



Since the last Board meeting in August, the fall semester got off to a great start. I had the pleasure to attend a few events including the Scotts Valley Big Time and the Blackberry Festival in Covelo. The first two-weeks of the semester were filled with activities, information booths, and food to welcome students.

I enjoyed meeting students at the welcome table and providing entertainment in the dunk tank.

FALL 2024 ENROLLMENTS

Fall enrollment across the district was higher with an 11% FTES increase and student headcount is a 7% increase year-over-year. Significantly, fall FTES is 6-8% above 2019 and 2018 levels. These two years were our high-water mark for fall enrollment. This achievement could not be possible without faculty, classified staff, and managers working together to construct a student-focused schedule of classes and work with partners to increase educational opportunities.

SEMESTER	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL FTES
FALL 2024	4608	1189	3419	1117.76
FALL 2023	4292	978	3314	1003.31
FALL 2020	3182	939	2243	992.52
FALL 2019	3747	1056	2691	1026.31
FALL 2018	3813	1085	2728	1052.70

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Outreach Team has had a busy summer participating in events and collaborating with various departments and locations throughout the district to ensure Mendocino College is well represented in our communities. In August, events attended included the Back to School Bash, Blackberry Festival, and Scotts Valley Big Time. While they will continue to participate in events this fall, their focus will shift to visiting high schools and assisting high school seniors in the onboarding processes through the Reg-2-Go program.



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



12TH ANNUAL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS EVENT

Wed., Oct. 23rd | 4 pm - 8 pm | Lowery Student Center

The Hispanic/Latino event planning committee cordially invites you to save the date for the 12th annual Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) event.

Day of the Dead celebrations date back thousands of years ago when Indigenous people from central Mexico would honor their deceased by placing food and water offerings on their resting place. In modern-day Day of the Dead celebrations, family members continue to practice these traditions by building altars (altares) where they place pictures of their beloved family members along with food and other items their family members enjoyed during their lifetime.

The planning committee hopes you will join us as we celebrate our loved ones during an evening filled with music, dancing, food, and piñatas.

If you are interested in putting up an altar in remembrance of a loved one, please email Roberto Renteria at rrenteria@mendocino.edu.

Altars will be on display in the Lowery Student Center from Friday, Oct. 18th until Friday, Oct. 25th.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH DOOR DECOR

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 to October 15 each year. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. We invite everyone to participate by decorating their doors with themes that reflect the vibrant heritage and traditions.

How to Participate:

- **Sign Up:** Please sign up by September 16th using [HHM Door Decorating Sign-up](#)
- **Decorate:** Get creative & decorate your door by 9/16.
- **Judging:** Doors will be judged by students between 9/16-10/10. Judging will be based on creativity, cultural representation, and overall impact.
- **Prizes:** Basket of Pan Dulce for the office!

Let's come together to celebrate and honor Hispanic Heritage Month in a fun and engaging way. We look forward to seeing your amazing decorations!

For questions or additional information, please contact Maria Zepeda at mzepeda@mendocino.edu.



MLCCD SERVICE AWARDS

The following employees were recognized at the Fall 2024 Inservice for their years of service to the institution:

10 YEARS

Full-Time Faculty: Ginny Buccelli, David Pai, Lisa Rosenstreich

Part-Time Faculty: Nina Burokas, Taylor Cannon, Tobias Green, Lorraine Hee-Chorley, Chris Ineich, Lawrence Schwartz

Classified: Manuel Galicia, Stephen King, Zachary Steger

Management Team: Joe Atherton, Monica Flores, Jackeline Gonzalez de Orozco, Matthew Gordon

15 YEARS

Full-Time Faculty: Marcus Frederickson

Part-Time Faculty: Catherine McKay, Erin Vaccaro

Classified: Mayra Sanchez

20 YEARS

Full-Time Faculty: Jason Edington, Julie Finnegan

Part-Time Faculty: Heidi Ahders, Lilia Albuquerque, Christine Price

25 YEARS

Classified: Mary Houghton, Karen Cavanaugh

30 YEARS

Classified: Patricia Gulyas, Elfego Ruiz

Part-Time Faculty: Ignacio Gonzalez

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Human Resources with Mendocino College provides a supportive atmosphere to all current and future employees.

Your friendly Human Resources Team would like to highlight some useful links:

Check Out Open Positions

- [Employment Opportunities](#)

Training Opportunities

- [Training with Keenan SafeColleges](#)
- [Vision Resource Center](#)

Access Collective Bargaining Agreements

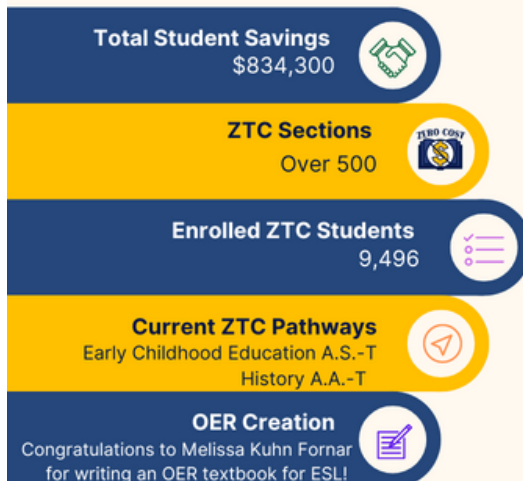
- [Collective Bargaining Agreements - 2024/25](#)

Retirement Links

- [CalPERS - Classified Employees and Managers](#)
- [CalSTRS - Certificated Employees & Educational Administrators](#)
- [403\(b\) Supplemental Retirement](#)

ZERO TEXTBOOK COST INITIATIVE

Please welcome our new Textbook Affordability Librarian, Gabrielle Visco, who is here to support our campus wide efforts related to textbook affordability. Want to learn more? Email gvisco@mendocino.edu.



MC Zero Textbook Cost Initiative

Here are the latest ZTC updates and numbers from May 2024.

WELCOME CENTER

The Welcome Center has been slightly re-arranged and full-time staff from the Admissions and Records Office relocated to this space. Our student workers now are positioned in the MacMillan Hall lobby to greet people as they enter MacMillan Hall and offer help with admissions and registration functions or in locating another department or service. Frontline admission, registration, and record services are now offered in the Welcome Center along with onboarding services such as completing the placement tool, online orientation and obtaining a student ID or bus pass.

DREAM CENTER

The Dream Center has a new home! The Dream Center is in the Eagle Support Center, where the Food Pantry used to be. We held our first open house on August 27th and offered students the opportunity to meet peers, schedule appointments with the Dream Counselor, and obtain school supplies. We also connect students with legal aid, which is available to students and their immediate family virtually through FindYourAlly.com. The Dream Center engaged students at their table during WOW and made new connections with students. Our goal this year is to make Dream Center resources more visible, and we are off to a great start!

POMO PATHWAY

Our Pomo Pathway kickoff on August 15 was a big success in having had all the currently enrolled participants in attendance. In addition, we invited a couple recruits to the event so they could see what the program was all about, and those individuals signed up for the program either that day or shortly thereafter. Our students were given an initial set up of items and supplies they would need for their courses and were all supported with getting access to chrome books and textbooks for their Pomo Pathway classes. We are planning many fun events this semester for the cohort to make a memorable first semester experience.

CALFRESH

CalFresh is off to a great start this semester! The college has helped about 30 students apply for CalFresh these first two weeks of school. We have prescreened over a hundred students. We have presented to classrooms and teams here on our campus and we have our CalFresh workshop taking place next month! We also have 3 campus tours scheduled for next month for Lower Lake High School and two for Big Picture School.

REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK

Redwood Empire Food Bank acknowledges Mendocino College's partnership in assessing food insecurity in our community. "Your steadfast dedication as one of our esteemed Hunger Relief Partners has been invaluable in our ongoing efforts to combat hunger within our community. You have consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment, standing alongside us at the forefront of this critical battle.". In 2023/24 we distributed enough food to provide the equivalent of 19,900 meals and we served on average 159 people per month. The food distribution is lead by our fantastic Basic Needs team, but have staff, faculty, and managers volunteer to distribute the food at the monthly delivery.





MCAVHN at Mendocino College

OUTREACH

8/28, 9/25, 10/30, 11/20, 12/11
MacMillan Hall Rm 1220 11:30 am - 2 pm

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MCAVHN

MCAVHN Care and Prevention Network provides support for reducing harm in substance use and connection to vital treatment services. They will be on our Ukiah campus at the end of each month during our food distribution times to provide a variety of supports for Mendocino College students.

This support includes confidential HIV and Hepatitis C testing, and connection to treatment and support services; harm reduction kits from wound care to safe sex kits; Narcan, Fentanyl and Xylazine Test strips, in addition to hygiene kits and other self-care items. This collaboration has been led by Counselor/Coordinator Lisa Larimer Burtis and supported by the Student Life office.

COUNSELING OFFICE DROP-IN

The counseling team coordinated an on-going offering of drop-in express appointments each Tues, Wed, and Thurs to help ensure that our students would be served. They did this by rotating zoom and/or in-person sessions to the public. We noticed the students' gratitude to have openings available to them right up through the first weeks of Fall 2024. These helped students get expert advice and support to stay on-track for success. Students were encouraged to book follow-up appointments to continue the great work they started in these drop-in sessions. Thanks to all who helped make it happen, and especially the Marketing department for their support in engaging our students in these opportunities.

FINANCIAL AID

The Financial Aid Office staff are diligently working to complete student files and awarding financial aid for the fall semester while also closing out the 2023-2024 academic year.

FAFSA Simplification delays have significantly impacted the office, creating a ripple effect that has extended processing times and increased workloads, ultimately affecting students. Additionally, some Pell Grants eligible students have faced further delays because their eligibility information wasn't correctly passed to the Department of Education's Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System from their FAFSA. The Department of Education has been working to resolve this issue and update the COD System with the correct Pell Grant eligibility information. However, the resolution timeline remains uncertain.

The Financial Aid Office has been collaborating with Student Life and Support staff to award students Emergency Funds, Finish Line Scholarships, and Mendocino College Promise Program Scholarships. Students who are experiencing hardships due to financial aid delays or emergencies are encouraged to visit the BasicNeeds Center to apply for Emergency Funds and other resources.



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

EOPS

The EOPS program welcomed 151 new students for the fall semester, who attended orientation either during the New Student Welcome event or online, along with 269 continuing students. We continue to encourage students to apply to the EOPS/CARE/NextUp programs.

Both new and continuing students participated in a Kick-off event at the Ukiah Campus and each Center location, where they received their “Tools for School” kits. These kits included school supplies, lending library textbooks, Chromebooks (available in limited quantities), and borrowed Wi-Fi hotspots.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, EOPS served an unduplicated headcount of 514 students, surpassing the 433 students served in 2022-2023. The CARE program served 41 students, an increase from 22 students in the previous year. Additionally, NextUp, which supports current or former foster youth, served 6 students in its inaugural year.

FRIENDS OF MC COAST CENTER

On September 29, 2024, The Friends of Mendocino College, Coast Center affiliate of the Community Foundation, is hosting a golf tournament at Little River Inn. Funds raised will go to support students at the Coast Center. Should faculty or staff desire, they may fill out an [Employee Payroll Deduction form](#) to have a donation deducted from their paycheck.

More information is at <https://foundation.mendocino.edu/>. Registration is open until Sept. 14. To register, [click here](#).



COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Every month some of your colleagues donate to support Mendocino College students via Employee Payroll Deduction. An amount of your choosing is then deducted from your paycheck and deposited into one of 18 funds that the Foundation has set up to support students. Currently 37 MLCCD employees give amounts ranging from \$2 to \$200 to the fund of their choosing. It adds up to \$808.90 monthly or \$9,706 yearly, which is amazing!

How great would it be for our students if we could double or triple that amount? There are 407 eligible employees, which means lots of room for growth if you want to join us in giving. The average monthly deduction is \$10.

It's easy to enroll, simply complete the form and email it to [Gabriel Ochoa](#) in Payroll. You can change your designation, amount, or discontinue at any time by simply reaching out to Gabe. One faculty member splits his \$50 monthly donation among five areas, each getting \$10/month. Thank you for considering this easy and consistent way to help us help our students! Reach out to Julie McGovern at Jmcgovern@mendocino.edu with any questions.

EAGLE CONNECT

Mendocino College is using a new tool called Eagle Connect. Faculty and staff can use Eagle Connect to streamline student support, whether it's connecting students to the Basic Needs Office for food and housing insecurities, or connecting them with one of our Retention Specialists for one-on-one support on how to navigate Canvas or find textbooks for their courses. In addition, Eagle Connect allows students to self-identify if they need any support. Staff members within Student Services can quickly identify students in need of assistance, whether that is from a faculty referral or directly from the student.

Eagle Connect helps to close the loop by notifying faculty and staff about whether their concern has been addressed or not. Perhaps most importantly, Eagle Connect can be used as a means of communication with your students. Faculty members can send out 'Kudos' (compliments/applause) to encourage and acknowledge the time and effort students are putting into their classes through Eagle Connect.

Eagle Connect can be accessed under the 'Student Resources' section in MyMendo, via a link on a course's Canvas shell, as well as via the Faculty & Staff drop-down menu on the Mendocino College website.

For questions or concerns regarding Eagle Connect, please email eagleconnecthelp@mendocino.edu.

STUDENT ART IN LIBRARY

Students from the Clay Sculpture course have a series of animal sculptures from the Animal Portrait assignment on view in the library. Interested in learning more about the art of sculpting? Associate Professor of Art in Ceramics and Sculpture, Wesley Wright, reminds us that, "Clay Sculpture ART 250 B & C is offered every semester on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:30 pm and 4:20 pm," at the Ukiah Campus.

STUDENT RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

"Cloud Desk" by Marcus DiMaggio, a student at the Krenov School at Mendocino College in Fort Bragg, California, captured first place in the Student Project category of the [2024 Veneer Tech Craftsman's Challenge](#).

This desk features a veneered tambour made from black walnut and madrone. Except for the solid wood legs, the entire piece is veneered. The piece measures 46 inches wide, 29.25 inches tall, and 24 inches deep.

"My primary objective with this piece was to make the junctions between the tambour staves so seamless that the doors in the gallery appear to be a single piece of wood," said DiMaggio. "When the tambour doors open laterally, the curved track guides them to a concealed pocket behind the gallery. Because the doors present as a single piece of wood, I was able to showcase the incredible "cloud" graphic that occurs naturally in the madrone veneer."

To make the seamless tambour doors, 140 maple staves were sawn out and straightened by hand. Veneer was laid over the tambour staves and glued down. The challenge was then to separate the staves without disrupting the grain pattern. Once the staves were separated, they were numbered to maintain their natural orientation and carefully shot straight, removing as little wood as possible. The staves were then meticulously laid out in their proper order, butted to one another on their jointed edges, and their position arrested with canvas glued to the back side.



LOOK TO THE SKIES: ASTRONOMY AT MENDOCINO COLLEGE

New Meteor Shower with Radiant in Capricornus

Mendocino College Professor of Physics, Astronomy & Engineering Tim Beck and his astronomy students have been hard at work tracking activity in the skies. Recently, they've had the opportunity to collaborate with an international team of researchers, including lead author and SETI Institute and NASA Ames meteor astronomer Peter Jenniskens, on the NASA-sponsored CAMS (Cameras for Allsky Meteor Surveillance) project. According to Jenniskens, "These cameras measure the meteoroids' paths, how high they are when they first light up, and how they slow down in Earth's atmosphere. Specialized cameras measured the composition of some of these meteoroids."

What they've found so far? A newly recognized meteor shower.



Between August 3rd and 16th, 2024, over 100 new shower meteors were triangulated by participating centers, including one by Mendocino College's astronomy team. Beck explains, "Our worldwide camera network observed a new meteor outburst during the Perseid shower with an as-of-yet unknown origin. The Perseids are fragments of comet Swift-Tuttle, but these meteors were in a different orbit."

Beck and his students are collaborating with Jenniskens on a second CAMS project researching how and where comets formed in our early solar system. Mendocino College astronomy students--funded under a federal work-study to participate in this research--are contributing to this project by analyzing 11 years' worth of spectral data.

For additional details on these projects, check out the [Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams: Electronic Telegram No. 5434](#), the Seti Institute's [Meteor Showers Shed Light on Where Comets Formed in the Early Solar System](#), or view a map of the meteor radiant at the [NASA Meteor Shower Portal](#).



RECORDING ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

On April 15, Doctor Rodney Grisanti and the students of the Recording Arts and Technology Program took a chartered bus to state-of-the-art recording studio, 25th Street Recording in Oakland.

While at 25th Street Recording, students worked through a mixing session with Chief Engineer, Gabriel Shephard, who is a Gold and Platinum-certified recording, mixing, and mastering engineer. Gabriel gave the students a complete tutorial on the use of 25th Street's API Vision console, Pro Tools recording software, many outboard signal processors, and many third-party processing plugins. After this, Gabriel guided the students through his mixing process with step-by-step instructions that the students later implemented using their own music.

Twenty-five students participated in this all-day field trip to one of the best recording facilities in the California. It was a life-changing experience!

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

THE MENDOCINO COLLEGE GALLERY PRESENTS

SEEKING THE LIGHT

A LONG STRANGE TRIP

SELECT WORKS BY

Susie Racecar and Bob Comings



SEPTEMBER 5TH - OCTOBER 27TH

Opening Reception: September 5th, 4:30 - 6:30pm

Mendocino College Gallery Hours: Tues: 3-6PM | Wed: 12-3PM | Thurs: 3-6PM



WELLNESS WORKSHOP SERIES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
12:30PM-1:00PM

APP-TASTIC

MENDOCINO COLLEGE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
AND HORTICULTURE CLUB ANNUAL

Friday,
Sept. 27th
9 AM - 5 PM



Saturday,
Sept. 28th
9 AM - 3 PM

Fall Plant Sale

plus Facilities Surplus Sale and Clubs Sale!

September 27th & 28th, 2024

EVENTS

Walking Moai

Mondays, Start at 1pm
Pomo Plaza, Ukiah Campus

TAG! You're In Tuesdays

Tuesday Afternoons | Online
www.mendocino.edu/transfer for list of hours

Drone Skills for Professionals: Workshop 1

September 16-18 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
MacMillan Hall, Rm 1290, Ukiah Campus

Puppet Pop-Up

September 19, 2024 | 11:00am - 1:00pm
Learning Commons, Lake Center

Sharing Circle

Sept. 25 & Oct. 23 2024 | 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Online via Zoom

Wellness Workshop: App-Tastic

September 25, 2024 | 12:30pm - 1:00pm
Online via Zoom

Fall Plant Sale

September 27, 2024 | 9:00am - 5:00pm
September 28, 2024 | 9:00am - 3:00pm
Mendocino College Gardens, Ukiah Campus

Drone Skills for Professionals: Workshop 2

Sept. 30, Oct. 1-2, 2024 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
MacMillan Hall, Rm 1290, Ukiah Campus

College & University Day

October 1, 2024 | 11:30am - 1:30pm
Pomo Plaza, Ukiah Campus

Sharing Circle

October 9, 2024 | 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Library Rm. 4112, Ukiah Campus OR Online via Zoom

The Book of Will

October 17-27, 2024 | Th/F/S at 7:30pm, Sun. at 2:00pm
Center Theater, Ukiah Campus

12th Annual Dia de los Muertos Event

Wed., Oct. 23rd | 4 pm - 8 pm | Lowery Student Center

The Book of Will
By Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Reid Edelman

A play about friendship, love, theatre, and the heart-achingly fragile nature of nearly everything.

October 17-27, 2024