

# Disability Resource Center NEWSLETTER

**Welcome  
To  
Fall 2019!**

The fall semester begins on August 19<sup>th</sup> but check your registered class start date. The Disability Resource Staff is here to help you! We will be providing updates to important disability related topics on campus as well as important dates in the academic calendar. We look forward to connecting with you.

“No matter  
what people  
tell you,  
words and ideas  
can change the world.”  
~Robin Williams

## 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 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 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** – DRC Counselor

**Jennifer Justice** – Alternate Media/Assistive  
Tech. Spec.

**Christina Orozco** – DSPS Admin. Assistant 1

## A Word from Our Counselors



**Nicholas Wright – DRC Coordinator/Counselor**

Greetings! I am the Coordinator/Counselor of the Disability Resource Center. Whether you are a new or continuing student, I am whole-heartedly excited for you as you embark on achieving your goals.

The Disability Resource Center holds a philosophy that college truly is a journey, and on this journey you will travel through a variety of different arenas- light and darkness, good times and bad, and there will definitely be some unexpected bumps in the road along the way. We believe that it is important to have someone walking along side you during your journey whether they are a coach, mentor, aid, guide, counselor or cheerleader, but we also want to teach you the skills to be able to advocate for yourself. Take charge of your education and increase your independence, self-sufficiency and obtain for yourself the goal of career satisfaction.

DRC is here to assist you in your journey to higher education. I look forward to meeting with you this fall semester and supporting you throughout your educational journey.

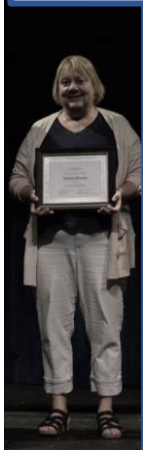


**Merie Holl – DRC PT Counselor**

Welcome to Fall 2019! As the beginning of the new academic year begins, think of it as a new beginning for you as a student, as well. If this is your first semester, start with great habits. One of the best tips I can offer you is to practice good time management skills. Tame time by avoiding procrastination and using your precious time wisely. There are some great websites on how to avoid procrastination. One of my fun favorites is:

<https://www.student-cribs.com/en/blog/66/8-Ways-to-Stop-Procrastinating-and-Start-Studying>

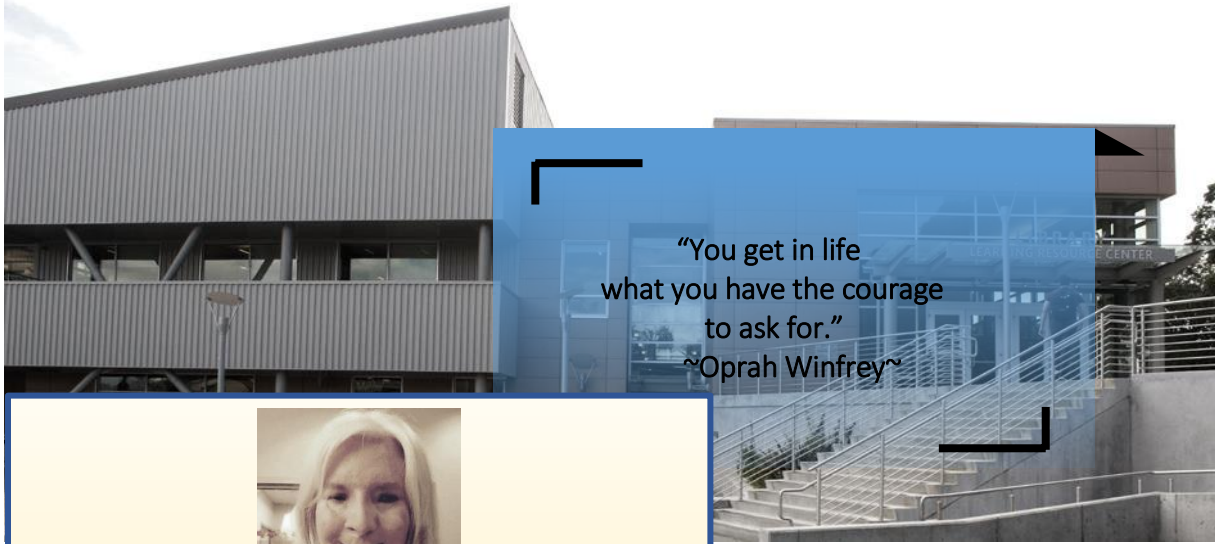
If you are a continuing student, concentrate on breaking just one bad habit that may be interfering with your academic goals. Most of all remember to utilize your DRC Counselor. Counselors have many tips and tools they can share with you to make your academic experience rewarding.



**Tascha Whetzel- Instructor/Learning Disabilities Specialist**

**Tascha was awarded the Full-time Faculty Excellence Award!**

Hello and welcome to fall 2019! Our Ukiah campus Learning Skills Lab has lots to offer to our students with two class options; LRS 23 is a credit option while LRS 523 is a noncredit option. My lab is open 8-5 pm Monday through Thursday in the LLRC building room 4151. Students can use the quiet space to work on classwork, homework and projects. Computers are available for internet access, assistive technology and alternative media options. Printing is free! I am also available to discuss learning strategies and study skills based on your particular needs. If you have an IEP from high school or assessment information from other institutions, an appointment can be made to meet with me to determine eligibility for DRC as well as appropriate accommodations for each semester. I can also test students for a Learning Disability and this service is free of charge for students enrolled at Mendocino College. The assessment takes about 4-6 hours over 3 appointments and I can work with your availability to make it happen. I look forward to working with you so stop by the lab and check us out!



“You get in life  
what you have the courage  
to ask for.”  
~Oprah Winfrey~



### ~Meet Jennifer Justice~

Greetings from my computer bunker in the Learning Skills Lab (room 4131)! I started my job as the Alternative Media/ Assistive Technology Specialist at Mendocino College in November of 2018. After living in the Bay Area and Chicago, I am happy to call Ukiah my new home!

My role in the Disability Resource Center is to assist students in the conversion of textbooks and other course materials in alternative digital formats like mp3s, CDs, large print, Braille, and Kurzweil. I also provide training and consultations about assistive technology, software, and mobile apps that can help you meet your goals. I first became interested in assistive technology as someone who uses it every day both in and outside the classroom. After college, I had the opportunity to work in an engineering lab that creates accessible apps for people with disabilities and their friends. If you have questions about alternative media call me at 707-468-3032.



### ~Communique from Christina~

I joined The Disability Resource Center a little over two years ago as a Temporary Administrative Assistant and as of June 2019 I am now the full time DSPS Administrative Assistant 1. It has been an incredibly busy time and the number of students we are serving is growing by the semester.

My advice to all new and returning students with disabilities is to connect with us as soon as possible. College is hard but with the right support it can also be manageable. All calls to the DRC department come directly to me and I can make you an appointment to meet with the DRC Counselors or I can answer any questions you might have about our services. Call me at 707-468-3031.

### To receive services you must;

1. Complete a DRC application
2. Schedule an Intake Appointment
3. Have a verified disability
4. Meet once a semester with a DRC Counselor

### Important Upcoming Dates to Remember

**August 19<sup>th</sup>** – Fall Semester begins

**August 26<sup>th</sup>** – Instructor permission required to add semester-length classes

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** – Add and Refund deadline for semester-length classes  
(Petition required after this date to add)

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Holiday – Labor Day (No classes)

**Did you know? - September** is Deaf Awareness Month, National Service Dog Month and Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month.

### The DRC Office

Our main office is located at the Ukiah Campus on the first floor of the Library/Learning Center Building room 4130 right next to the Learning Center. If you are unable to come to Ukiah for an appointment here are the upcoming Wednesdays that we will be at our other campus locations;

#### Lakeport (Lake Campus)

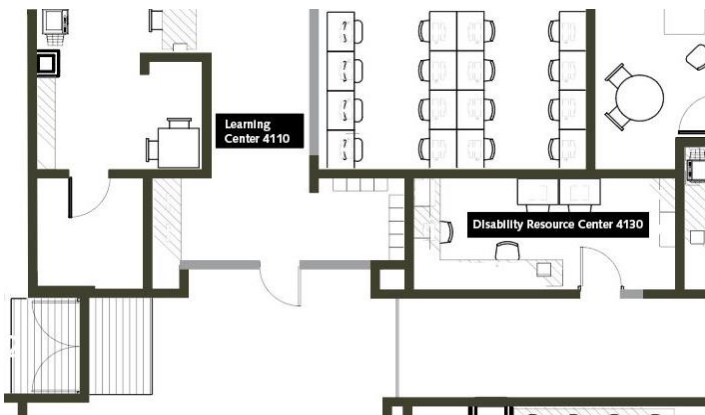
August 7<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>, and September 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Fort Bragg (Coast Center)

August 14<sup>th</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Willits (North County Center)

August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>



### IMPORTANT CAMPUS PHONE NUMBERS

Admission and Records - 707-468-3101

Cal Works – 707-467-1034

Campus Bookstore – 707-468-3058

Campus Security - 707-468-3155 or  
707-489-8404(text)

Child Development Center - 707-468-3089

Counseling Department - 707-468-3048

EOPS / CARE – 468-3113

Financial Aid – 468-3110

Learning Center – 707-468-3046

Library - 707-468-5053

MESA – 707-468-3023

Native American Resource Center – 707-468-4603

Veterans Services – 707-468-3101

Veterans Club - 707-468-4602

Looking to connect with other students that are disabled? Check out [DreamCollegeDisability.org](http://DreamCollegeDisability.org). A student-led organization and online community for College Students with Disabilities titled D.R.E.A.M. (Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring) in association with the N.C.C.S.D. (National Center for College Students with Disabilities).