



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER
2025

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



The months of September and October are some of the busiest of the year. There are numerous community events, campus celebrations, student success days, artistic performances, athletic games, and much more. I was fortunate to be able to participate in some of this

cornucopia, which included volunteering at Pumpkin Fest, attending **College/University Day** and **Dia De Los Muertos**, and catching a performance of *Big Love*. Each one of these activities takes hours of planning, campus volunteer time, and focused dedication to our mission, vision, and values. Rounding out the month was a conversation with a Redwood Valley community group on their vision to transform the former school site in Redwood Valley into a community recreation center. 

CAMPAIGN FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

Mendocino College was recognized by the Campaign for College Success for our high percentage of Latinx students completing a transfer-level math course within one year of their initial enrollment. The three California Community Colleges with the highest percentage are Mendocino College, Coalinga College, and College of the Siskiyous. A total of 40 colleges, out of 116, were recognized for their work to increase Transfer Pathways and Student Success in California.

This work could not have been achieved without the tremendous efforts of our mathematics faculty, tutors, support staff, academic affairs administrators, and many more throughout our district. Since the passage of AB705/1705, the mathematics sequence has undergone enormous changes. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



UKIAH CAMPUS COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY DAY

In early October, Mendocino College hosted a successful College & University Day, coordinated by **Transfer Counselor Mark Osea**. Despite the rainy weather, the event drew remarkable participation and enthusiasm. **More than 300 visiting high school students from 12 regional schools and over 50 Mendocino College students engaged with representatives from 14 CSU, UC, and private universities** to explore transfer opportunities. The event also featured participation from multiple campus programs and dedicated faculty and staff who showcased resources supporting student transfer success. Appreciation is also extended to Mr. Sid Harper and the **Savings Bank of Mendocino County** for sponsoring the popular lunch, which helped make the day even more memorable. 



COAST CENTER COLLEGE & CAREER DAY

On October 23, Mendocino College hosted a vibrant College and Career Day at the Coast Center, welcoming **over 150 students** from six partner schools: Noyo High School, Fort Bragg High School, Mendocino High School, Point Arena High School, Pacific Community Charter School, and Three Rivers Charter School.

This annual event helps students explore educational pathways and career opportunities with Mendocino College and Coastal Mendocino County industry partners. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our **Coast Center team—Giselle Rodriguez, Chris Schomer, and Christine Samaniego**—and additional support from **Tammy Carlson and Neydi Rodriguez Zamora from our sister Centers**, the day was welcoming and engaging for all.

We extend our gratitude to the many academic programs that participated, including **Agriculture, Digital Arts and Media, Photography, Ceramics, Biology, Chemistry, English, Woodworking, ESL, Administration of Justice, Business, Hospitality, Nursing, Psychology, Basic Skills, Computer Science, Human Services, Work Experience, Construction, and PTA.**

Our student services teams also played a vital role: **Financial Aid, EOPS, MESA, Native American Resource Center, Student Retention, IT, Library, Learning Center, Basic Needs, DRC, ASMC, Foundation, Academic Counseling, Dual Enrollment Ambassadors, Career Hub, and Justice Impacted Youth.**

Special thanks to **Filemon Lara-Lopez** for coordinating the event, which featured **20 industry partners and local four-year institutions**—UC Davis, Sonoma State, and Humboldt State—bringing the total to 61 tables for students to explore.

As always, big thanks to the **Fort Bragg Rotary** for cooking up a slew of hot dogs for us! We look forward to continuing this tradition next year and invite you to mark your calendars for upcoming College and Career Days at Lake Center (March 5) and North County Center (April 23). 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

New

MENDOCINO COLLEGE

MERCH

GET YOURS NOW!

USE DISCOUNT CODE **EAGLES2025** FOR 10% OFF!

WWW.MENDOCINO.EDU/MENDOMERCH




INTRODUCING THE MENDO MERCH STORE

We're excited to announce the launch of **Mendo Merch**, Mendocino College's official online store for branded apparel and accessories! This is a great opportunity for our campus community to show Eagle pride and represent Mendocino College wherever you go.

The store features a wide selection of items, including **hoodies, tees, joggers, and more**, all designed to showcase our college spirit in style.

Special Launch Offer:

Use discount code **EAGLES2025** at checkout to receive **10% off your order**.

Shop Now:

Visit mendocino.edu/mendomerch to browse the full collection and place your order today.

Thank you for helping us spread Mendocino College pride across our campuses and communities! 



VETERANS DAY EVENT

On November 4, the **Veterans Center** hosted a heartfelt celebration honoring our veteran students. The event took place in Lowery Hall and Pomo Plaza, creating a welcoming space for connection and support.

Organized by veteran and staff member **Patrick Butler**, the celebration featured resource tables from various departments, ensuring students had access to valuable information and services. Attendees enjoyed a delicious tri-tip meal, and the atmosphere was filled with appreciation and camaraderie.

Approximately **40 veteran students** participated, expressing gratitude for the recognition and resources provided. This event reflects Mendocino College's ongoing commitment to supporting those who have served our country.

Special thanks to our volunteers: Kelly Keyes, Isabel Lopez, Felipe Chavez, Maria Zepeda, Christiana Orozco, Andrew Marburg, Vivian, Chris Dewey, Beatriz Sanchez, Mayra Sanchez, Nayely Chapman, Lauren Carraway (Johnson), and Susan Sopp. **Our Veterans Committee members:** Mindy Keegan, Tony Novelli, Damon Webb, Naoto Horiguchi, Katya Galvez, Jenny Yang, Pamela Heston, Kyle Whiterock, and Brian Williams.

We also recognize **Bonnie Lockhart, Veterans Resource Center Director**, for her leadership, and extend appreciation to all departments and organizations that tabled at the event. Finally, a heartfelt **thank-you to management** for reallocating staff to assist—your flexibility made this event possible. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

MENDOCINO COLLEGE**FOOD PANTRY****FREE FOOD FOR ALL STUDENTS****SUPPORTING STUDENTS
THROUGH THE FOOD PANTRY**

Every day, students face food insecurity that impacts their success and well-being. Together, we can help eliminate hunger on campus and ensure every student has access to nutritious food and essential resources.

Faculty and staff play a vital role in this effort. Even small contributions help keep shelves stocked and spirits high. Your compassion and commitment make a real difference

For more information or to contribute, visit the Eagle's Support Center or [make a monetary donation online](#).

This effort is spearheaded by the Mendocino College Federation of Teachers and the Mendocino College Foundation.

FOOD INSECURITY

We've observed a noticeable increase in student usage of the food pantry during the final week of October. Several students have shared concerns regarding delays in receiving their **CalFresh benefits**, which appear to be impacting their access to essential resources.

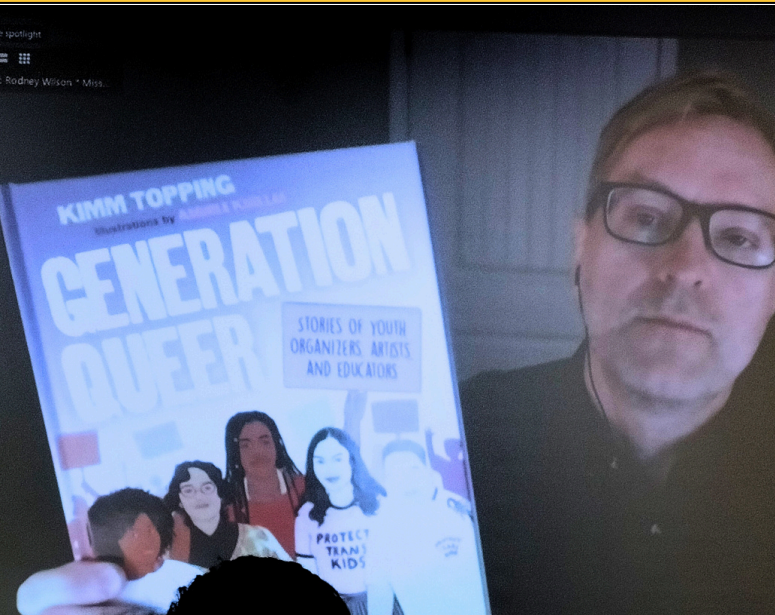
In response, the **Basic Needs Office** remains committed to supporting our students during this challenging time. We will continue to maintain and stock the food pantry to ensure availability. **Additionally, we will host Produce Wednesday at both the Lake Center and Coast Center** to further assist students and promote food security across our campuses. 

**CALFRESH OUTREACH**

CalFresh has been working hard on getting application numbers in. Although we are where we need to be, our main goal with application numbers is to make sure we are reaching all possible students who look to qualify for CalFresh benefits, as we know how difficult times are right now. In order to reach our students, we created a survey and posted a survey on our social media accounts, and from that survey, we learned what time, what day of the week, and which campus our students need us to run an application assistance workshop. We have held several application assistance workshops and have more upcoming. 

PLEASE JOIN US FOR**GUITAR NIGHT****9TH DEC****7:00 PM****FREE
CENTER THEATRE**

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

As we enter the 12th week of the semester, the **Counseling Department** and **Retention team** have remained actively engaged in supporting students through both proactive and responsive services. Our counselors and retention specialists have jointly fielded and supported **1,520 flags and referrals to date**, reflecting ongoing efforts to promote student success and persistence. In addition, there are approximately **65 additional cases currently being assigned and addressed**. The volume of outreach and intervention activity underscores the department's continued commitment to early and intentional student support as we move into the final weeks of the term.

Looking ahead, the Counseling and Retention teams are planning a joint session in early December to review and align our workflows for each flag and referral type. This collaborative effort will focus on mapping out the timing and intervention strategies used throughout the semester to ensure consistency, improve response efficiency, and strengthen our unified approach to supporting students. 



PRIDE EVENT

Our Pride Program at Mendocino College hosted **"Conversation with a Leader: Rodney Wilson"** on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, from 12:00-1:30 pm. Rodney is the **founder of LGBTQ + History Month**, and our students and staff particularly appreciated hearing about his personal life and experience. At some point, Mr. Wilson recommended and talked about the book *Generation Queer*, praising young people for their vision and positive impact on the future. Thanks to the good audio and visual in the room, the virtual aspect of it (on Zoom) wasn't a barrier at all to communicating with each other and with the audience. 





Holiday Survival Toolkit: Wellness Strategies for Students & Veterans

**Tuesday, November 18
6:00–7:00 pm**

Why Attend?

- Enhance emotional well-being
- Gain practical life tools
- Connect, ground and simplify

**FREE ONLINE EVENT
Registration Required**

[Register Here](#)

For more information:
wellness@mendocino.edu



EAGLES RISE

From October 16–18, 2025, Eagles Rise students from Mendocino College took part in a powerful and inspiring field trip to CSU Monterey Bay. Hosted by **Project Rebound**, the visit included a campus tour and a panel of justice-impacted students who shared their personal stories of struggle, resilience, and success in higher education. Our students also had the opportunity to connect with **Rising Scholars** from four other community colleges, discovering a broader statewide network of support and solidarity for justice-impacted students.

The highlight of the trip was a beach bonfire gathering that brought everyone together in a spirit of reflection, connection, and celebration. As the sun set over the Monterey coast, students and staff began to gather around the fire, where **Kyle Whiterock, Mendocino College's Native American Retention Specialist**, opened the evening with a heartfelt prayer and blessing. The bonfire created a space for students to relax, play games, share stories, and build lasting relationships. It was a moment of warmth and unity that truly embodied **the spirit of Eagles Rise—uplifting, empowering, and rooted in community restoration.** 

DISCOVER THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

Join us for Mendocino College's annual Native American Storytelling event on **Thursday, November 20, from 5:30–8:00 PM at the Little Theatre** on the Ukiah Campus. Generously sponsored by **Ethnic Studies and Native American Club**.

Experience traditional stories brought to life through contemporary art and digital media. This year's program features **Jocelyn Garcia** (Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians), an award-winning animator, and **Eric Wilder** (Kashaya Band of Pomo Indians), a cultural educator and graphic artist.

Free and open to the public.

Details for the Native Storytelling event are posted to our events webpage.

*Featured artwork from **Tule**, an animated short film. For more information on **Tule**, please visit [instagram.com/tule.film](https://www.instagram.com/tule.film).* 

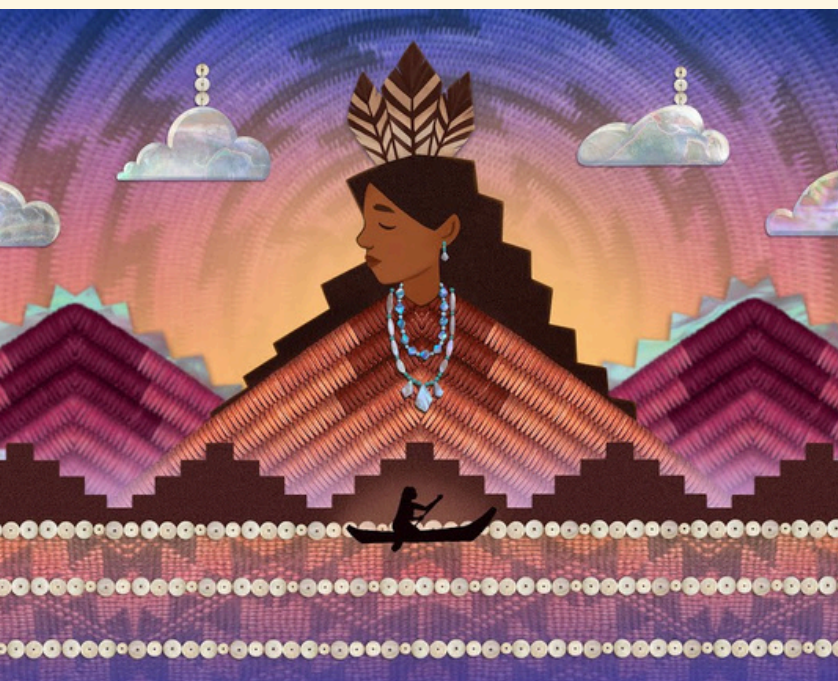


STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

This month, we are proud to recognize four outstanding students from **Native American History**, nominated by instructor **Lori Laiwa Thomas** for their dedication, perseverance, and inspiring contributions to our campus community.

Bridgette Frank, a proud Yuki tribal member from the Round Valley Indian Tribes, brings a deep sense of identity and purpose to her studies. Since moving to Ukiah in July 2023, Bridgette has embraced college life with determination. Originally pursuing Alcohol and Drug Counseling and Human Services, she recently discovered a passion for Business Management—a path she sees as a way to create financial stability, independence, and opportunity for herself and her son.

Continued on following page...



Student Spotlights continued...

Her commitment to education and to setting an example for her son reminds all of us why lifelong learning matters. Bridgette is paving the way forward—not only for her family but for her community. Mendocino College is fortunate to count her among its rising scholars.

Aliyah Amador consistently demonstrates dedication, focus, and excellence in her studies. She has perfect attendance and outstanding classroom performance, setting an example for her peers through her reliability and hard work. Aliyah is pursuing a major in Early Childhood Development, reflecting her passion for helping others and making a positive impact on future generations. Outside of class, she enjoys spending time with her pets—two dogs, Buffy and Rosie, and her cat, Felix—who bring her joy and balance as she continues her academic journey.

As a passionate first-year Psychology major, **Maile Chamber** is dedicated to using education as a tool for change. Inspired by personal experience in the foster care system, Maile plans to devote their career to providing the psychological support and resources that foster youth need to build resilient and successful futures.

With empathy, determination, and a strong sense of purpose, Maile strives to empower youth in care—helping them recognize their strength, self-worth, and potential. Their commitment to advocacy and healing reflects both courage and compassion, qualities that will no doubt guide Maile in making a lasting and meaningful impact in the field of psychology and beyond.

Robert White is a dedicated student pursuing a major in Culinary Arts Management. Robert is passionate about advancing his career in the food service industry and aspires to work as a chef, sous chef, pastry chef, or chef de partie.

Outside of his studies, Robert enjoys spending time with his three large dogs, reading, and playing tabletop role-playing games (TTRPGs). His blend of creativity, discipline, and curiosity shines both in and out of the kitchen!

Congratulations to Bridgette, Aliyah, Maile, and Robert for their achievements and the inspiration they bring to Mendocino College! 



**HONORING
NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**



GALLERY OPENS NATIVE NOW: K'EDI WADIM

The Mendocino College Gallery proudly presents **Native Now: K'edi Wadim**—meaning “Walk Well” in the Northern Pomo dialect—a dynamic exhibition celebrating contemporary Native American art. **Featuring over 20 artists, including Mendocino College staff and students**, the show highlights Indigenous creativity and resilience through painting, photography, beadwork, weaving, basketry, and more.

The exhibition opens with a **reception on Thursday, November 20, from 4:30–6:30 PM at the Mendocino College Gallery**. Admission is free and open to the public, with light refreshments provided.

The show runs through February 8, 2026, with regular hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays (12:30–3:30 PM) and Wednesdays (10:30 AM–1:30 PM). Visitors can check the website for winter break hours or email gallery@mendocino.edu for appointments.

“This show is a fantastic survey of Native American artists from our local community and beyond. It is multigenerational, featuring heavy hitters like Meyo Marrufo and Corine Pearce alongside young Native students,” says **Gallery Director Jazzminh Moore**. The exhibition was co-juried by **Kyle Whiterock** (Native American Student Resource Center) and **Victoria Ramos** (Financial Aid Technician), both of Northern Pomo descent, reflecting a collaborative effort across the College.

Mendocino College proudly supports the largest population of Native American students of any community college in California. This exhibition underscores our commitment to honoring Native cultures and fostering a thriving community of Indigenous scholars and artists. For more details, please visit the gallery webpage [here](#). 



Meyo Marrufo, We Are Still Here



Luna Enriquez, Elise II



Natyia Whipple, The Older Sister

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
DOOR DECORATIONS

On behalf of the Student Success and Retention Team, thank you to all who participated in this year's Hispanic Heritage Month door decorating contest. We appreciated seeing so many doors and walls highlighting Hispanic/Latino culture. Your participation created a more lively and welcoming campus community! It was truly amazing seeing the creativity behind the door decorations.

Congratulations to the **winner of the contest: the Lake Center staff** for constructing a beautiful dress made up of colorful tissue paper flowers.

Thank you for all of the work you do to support our diverse student population!

- **Roberto Renteria, HSI Program Manager** 



JAZZ BIG BAND NIGHT

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music! The Mendocino College Jazz Band, under the direction of **Phillip Lenberg**, will perform on **Thursday, November 20, at 7:30 PM**. This event is **FREE** and open to the community.

Bring a friend and come experience the energy and artistry of live jazz! 

Students, Staff, and Faculty -
Gather around the table for our

Fall Feast

Tuesday, November 18th

 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Lowery Student Center

Please join us for turkey, potatoes, pies, & more!

Generously sponsored by ASMC, Faculty, Staff, and Classified Senates



ANNUAL FALL FEAST

Stop by the Lowery Student Center to share in our annual Fall Feast, **Tuesday, November 18, from 11:30 am-2:30 pm**. Turkey, potatoes, pies, and more are generously prepared by the **Culinary Arts students** and sponsored by **ASMC, faculty, staff, and the Classified Senate**. 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

17th Annual Classified Senate

Holiday Funraiser

Silent Auction, Wine Pull, & Raffle

Support our Students!
Unique, handmade, and original gifts!
Finish your holiday shopping early!
This event has raised over \$50,000 for students!

December 4th, 2025

**10am to 4pm
Room 1060 Ukiah Campus**

Questions? Contact Isabel Lopez 707.468.3227 ilopez@mendocino.edu



COLLEGE CHOIRS: FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

DEC. 8 @ 7:30 PM in UKIAH
DEC. 9 @ 7 PM in WILLITS

Holiday Ceramics Sale

**Friday, December 5th
10am-3pm
Lowery Student Center**



Proceeds benefit Mendocino College Ceramics Club

HOLIDAY POTLUCK



HOLIDAY POTLUCK & ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Join us for some holiday cheer! Mendocino College is hosting a Holiday Potluck, Ornament Exchange, and Ugly Sweater Contest for staff, faculty, and administration on **Friday, December 12, from 1–3 PM in the Eagle's Nest** (adjacent to Schat's in Lowery Hall).

Please RSVP using the linked form by Friday, November 21 and let us know:

- If you'll participate in the ornament exchange (bring a wrapped ornament to join)
- What dish you'll bring (and kindly label for dietary needs)

Wear your best—or worst—holiday sweater for a chance to win a prize!

Can't make it in person? Join us via Zoom by clicking the link here. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



*Thank you to all who participated in the
13th Annual Dia de los Muertos Event!*



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.

TAG! You're In! Tuesdays | Every Tuesday

Produce Wednesdays | Every Wednesday

Weaving Wednesdays | 3rd Wednesday of the month

Walking Moai | Every Thursday

Holiday Survival Toolkit | Nov. 18

Fall Feast | Nov. 18

Jazz Big Band Night | Nov. 20

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

UCCA Presents the Grupo Bella | Nov. 23

FAFSA-Dream Act Application Workshop | Dec. 2, 11

Sonoma State Tabline | Dec. 2

17th Annual Fun-Raiser | Dec. 4

Ceramics Club Annual Holiday Sale | Dec. 5

Ukiah Symphony Orchestra | Dec. 6 & 7

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

Guitar Night | Dec. 9

PTA Program Completion Ceremony | Dec. 12

Holiday Potluck | Dec. 12

Auditions for *Rumors* | Dec. 13

MLACE Graduation | Dec. 16

Nutcracker Ballet | Dec. 19-21

Winter Closure | Dec. 24, 2025-Jan. 1, 2026 