We are wrapping up the spring semester and getting ready for summer. Our weather is starting to heat up and all of our center locations are in full bloom with the beauty of spring. In this issue, we are talking about big changes that are coming to the Ukiah Campus. We also talk about food and valuable programs available to you.

**What is DRC?**

Here at Mendocino College DRC is the department responsible for providing supports and services to students with verified disabilities. DRC provides students with disabilities accommodations for in the classroom and for classes online.

The type of accommodations provided is determined through an interactive process with DRC Counselors. DRC Counselors determine the appropriate accommodations based on the parameters of a student’s disability. Accommodations can include extended testing times, a distraction reduced location for testing etc.

You may experience a temporary disability such as a broken bone, severe illness or a tragic life event that may make your studies more challenging. You may be able to qualify for temporary services through our office.

Still not sure if you qualify? Call or email us. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

**Our Staff**

- **Nicholas Wright** - DRC Coordinator/Counselor
- **Tascha Whetzel** – Learning Disabilities Specialist/Instructor
- **Merie Holl** – P/T DRC Counselor
- **Jennifer Justice** – Alternate Media/Assistive Technology Specialist
- **Christina Orozco** – DSPS Admin. Assistant 1

“Don’t let the mind limit what an able heart can do.”

Robert M. Hensel
Meet Naoto Horiguchi!

Student Life Specialist & Basic Needs full time employee Naoto Horiguchi is a familiar face on campus. Naoto has worked at our college since 2002 as the Athletic Trainer and has many years of experience working directly with students. Naoto is in the Lowery Student Center Room 781 at the Ukiah Campus and he can assist you in applying for CalFresh. In addition, did you know that as a registered student you have access to our Food Pantry Program? You can choose from items like:

- Canned veggies/fruit and soups,
- Beans, Rice, Cereals, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Crackers, Ect.

We will be expanding our pantry offerings by collaborating with the Redwood Empire Food bank in the future so be sure to check in with Naoto. Naoto is also conducting campus tours (virtual and in person). To contact Naoto about any of these programs please call 707-468-1081 or email him at

nhoriguc@mendocino.edu

Did you know that students with disabilities could qualify for CalFresh? If you receive SSI (Supplemental Security Income), Social Security disability, disability related Medi-Cal or Medicaid, Veterans’ disability compensation and Disability-related General Assistance you can qualify. If all members of your household are elderly and/or disabled then the household does not have to meet any gross income limit to be eligible. CalFresh benefits are accepted at certain restaurants and grocery stores to buy prepared meals through the restaurant meals program effective September 1, 2021. You also will have access to buy from some Flea Markets and Farmers Markets. You can even buy seeds and plants to grow food for yourself or your family. CalFresh recipients cannot be charged state or local sales taxes on any purchase made with CalFresh benefits. Here at Mendocino College we can assist you in applying for CalFresh, we can also help you navigate an already existing application.

“Access to healthy, affordable food is a human right. It shouldn’t be a luxury.”

CalFresh (SNAP)/Food Pantry
“Until we get equality in education, we won’t have an equal society.”
Sonia Sotomayor

Behavioral Health & Wellness

Currently Mendocino College is actively recruiting for a new full-time Counselor/Coordinator for our Behavioral Health Services. What this means for students is that we will be able to establish consistent mental health support. Mendocino College is also looking to develop a wellness service at the Ukiah Campus and this is something we have never done before! We are still developing and exploring possibilities of the Wellness Center location but we are looking at collaborating with Adventist Health and other community organizations to provide workshops and events that focus on supporting student health.

Changes coming to the Lowery Student Space

This year, on January 10th, the Ukiah Campus launched a new online bookstore vendor. Our MendoCares Team was able to provide in-person support at our physical Bookstore location at the Ukiah Campus for students to “ship to campus”. What this will mean going forward for all of our students is that free shipping with be available to our campus. Our old on-campus bookstore location in the Lowery Building is going to transform into a new student friendly space that will include:

- Native American Student Resource Center
- Basic Needs Center
- Dream Center
- Camp
- Latinx Space
- Student Computers
- Lounge Space
- Campus Store

We are not sure what the completion date will be, but make sure that you have access to your student email so you receive important updates on these coming changes.

Did you know?

The CA Warm Line is a peer run non-emergency resource for anyone seeking mental and emotional support for anxiety, depression, alcohol/drug use, etc. Available 24/7 you can call them at 1-855-845-7415 or chat online https://sfserviceguide.org/services/889
Important Upcoming Dates to Remember

May 2nd – Priority Registration for fall semester
May 12th – Lake Center Registrations Fiestas
May 13th – Coast Center Job Fair and Registrations Fiestas
May 20th – Spring Semester Ends/Commencement
May 30th – Holiday – Memorial Day
June 6th – Summer Session Starts

Disability Awareness Months

May is Mental Health Awareness Month
June is Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month

The DRC Office

Did You Know?

May 20th might be the end of the spring semester but our staff is still available to help you plan for summer and fall classes. Starting May 30th we are actively assisting students in person or by phone before the start of the summer semester. We encourage all new and returning student to connect with us BEFORE a registered semester starts. Getting accommodations and alternate media early is essential in your success and we want you to be ready for your first day of class. We don’t just provide accommodations we can also provide disability related counseling, career exploration, academic counseling, etc.

This newsletter is a collaboration of the DRC department staff and is written by me, Christina Orozco. If you have questions, or would like to participate in our content, please contact us at 707-468-3031 or email drc@mendocino.edu. You can also come by our Ukiah campus Library/Learning Center Building room 4130 to talk with me in person.