# Acknowledging History

Mendocino College's Efforts to Build a Supportive Environment for Native American Students



Ulises Velasco, Vice President of Student Services

## Mendocino College

Headcount: 6,600

FTES: 3000

#### Demographics:

• White: 53%

• Hispanic: 35%

• Native American: 4.73%

• Multi-Ethnic: 4%

• Asian: 2%

• African American: <2%



## Mendocino College

- 4.73% Native American
- 315 Native American Students
- 3rd highest in the California Community College System

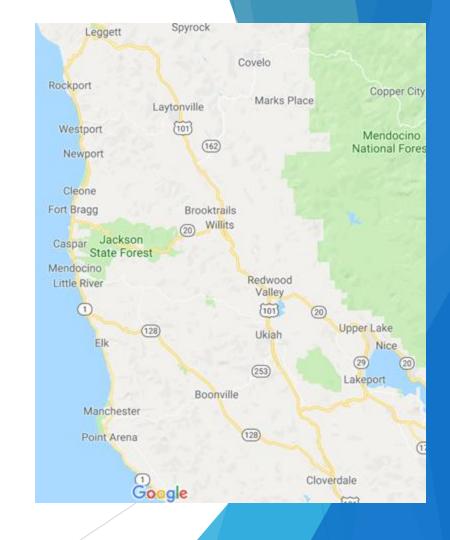


## Mendocino & Lake Counties

Native American Population

Mendocino County: 4,277

• Lake County: 2,049



#### **Native American Tribes**

- **4%** Native American Population
- 10 tribes in Mendocino County
- 7 tribes in Lake County
- **26** Pomo tribes in the region

## Pomo Pathway

#### Collaboration

- Partnership with Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Strong support structure providing services to the Native American community
- Building trust within the community
- Value the people, history, knowledge, and beliefs
- Import to emphasize identity

## From Conversations to Design

- Initial conversations in Spring 2017
- Desire to create a program that would ease the transition to college for Native American students
- No assessment test!
- Designed to support adult or returning Native American students

### Overview of the Program

- Pomo Pathway was a three-semester sequence of classes offered by Mendocino College at the Coyote Valley Education Center.
- This pathway took students from pre-college level through college-level Math and English and prepared them to pursue a degree.

### Overview of the Program

- We've also incorporated other classes into the program that promote early degree completion and successful transfer to a 4-year university.
- Support services are provided throughout the program to nurture the learning environment and supplement the work by our faculty.

#### **Class Schedule**

The Pathway meets Tuesdays thru Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Coyote Valley Education Center.

#### SPRING: January 23 - May 24, 2018

#### TUESDAY / THURSDAY:

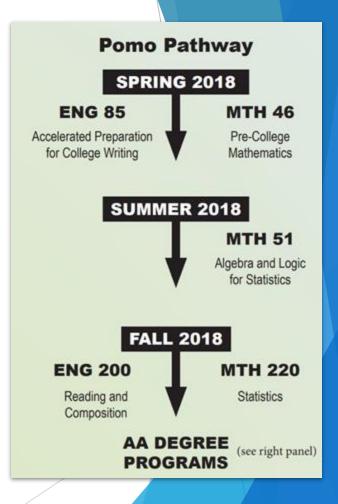
9:00-11:20 MTH 46 Pre-College Mathematics

11:30-12:20 ENG 85 Accel Prep for College Writing

#### WEDNESDAY:

9:00-10:50 ENG 85 Accel Prep for College Writing

11:00-12:20 ENG Lab



#### FALL 2019 CLASSES August 19 - December 13

#### TUESDAY / THURSDAY:

9:00-10:20 ENG 200 Reading & Composition

10:30-11:20 ENG 65 Academic Literacy

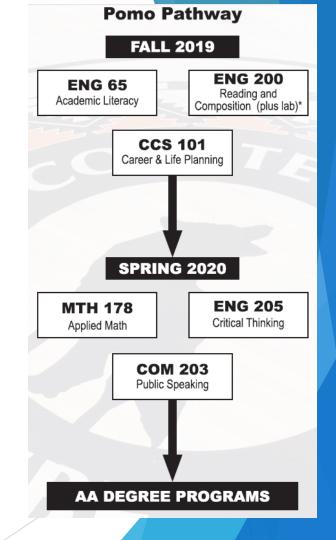
11:30-12:50 \*English Lab is required - speak to a

Counselor for most suitable option for your financial

aid profile: ENG60, ENG160, or ENG560.

#### WEDNESDAY:

9:00-11:50 CCS 101 Career & Life Planning



### Support Services



- No enrollment fees
- School supplies
- Textbooks
- Calculators
- Tutoring
- Counseling Services
- Childcare
- Breakfast & Lunch

#### **Outreach Efforts**

- All tribes within Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties were contacted
- Enrollment & registration events at local tribal education centers
- Presented at United Pomo Nations Council



## Challenges

- Transportation for students
- Supporting students outside of class
- Outreach
- Coordination with other agencies for childcare



## Student Experience



#### What worked for success?

- Cohort model
- Location
- Community
- Respect, honesty, openness
- Clear expectations
- Providing leadership opportunities in class (leaders in their community)
- Giving space for student voices
- Minimizing lecture time and allowing students to teach each other through practice
- Encouragement and building confidence
- End-of-semester celebrations and recognition

#### Transfer Level Math

## Successful Completion of the Course

74%

80%

All Mendocino College Students

Pomo Pathway Students

Fall 2018 Semester

### Transfer Level English

## Successful Completion of the Course

73%

91%

All Mendocino College Students

Pomo Pathway Students

Fall 2018 Semester

## Other Efforts

### Native American Student Resource Center

- Monday Thursday from 8:30am-5:30pm
- Peer mentorship & tutoring
- Cultural activities
- Computers & free printing
- Healthy snacks and coffee







### Campus Experience

- Naming of Pomo Plaza
- Commencement Speakers/Blessings at Ceremony
- Native American Student Resource Center
- Outreach and staff dedicated to supporting this student group.
- Native American Heritage Day & Native American Motivation Day

#### Campus Experience

- American Indian Alliance student club
- Cultural Workshops and Events
- Wild Fire, A New Play
- Field Trips to colleges/universities
- Student population identified as disproportionally impacted in our Equity Plan







ART EXPRISTS - BALLERY & CARPING: YEAR-11/1 --- FALL DAMES CONCERT - ARRES 11/21-11/14 --- GARTA, ARE PRISS - BRANCH CONCERT: 12/1





More Than A Word analyzes the Washington football team and their use of the derogatory term R\*dskins. Using interviews from both those in favor of changing the name and those against, More Than A Word presents a deeper analysis of the many issues surrounding the Washington team name. The documentary also examines the history of Native American cultural appropriation. SEE THIS IMPORTANT FILM.

More than mascots. More than stereotypes.

#### MENDOCINO COLLEGE



## 32nd Annual Native American Motivation Day April 20, 2018 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Center for Visual and Performing Arts
Ukiah Campus



Students from 6th to 12th grade are welcome to attend this free event.

There will be a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, and lunch will be provided.



Contact Chantell Martinez at 707.468.3223 for more information.





#### **CAREER EXPLORATION**

A Workshop at the NASRC - Room 6610

April 11th 11am - Noon















"If you don't see yourself reflected in your school and don't have a place where you see people who look like yourself, and where you learn about the history that you know exists, it casts you as an outsider even though you are inside the building."

-Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools, Member of Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation