

December 2025



# THE EAGLE NEWSLETTER

Bringing Campus Life to Your Inbox



CHECK EVENTS  
LINEUP INSIDE!

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

MC CHOIRS PRESENTS *LUMEN*:  
A CHORAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

CERAMICS HOLIDAY SALE

EAGLES SECURE THIRD PLACE  
OVERALL IN ED BOYLE INVITATIONAL

GUITAR NIGHT WITH ALEX DE GRASSI

SPRING REGISTRATION OPENS, & MORE!

NEWS & EVENTS



**Spring 2026 Registration Is Open!**

Get ready for a fresh start—registration for the Spring 2026 semester is now open!

Classes fill up quickly, so secure your spot early by registering before this semester ends. The **Spring semester begins January 20, 2026**, and it's the perfect time to plan your schedule.

**How to Register:**

- Explore available courses at [mendocino.edu/schedule](http://mendocino.edu/schedule)
- Log in to your [MyMendo](#) account to register for classes

**Don't wait—register now and start the new year with your goals on track!** 

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Produce Wednesdays | Every Wednesday

Walking Moai | Every Thursday

Sonoma State University Tabling | 11/04, 12/02

17th Annual Holiday FUN-Raiser | 12/04

Ceramics Club Holiday Sale | 12/05

Ukiah Symphony Orchestra | 12/06, 12/07

MC Choirs "Festival of Lights" | 12/08, 12/09

Guitar Night | 12/09

FAFSA-Dream Act Application Workshop | 12/02, 12/11

PTA Program Completion Ceremony | 12/12

End of Fall Semester | 12/12

Auditions for Spring Theatrical: *Rumors* | 12/13

MLACE Graduation | 12/16

Mendocino Ballet Presents *The Nutcracker* | 12/19-12/21

Winter Holiday Closure | 12/24-12/31

Spring Semester Begins | 1/20/2026

**MORE EVENTS LISTED ONLINE:**

[www.mendocino.edu/events](http://www.mendocino.edu/events)



Photo by Heidi Peterman

*Lumen*

**a choral festival of light**

presented by  
**Mendocino College Choirs**

**UKIAH  
MONDAY - DEC 8  
7:30 PM**

Mendocino College  
Center Theatre  
(Ukiah Campus)

**WILLITS  
TUESDAY - DEC 9  
7:00 PM**

Willits Charter  
School SPAC  
(1431 S Main St)

*Two Free performances!*



## GUITAR NIGHT

**Tuesday, Dec. 9 | 7 PM | Center Theatre | Free Admission!**

Experience an evening of exceptional music at Guitar Night, a benefit for the Friends of Mendocino College Music Program. Enjoy an eclectic mix of solo, duo, and ensemble guitar performances featuring talented musicians.

**Hosted by Alex de Grassi**, with performances by the **Mendocino College Guitar Ensemble** and guests.

Admission is free and donations are welcome to support the Friends of Mendocino College Music Program.

For more information, contact [adegrassi@mendocino.edu](mailto:adegrassi@mendocino.edu).

**Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy live music & support the college's music program!** 

## FAFSA & DREAM ACT APPLICATION WORKSHOP

Need help completing your financial aid application? Join us for a hands-on workshop to get personalized assistance with the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.

### When & Where:

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

- **Tuesday, Dec. 2**, Rm 1290, MacMillan Hall,
- **Thursday, Dec. 11**, Rm 1280, MacMillan Hall

Continuing community college students have until September 2, 2026 for the secondary deadline for Cal Grant consideration. Don't miss out on financial aid opportunities—get your application submitted on time!

For more information about paying for college, [visit our Financial Aid webpage](#) or call 707-468-3110. 

## Financial Aid Application Workshops



NEWS

## SAVE MONEY ON TEXTBOOKS AT MENDO!

Looking for ways to cut costs next semester? Mendocino College offers several options to help you save on textbooks:

- **ZTC (Zero Textbook Cost) Classes:** These classes require no textbook purchases—your books are free!
- **LTC (Low Textbook Cost) Classes:** Textbooks for these classes cost \$30 or less.
- **Textbook Lending Library:** Visit the College Library to see if your required textbooks are available to borrow for the semester.

Learn more about textbook affordability at Mendocino College by visiting the [Textbook Affordability webpage](#).

*Start planning your schedule with these savings in mind!* 🚀

### Ways to Save Money @ MC



Look for **ZTC classes** in the schedule.

Your books are **FREE** with ZTC.

Look for **LTC classes** in the schedule.

Textbooks are \$30 or less.



Check to see if any textbooks are available through the **College Library**.

Borrow for the semester.



open enrollment: 12.02.2025 THRU 03.01.2026

APPLY TODAY FOR

# Scholarship Money!

hey, incoming & existing mc students!

THERE'S MORE THAN **\$200,000**

Available to all graduating high school seniors, incoming & existing MC students

## MENDOCINO COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**Open Enrollment: Dec. 2, 2025 – March 1, 2026**

Are you a graduating high school senior, an incoming student, or already enrolled at Mendocino College? Don't miss your chance to apply for scholarships through the Mendocino College Foundation—with **over \$200,000 available to help you achieve your educational goals!**

Scholarships are available for a wide range of students and programs. Whether you need help covering tuition, books, or other expenses, this is your opportunity to secure financial support and focus on your studies.

### How to Apply:

Visit [mendocino.academicworks.com](http://mendocino.academicworks.com) between 12/02/2025 and 3/01/2026 and follow the prompts.

### Questions?

Call 707-467-1018 or visit [foundation.mendocino.edu](http://foundation.mendocino.edu)



## NEWS

## UKIAH SYMPHONY OFFERS STUDENT DISCOUNTS

The Ukiah Symphony Orchestra (USO) invites you to experience **Musical Tales**, a weekend of beautiful music at the Mendocino College Center Theatre.

### Concert Details:

- **Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 PM** - 50% off your entire order, use code: MC-Dec6
- **Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 PM** - \$5 off each regularly priced ticket, use code: **MC-Dec7**


This performance features guest conductor Richard Loheyde and violin soloist Margie Salcedo Rice.

### Student Deal:

Did you know that student tickets are only \$10 and kids under 12 are free for all USO concerts? Add the corresponding code for the Musical Tales concert upon checkout, and get in for just \$5!

### How to Get Your Tickets:

- Purchase online at [UkiahSymphony.org](http://UkiahSymphony.org)
- Click *Tickets*, then *Purchase Now*, select your seats, and enter the discount code at checkout
- Tickets will be emailed immediately as a PDF—print or show a screenshot at the door

**Let's fill the beautiful Center Theatre with Mendocino College students and friends. The music will be glorious!** 



## EXPLORE NATIVE AMERICAN POLITICS IN POLS 205

Looking for a thought-provoking class next semester? **POLS 205: Native Americans and the U.S. Political System** offers an in-depth look at the relationship between Native Americans and the U.S. political system from the Colonial era to today.


### This course examines:

- Native American political structures and functions
- Federal Indian policy
- Tribal-state relationships
- Key issues impacting Native American communities

### About the Instructor:

**John J. Dougherty** is a Senior Fellow in Comparative Ethnic Studies **at UC Berkeley**. He teaches in the Native American Studies program and has served as an affiliate scholar with the Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues. His current research explores the shifting legal status of Native American lands, natural resources, and treaty rights from the 1940s to the present.

### Ready to Register?

Check out details for POLS 205 at [mendocino.edu/schedule](http://mendocino.edu/schedule) or register today through [MyMendo!](#) 

UKIAH SYMPHONY 

# Musical Tales

SATURDAY, DEC 6 ● 7:30 PM  
SUNDAY, DEC 7 ● 2:00 PM

featuring guest conductor

**Richard Loheyde**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Bridgette Frank



Aliyah Amador



Maile Chambers



Robert White

## Student Spotlight: 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.

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 Chambers** 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!** 🦅

ATHLETICS

# LET'S GO MENDO!


**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

 Dec 05 (Fri) 7:00 PM PST  
AT REDWOODS

 Dec 06 (Sat) 1:00 PM PST  
VS FEATHER RIVER


 Dec 12 (Fri) 5:00 PM PST  
AT SHASTA

 Dec 16 (Tue) 5:00 PM PST  
VS SOLANO \*

 Dec 18 (Thu) 7:00 PM PST  
AT YUBA \*


 Jan 02 (Fri) 7:00 PM PST  
VS ALAMEDA \*

 Jan 06 (Tue) 6:00 PM PST  
AT CONTRA COSTA \*


 Jan 08 (Thu) 7:00 PM PST  
AT NAPA VALLEY \*

 Jan 10 (Sat) 3:00 PM PST  
VS MARIN \*

 Jan 14 (Wed) 7:00 PM PST  
AT LOS MEDANOS \*

 Jan 16 (Fri) 7:00 PM PST  
VS MERRITT \*

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**


 Dec 06 (Sat) 4:00 PM PST  
VS MISSION


 Dec 16 (Tue) 3:00 PM PST  
VS SOLANO \*

 Jan 02 (Fri) 5:00 PM PST  
VS LANEY \*

 Jan 06 (Tue) 5:00 PM PST  
AT CONTRA COSTA \*

 Jan 08 (Thu) 5:00 PM PST  
AT NAPA VALLEY \*

 Jan 10 (Sat) 1:00 PM PST  
VS MARIN \*

 Jan 14 (Wed) 5:00 PM PST  
AT LOS MEDANOS \*

 Jan 16 (Fri) 5:00 PM PST  
VS MERRITT \*



## OVERTIME VICTORY AT ED BOYLE INVITATIONAL

The Mendocino College Eagles recovered from a five-point halftime deficit to earn an overtime victory over College of the Siskiyous, securing **third place in the 2025 Ed Boyle Invitational Tournament.**

### Standout Performances:

- **Travus Boyd** (Freshman, PG): 13 pts, 11 assists
- **Jaymaree Johnson** (Sophomore, Forward): 16 pts, 12 rebounds
- **Teague Stump** (Sophomore, Guard): 21 pts (including 4 triples), 7 rebounds
- **Rob Salmon** (Sophomore, Wing): Game-high 29 points, 10 rebounds – with 27 pts in the second half to earn a spot on the All-Tournament Team

The Eagles' hard-fought win, backed by an overall team effort, ended with a final score of 87-82, improving their season record to 4-5.

### Next Up:

The Eagles head to Eureka for College of the Redwoods' **Treg's Classic on December 5 & 6.**



Event details can be viewed on the [Athletics webpage](#).

# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH WITH STORYTELLING & DIGITAL ART

On November 20, Mendocino College hosted its annual Storytelling Night in the Little Theatre, bringing together students, families, and community members for an inspiring celebration of Native American Heritage Month. The event was **led by Professor Lori Laiwa Thomas** (Hopland Pomo, Ethnic Studies Instructor), whose leadership and cultural insight shaped an evening dedicated to honoring tradition, creativity, and community.

### This Year's Theme: Indigenous Digital Storytelling

The program highlighted how Native artists are blending cultural knowledge with modern creative tools to bring their stories to life. Attendees enjoyed powerful **keynote presentations by Jocelyn Garcia and Eric Wilder**, whose work illustrated the evolving landscape of Indigenous art and storytelling.

### Why It Matters

First nationally recognized in 1990, Native American Heritage Month honors the enduring histories, living cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. Storytelling remains central to Native communities, serving as a vessel for history, humor, teachings, & identity.

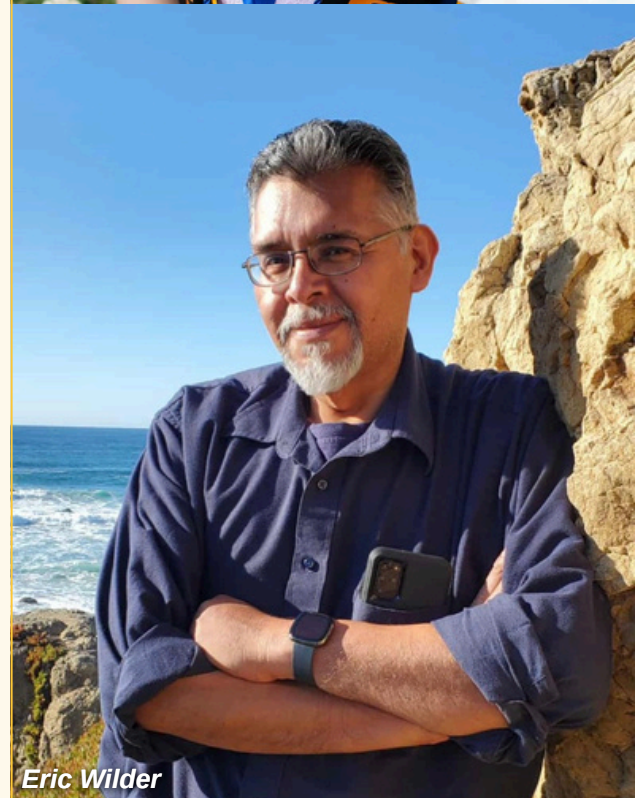
### Spotlight on Featured Storytellers

- **Jocelyn Garcia**, an Indigenous digital storyteller and illustrator, shared her journey and her **award-winning animated thesis film *Tule***, which has been featured at 26 film festivals worldwide. *Tule* tells the story of a modern Pomo girl who reconnects with the culturally significant and endangered tule plant of Clear Lake.
- **Eric Wilder**, freelance artist and member of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, reflected on cultural leadership and community history. His digital and graphic artwork celebrates Indigenous resilience and innovation. Eric has served his community as a fire tender, feather dancer, and Big Head Dancer. He currently serves as President of the Gualala Arts Center Board of Directors and is the **founder of the Native Arts Expo**.

*Continued on following page...*



Jocelyn Garcia



Eric Wilder

# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE | ARTS

## Native American Storytelling Continued...

### A Night of Community & Gratitude

The evening concluded with ceremonial blanket gifts presented by **Native American Club (NAC)** students to the storytellers—a heartfelt gesture of honor and appreciation. Mendocino College thanks all who contributed to this meaningful event. Heartfelt appreciation to **Rebecca Montes, Mary Houghton, Tony Novelli, Damon Webb, Eric Wilder, Jocelyn Garcia, Loni Zairis** (for her delicious blackberry pies), **Carrie Potter, Amber Shrum, Janet Dougherty**, and the **dedicated volunteers of the Native American Club (NAC)**, and to the many people who attended this celebration.

This celebration reaffirmed the power of collaboration, the resilience of Indigenous traditions, and the enduring importance of storytelling—whether spoken beside a fire or crafted through digital media. As new generations of Indigenous artists continue to innovate, their stories remain deeply rooted in community, identity, and connection to the land.

May these stories inspire us to listen deeply, create boldly, and continue sharing our own stories in the spirit of community and connection. 🦅



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY CERAMICS SALE

**Friday, December 5 | 8:00 AM–5:00 PM**  
**Lowery Student Center, Ukiah Campus**

The Mendocino College Ceramics Club invites you to the annual holiday ceramics sale! Find a one-of-a-kind gift or treat yourself to something special.

In addition to ceramics, you'll discover handmade sewn goods, collectibles, holiday wreaths, and snack items from the Caring Kitchen, Textiles Club, and Horticulture Club. All proceeds benefit the Ceramics Club.

**Note:** Cash & check only (ATM available in the entryway).

**Don't miss this chance to shop local, support student creativity, and pick up unique holiday treasures!** 🦅



## MC GALLERY RECEPTION SUCCESS: NATIVE NOW; K'EDI WADDIM UNVEILED

This collaboration between the Art Gallery and Native Staff saw the curation of Indigenous Art, showcasing Native American talent.

The opening welcomed 251 community members, with food provided by the Culinary Department, The Native American Club, and drinks from Tara Riizer's LemonAaaaayD! The opening welcome began with speeches made by curators, **Jazzminh Moore, Kyle Whiterock, and Victoria Ramos.**

The exhibition runs through February 8th, 2026, with gallery hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM, and Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

We welcome you to stop by when you can.

**- Kyle Whiterock,**  
Student Retention Specialist, Co-Juror  
Native American Student Resource Center 

**Pictured above center: curators Victoria Ramos, Jazzminh Moore, and Kyle Whiterock**

## NATIVE NOW: K'EDI WADDIM (WALK WELL)

FREE ENTRY | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mendocino College Gallery is honored to announce the opening of **Native Now: K'edi Wadim** (meaning "Walk Well" in Northern Pomo dialect), an exhibition featuring contemporary art by artists of Native American descent living and working today. The show celebrates Indigenous creativity, heritage, and resilience through a diverse range of artistic expressions, from drawing, painting and photography to regalia, beadwork, weaving and basketry.


### Featuring works by:

Chris Archer, Melody Clearbrook, Mona Cliff, Luna Enriquez, Tanya Estrada Ruiz, Jocelyn Garcia, Bonnie Lockhart, Meyo Marrufo, Corine Pearce, Chris Polk, Victoria Ramos, Buffie Schmidt, Allegra Silveira, Tony Smith, Monique Sonoquie, Lina Veronica, Daniel Weber, Natyia Whipple, Kyle Whiterock, Callia Williams, Candace Zamora, + more.

**K'edi Wadim** means 'Walk Well' in Northern Pomo dialect.

### Gallery Hours:

- T/TH 12:30-3:30 PM
- W 10:30-1:30 PM
- and by appointment

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



# MENDOCINO COLLEGE



**Dr. Victor Hernandez pictured Center with the 2016 Mendocino College Men's Soccer Team**

## HISPANIC/LATINX ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

As part of our Alumni Spotlight series, the Mendocino College Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) staff is proud to feature **Dr. Victor Hernandez**.

Born and raised in Ukiah, California, Victor never imagined attending college. Today, he holds a Doctorate in Physical Therapy—a testament to his **ganas (desire)**, strong work ethic, and dedication to serving his community.

### Victor's Higher Education Journey

Victor grew up with a strong work ethic, inspired by parents who worked tirelessly, often holding multiple jobs to make ends meet. When old enough, he joined the workforce to help support his family. While neither parent completed past middle school in Mexico, Victor's drive to change his family's status pushed him further. He excelled academically in high school, fueled by curiosity and engagement in the **MESA** program at Ukiah High.

After high school, Victor attended Mendocino College, joining the **CAMP program** and finding support through counselors, **tutors at the Learning Center**, and the college's close-knit environment. He was also **one of the first players on the Men's Soccer team**, which became a key support system throughout his studies.


After high school, Victor attended Mendocino College, joining the **CAMP program** and finding support through counselors, **tutors at the Learning Center**, and the college's close-knit environment. He was also **one of the first players on the Men's Soccer team**, which became a key support system throughout his studies.

After earning his Allied Health degree, Victor transferred to the University of Saint Mary in Kansas, continuing academics and soccer. He later returned to California to complete his bachelor's degree at Sonoma State University. When Mendocino College launched its **first Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) cohort**, Victor returned and graduated with the inaugural class in 2021.

While working as a PTA, Victor saw the critical need for Latino healthcare providers, especially for Spanish-speaking patients. Motivated to better serve his community, he pursued and completed his **Doctor of Physical Therapy at Hawai'i Pacific University in 2024**.

### Victor's Inspiration and Advice

Victor credits his parents and his desire to uplift his community as his greatest motivations. He hopes current Mendocino College students chase their goals with determination, acknowledging that while college can be challenging, it's important to give it your all, or as he says, **"echarle ganas."**

**His advice: take breaks, seek support, and don't hesitate to talk to someone.** 



# MENDOMERCH

OFFICIAL MENDOCINO COLLEGE GEAR



## TREAT YOURSELF WITH OFFICIAL MENDO MERCH

Get winter-ready and show your Eagle pride with Mendo Merch, the official online store for Mendocino College apparel!


From cozy hoodies and stylish joggers to classic tees, Mendo Merch has everything you need to stay warm and represent Mendocino College in style this holiday season.

### Special Launch Offer:

Use discount code **EAGLES2025** at checkout for **10% off your order!**

### Shop Now:

Visit [mendocino.edu/mendomerch](http://mendocino.edu/mendomerch) to browse the full collection and place your order today.

*Treat yourself—or grab the perfect gift for a fellow Eagle—and show your Mendocino College spirit wherever you go!* 

## MENDOCINO COLLEGE

# FOOD PANTRY



## FREE FOOD FOR ALL STUDENTS

Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department Presents

# Rumors

by Neil Simon

Call for Auditions!  
December 11th



### AUDITIONS!

Mendocino College is holding Auditions for the Spring play, *Rumors* by Neil Simon! Seeking actors of all ethnicities, ages, and backgrounds!

Thursday, December 11th @ 6 PM In the Center Theatre on the Ukiah campus  
Call-Backs as needed Friday, Dec 12th @ 6 PM  
Rehearsals start Jan 5th | Performances will be March 5-15

*In this madcap, fast-paced farce, a group of high society New Yorkers are plunged into a frantic cover-up. Come join the fun!*

To audition, email Lucas Verbrugge at [lverbrugge@mendocino.edu](mailto:lverbrugge@mendocino.edu) or call (707) 468-3172. Simple as that!



THESE THREE DIGITS COULD SAVE A LIFE

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SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

No matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

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