



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FEBRUARY
2026

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



It has been a busy start of the semester with Welcome Week activities, Club Days, Athletic Games, and more. Thank you to the many people who have volunteered their time and talents to make these events

successful. We may reach many significant milestones this semester related to enrollment, student housing, and facilities. 

ENROLLMENT

The district continues to post strong enrollment numbers. **Spring 26 is 2% higher than last spring and 37% higher than Spring 2023.** Many districts in our State are experiencing enrollment declines or flat at best. Our enrollment indicates the value our local community has placed in the educational opportunities provided by our district. Also, the continuous efforts of staff, faculty, and administrators to adapt to community needs provides the foundation for excellence. 

SEMESTER	ACTIVE ENROLLMENTS	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL TIME	PART TIME	TOTAL FTES
SPRING 2026	13492	5962	967	4995	1250.10
SPRING 2025	13383	5641	990	4651	1222.20
SPRING 2024	11799	5029	932	4097	1025.12
SPRING 2023	9956	4187	721	3466	912.30

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



REMEMBERING PHILLIP "ED" NICKERMAN (1930–2026)

Adapted from the Ukiah Daily Journal obituary.

Phillip "Ed" Nickerman passed away peacefully on January 5, 2026, at the age of 95. Born in Salt Lake City, Ed grew up exploring the outdoors with his siblings. His lifelong spirit of adventure carried into his teenage years, when he joined the U.S. Army at age 16 to honor his brother who died in World War II. After his service in Japan, he used the GI Bill to complete his education at Pasadena City College, Pomona College, and Claremont Graduate School.

Ed dedicated his career to education, serving in Los Angeles, Alaska, and Mendocino County. During his **20 years as Assistant Superintendent at the Mendocino County Office of Education**, he pioneered the **StayWell high-deductible health plan** paired with a health savings account—now recognized as a national innovation that produced significant cost savings. He later continued his public service on the **Mendocino County Board of Education** and on the **Mendocino-Lake Community College Board** well into his 80s and 90s.

Outside of education, Ed built homes, ran the Redwood Empire Auctioneering Company, and engaged deeply in community service through the Rotary Club of Ukiah and the Grand Jury. He loved flying, sailing, and working his Potter Valley farm, where he raised livestock, tended orchards, and built a life rooted in family and community.

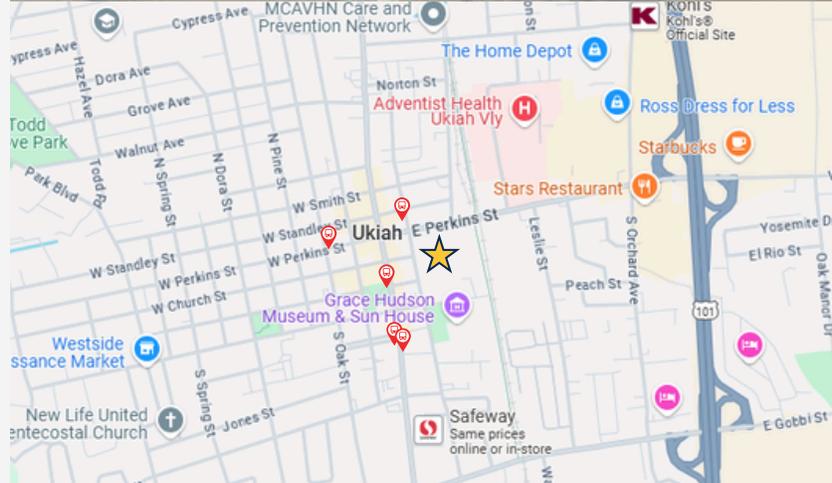
Ed is survived by his wife, Janice "Jan," their eight children, nineteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. He was a devoted family man and a passionate advocate for educational opportunity throughout Mendocino County.

A memorial service was held January 17, 2026, at St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church in Ukiah. **Donations in his memory may be directed to the Potter Valley Youth and Community Center, P.O. Box 273, Potter Valley, CA 95469.** 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

STUDENT HOUSING

On January 21, the student housing process had a critical local approval. At the Ukiah City Council meeting, our demolition permit application for the Perkins/Main property was on the agenda for consideration. I attended along with **Nicole Marin** and **Mac Lojowsky** to answer questions related to the application. Our demolition permit was previously accepted by the Ukiah Demolition Review Committee. The permit will allow us to remove the existing structures in Spring 2026 and have a shovel-ready site required for the State grant application due June 2026. Thank you to the community members who submitted letters of support to the city council and/or spoke in support at the meeting. **The Ukiah City Council voted unanimously to approve our application.** 

**ASSEMBLYMAN ROGERS VISIT**

On Friday, January 30, **Board President O'Neill** and I met with **Assemblyman Chris Rogers**. We reviewed the progress on the North County Phase II building, the affordable student housing application in Ukiah, our Native American Student Support Services Program, Enrollment increases, and more. The visit ended with a stroll through campus highlighting the location of a future allied health building, automotive to view the new EV Lab, and to Agriculture to view the medicine garden. Assemblyman Rogers stopped and took several pictures of the new planting, which included the salmon life cycle installation in the dry creek. **Thanks to the agriculture students for the design/planting and the ceramics students for the salmon.**

(Photo on cover page) 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



Produce Wednesdays

Free for Students!

Every Wednesday from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
(or until supplies run out) at the Lowery Student
Center on the Ukiah Campus.

Additional dates at our other Centers TBA.

**Excludes holidays or other school closures.*



EAGLE CONNECT SCHEDULER IMPLEMENTATION

On February 2, the **CalWORKs** and **EOPS** programs successfully transitioned to the Eagle Connect Scheduler for student appointments. This transition reflects the college's commitment to putting student needs first. Eagle Connect is a web-based system that allows students to access scheduling tools 24/7, enabling them to book appointments, make changes to existing plans, and reschedule as needed. Increased accessibility is expected to significantly reduce appointment no-shows while improving the overall student experience.

The Eagle Connect system is also actively collecting data to support counseling reporting needs and is streamlining internal processes for staff. Based on the positive outcomes from this initial rollout, **all remaining counseling faculty will transition to Eagle Connect**, with the next groups scheduled for March. The **department plans to complete the transition by the end of June**, with intentional timing ahead of priority registration dates to better support summer and fall enrollment. 

BASIC NEEDS

The Basic Needs Office has resumed full operations. Our food pantry is now open and ready to serve students. Additionally, **Produce Wednesday** began the first week of February, along with a **Student Clothing Closet**.

Produce Wednesdays take place weekly at the Lowery Student Center on the Ukiah Campus. For a list of dates when produce will be available at our Centers, contact Student Life & Basic Needs Coordinator **Naoto Horiguchi** at nhoriguc@mendocino.edu. 



PRIDE PROGRAM

During the month of January, the Pride Program organized four information activities to align with Eagles Welcome events and intentional social gatherings. The events were held on January 20th, 22nd, and two on the 27th. The activities are intended to support students in sustaining a Club on campus and building community.

The Pride Program will continue its weekly **Pride Social for students on Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 pm**, throughout the Spring semester. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

NEW VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM COMING TO MENDO

Mendocino College is launching a new Vocational Nursing (VN) program at the Ukiah Campus, expanding local access to in-demand healthcare careers. The program—transitioning from Ukiah Adult School—cuts student costs nearly in half while maintaining the high standards the community depends on.

Applications open February 2 and close March 13, with the first cohort beginning in August 2026. All applicants must attend a mandatory pre-application workshop offered on February 10, February 25, and March 6, 2026. These workshops are paired with RN program sessions so students can explore both pathways.

The full-time, three-semester program includes classroom instruction and hands-on clinical training, preparing graduates to work in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and other essential healthcare settings. Estimated total program cost—including tuition, books, supplies, and licensing fees—is approximately \$6,022.

Admission is determined by lottery, and applicants must have a high school diploma or college degree and submit TEAS Version 7 scores with a minimum total score of 54%. Additional lottery points may be awarded for academic achievement, healthcare credentials, county residency, veteran status, or prior alternate status.

The VN and RN programs are expected to move into a new, state-of-the-art Allied Health Building beginning construction in 2027.

Workshop registration and application details are available at: www.mendocino.edu/LVN 

*Rebecca Mayer**Atlas Pearson***STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE**

Professor Lori Laiwa Thomas is recognizing two standout students from **HST 222: Native American History**, whose dedication and academic excellence have enriched the course this past Fall semester.

Rebecca Mayer

A Psychology major returning to college after more than two decades, Rebecca brings a thoughtful, mature perspective to class discussions and written work. Her deep respect for Native sovereignty, culture, and lived experience—paired with her curiosity and strong academic performance—has made her a highly valued member of the course.

Atlas Pearson

Atlas is a first-generation college student majoring in Business Management, Accounting, and Business Administration for Transfer. With nearly eight years of government service, Atlas contributes real-world insight and strong leadership to the classroom. Their long-term goal is to own and operate a business, and outside of school, they enjoy fishing, home renovation, and spending time with their dogs.

Professor Thomas celebrates both students for their commitment, engagement, and the meaningful perspectives they bring to the study of Native American history. 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



REPORT ON FUNDING HSI/RETENTION

At the December 17, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting, the **Board approved Resolution #12-25-04**, authorizing contributions from the Unrestricted General Fund to support federal programs in the event of termination or defunding. This action followed the U.S. Department of Education's notice on September 10, 2025, that funding for the College's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) grant—originally awarded for 2023–2028—would be discontinued beginning in the 2025–2026 year. As a result, the District will not receive the remaining allocations anticipated under the grant.

Program Overview

Through the HSI grant, the District hired an HSI Program Manager and three Retention Specialists to strengthen student persistence and completion. The retention team developed targeted strategies that included:

- Identifying undeclared students, supporting **career exploration**, and connecting students to the Career Hub
- Identifying students who do not have an Education Plan and getting them connected with the **Counseling Office**

- Supporting the enrollment and completion of the four required transferable courses/areas, including following up with first-year students to help them complete their **Math & English requirements**
- Supporting the **re-enrollment** of first-year students from Fall to Spring and second-year students' enrollment from Spring to Fall

In addition to these student-based goals, the program also had the following **professional development goals** as outlined in the grant:

- Implementing **equity-based practices** and training student-facing staff, with 80% of student-facing staff being trained
- Having (80% of) student-facing staff participate in equity-based training facilitated by the **Career Ladders Project**.

To meet these goals, the retention team collaborated closely with departments such as Counseling, Financial Aid, and the Career Hub. The District utilized grant funds to contract with the Career Ladders Project to deliver equity-based training throughout the year.

Continued on following page...

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

HSI Continued...

Mendocino College
**HISPANIC-SERVING
INSTITUTION**

Moving Forward

To sustain core HSI program functions, the District has adopted two key funding strategies:

1. Continued Professional Development Support

Following the federal funding discontinuation, the District utilized Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) funds to continue equity-based professional development through the remainder of the 2025–2026 year. Career Ladders Project has been informed that the College will conclude this partnership at the end of Spring 2026. Student-facing staff will continue to access other professional development resources through departments, the District, the region, and the Chancellor's Office.

2. Funding for Retention Staffing

The District has committed to supporting HSI Program Manager and Retention Specialist positions through the originally planned five-year grant period. Carryover funds from 2024–2025—totaling \$270,383—were used to sustain salaries and benefits through Fall 2025. Through Resolution #12-25-04, the District will utilize General Fund dollars to support the remainder of staffing costs for the 2025–2026 academic year, estimated at \$235,000. These funds will cover salaries, benefits, in-district travel for Center support, a reduced supplies budget, and limited professional development.

Beginning in 2026–2027, the District plans to utilize approximately \$1.05 million in Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) Energy Rebates, generated through the College's combined solar and energy storage systems, to support staffing for the HSI Program Manager and Retention Specialists.

Finally, the Student Services area will include the retention team positions in the yearly program review staffing requests. This will ensure that we follow the District's process for institutionalizing the positions in the future. 

**CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February is Black History Month, a time to honor the achievements, leadership, and cultural contributions of Black Americans throughout history and today. This month invites us to learn, reflect, and celebrate the stories and voices that have shaped—and continue to shape—our communities, our nation, and our shared future.

To explore curated readings, films, historical resources, and learning opportunities, visit the [Mendocino College Library's Black History Month guide here](#).

Engage, learn, and celebrate with us throughout the month! 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



FEENY NAMED BAY VALLEY PITCHER OF THE WEEK

Mendocino College right-handed pitcher **Dylan Feeny** has been named the **Bay Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week** by the **California Community College Baseball Coaches Association** for his outstanding performance on January 28, 2026.

Feeny delivered a dominant outing in the final game of the Eagles' season-opening series against College of the Redwoods, carrying a no-hitter into the sixth inning before an infield pop-up broke it up. He finished with 5.2 innings pitched, allowing just one hit, striking out nine, and earning the win. His strong performance helped secure the Eagles' series sweep as the offense rallied with eleven runs in support.

Feeny's award marks an impressive start to the season for both him and the Eagles. 

EAGLES BASEBALL SWEEPS COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS TO OPEN SEASON

Mendocino College Baseball kicked off the spring season with a dominant performance, sweeping College of the Redwoods in a three-game weekend series.

The Eagles opened on Friday with an 8–4 victory, then continued their momentum during Saturday's doubleheader—winning game one 13–9 before closing out the series with an 11–1 win in the finale. Consistent offense and strong pitching defined the weekend, with Mendocino applying steady pressure at the plate while limiting Redwoods' scoring opportunities throughout the series.

The sweep gives the Eagles an impressive 3–0 start to the season and early confidence heading into their spring schedule.

Full box scores & game details are available on the [Mendocino College Baseball schedule page](#). 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

LET'S GO MENDO!

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	Feb 04 (Wed) 6:00 PM PST VS CONTRA COSTA *
	Feb 06 (Fri) 7:00 PM PST VS NAPA VALLEY *
	Feb 11 (Wed) 7:00 PM PST AT MARIN *
	Feb 13 (Fri) 7:00 PM PST VS LOS MEDANOS *
	Feb 17 (Tue) 7:00 PM PST AT MERRITT *

MEN'S BASEBALL

	Feb 24 (Tue) 2:00 PM PST AT LANEY
March	
	Mar 03 (Tue) 2:00 PM PST AT CONTRA COSTA
	Mar 05 (Thu) 2:00 PM PST VS SOLANO
	Mar 06 (Fri) 1:00 PM PST AT LOS MEDANOS
	Mar 10 (Tue) 2:00 PM PDT AT LANEY *
	Mar 12 (Thu) 2:00 PM PDT VS LANEY *
	Mar 14 (Sat) 1:00 PM PDT AT LANEY *
	Mar 17 (Tue) 2:00 PM PDT VS NAPA VALLEY *
	Mar 19 (Thu) 2:00 PM PDT AT NAPA VALLEY *
	Mar 21 (Sat) 1:00 PM PDT VS NAPA VALLEY *
	Mar 24 (Tue) 2:00 PM PDT AT YUBA *

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	Feb 04 (Wed) CANCELLED VS CONTRA COSTA *
	Feb 06 (Fri) 5:00 PM PST VS NAPA VALLEY *
	Feb 11 (Wed) 5:00 PM PST AT MARIN *
	Feb 13 (Fri) 5:00 PM PST VS LOS MEDANOS *
	Feb 17 (Tue) 5:00 PM PST AT MERRITT *



EOPS, CARE, & NEXTUP: STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Mendocino College's EOPS, CARE, and NextUp programs provide targeted support for students facing academic, economic, or personal barriers.

Application Process

Students complete a unified application after meeting admissions and financial aid requirements and enrolling full-time (or with DRC accommodations). Once accepted, they can access services such as counseling, vouchers, and grants.

Program Snapshots

EOPS supports educationally and economically disadvantaged students with counseling, textbook vouchers, priority registration, tutoring referrals, and success workshops.

CARE offers additional resources for single parents who qualify for EOPS and receive CalWORKs or Tribal TANF. Services may include childcare support, meal and gas vouchers, textbook assistance, and workshops.

NextUp serves current or former foster youth, offering educational planning, priority registration, grants for school costs, tutoring, and assistance with basic needs such as childcare, food, housing, and transportation.

More Information

EOPS/CARE/NextUp Office
MacMillan Hall Room 1130, Ukiah Campus
707-468-3113 • eops-mc@mendocino.edu 



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

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

COUNSELING

Counseling Services continued to offer three days per week of drop-in opportunities for the two weeks before the semester's start date, as well as the first two weeks of the Spring semester. These were available both in person and via Zoom to support new, continuing, and returning students. These **drop-in sessions** provided **just-in-time assistance** with enrollment, education planning, and general counseling needs during a critical point in the spring semester. This flexible approach helped remove access barriers and ensured timely support for students navigating registration and academic planning. 



EAGLES RISE PROGRAM

Eagles Rise Program Manager **Jimmy Bailon** and students presented to faculty during their in-service training before the start of the spring semester. They shared their experiences, personal growth, and engagement with Eagles Rise, helping faculty better understand the program's impact and the needs of justice-impacted students. Jimmy also shared some best practices about how to better support justice-impacted students. This semester, the program launched a College and Career Success class (CCS 100) inside Mendocino County Juvenile Hall. **Six youth enrolled in the 6-week course.** 



QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS



CALM BODY



LIFE SKILL

SPRING WELLNESS EVENTS

Mendocino College Health & Wellness is offering a range of activities this spring to support student well-being. Employees are encouraged to be aware of these offerings and share information with students as appropriate. The latest updates are available on the [Health & Wellness webpage](#) under the Wellness Events tab.

Weekly Wellness Activities**Circle of Support**

Tuesdays • 5:30–6:30 p.m. • Library Conference Room 4232. *Most sessions also available on Zoom.*

Groove Moai

Starts February 18
Wednesdays • 2:30 p.m. • McMillan Hall, Rm. 1060

Disc Golf Moai

Thursdays • 3:00 p.m. • Ukiah Campus Disc Golf Course. *Disc donations may be dropped off at the Eagle Support Center.*

Upcoming Events**Spring Blood Drive** – Vitalant

Tuesday, March 10 • 10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Bloodmobile located by the Red Barn
[Sign up for the Spring Blood Drive here.](#)

March Madness Muffins

Returning in April. *Employees are encouraged to wear college-themed apparel to help spark conversations with students about their educational pathways. Additional details will be provided closer to the event.*

Health & Wellness Fair

Wednesday, May 6 • 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities announced in April. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid Office has been hosting **FAFSA and Dream Act workshops** across the district to help students complete their 2026–2027 applications before the **March 2 Cal Grant deadline**. Students who finished their financial aid file received their Pell Grant disbursement on January 15 for the spring semester. We are also contacting students who were enrolled last fall and still need to complete outstanding financial aid requirements.

Financial Aid staff will be attending upcoming trainings to prepare for changes associated with the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBBA/OB3/H.R.1). We continue to monitor the implementation timeline and new guidance as it is issued by the Department of Education. 

**FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED THROUGH MARCH 1**

The Mendocino College Foundation is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2026–2027 academic year. **More than \$200,000 in scholarship funding is available** to support students with tuition, books, and other educational expenses.

Faculty & staff are encouraged to share this information with students who may benefit. Scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors, incoming students, and currently enrolled Mendocino College students.

Students may apply online at mendocino.academicworks.com through **March 1, 2026**.

For questions about the application process, students may contact the Foundation at 707-467-1018 or visit foundation.mendocino.edu. 

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS (PSLF) PROGRAM INFORMATION

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) forgives the remaining balance on qualifying Direct Student Loans for employees who meet federal service and payment requirements. [Employees can review complete PSLF program details here.](#)

MLCCD Application Support

- Section 4: Employer Certification
- *completed by the District*
- Section 3: Employer Information
- *HR can assist*
- Employer Contact: HR@mendocino.edu

Important Note:

Whether completing the PSLF application for the first time or resubmitting, please use the current MLCCD **EIN: 87-2147169**

For questions or help with the application process, email HR@mendocino.edu. 

**UPDATED MILEAGE AND MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR 2026**

The College has implemented updated reimbursement rates for mileage and meals effective January 1, 2026. The new rates are as follows:

Mileage Reimbursement: 72.5 cents per mile

Meal Reimbursement:

- Breakfast: \$16
- Lunch: \$19
- Dinner: \$28

All travel-related documents have been updated to reflect these changes and are available on [OneDrive](#). Employees should use the updated forms for any travel occurring in 2026. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



MENDOCINO COLLEGE LAUNCHES FIRST-EVER NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE COURSE

Mendocino College has launched its first Native American language course—a credit-bearing Northern Pomo class **taught by Lori Laiwa Thomas**, Department Chair of Ethnic Studies. *This marks a historic milestone for the College, offering the region's only opportunity for adult learners to study Northern Pomo.*

Interest has been strong, with **41 students enrolled**, including local tribal leaders, elders, faculty, and community members. The intergenerational participation reflects the language's vitality and its importance to cultural continuity across Mendocino County.

Northern Pomo is one of seven Pomoan languages historically spoken in the region, including tribes and communities throughout Mendocino County, including Coyote Valley Reservation, Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Redwood Valley Reservation, Potter Valley Tribe, Guidiville Rancheria, Sherwood Valley Reservation, and the communities of Fort Bragg and Boonville. Offering it at the college level supports broader revitalization efforts in response to generations of language loss caused by federal assimilation policies, including the Indian boarding school system.

The course builds on the five-year Northern Pomo program at **Ukiah High School**. Thomas—who has more than two decades of experience in Pomoan language revitalization—worked with **Cathy O'Connor, Professor Emerita at Boston University**, to align the curriculum with existing Northern Pomo linguistic resources, including a comprehensive online dictionary and text archive originally created with elder speakers **Edna Campbell Guerrero** and **Eleanor Stevenson Gonzales**.

The course is **UC/CSU transferable**, and Thomas hopes to offer it each semester, supporting long-term language learning and community engagement. Offering Northern Pomo for college credit—taught by a Native instructor, rooted in local tribal communities, and supported by learners across generations—affirms that Indigenous languages have a vital place in contemporary education and in the future of local communities. This milestone reflects Mendocino College's commitment to Indigenous leadership, community partnership, and the preservation and strengthening of local Native knowledge systems.

For more information, contact Lori Laiwa Thomas at llthomas@mendocino.edu. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



UPDATE FROM THE CENTERS

Coast Center

The Coast Center is pleased to highlight recent recognition of Mendocino College Photography instructor **Markus Pfitzner** in the February 2026 edition of *Real Estate Magazine*. The article praised the transformative impact of his photography courses, noting that students—from teenagers to retirees—are gaining both skill and confidence under his instruction. The publication emphasized how Markus's extensive educational and professional background helps students discover freedom and creativity in the art of photography. [Read the complete article here.](#)

North County Center

On January 14, 2026, the North County Center hosted a highly successful **ESL Open House** led by **Jackeline Orozco**, with support from faculty members **Sarah Walsh** and **Colina Crismier**. More than 40 attendees participated, far exceeding expectations. Thanks to focused outreach and a strong team presence, 27 students enrolled in ESL courses, and additional students registered for classes in Administration of Justice, Child Development, and Construction, many of which are offered in Spanish or with Spanish-language support. The event concluded with a shared taco meal to celebrate the day's accomplishments and welcome new students.

**Lake Center**

The Lake Center is preparing to welcome local community college and high school students to **College & Career Day on Thursday, March 5**. In collaboration with LCOE and the Mendocino College Career Hub, the event will feature more than 50 tabling organizations, representing student services, academic programs, regional universities, and industry partners. With **more than 300 attendees expected**, the event aims to offer students a robust introduction to the educational and career pathways available through Mendocino College and its community partners. 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



DON'T DISTURB THIS GROOVE OPENS AT COLLEGE GALLERY

**Opening Reception Thursday,
February 19, 4:30–6:30 PM**

The Mendocino College Gallery presents *Don't Disturb This Groove*, a group exhibition highlighting the vibrant painting tradition at **Cal Poly Humboldt**. The title—taken from a lyric displayed above the Cal Poly Humboldt Painting Lab door—reminds students to protect their creative flow and trust the artistic process.

This exhibition features recent work by Cal Poly Humboldt faculty artists **Eliseo Casiano** and **Gina Tuzzi**, along with **Jim Woodhead**, the program's wood shop technician. Their pieces appear alongside works by nine **painting alumni** from the past fifteen years, each of whom studied closely under Casiano and Tuzzi. Collectively, the group reflects deep creative relationships and a shared appreciation for the Humboldt landscape.

Visitors will see expressive color, diverse landscape interpretations, and pieces rooted in culture and ritual—offering a multigenerational conversation about mentorship, place, and the ongoing possibilities of painting.

The campus community is invited to attend the free February 19 opening reception.

Regular Gallery Hours:

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

Open during most Center Theater performances. 

MENDOCINO COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS: RUMORS BY NEIL SIMON

The Mendocino College Theatre Arts Department invites you to enjoy *Rumors*, a fast-paced comedy by Neil Simon, **directed by Lucas Verbrugge**, showing at the college's Center Theatre this March.

It's the 10th wedding anniversary party for the Deputy Mayor of New York City—but when guests arrive to find the host incapacitated, his wife missing, and the household staff nowhere in sight, the evening unravels into a chaotic tangle of cover-ups, confusion, and outrageous lies. Watch eight friends scramble to protect their host's reputation—and their own—as the truth becomes harder and harder to hide.

Performance Schedule

- Thu., March 5 • 7:30 PM
Pay-What-You-Wish Preview
- Fri., March 6 • 7:30 PM
Gala Opening Night (includes food & wine)
- Sat., March 7 • 7:30 PM
- Thu., March 12 • 7:30 PM
Special Discount Night (all tickets \$10)
- Fri., March 13 • 7:30 PM
- Sat., March 14 • 7:30 PM
- Sun., March 15 • 2:00 PM — *Matinee*

Tickets

General Admission: \$20 | Students & Seniors: \$15
Advance tickets available at the Mendocino Book Company in Ukiah (cash only) and online at www.ArtsMendocino.org beginning two weeks before opening night. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

HUMAN RESOURCES CORNER**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](#)

Recent Staffing Changes:

Jana Rauch will be moving to Allied Health Programs Specialist from Accounting Specialist, effective 3/1/26.

Welcome Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 New Hires! Faculty

Tatiana Cantrell – Child Dev.; 1/16/26; Ukiah

Classified

Celene Alvarez – Payroll Tech., 11/1/2025; Ukiah

Diana Gray – Admin Asst. II - Foundation; 2/1/2026; Ukiah

Emerald Waters – EOPS Specialist; 1/1/2026; Ukiah

Spring 2026 Retirement

After 23 years of dedicated service to Mendocino College, **Tony Risch**, Custodial Supervisor, is beginning a well-earned new chapter. We thank Tony for his many years of commitment and wish him all the best in retirement! 

24/7 TECH SUPPORT BOT HELPS STUDENTS RESOLVE ISSUES FASTER

Mendocino College's 24/7 Tech Support Bot continues to streamline assistance for students. Constantly updated and reviewed by our IT team, the bot can quickly guide students through **password resets, Wi-Fi onboarding, Google account conflicts, Canvas and MyMendo login issues, and other routine problems**—often resolving them within minutes.

Available day or night and able to communicate in six languages, the bot provides clear, step-by-step instructions tailored to each user's situation. When an issue requires additional help, it automatically generates a Help Desk ticket, ensuring no extra steps for the student.

Tech Support Contacts

Phone: 707-468-3210

Email: support@mendocino.arkproject.com

Encouraging students to try the Tech Support Bot first helps them get faster solutions while reducing the volume of routine support requests. 

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.

Pride Social | Every Tuesday

Circle of Support | Every Tuesday

Produce Wednesdays | Every Wednesday

Groove Moai | Every Wednesday

Disc Golf Moai | Every Thursday

Regalia Workshop | Every Thursday

Wellness Wednesday | Feb. 18

Don't Disturb This Groove | Feb. 19 - March 23

Dream Act & Financial Aid Workshop | Feb. 19

MLACE | Feb. 20, Mar. 7 & 13

Cal Fresh Breakfast | Feb. 23

Produce Wednesday @ Coast Center | Feb. 25

College & Career Day @ Lake Center | Mar. 5

Rumors by Neil Simon | Mar. 5-15

Teachers on Teaching | Mar. 7



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

HUMAN RESOURCES CORNER

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](#) 

24/7 TECH SUPPORT BOT HELPS STUDENTS RESOLVE ISSUES FASTER

Mendocino College's 24/7 Tech Support Bot continues to streamline assistance for students. Constantly updated and reviewed by our IT team, the bot can quickly guide students through **password resets, Wi-Fi onboarding, Google account conflicts, Canvas and MyMendo** login issues, and other routine problems—often resolving them within minutes.

Available day or night and able to communicate in six languages, the bot provides clear, step-by-step instructions tailored to each user's situation. When an issue requires additional help, it automatically generates a Help Desk ticket, ensuring no extra steps for the student.

Tech Support Contacts

Phone: 707-468-3210

Email: support@mendocino.arkproject.com

Encouraging students to try the Tech Support Bot first helps them get faster solutions while reducing the volume of routine support requests. 

**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.

Pride Social | Every Tuesday

Circle of Support | Every Tuesday

Produce Wednesdays | Every Wednesday

Groove Moai | Every Wednesday

Disc Golf Moai | Every Thursday

Regalia Workshop | Every Thursday

Wellness Wednesday | Feb. 18

Don't Disturb This Groove | Feb. 19 - March 23

Dream Act & Financial Aid Workshop | Feb. 19

MLACE | Feb. 20, Mar. 7 & 13

Cal Fresh Breakfast | Feb. 23

Produce Wednesday @ Coast Center | Feb. 25

College & Career Day @ Lake Center | Mar. 5

Rumors by Neil Simon | Mar. 5-15

Teachers on Teaching | Mar. 7

Career Networking Fair | Mar. 19 