



Over the last month, I had the honor of reviewing scholarship applications. Reading the scholarship applications reinforces the reason we are in this field of work and grounds us. The applicant's stories are powerful and inspiring. In a perfect world

everyone would be awarded a scholarship. Last week was spring break, when we had time to spend time away from campus and recharge. Returning from spring

spring break, we are in the sprint until the end of the academic year, which culminates with the College Commencement Ceremony on May 22, 2026.

Below are three college functions happening in April that you may wish to attend:

- **Mendocino College Firefighter Academy Completion Ceremony** at 5:00 pm, Friday, April 10, 2026, at the Mendocino College Little Theatre.
- **Latino Student Retreat** on Friday, April 24, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Ukiah Campus.
- **Mendocino College North County Center's College & Career Day** in Willits from 10 AM-12 PM on Thursday, April 23rd. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

The district continues to grow. The graph below shows the number of students from 2018 to this academic year. Our district enrollment has increased each of the last four years. We have been above pre-pandemic headcount for several academic years. Student headcount is the number of individual people attending the college, not the funded FTES.

Precision Campus Enrollment and Headcount by Year, Report run on 3/24/2026. 




STUDENT HOUSING

The college will begin the next phase of site preparation this spring, which college officials said will mark “visible progress” on its long-term initiative to expand affordable student housing and support both students and the broader community.

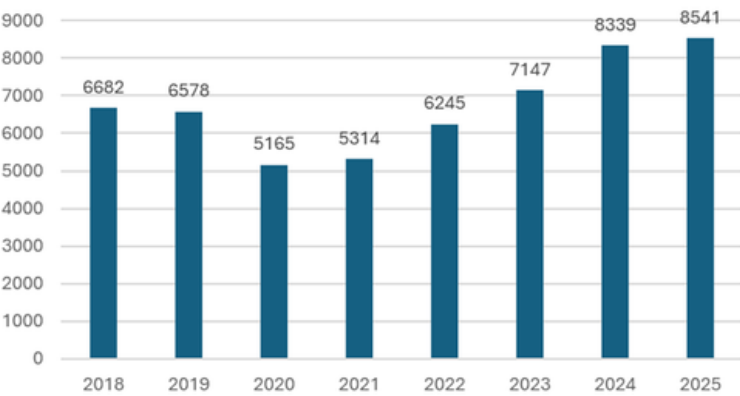
In April, Mendocino College will begin demolition of the existing structures on the site, including the old “Dragon’s Lair” building.

New safety fencing will be installed beginning April 6, and the building will be fully wrapped prior to demolition due to the presence of hazardous materials, in accordance with all required environmental and safety regulations. Demolition is projected to take approximately 30 days.

These steps are part of a carefully managed process designed to ensure public safety and minimize disruption to surrounding neighbors and businesses.

The project builds on the Mendocino College Foundation’s historic purchase of the property through donor support and its continued commitment to the future construction phase. While construction of student housing is anticipated in the coming years as funding is secured, the current site preparation work represents meaningful progress toward that goal. 

Student Headcount




SUMMER/FALL 2026

ADMISSION & REGISTRATION






Applications for the Summer and Fall 2026 semesters are open, and students may apply for these terms now. Registration for Summer and Fall 2026 will be combined this year to facilitate enrollment for students. Priority registration for Summer and Fall will begin Monday, April 20th, and open registration begins Friday, April 24th. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

ADT VERIFICATIONS FOR FALL 2026 APPLICATIONS

Admissions and Records is currently working through the list of 68 students identified by the CSU as applying to the Fall 2026 term with completion of a transfer degree (ADT). Verifications will be submitted to the CSU via their online site by the March 13th deadline. 

MEN'S BASEBALL

	Apr 16 (Thu) 2:00 PM PDT VS SOLANO *
	Apr 17 (Fri) 1:00 PM PDT AT SOLANO *
	Apr 21 (Tue) 2:00 PM PDT VS LOS MEDANOS *
	Apr 23 (Thu) 2:00 PM PDT AT LOS MEDANOS *
	Apr 24 (Fri) 1:00 PM PDT VS LOS MEDANOS *

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


ZOGO TECH IMPLEMENTATION

This is a platform we are implementing to allow for auto awarding degrees and certificates and to identify students that are close to completing a degree/certificate. We are working through some final updates to Degree Audit to ensure the set-up matches what is needed for the analytics in ZogoTech to function properly and identify the correct students. 

UKIAH HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR DAY

Outreach Coordinator, **Malissa Donegan**, with the support of the **Outreach Team**, did a great job coordinating the UHS Senior Day, which was on April 15th. Participating students completed the Steps to Become a Student, took a campus tour, and engaged with college departments at a resource fair. Thank you, Malissa and the Outreach team, for this successful event! 


FRAUDULENT APPLICATIONS

We continue to work to mitigate fraudulent applications. The addition of CA DMV Wallet as a verification service has improved the accessibility of online verifications, alleviating some of the burden placed on legitimate students to complete the process. 

**2026 GRADUATION & TRANSFER FAIR**

Transfer Counselor/Coordinator **Mark Osea** and the **Admissions & Records Office** will collaborate again this Spring to offer students a Graduation/Transfer Fair. This will be held on the Ukiah Campus, Transfer Center/Eagle's Nest, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, April 28, 12:00-2:00 pm
- Monday, May 4, 3:00-6:00 pm
- Tuesday, May 12, 12:00-2:00 pm
- Thursday, May 21, 3:00-6:00 pm

The event allows students to gather information about transferring to a university, obtaining graduation regalia, and consulting on their expected graduation date. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT SPOTLIGHT**


Mendocino College proudly recognizes **Leslie Banta**, Professor of Mathematics, for receiving both the **Distinguished Service Award** and the **President's Award from the California Mathematics Council of Community Colleges**. In addition, Professor Banta was recently appointed Vice President of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, reflecting her leadership and ongoing service to mathematics education statewide.

Congratulations, Leslie! 

NORTH COUNTY CENTER PROJECT MILESTONE

Mendocino College leaders joined U.S. Representative Jared Huffman, Senator Mike McGuire, and local officials in Willits to celebrate progress on a \$20 million Mendocino College project that will expand and upgrade educational facilities in the North County. Supported by state funding, the project strengthens the College's long-term commitment to access, equity, and regional economic development.


Senator McGuire *"It will be a hub for careers here in Mendocino County, with career training programs such as fire science, a new fire academy, construction and energy technology, lab service training, training the next generation of healthcare technicians and skilled lab workers."*

The North County Center project will provide modern instructional space, enhanced workforce training facilities, and expanded student services, helping meet growing community demand for higher education and career preparation closer to home. Once completed, the center is expected to play a key role in serving students throughout northern Mendocino County and supporting local workforce needs. 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS


**DUAL ENROLL SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION**

We are moving forward with the implementation of **DualEnroll**, a software for managing the enrollment of dual enrollment students. A pilot enrollment was completed in March with Ukiah High School students, and we are working to open the system to all dual enrollment students for summer/fall enrollment. A full shift to using the software will be effective in Spring 2027. Once implemented, we will cease using the paper documents currently used to manage dual enrollment. The removal of a paper process will modernize the process, alleviate a significant burden on students, parents/guardians, and high schools, and reduce workload for college staff. 

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Health & Wellness Program advanced several initiatives this period, including beginning the onboarding of the Wellness Coach Intern and promoting safe sex education through the new Moorpark College Safe Sex Guide. Wellness Wednesday on February 18 featured Project Sanctuary, MCAVHN, and RCS/Stepping Stones, offering students access to community resources. Moai activities—Groove and Disc Golf—had a slow start, but outreach continues to build participation.

The program maintained active involvement in the HOPES Community of Practice, the Mental Health and Wellness Association (Legislative Chair), and the Tobacco Coalition, with upcoming attendance at Spring Plenary and the MHWA Spring Conference.

Upcoming events include the NextUp/CARE “Understanding Trauma” workshop, Grief and Loss Sharing Circle, Health & Wellness Fair planning, College and Career Days, Blood Drive, Sound Bath Workshop, classroom presentations, and spring themes on addiction, recovery, and alcohol awareness. 



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS




LATINO STUDENT RETREAT

Fri., April 24 | 8 am-2 pm | Ukiah Campus

If you are able and available to support the day of the Latino Student Retreat, please consider signing up to volunteer and be part of this energetic and fun event.

To volunteer for the Latino Student Retreat, please follow the link to the [signup sheet here.](#)


Your time, energy, and presence are greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions about the Latino Student Retreat, please contact **Roberto Renteria** at rrenteria@mendocino.edu. 



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Wed., April 22 | 10 am-2 pm
Lowery Student Lounge & Pomo Plaza


Join the ASMC for an exciting Earth Day celebration on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at Mendocino College! Let's come together to honor our planet and learn how we can make a positive impact on the environment.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow students and contribute to a greener future! 



COLLEGE & CAREER DAY AT THE NORTH COUNTY CENTER

Join us for the Mendocino College North County Center's College and Career Day in Willits from **10 AM-12 PM on Thursday, April 23rd.**

Current Mendocino College students, local high school students, and non-student community members are invited to explore areas of study with instructors across career and transfer topics while chatting with employers in related fields. Engage with student services including financial aid, MESA, the Native American Resource Center, LGBTQIA+ support, and more. 



NATIVE AMERICAN MOTIVATION DAY


We are in need of volunteers for our 39th Annual Native American Motivation Day, which will be held on **Friday April 17th from 10 am-2 pm.** [Sign up here!](#) 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**PRIDE PROGRAMMING**

Throughout February, the Pride Program hosted several community-building events that strengthened student engagement and visibility on campus. The first Pride Social on February 3 in the Lowery Student Center brought together seventeen students for conversation and support. On February 10, a Valentine's Movie Night was held in partnership with the Latino Club at the Veterans Resource Center, drawing twenty students for an intersectional Queer/Latino gathering featuring Aristotle & Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (2023).

On February 11, Marketing added signage for the Pride Program and Restorative Justice Program to increase visibility. Additional Pride Socials were held on February 17 and February 24, with about fifteen students attending the final session. Each week, LGBTQ+-affirming books were displayed and made available for library checkout.


All of these events foster a sense of belonging, provide opportunities to develop social skills, and help build relationships and a support network, which in turn increase well-being and create a path toward academic success. These events also represent a key factor in building a new Student Club. So far, three students are ready to take the positions of President, Vice President, and Treasurer. The position of Secretary needs to be filled. 

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Counseling Department recently held its biannual retreat, facilitated with the support of **Ruben Canedo**, to explore and clarify both individual and departmental goals, as well as identify overarching themes that strengthen and guide our collective efforts to support student success.

Our Athletics Advisors have established dedicated advising hours within the Athletics areas to increase visibility among student-athletes and expand access to advising resources. In addition, Counseling and Instructional faculty are collaborating to complete and finalize the remaining program maps so they can be published on the College website, improving students' awareness and understanding of program requirements.

Counseling faculty also reviewed the new Title 5 regulations, effective February 2026, which require institutions to support students in developing an educational plan within their first year at Mendocino College. Faculty are actively identifying how program mapping can help streamline this process and accelerate the development of timely, structured educational plans. The implications for the Counseling Department have been carefully considered, and faculty are engaged in efforts to better support student groups with the lowest rates of completion in meeting with advisors for education planning.

Additionally, we are exploring a redesigned onboarding process and improving our methods for identifying and proactively engaging students who are new to Mendocino College. 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

THE MENDOCINO COLLEGE GALLERY PRESENTS


**ANNUAL STUDENT SHOW****APRIL 23RD - MAY 17TH 2026****ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOW****Artist Reception & Draw-a-Thon****April 23 | 4:30-6:30 PM | MC Gallery**

Please join us for our biggest art show of the year, featuring works of art from Mendocino College students working in Photography, Ceramics, Painting, Printmaking, and beyond. Student work from the Coast Center, Lake Center, North County Center, and the Ukiah Campus is represented, as well as Dual Enrollment students. The opening reception will include an interactive "Draw-a-thon" in collaboration with the Dance Department.

This event is free and open to the public, so bring a friend or the whole family along!

Can't make it to the opening reception? Never fear, the student art show will remain open until May 17th.


Regular Gallery Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:30 to 3:30 PM, and Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Gallery is open during most performances, including the Spring Dance Festival, as well. 

SPRING PLANT SALE**Friday, April 24 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm****Saturday, April 25 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Spring is in full bloom at Mendocino College, and the Agriculture Department invites the community to enjoy the bi-annual Spring Plant Sale on Friday and Saturday, April 24–25. Whether you're starting a vegetable garden, adding pollinator-friendly or drought-resistant plants, or looking for native plants to brighten your space, there's something for every green thumb.

The sale will feature tabling by **ceramics** and other **student clubs**, creating a lively campus atmosphere. Proceeds directly support horticulture students and help expand Mendocino College's gardens and landscape offerings.

Mendocino College employees and their immediate family members are also invited to a Pre-Plant Sale on Wednesday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., prior to the public event. 

Mendocino College Agriculture Department Invites you

SPRING PLANT SALE**Friday, April 24th**
9 AM - 5 PM**Saturday, April 25th**
9 AM - 3 PM

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



This photo reflects Daniel's journey of resilience and family support. His achievement is shared with the loved ones who helped make it possible.

HISPANIC/LATINX ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY


As part of the Alumni Spotlight series, Mendocino College's Hispanic-Serving Institution staff is proud to highlight **Daniel Guevara**, a first-generation Mexican-American college graduate whose educational journey reflects persistence, purpose, and community impact.

Daniel began his higher education journey at Mendocino College, completing his coursework in person and earning an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts. He later continued through the Sonoma State University partnership to earn a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies before returning to Mendocino College to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing. Without a roadmap and often facing low expectations, Daniel remained committed to his lifelong goal of working in healthcare, even after being advised early on to pursue a different path.

Gaining admission to a nursing program proved challenging due to the high demand statewide. Daniel spent nearly seven years applying to programs across California before being accepted into Mendocino College's nursing program. Rather than viewing this as lost time, Daniel used the experience to strengthen his resilience and preparation. Today, he serves as an Emergency Room Registered Nurse, where his cultural background allows him to connect with Hispanic patients, bridge language gaps, and advocate with compassion and understanding.

Daniel credits his family's unwavering support as a cornerstone of his success, particularly his late father's work ethic and his mother's strength and faith. Financial aid, including FAFSA and the Mendocino College Finish Line Scholarship, also played a critical role in helping him complete nursing school. Daniel plans to continue advancing his education and expanding his impact within the nursing profession.

Daniel shares the following advice with current and future students:

"Do not be afraid to ask for help, and do not let setbacks define your path. There are resources available, and there are people willing to support you—you just have to reach out. Take the time to understand your goals and make sure they align with your purpose. And if you are pursuing nursing, understand that the process may test your patience. Whether you are accepted on your first attempt or after several years, persistence will make the difference." 

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

*Spring Dance Festival***April 30th -May 3rd**

Directed by Eryn Schon-Brunner

Tickets available at the door, Mendocino Book Co. (cash or check only) or online.

www.artsmendocino.org**GROVE DAY****April 30 | 4:00 - 6:00**

This event aims to celebrate Career & Technical Education students while providing an opportunity to connect with various campus resources.

Brought to you by the Basic Needs program



MENDOCINO COLLEGE

2026 Health & Wellness Fair Honoring Diversity



WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH
11 am - 2 pm

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](#) 

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 Thursday—*New Time!*

Circle of Support | Every Tuesday

Produce Wednesdays | Every Wednesday

Groove Moai | Every Wednesday

Disc Golf Moai | Every Thursday

Regalia Workshop | Every Thursday

Native American Motivation Day | Apr. 17

Earth Day Celebration | Apr. 22

NCC College & Career Day | Apr. 23

Annual Student Art Show | Apr. 23 - May 17

Latino Student Retreat | Apr. 24

Spring Plant Sale | Apr. 24 & 25

Spring Dance Festival | Apr. 30 - May 3

Grove Day | Apr. 30

Health & Wellness Fair | May 6

Sonoma State University Tabling | May 12

Reentry Collaborative Resource Fair | May 12 