



It is hard to believe that Spring is right around the corner. We are proud to be honoring a cadre of faculty that has been awarded tenure. Faculty tenure is a cornerstone of academic excellence. It recognizes sustained achievement in teaching and service, while

safeguarding academic freedom and encouraging innovation. By granting tenure, we affirm our trust in faculty as long-term stewards of our institution's mission and as essential partners in advancing student success, equity, and educational quality. 

MEASURE A

Following the Board of Trustees' vote to place Measure A—the Mendocino College Career Training/Affordable Education Measure—on the June 2, 2026, ballot, the District completed all required filings with the Mendocino and Lake County elections offices. The paperwork has been submitted, and the District has received its official ballot designation: **MEASURE A: Mendocino College Career Training/Affordable Education Measure.**

Continued on next page...

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

Measure A continued...

“Mendocino College Career Training/ Affordable Education Measure. To repair classrooms/ labs, leaky roofs, electrical; maintain clean drinking water, remove mold, asbestos, lead paint; to train students for careers in trades, construction, wildland firefighting, healthcare/nursing/ EMT; construct, acquire, repair facilities/ sites/ equipment; shall Mendocino Lake Community College District’s measure authorizing \$98,000,000 in bonds at legal rates be adopted, levying \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation (\$6,100,000 annually, while bonds are outstanding) with public spending disclosure, oversight, audits, no state takeaways

To help provide clear information to the public, a dedicated webpage has been created at:

www.mendocino.edu/MeasureA. The webpage includes documents, background details, and a growing list of frequently asked questions. A sample of those FAQs is provided below. The webpage will be updated as information becomes available.

Sample FAQ’s**Q: What is Measure A?**

A: On February 11th, after hearing from residents, students, public safety, and local business leaders, the Mendocino-Lake Community College District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place Measure A—the Mendocino College Career Training/Affordable Education Measure—on the June 2 ballot for voters to consider.

If approved by voters, Measure A will expand access to affordable career training and help students earn the credits they need to start a good-paying job or to transfer to a four-year college, without taking on significant student loan debt.

Q: Why was Measure A placed on the ballot?

A: *California State Universities cost about six times more than Mendocino College. Not every student wants—or can afford—a four-year school.*

Measure A was placed on the ballot so local voters can decide whether to repair and upgrade career and job training program facilities, many of which are over 40 years old, are deteriorating, and do not have the space required for current program needs. These repairs and upgrades will help even more local students gain real-world skills for good-paying jobs—without taking on thousands of dollars in student loan debt.

Q: Why is Mendocino College important to the community?

A: *We save local families thousands of dollars by offering an affordable alternative to costly four-year universities. Our programs give students *real-world skills*, provide college credits for high schoolers, and pathways to good-paying local jobs, or transfer opportunities to 4-year universities, without crushing debt.*

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REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

*Measure A continued...***Q: Was the community consulted on needs prior to the placement of Measure A?**

A: Yes. For over half a year, Mendocino College engaged with local residents, students, safety professionals, and local business leaders to identify priority needs for affordable, quality education and career training needs throughout the district. If enacted, Measure A would generate local funding to address the top priorities identified by your neighbors, including:

- Strong fiscal stewardship and transparency
- Maintaining clean drinking water
- Repairing leaky roofs
- Removing any mold, asbestos, or lead paint
- Providing classrooms for programs training wildland firefighters and Firefighter Academy
- Repairing labs and classrooms to train nurses, physical therapy assistants, and Emergency Medical Technicians
- Ensuring schools are accessible for people with disabilities

Q: How much would this cost property owners in our district?

A: If Measure A is approved by 55% of district voters, the cost to property owners would be \$24 annually per \$100,000 of assessed valuation of their property on the property tax bill. It's important to remember that assessed valuation is frequently less than the "sale value" of a property.

For example, a property with an assessed valuation of \$250,000 would be \$60 a year; assessed valuation of \$300,000 would be \$72 a year.

Measure A includes a legally binding project list, and accountability requirements including independent citizen oversight, annual independent financial audits, and public disclosure of all expenditures to ensure that funds are spent efficiently, effectively and as promised. 

**AI LITERACY WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS**

Director of Information Technology **Dave Johnston** and Head Librarian **Robert Parmenter** are collaborating to offer a new series of AI literacy workshops designed to help students use emerging tools confidently, effectively, and ethically. These sessions introduce practical strategies students can apply immediately in their coursework and academic research.

Workshop Focus Areas

Students will be introduced to:

- Common AI tools such as Microsoft Copilot, ChatGPT, and Notebook LM
- Techniques for writing clear, effective prompts
- Appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI in academic settings
- How to properly cite AI-generated content
- Ethical considerations and best practices for responsible use

Spring 2026 Workshop Schedule

- Thursday, March 19 at 12:00 PM – via Zoom
- Wednesday, April 29 at 12:00 PM – via Zoom

Students may attend either session or participate in both for additional guidance. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

Mendocino College Choirs**"Bach is for Everyone"****SUPPORT THE MENDOCINO COLLEGE CHOIRS' ALL-BACH SPRING CONCERT**

This May, the Mendocino College Choirs will present two performances featuring the music of J. S. Bach, with a focus on making classical music accessible and enjoyable for the entire community—not just seasoned classical music listeners. To support these performances, the Choirs are fundraising to hire a small ensemble of professional orchestral musicians. Bringing these artists to campus will allow students and community members to experience Bach's music with authentic instrumentation while keeping both concerts free to the public.

Fundraising Goal

The Choirs aim to raise **\$4,000** to hire a chamber ensemble consisting of four string players, two oboists, and one harpsichordist. All donations are tax-deductible and processed through the Mendocino College Foundation. Contributors may give any amount; the online form allows donors to overwrite the pre-filled field with their preferred gift.

How to Contribute

Online Donations may be made via the [link here](#).

Checks or Cash: Make checks payable to Mendocino College Foundation with "Choir-Bach" in the memo line.

Deliver to:

Mendocino College Foundation Office
1000 Hensley Creek Road, Room 5110
Ukiah, CA 95482

Additional Information

Questions may be directed to **Janice Timm** at jtimm@mendocino.edu or 707-972-7977.

Funds will be accepted until May 22, or until the fundraising goal is reached.

Financial Aid*Application Workshops***FAFSA & DREAM ACT SUPPORT WORKSHOPS**

To support students as they navigate the updated financial aid application process, Mendocino College is hosting drop-in FAFSA and California Dream Act workshops throughout March. Staff will be available to answer questions, provide individualized guidance, and assist students in completing and submitting their applications accurately.

Upcoming Workshop Dates

- **Tuesday, March 17** – Lake Center, Room 7110
- **Tuesday, March 24** – North County Center, Room 8010 or Learning Commons

These workshops are open to all Mendocino College students. No appointment is required, and students may stop by at any point during the scheduled session times for assistance. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

COAST CENTER UPDATE

The Coast Center was excited to showcase the **Krenov School Fine Woodworking** department at their 2026 Midwinter show in downtown Fort Bragg, which ran January 31st to February 8th. Recognized internationally for its keen and sensitive approach to craftsmanship, the department featured exceptional works of furniture from the first semester of its 9-month program.

Each year, 23 people **from all over the world** come to Fort Bragg to train in this special environment. The school attracts students from a variety of professional disciplines, including architects, engineers, designers, carpenters, veterinarians, sculptors, teachers, and tradespeople. The diversity of each class is reflected in the work produced, with projects that range from classic Krenovian cabinets to original chair designs to work that challenges conventional forms and categories. 



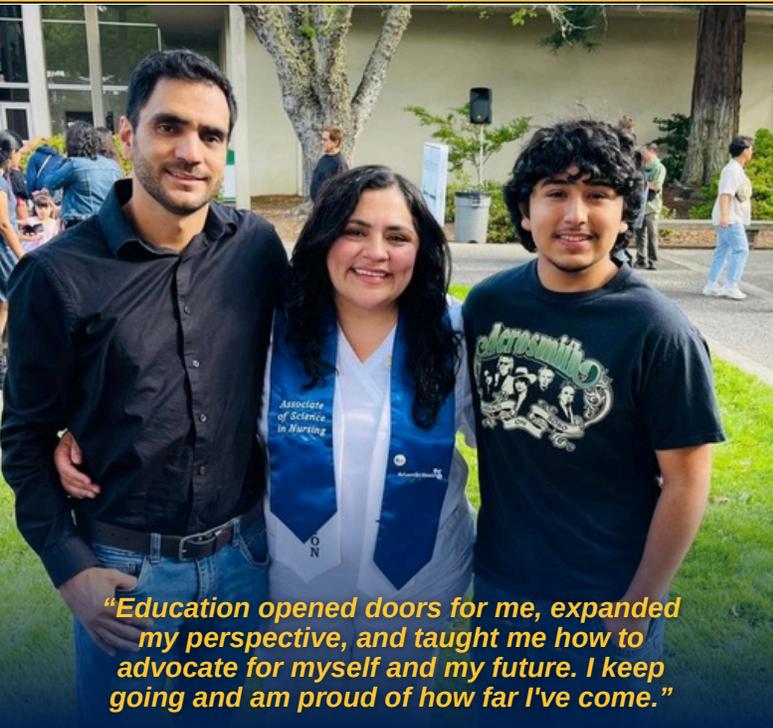
Clockwise: Kyla Vangelder with work in progress (photo by Laura Mays); Bay Laurel Wall Cabinet by Tamara Rose (photo by Todd Sorenson); Shirley Hsu with work in progress (photo by Laura Mays)

NORTH COUNTY CENTER UPDATE

The North County Center would like to celebrate the work of the Concert Choir students, directed by Janice Hawthorne Timm. [Follow the link here to enjoy a lovely recording of their recent Lumen: A Festival of Light concert.](#)



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



HISPANIC/LATINX ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

As part of our Hispanic/Latinx Alumni Spotlight series, we're proud to highlight **Cristina Leticia Torres**, a Mendocino College graduate whose journey reflects resilience, determination, and the power of community support.

Cristina's educational path wasn't always easy. Growing up as the child of Mexican immigrants, she navigated life across two cultures and learned early to adapt to different environments. This experience helped her develop the empathy and perseverance that would later guide her through major life and academic challenges.

High school was difficult, and Cristina often struggled to stay focused without the support she needed. **Transferring to South Valley High Continuation School became a turning point**—so much so that she became one of the first South Valley students to earn a scholarship to Mendocino College. She credits this moment as the beginning of a new chapter.

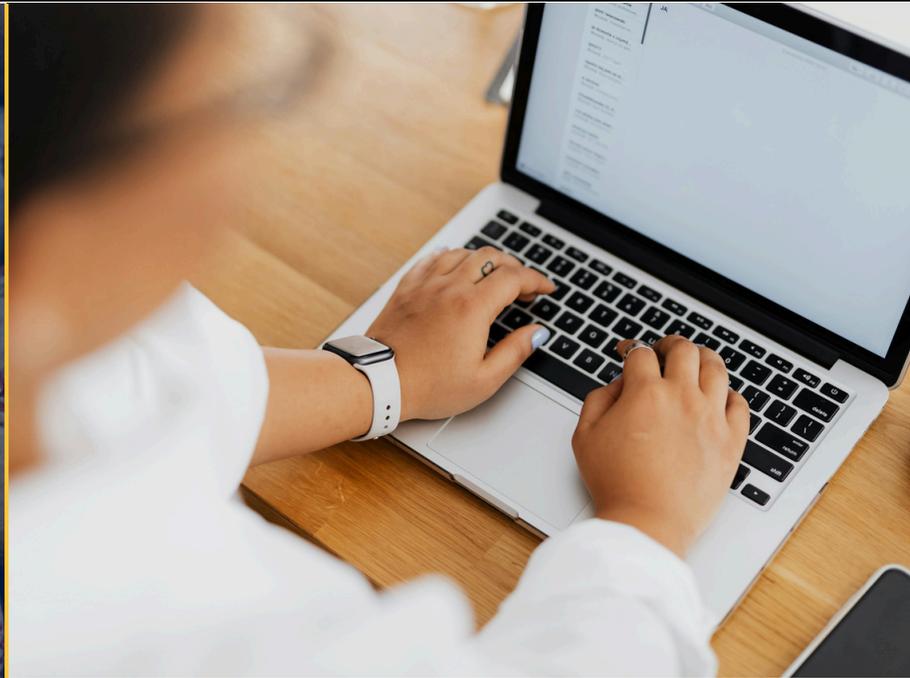
At Mendocino College, Cristina continued to push forward. A **scholarship from the Soroptimist Live Your Dream program** provided motivation, but she still faced obstacles, including depression and anxiety. With help from the **Disability Resource Center**, Cristina received academic accommodations that allowed her to demonstrate her strengths without being held back by her anxiety.

Cristina's interest in healthcare also shaped her path. She started as a receptionist in 2010, became a **Certified Medical Assistant** in 2011, and went on to complete the **Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program** in 2014. She later earned her **associate degree in Allied Health from Mendocino College** in 2022. During this time, she also met her husband, whom she credits with providing steady encouragement as she continued her academic and professional journey. After graduating from Mendocino College, Cristina entered the LVN-to-RN program at Pacific Union College, completing her **Registered Nursing** credential in June 2025. She now works as an Inpatient RN Case Manager at Kaiser Permanente and is **on track to finish her Bachelor of Science in Nursing** in June 2026.

As a first-generation Mexican American woman, Cristina understands how overwhelming school can feel—but also how meaningful progress can be when you keep going. She shares this advice for current students: *“Do not give up on yourself, even when life feels overwhelming. Your background, struggles, and lived experiences are not weaknesses; they are strengths. Ask for help, use the available resources on campus, apply for scholarships, and remember that progress does not have to be perfect to be meaningful. Healing, growth, and education can happen at the same time.”*

Cristina's story shows how far persistence, support, and self-belief can take you—and we're proud to celebrate her as part of the Mendocino College community. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

MEN'S BASEBALLMar 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 *Mar 26 (Thu) 2:00 PM PDT
VS YUBA *Mar 28 (Sat) 1:00 PM PDT
AT YUBA *Mar 31 (Tue) 2:00 PM PDT
AT MARIN *Apr 02 (Thu) 2:00 PM PDT
VS MARIN *Apr 03 (Fri) 1:00 PM PDT
AT MARIN *Apr 07 (Tue) 2:00 PM PDT
VS CONTRA COSTA *Apr 09 (Thu) 2:00 PM PDT
AT CONTRA COSTA *Apr 10 (Fri) 1:00 PM PDT
VS CONTRA COSTA ***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. 

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

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](#) 

THE MENDOCINO COLLEGE GALLERY PRESENTS

DON'T DISTURB THIS GROOVE:
CAL POLY HUMBOLDT PAINTERS

FEB 19 - MAR 23

GINA TUZZI
ELISEO CASIANO
& SELECT STUDENT WORK

MENDOMERCH

OFFICIAL MENDOCINO COLLEGE GEAR

SHOP
NOWUSE SPRING2026
FOR 10% OFF

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

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

FAFSA & Dream Act Workshop | Mar. 17 & 24

Career Networking Fair | Mar. 19

Sonoma State Tabling | Mar. 24 & Apr. 14

Firefighter Academy Graduation | Apr. 10

Ukiah Symphony Orchestra | Apr. 11 & 12

MLACE Meeting | Apr. 17

College & Career Day (NCC) | Apr. 23

Latino Student Retreat | Apr. 24 