



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OCTOBER
2025

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



George Alfaro/Bay City News



September is always a busy time for the college with many events and the beginning of the athletic seasons. The breadth of events included participation in **Celebrate the Coast**. This one-day event in Point Arena showcases the Point Arena-Stornetta Lands. The **Coastal**

Field Station was open to the public and hosted two talks. 

CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

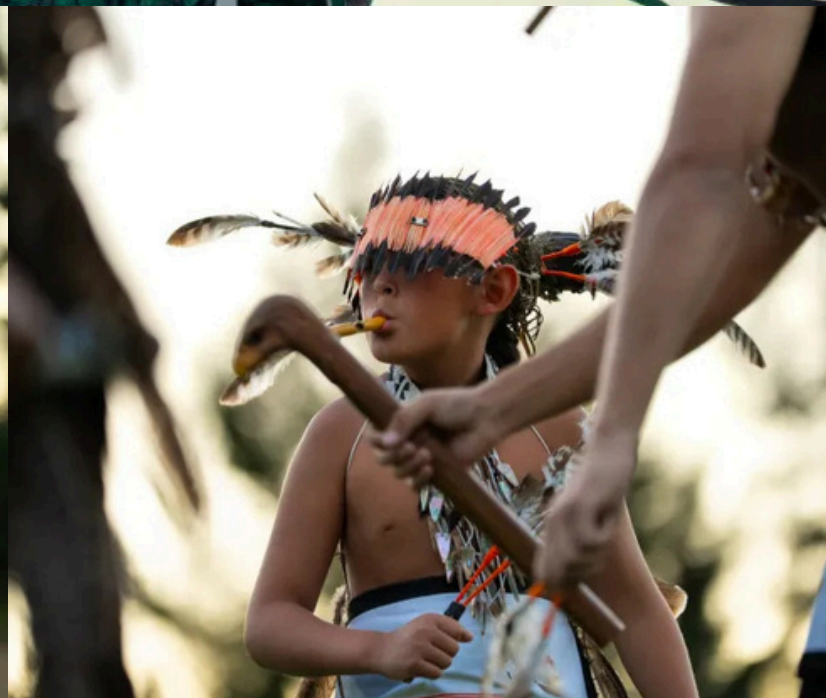
On September 25, 2025, Mendocino College hosted the **California Indian Heritage Celebration**, bringing together several hundred community members to honor and

showcase the rich traditions of local Native American tribes. The event, organized by the **Native American Student Success and Support Program**, featured traditional dances, ceremonial prayers, **Native American Medicine Garden Ribbon-Cutting**, and cultural vendors offering foods like frybread and handcrafted jewelry, highlighting both historical significance and contemporary Native culture. Attendees also engaged in meaningful cultural exchange, including discussions on language preservation within the **Pinoleville Pomo Nation**. College staff emphasized the event's role in fostering community, amplifying Native voices, and celebrating the resilience and pride of Native American heritage. I am confident this event will continue to grow and prosper. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

CALIFORNIA INDIAN DAY

Set against a stunning backdrop of rolling mountains and vibrant autumn trees, a few hundred community members gathered for the California Indian Heritage Celebration, an event dedicated to honoring the culture and traditions of local Native American tribes. Read the full article at the [Mendocino Voice](#). 



Photos courtesy of George Alfaro/Bay City News

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ANNUAL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

Join us for the 13th Annual Día de los Muertos - Day of the Dead Celebration on **Wednesday, October 29, from 4:00-8:00 PM in Pomo Plaza** on the **Ukiah campus**.

This vibrant tradition, rooted in Mexican and Latin American culture, honors loved ones who have passed. Families create ofrendas in the form of altars adorned with photos, favorite foods, and meaningful items to celebrate their memory.

Enjoy an evening filled with music, traditional dance, arts and crafts, and delicious food. Altars will be on display in the Lowery Student Center throughout the week of the event.

Free and Open to students and the community.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Questions?

Contact jvasquez@mendocino.edu or call (707) 468-3115. 



MENDO MERCH STORE

Coming soon!

The Mendo Merch online store is set to launch this semester, offering a wide selection of Mendocino College apparel in various styles and sizes.

To celebrate the launch, enjoy 10% off your order by using promo code **EAGLES2025** at checkout. The discount will be available through the end of the Fall semester.

Orders can be shipped directly or picked up locally at **Starkey's Custom Apparel & Promotions** (1188 North State Street, Ukiah), offering a convenient and cost-saving option.

Once the store goes live, we will email you a direct link, so you can start shopping. 



EAGLES RISE

The Eagles Rise program supports juvenile justice-impacted students both inside juvenile hall and on campus at Mendocino College. Our goal is to identify and connect with these students while providing resources that address their unique needs.

- **Offering targeted support**, such as record expungement clinics in collaboration with the Clean Slate Project of Mendocino County.
- **Developing a dedicated, welcoming campus space** where justice-impacted students can gather, build relationships, and access support.
- Establishing the **Rising Scholars Club**, a student-led group designed to amplify the voices of justice-impacted students, foster peer support, and normalize identification as justice-impacted within the college community.
- **Preparing to offer CCS100 course inside the Mendocino County Juvenile Hall.**

We will host a free record expungement clinic in partnership with the Clean Slate Project on **Thursday, November 6, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the Eagles Nest** on the Ukiah Campus.

This event gives community members the chance to start clearing eligible criminal records—an important step toward improving access to jobs, housing, and education.

Interested parties may reserve their spot by calling **707-462-1471** or **877-529-7700**. 

FEDERAL UPDATE

Over the past month, there have been two significant items from the federal government that affect Mendocino College.

On September 10, 2025, I received notice from the **Federal Department of Education** that they are **discontinuing funding for all Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V Part A) grants**. It is unprecedented that funding is discontinued for continuing grants like ours. We were awarded a 5-year grant, with this year being year 3. The focus of our grant is the retention of all students with a dedicated team of four full-time employees.

Given the uncertainty at the federal level of higher education funding, last year, through our participatory governance structure, there was an **agreement to fund the HSI program until June 2026, regardless of federal funding**, utilizing one-time funds. This forethought will allow the college to plan our next steps over the next few months.

On September 16, 2025, I received notification that our **grant application to the Federal Economic Development Agency within the Department of Commerce was awarded**. We have been working on this grant proposal since 2023. **The award is for \$4.2M towards the construction of the Willits Phase II building**. Special thanks to **Mac Lojowsky** for his support in providing documentation needed for the grant proposal; **Congressman Huffman and his team** for supporting this application; and the **EDA Seattle Office** for their persistent backing of the proposal from draft to award. 

MENDOCINO COLLEGE BASIC NEEDS



BASIC NEEDS

President Karas has the privilege of serving as the CEO regional representative on the Statewide Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce. One action of the task force is to conduct a bi-annual survey related to student basic needs. The **2025 Real College California Basic Needs Survey**, conducted by the RP Group in partnership with the Community College League of California's CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce, gathered responses from nearly 77,000 students across 102 community colleges.

The full report, *Real College California: Basic Needs Among California Community College Students in 2025*, is available online. 

POMO PLAZA
MENDOCINO COLLEGE

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Counseling Department remains committed to supporting students from their first weeks on campus through long-term educational planning. By aligning services with institutional priorities, maintaining up-to-date knowledge on transfer pathways, and strengthening collaborations across departments, Counseling continues to advance student success and persistence. The following are some of the activities the faculty and staff have been engaged in to support students:

Student Support at the Start of the Semester

- **Provided direct support** to students during the first two weeks of the semester, focusing on urgent needs to help students begin successfully.
- **Ensured timely referrals** to campus and community resources addressing academic, personal, and financial barriers.

Early Alert Coordination

- **Partnered with Retention Specialists** to coordinate early alerts and interventions.
- **Strengthened proactive approaches** to identify and support students experiencing challenges early in the term.

Transfer Readiness & Professional Development

- Counselors participated in both **CSU and UC professional development opportunities**.
- **Ensured staff have the latest updates** to guide students exploring university transfer pathways.

Career Ladders Project & Department Goal Setting

- Continued **professional development and goal-setting** work through the Career Ladders Project.
- **Developed annual goals** within the CalWORKs program and the General Counseling Department.
- **Goals are aligned** with college-wide educational priorities and Vision 2030. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

BIG LOVE AT MENDO

By Charles L. Mee

Directed by Lucas Verbrugghe

Get ready for a bold and unforgettable performance! In this reimagining of one of the Western world's oldest plays, fifty brides flee forced marriages to their fifty cousins and seek refuge in a stunning Italian villa. But when the grooms arrive by helicopter, chaos erupts.

Filled with pop songs, slow dances, and feats of physical endurance, the characters fight to the death for their right to exist...and to love. The question is, who will be left standing at the end?

Performance Dates:

- **Thu, Oct 16 at 7:30 PM**
Pay-What-You-Wish Preview
- **Fri, Oct 17 at 7:30 PM**
Gala Opening Night with food & wine included!
- **Sat, Oct 18 at 7:30 PM**
- **Thu, Oct 23 at 7:30 PM**
Special Discount Night – all tickets \$10
- **Fri, Oct 24 at 7:30 PM**
- **Sat, Oct 25 at 7:30 PM**
- **Sun, Oct 26 at 2:00 PM - Matinee**

Location:

Mendocino College Center Theatre
1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah

Tickets:

- \$20 General | \$15 Students & Seniors
- Pay-What-You-Wish Preview: Thu, Oct 16
- Special Discount Night: Thu, 10/23 – all tickets \$10
- Advance tickets available at Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah and online at ArtsMendocino.org.

For more info, call (707) 468-3172. 



Photographs by Thomas Delgado

10.21.2025
EVENT OPENS 12 PM
CONVO AT 12:30 PM



MEET RODNEY WILSON FOUNDER OF LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

We are thrilled to host a special virtual conversation with **Rodney Wilson**, founder of LGBTQ+ History Month!

Date: Monday, October 21

Time: Gathering begins at 12:00 PM;
Conversation starts at 12:30 PM sharp

Location: LLRC Room 4210

Format: Live Zoom from St. Louis, Missouri

Rodney's work as an educator and activist continues to inspire, especially in times when community and solidarity matter most. This is a unique opportunity to hear directly from someone who helped shape LGBTQ+ history.

Learn More About Rodney Wilson:

- [2019 documentary short – Rodney's experience as an openly gay teacher in the 1990s](#)
- [2024 PBS NewsHour story – Celebrating 30 years of LGBTQ+ History Month](#)
- [2023 profile article](#)
- [International Committee on LGBTQ+ History Months website](#) 



AUTOMOTIVE TECH PROGRAM CELEBRATES GRAND RE-OPENING

Mendocino College recently celebrated the grand re-opening of its Automotive Technology Program after a \$3 million remodel that positions the program at the forefront of industry trends.

The upgraded facility now features expanded shop space, advanced equipment for electric and hybrid vehicles, and a new **Electric Vehicle Certificate program**. Students can also pursue associate degrees and stackable certificates in areas like chassis, smog, and engine diagnostics.

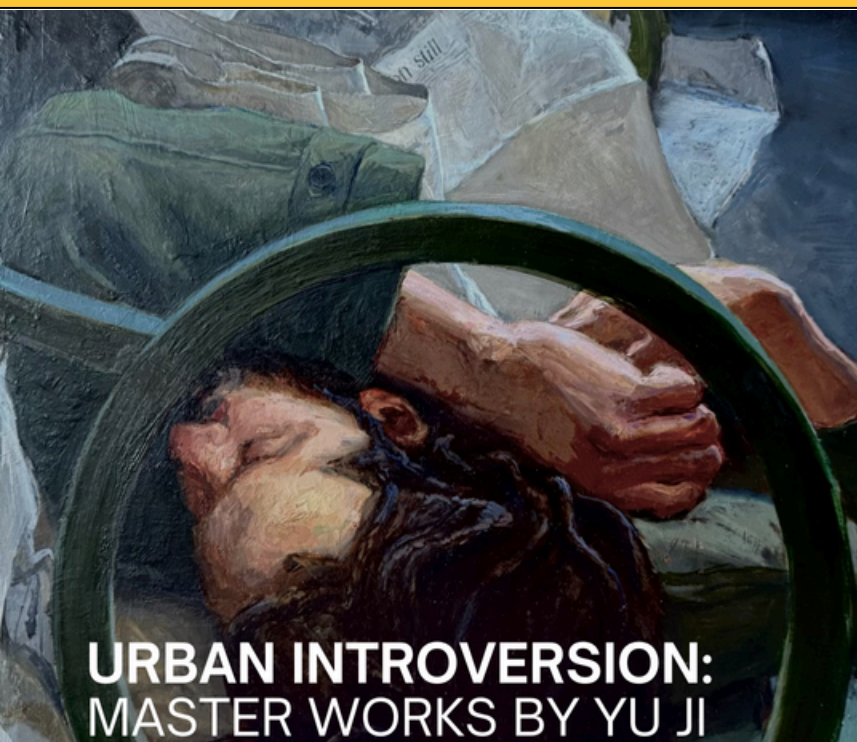
The ribbon-cutting event on October 3 included remarks from faculty and industry partners, along with tours of the renovated space. ***"This remodel is a leap into the future,"*** said lead automotive faculty **Michael Pratt**, emphasizing the program's commitment to preparing students for careers in EV and hybrid technology.

With these enhancements, **Mendocino College is now one of the few institutions in the region offering hands-on EV training**—an essential step as California moves toward clean transportation.

Visit mendocino.edu/auto to learn more. 



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URBAN INTROVERSION: MASTER WORKS BY YU JI

AUGUST 15 - OCTOBER 26, 2025

FREE | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | MENDOCINO COLLEGE GALLERY

URBAN INTROVERSION: MASTER WORKS BY YU JI

Aug 15 – Oct 26 | College Gallery

Free & Open to All!

Step into the world of Yu Ji, an internationally acclaimed artist whose work bridges cultures and decades of creativity. From early training in China to a vibrant career in the U.S., Yu Ji's art explores identity, transition, and evolution.

Gallery Hours:

- Tues: 12:30–3:30 PM
- Wed: 10:30–1:30 PM
- Thurs: 12:30–3:30 PM
- Or by appointment.

Open during most Center Theater performances.

**Don't miss this chance to experience
a stunning collection right here on campus!** 



COAST CENTER HOSTS COLLEGE & CAREER DAY

Coast Center | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Lunch will be provided

On Thursday, October 23, Mendocino College's Coast Center will host its annual College & Career Day, welcoming prospective students and community members to explore academic programs and career pathways.

Faculty and staff from a broad range of disciplines will be on hand to share program highlights and answer questions. Student Services teams will also be available to provide guidance on Admissions, Financial Aid, Counseling, Scholarships, and other support resources.

This outreach event is designed to connect the community with Mendocino College's educational offerings and showcase the breadth of opportunities available across our campuses. Faculty and staff participation is key to its success—thank you to everyone contributing time and energy to make this event meaningful for future students. 

HEALTH & WELLNESS AT MENDO

Diabetes Support Group

Are you living with diabetes or supporting someone who is? A new diabetes support group **meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the Native American Student Resource Center (Lowery 760)**. For more information, please reach out to Lisa at wellness@mendocino.edu.



Active Minds Student Club Launch

Join the movement to change the conversation around mental health! The Active Minds Student Club is now forming. This club **focuses on mental health advocacy and suicide prevention**, aiming to shift the culture around wellness in classrooms and across campus through outreach and campaigns. Interested in joining? Email wellness@mendocino.edu to get involved!



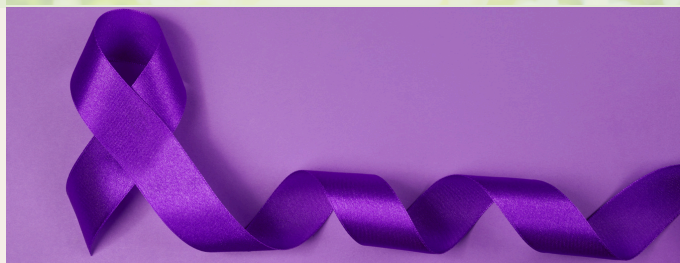
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **Project Sanctuary will be on campus Wednesday, October 15, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at Pomo Plaza**, offering information and support services. Stop by to participate in the Denim Art Project, a creative way to raise awareness and show solidarity.



Go Purple Day – October 16

Wear purple on Thursday, October 16, to honor survivors and raise awareness about domestic violence. Show your support and help spark conversations that promote safety, healing, and prevention.



Free Vaccine Clinic

Stay healthy this season! Mendocino County Public Health will host a **free vaccine clinic on Wednesday, October 29, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Transfer Center in Lowery 783 (Ukiah Campus)**. Open to all students. Visit the [MyTurn website](https://myturn.org) and select October 29th to see available appointment times. 



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MEN'S BASKETBALL COMING SOON!

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

	Oct 17 (Fri) 6:00 PM PDT VS SOLANO *
	Oct 22 (Wed) 6:00 PM PDT AT CONTRA COSTA *
	Oct 24 (Fri) 6:00 PM PDT VS MARIN *
	Oct 29 (Wed) 6:00 PM PDT AT LOS MEDANOS *
	Oct 31 (Fri) 6:00 PM PDT VS YUBA *
November	
	Nov 05 (Wed) 6:00 PM PST VS NAPA VALLEY *
	Nov 12 (Wed) 6:00 PM PST AT SOLANO *
	Nov 14 (Fri) 6:00 PM PST VS CONTRA COSTA *

WOMEN'S SOCCER

	Oct 17 (Fri) CANCELLED VS NAPA VALLEY *
	Oct 21 (Tue) 4:00 PM PDT VS CONTRA COSTA *
	Oct 24 (Fri) 2:00 PM PDT AT MERRITT *
	Oct 31 (Fri) 1:00 PM PDT VS CONTRA COSTA *
November	
	Nov 04 (Tue) TBA VS TBA
	Nov 07 (Fri) TBA VS TBA
	Nov 11 (Tue) 4:00 PM PST VS TBA

HUMAN RESOURCES 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](#)

Retirement Links

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



EVENTS

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.

Urban Introversion | Aug. 15- Oct. 26

TAG! You're In! Tuesdays | Every Tuesday

Produce Wednesdays | Every Wednesday

Weaving Wednesdays | 3rd Wednesday of the month

Walking Moai | Every Thursday

Big Love | Oct. 16-27

FAFSA-Dream Act Application Workshop | Oct. 16

Financial Aid Day | Oct. 16

Meet Rodney Wilson | Oct. 21

Coast Center College & Career Day | Oct. 23

13th Annual Dia de los Muertos Event | Oct. 29

Flu Vaccine Clinic | Oct. 29

Sonoma State University Tabling | Nov. 4 & Dec. 2

Clean Slate Project Clinic | Nov. 6

MC Repertory Dance Co.: SHINE! | Nov. 13-16

Native Now Preview Pop-Up Show | Nov. 13-16

MC Band Winter Concert | Nov. 20

Native Now: K'edi Wadim | Nov. 20, 2025-Feb. 8, 2026

UCCA Presents the Grupo Bella | Nov. 23

Ceramics Club Annual Holiday Sale | Dec. 5

Ukiah Symphony Orchestra | Dec. 6 & 7

MC Choirs "Festival of Lights" | Dec. 8 & 9