing to support him in his educational journey. As a MESA student, Eduardo utilized the MESA tutors to help him get through some of his tougher science



***Eduardo presents at the 2024 AbSciCon (Astrobiology Science Conference) in Providence, Rhode Island***

courses; likewise, Eduardo sought out support from his instructors, including Tim Beck (Physics/Astronomy) and Steve Cardimona (Earth Science). Eduardo also received support from the General Counselor, Alicia Mendoza; Eduardo mentioned how Alicia helped him navigate through all of the academic issues caused by his health issues.

***It was due to Eduardo's work and the support he received from the staff at Mendocino College that he was able to graduate and transfer to UC Davis to continue his studies in Earth Science.***

Since transferring to UC Davis, Eduardo has graduated with his bachelor's degree in Geology/Earth Science, and has also embarked on a journey to continue his studies at UC Davis, this time pursuing a master's degree.

When speaking about his experience in the master's program, one of the biggest challenges Eduardo identified was the fact that UC Davis, especially the Geology department, was not very diverse. Eduardo shared that it was difficult for him to imagine himself as a scientist when he hadn't seen others like him in those academic fields. Eduardo expressed his feeling of being an impostor and not knowing what to do, saying how no one in his family had gone through these experiences before. Despite this feeling, Eduardo has received support from his advisor/professor, mentioning how his advisor has helped him find his way and helped him feel like a scientist.

***Continued on next page...***



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS


*Alumni Success Stories continued...*

This spring, Eduardo will have finished his first year in his master's program, and he is already contemplating continuing into a PhD program in the future.

### **Eduardo's Inspiration & Advice to Current Mendocino College Students:**

Apart from pursuing his passion area, one of the biggest motivators for Eduardo is his parents. Eduardo shared how his parents came to the United States from Mexico in the pursuit of a better life. And in that pursuit, his parents worked endlessly to make ends meet. Eduardo shared how he recalls his dad sometimes working 18-hour days in the field; sometimes Eduardo would join his dad in the field, helping him pick grapes. Growing up, all Eduardo ever wanted was to be able to find a job that would enable him to take care of his parents.

When asked about what advice he had to current students, Eduardo said, "If there is something you find interesting, even if your parents may not find it worth doing, pursue your interests. Pursue your passion areas, because that will make all the difference."

Eduardo also had one last piece of advice, saying, "Seek help when you start noticing a problem". Eduardo acknowledged that for him, seeking help was something that was truly difficult for him to do because he believed that asking for help would make him a failure. 

*"Pursue your passion areas, because  
that will make all the difference."*



## **MENDOCINO COLLEGE CHOIRS IN CONCERT**

**directed by** Janice Hawthorne Timm

# **KEEP MARCHING!**

**songs of justice and hope  
from stage, screen, and media**

**two performances!**

**FREE**

**WILLITS** Tuesday, May 13, 7pm  
Willits Charter School SPAC  
(1431 S Main St, Willits)

**UKIAH** Monday, May 19, 7:30pm  
Mendocino College Canter Theater  
(1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah)

THE MENDOCINO COLLEGE GALLERY PRESENTS

## **ANNUAL JURIED STUDENT ART SHOW**

**APR 24 - MAY 18**

Gallery Hours: T-Th 12:30 - 3:30 pm & by appointment.

**OPENING RECEPTION: THURS, APR 24<sup>TH</sup> 4:30 - 6:30PM**

Draw-A-Thon | MC Dance Repertory Company | Food  
*Free & Open to the Public!*



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**MENDOCINO COLLEGE PRESENTS:**

# **18th Annual FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS**

**MAY 15, 16 & 17 AT 7:30 PM****May 15-17 at 7:30 pm | Little Theatre*****May 15<sup>th</sup> is a "pay what you wish" preview!***

The Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department will present the 18th Annual Festival of New Plays on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 15, 16 & 17 at 7:30 pm in the College's Little Theatre on the Ukiah campus. The festival is a beloved Ukiah theatre tradition. This year's festival features eight 10-minute-long new plays by local playwrights. The plays were selected from an impressive collection of 86 scripts submitted by writers from throughout Mendocino and other nearby counties.


The play directors are students in the Mendocino College theatrical directing class taught by Professor Reid Edelman. Professor & professional writer Jody German is the festival dramaturge, working with playwrights to develop their scripts. Gehrman and Edelman launched the festival over 18 years ago, and with Edelman's upcoming retirement after 25 years at Mendocino College, this year's festival will be particularly special.

Festival actors include students in the college's conservatory cohort group, as well as other local students and community members. The short plays cover a wide range of topics and performance styles. The festival features original scenery, props, costumes, and lighting under the direction of college professor of Technical Theatre Steve Decker and Theatre Technician David Wolf.

According to Edelman, ***"This annual festival is one of the college theatre program's most exciting projects, and we are delighted to provide this creative forum for our community."***

**Tickets are \$10\***


- Available at the door and the Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah - *Cash or Check Only*
- Online at [www.ArtsMendocino.org](http://www.ArtsMendocino.org)
- \*May 15th is a "pay what you wish" preview!

*Recommended for ages 13 & up. Audience members are encouraged to purchase tickets early.* 




## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR**

Over 35 organizations came to the Ukiah Campus to provide health and wellness information to our students on May 7th. We were well fed by the Savings Bank, which sponsored the lunch. We also accomplished a ribbon cutting celebrating the new status for Mendocino College as a Blue Zones Approved Worksite, a silent auction for the Native American Scholarship Fund, and information sharing about MMIP and regalia. 

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS SUPPORT**

Between March 25 and April 24, 2025, Health & Wellness Services supported 26 students across 44 appointments and participated in several outreach events, reaching over 130 college students and 40 high school students. While some events, such as the Circle of Support and an Active Minds meeting, had no attendance, engagement was seen through the Denim Day event, where Health & Wellness and Project Sanctuary provided an expressive art activity focusing on bringing awareness to types of violence. Lisa was appointed to the Mendocino College Facilities and Safety Committee and continues her work with statewide committees focused on mental health qualifications and counseling services. Planning included the May 7 Health & Wellness Fair and Blue Zones ribbon cutting. 

**CONNECTING TO MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES**

- **Soluna** – A free app for students ages 13–25, offering daily coaching support from 10 am–10 pm. Services are available in English, Spanish, and 19 additional languages upon request.
- **Peers.Net** – Available for students ages 13–30 with Partnership HealthPlan insurance (Medi-Cal). Peer support means connecting with someone who has lived experience and can relate to what you're going through. You can select your peer directly through the app.
- **NAMI HelpLine** – For students of any age, the National Alliance on Mental Illness offers phone support from 10 am to 10 pm. EST at 800-950-NAMI (6264), along with excellent online resources.
- **7 Cups** – Offers free, 24/7 online emotional support with trained listeners.
- **Immigrant Rising** – Provides free, culturally congruent mental health services for California students. ¡Se habla español!
- **9-8-8 National Crisis Line** –  
A free and confidential resource available anytime, nationwide.

*You are never alone.*

*Support is here & help is always available.* 



## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

Mendocino College 2024-2025

# FACULTY DIVERSITY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM

Friday, May 16th 9:00AM-12:00PM  
Room 4210, Mendocino College Ukiah Campus



Join us in honoring our mentees as they present their capstone projects on equity.

For more information, contact program coordinator Marcello Bice at mbice@mendocino.edu

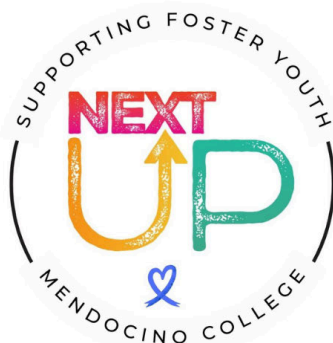
## Foster Care Awareness Month

*Show Your Support!*

♥ Wear a Blue Ribbon Pin

♥ Wear Blue on Wednesdays in May

♥ Share Resources



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT THIS MAY!

## 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

### Student Art Show

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

### 18th Annual Festival of New Plays

May 15-17, 2025 | 7:30 - 9:30 pm | Little Theatre

### 39th Annual Native American Motivation Day

May 16, 2025 | 8:00 am - 2:00 pm | Ukiah Campus

### Faculty Diversity Mentorship Program Symposium

May 16, 2025 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Rm 4210 Library Resource Center

### Guitar Night with Alex de Grassi, Students & Friends

May 16, 2025 | 7:00pm - 9:00pm | Center Theatre

### Krenov School Graduation Show

May 17-27, 2025 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm | Highlight Gallery, Mendocino

### Ukiah Symphony Presents: Dvořák's Epic Symphony No. 8

May 17, 2025 | 7:30 - 9:30 pm | Center Theatre

May 18, 2025 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm | Center Theatre

### Fire Safety Workshop

May 19, 2025 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Little Theatre

### Mendocino College Choirs Spring Concert

May 19, 2025 | 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm | Center Theatre

### Coast Center Outreach at Point Arena Library

May 20, 2025 | 12:15 pm - 2:00 pm | Point Arena Library

### Graduation & Transfer Fair 2025

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

### 2025 RN Pinning Ceremony

May 22, 2025 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm | Center Theatre

### K'edi Wadim: Celebrating Native American Graduates

May 22, 2025 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm | Little Theater

### Commencement 2025

May 23, 2025 | 6:00 pm | Stadium Field, Ukiah

