



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DECEMBER
2024

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



As the festive season gets into full swing and the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest holiday greetings to each of you. This is a time for rest, reflection, and joy—I hope you find plenty of all three during the holiday break. This past year has brought its share of challenges and achievements. Your resilience, hard work, and dedication have been the foundation of our collective success. Whether you're teaching in the classroom, working behind the scenes, or supporting our students in countless ways, your efforts have made a profound difference, and I am deeply grateful for everything you contribute to our college and community.

As you prepare for the festive season, I encourage you to take this time to recharge, connect with loved ones, and enjoy well-deserved moments of peace and happiness. Whether you're staying local or traveling, may your days be filled with warmth and joy.

Looking ahead to 2025, let us carry forward the spirit of community and collaboration that defines Mendocino College. Thank you for all that you do for our college and for one another. Enjoy a safe and restful holiday, and I look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for a new year of growth and success.

Over the past month, I had the opportunity to present to the Measure B Advisory Committee on ways career

pathways offered by Mendocino College link to the skills needed for upcoming staffing positions at the new psychiatric health facility being constructed in Ukiah. Certificate/Degree pathways include Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN), Human Services, Addiction and Recovery Counseling, LVN to RN Bridge program, and Registered Nursing (RN). The new psychiatric health facility (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 22, § 77061) will need a registered nurse, a licensed vocational nurse, or a psychiatric technician on duty in the facility at all times. Students completing the LVN or RN pathways will qualify to staff these required positions.

As the regional CEO representative on the Community College Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce I spent two days in the Central Valley at the Annual Basic Needs Summit. Practitioners from throughout the state hear about best practices and discuss supporting the critical basic needs of our students.

SPRING 2025 ENROLLMENTS

Spring enrollment across the district is currently 8% FTES over last year. It is still early in the registration cycle and the numbers will continue to change; however, this is positive news. Significantly, Spring FTES are above 2019 and 2018 levels.

SEMESTER	ACTIVE ENROLLMENTS	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL FTES
SPRING 2025	4831	1784	440	1344	468.26
SPRING 2024	4308	1534	405	1129	432.73
SPRING 2020	3516	1149	389	760	380.3
SPRING 2019	3465	1222	386	836	390.04
SPRING 2018	3293	1132	376	756	376.82

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

WELCOME FALL & WINTER NEW HIRES!**Serene Moore**

1/01/2025 | Director of Human Resources

MacMillan Hall

Chris Dewey

1/16/2025 | FT Faculty – Public Safety Instructor/Coordinator

Ukiah Campus

RECENT STAFFING CHANGES:

Janet Jones will be moving to **Executive Assistant I to the VPs** from HR Technician – Confidential starting 1/01/2025. Following an extensive recruitment process, Janet was selected as the Executive Assistant I to the Vice Presidents. She has served in various capacities within the District, including HR Specialist and HR Technician-Confidential. Janet brings a myriad of experience and insights into her new role.

Rose Mehtlan will be moving to **Manager of Center Operations** from Center Operations Supervisor as of 1/01/2025. After a thorough evaluation of the three positions for the Center Supervisors and Director of Lake Center; and through recent vacancies; all three Centers will be under the supervision of Manager of Center Operations. Rose brings daily oversight with programmatic knowledge, skills, and abilities to lead the North County Center in this position through the reclassification process.

CONGRATS SUMMER & FALL 2024 RETIREES!

After a long and committed career with Mendocino College; these lucky folks are turning the page and starting a new chapter! Congratulations to our Summer & Fall 2024 Retirees!

- **Sal Delgado**, Painter/Utility Worker, 36 years of Service
- **Patti Gulyas**, Accounting Technician, 30 years of Service
- **Eileen Cichocki**, VP of Administrative Services, 20 years of Service
- **Dave Drysdale**, Grounds Keeper, 19 years of Service
- **Mary Lamb**, Executive Assistant II to the President, 17 years of Service

HR CORNER

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](#)



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SUPPORT SUCCESS PROGRAM

The 2024 Native American Heritage Celebration was a resounding success, drawing over 300 attendees and receiving positive feedback from the community. The event featured a Native Art Exhibit in the Eagle Support Center showcasing handmade regalia and baskets from elders and students. Speakers emphasized the importance of community and inclusivity, while cultural activities such as stick games, basket weaving, walnut dice, and traditional foods allowed attendees to engage with Native American traditions. We are grateful to our staff, students, and volunteers for making this celebration a meaningful experience that fosters a sense of belonging for Native American students and their communities.

PRODUCE WEDNESDAYS

Throughout the Fall semester the Basic Needs Program hosted Produce Wednesdays. Every Wednesday, the Basic Needs Department offers fresh produce to students, supported by Redwood Food Bank. This initiative helps address food insecurity and promotes healthy living by providing students with access to fresh fruits and vegetables. By collaborating with local organizations such as Public Health, Cal Fresh, and Blue Zones, the program fosters a sense of community while supporting students' well-being and academic success.

FINANCIAL AID

With the 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) now available, the financial aid staff has begun their yearly outreach to all high schools in our district. Starting with Ukiah High School on December 5th, staff host in-person workshops to provide students with information on financial aid and scholarships, and provide assistance in submitting their FAFSA or Dream Act applications.



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

EOPS

On December 3rd EOPS and Basic Needs hosted a lunch to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the EOPS program and the end of the semester. The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) was legislatively mandated in 1969 with the passage of SB 164 (Alquist). For 55 years EOPS has supported students through their Community College education. At Mendocino College, the EOPS program is committed to providing over and above student support services such as priority registration, personalized counseling, book vouchers, extended tutoring, and much more to our students. It is our goal to provide our EOPS students with the tools and support that is needed for them to succeed in their academic and/or vocational goals.



TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY: A YEAR AT A GLANCE

Thank you to all our faculty and staff who have helped our textbook affordability goals here on campus. There are many ways we reduce the instructional material cost students face when attending college. We couldn't do this without everyone's efforts.

Here is a quick glance at what students had access to this school year. There were 934 (61%) Zero Textbook Cost Sections and 59 Low Textbook Cost Sections. The College Library's Textbook Lending Program loaned 979 textbooks and calculators. The materials from the Textbook Lending Library are available for students for the whole semester.

BASIC NEEDS

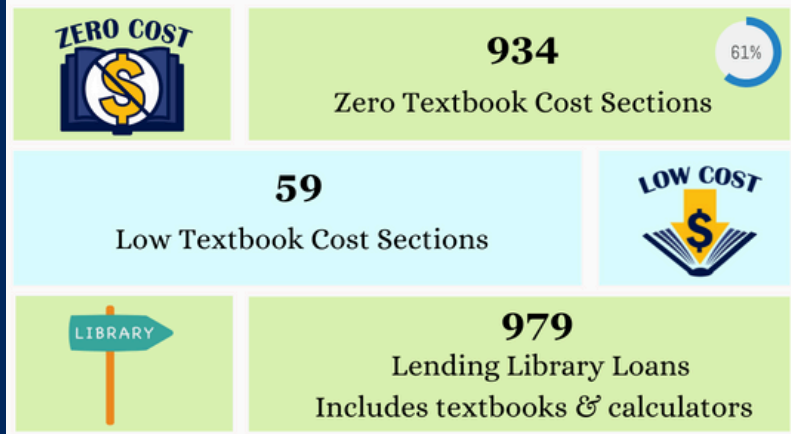
Basic Needs is gathering winter clothing, such as jackets, coats, and sweaters for the Spring 2025 student closet. New and used clothing that is clean and in good condition are welcome. Drop-off is located in the Basic Needs office in the Lowery Building. For questions or additional information, please reach out to Naoto at: nhoriguc@mendocino.edu.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Textbook Affordability

A year at a glance | 2024



Gabrielle Visco, MLIS
OER/Textbook Affordability Librarian
707-468-3050
gvisco@mendocino.edu

Book Time with Me



REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**MC LIBRARY**

The college library will have different hours over the winter break.

- December 16 - 20 | 10am-4pm
- December 23 - January 10 | Library Closed
- January 13 - 17 | 10am-4pm

All library materials are due back on Friday, December 20. We appreciate your help reminding students to return their materials by the end of the semester, to support the next semester student.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Front Desk.

Phone: 707-468-3053

Email: libraryhelp@mendocino.edu

MC Library

Winter Break Hours

Dec. 16-20 | 10am-4pm

Dec. 23-Jan.10 | Library Closed

Jan. 13-17 | 10am-4pm



Mendocino College Library

Ukiah Campus | LLRC 4220

Email | libraryhelp@mendocino.edu

Front Desk | 707-468-3053

Visit Us Online

mendocino.edu/library

@MendocinoCollegeLibrary

@mendocinocollege_library

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Joey Cedillo



Rosa Ceja-Lopez



Cruz Billy



Elaine Faye Figg-Hoblyn



Virginia Monique Allen

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

*The following is courtesy of
Lori Thomas, Professor of Ethnic Studies*

Joey Cedillo is an enrolled member of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. His major is Natural Resources and aims to earn an Associate of Science degree at Mendocino College. His career goals include learning and gaining as much knowledge about the forest as possible to become a better ancestor and steward of the land. He strongly believes in taking care of the land and always giving more than what is taken from it. Joey started a forestry crew for his tribal nation, which is currently under development and flourishing. Joey consistently pursues to be the best version of himself, to lead by example for his tribal community, and he is always thinking of new and interesting ways to become self-sufficient. Joey wishes self-sufficiency for all tribal nations. Joey is the top student in his Native American History course, a UC/CSU class where he has outstanding attendance and academic standing.

Rosa Ceja-Lopez is a first-generation student at Mendocino College and plans to complete the Dental Assisting program. She is proud of leading by example her young daughters and teaching them that anything is possible! She has worked diligently towards the completion of her program for the past six years and is finally nearing her career goal of working as a dental hygienist. Rosa has perfect attendance and is currently the number one student in her Racial and Ethnic Relations class.

Cruz Billy is an enrolled member of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. He finds so much of what he is learning in a Native American History course as beneficial and loves learning about the diverse history of tribal groups in the country. Cruz is completing his first semester at Mendocino College and is a Computer Application and Office Administration major. Cruz is a stellar student and currently holds the highest position in his class. He has perfect scores on every assignment/exam.

Elaine Faye Figg-Hoblyn is working on her Associate of Arts degree in Sociology AND Psychology for Transfer at Mendocino College. Elaine has worked as a Social Worker III for Mendocino County for many years and has worked hard full-time while managing her family. As a non-traditional student, Elaine balances her coursework, job, and family obligations. Elaine plans to make a difference in policies that determine how children receive the social, behavioral, and mental health services they need, especially among foster youth and families. Elaine has perfect attendance and holds the highest score of all students in her online course in Racial and Ethnic Relations.

Virginia Monique Allen is a member of the Pinoleville Pomo Nation & is the granddaughter of Jane Allen, also known as her dad's "Big Gram". She is the niece of legendary Pomo basket weaver, Elsie Allen. Virginia is an animal science major at Mendocino College & has dreamed of becoming a veterinarian since she was a little girl. She works hard in her studies & has perfect attendance & the highest score in her Native American History class. Virginia works at a local veterinary clinic & is committed to finishing her coursework because she has lots of little cousins who are looking up to her as a role model.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

HISPANIC/LATINEX ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES

As part of our Alumni Spotlight series, the Mendocino College Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) staff would like to spotlight: **Vicente Rodriguez**. Vicente's story highlights the opportunities that come with hard work and the opportunities that are granted to those who step outside of their comfort zone.

Vicente's inspiration and advice to current Mendocino College students:

"If you want more for your life, you have to get out of your comfort zone and make sacrifices. If you don't ask questions, and if you don't network and ask others about their experiences, you'll never know what is out there. What is out there could change your life."

Vicente's journey within Higher Education:

Like many students in Mendocino and Lake County, Vicente found himself feeling limited by his low-income background; when it came to getting a college education, Vicente shared that his parents did not have the means to pay for him to go to college, so instead, Vicente pursued a degree at Mendocino College while living at home with his parents in Ukiah. But, Vicente did not let his low-income background negatively impact him. Instead, Vicente took advantage of the services and support programs available to him including the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), access to an academic counselor, and support from several of his instructors.

Apart from the scholarships, grants, and other financial aid Vicente received during his time at Mendocino College, he shared how his involvement in CAMP provided him opportunities to attend professional development workshops and go on campus tours. The exposure Vicente received from being part of CAMP allowed him to gain an understanding of the various opportunities that were out there for him after Mendocino College. One of these opportunities was a summer internship with the Bureau of Land Management thanks to the support and guidance of his academic counselor, Alicia Mendoza. During Vicente's time with CAMP, Alicia helped guide Vicente by highlighting opportunities available to students like himself.

***Vicente Rodriguez dons his military regalia.***

Besides Alicia, Vicente shared how both his business instructor, Julie Finnegan, and math instructor, Leslie Banta, were key to his academic success.

Yet, success did not come easily for Vicente. During his time at Mendocino College, there were multiple instances in which he questioned his ability to succeed. Vicente questioned whether attending college was the right choice after underperforming in several of his classes. Luckily, Vicente did not give up. Instead, he decided to ask for help; he reached out to his professors and received support from his peers ultimately allowing him to graduate and transfer to Sonoma State.

Vicente's ambitions did not stop after graduating from Sonoma State and earning his degree in Business and Economics. In Vicente's goal to become a Secret Service Agent, he joined the U.S. Air Force, was stationed in the United Kingdom, and supported the Armed Forces Europe (AE) and Air Force Space Command. Once his military service was completed he decided to utilize his G.I. Bill benefits to pursue a graduate degree at George Washington University. His graduate program allowed him to intern for the Executive Office of the President which ultimately helped him secure a position within the Department of State with the Bureau of Counterterrorism upon graduation. Vicente is currently pursuing a Law degree at the George Washington University Law School.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

What's Next in ATHLETICS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Thu. Dec. 19 at 4:00 PM VS Los Medanos | AWAY*
Sat. Dec. 28 at 1:00 PM VS Contra Costa | HOME*
 Thu. Jan. 2 at 5:30 PM VS Napa Valley | AWAY*
Sat. Jan. 4 at 1:30 PM VS Solano | HOME*
Wed. Jan. 08 at 5:30 PM VS Marin | HOME*
 Fri. Jan. 10 at 5:30 PM VS Yuba | AWAY*
Wed. Jan. 15 at 5:30 PM VS Alameda | HOME*
 Fri. Jan. 17 at 5:30 PM VS Merritt | AWAY*
Fri. Jan. 24 at 5:30 PM VS Los Medanos | HOME*
 Wed. Jan. 29 at 5:30 PM VS Contra Costa | AWAY*
Fri. Jan. 31 at 5:30 PM VS Napa Valley | HOME*

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Thu. Dec. 19 at 7:30 PM VS Contra Costa | HOME*
 Thu. Jan. 2 at 7:30 PM VS Napa Valley | AWAY*
Sat. Jan. 4 at 3:30 PM VS Solano | HOME*
Wed. Jan. 8 at 7:30 PM VS Marin | HOME*
 Fri. Jan. 10 at 7:30 PM AT Yuba | AWAY*
Wed. Jan. 15 at 7:30 AM VS Laney | HOME*
 Fri. Jan. 17 at 7:30 PM VS Merritt | AWAY*
Fri. Jan. 24 at 7:30 PM VS Los Medanos | HOME*
 Wed. Jan. 29 at 7:30 PM VS Contra Costa | AWAY*
Fri. Jan. 31 at 7:30 PM VS Napa Valley | HOME*

MEN'S BASEBALL

Fri. Jan. 24 1:00 PM VS Redwoods | AWAY
 Sat. Jan. 25 at 11:00 AM VS Redwoods | AWAY
 Sat. Jan. 25 at 1:30 PM VS Redwoods | AWAY
 Thu. Jan. 30 at 1:00 PM VS San Francisco | AWAY



denotes an Exhibition
 * denotes a Conference
Bolded Event denotes a Home Game

EVENTS

The regular seasons for three of our sports teams (Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer, and Women's Volleyball) began in September. Come out to cheer on our student-athletes. 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.

Weaving Wednesdays

3rd Wed. Every Month | 1 - 3:00 pm | Eagle Support Center

Regalia Night

Thursdays, 5:30 - 8:00 pm | Lowery Student Center

If You'll Never Leave Me, I'll Never Leave You

November 12, 2024 - January 23, 2025 | MC Gallery

Mendocino Ballet Presents The Nutcracker

Dec. 20-22, 2024 | Various Times | Center Theatre

Spring 2025 Classified Inservice Day

January 9, 2025 | 8:00 am

Spring 2025 Management Inservice Day

January 9, 2025 | 12:00 pm

Spring 2025 Faculty Inservice Day

January 9, 2025 | 8:00 am

Krissy Keefer's Dance Brigade

January 15, 2025 | 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm | Center Theatre

Spencer Brewer & Esther Siegel Assemblage

January 24-30, 2025 | MC Gallery

UCCA Professional Pianists Concert

Jan. 25, 2025, at 7 pm & Jan. 26, 2025, at 2 pm | Center Theatre

