



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DECEMBER
2022

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



CONGRATULATIONS!



Mendocino College students Raul Medina, Jackson Deyerle, Trinity Ross, Frej Barty and Tamara Fites created the winning video for the Mendocino County League of Women Voters "Get out the Vote" video contest.

You can view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4P3s5f2Huuc>.

On November 3rd, Cindy Plank (Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Mendocino County) awarded the students with \$200 checks.



Finals week ended on December 9th and we are quickly approaching the winter break. The last month has been filled with many events and celebrations. I want to thank all the employees who volunteered their time and energy to plan, work and participate in the campus events and celebrations. There has been much to give thanks for during this festive season.

We are grateful to the Associated Students of Mendocino College for purchasing 13 new hydration (water bottle filling) stations for the Centers and Ukiah. The goal is to have them installed by May graduation

I had the privilege of being elected chair-elect to the West Business Development Center board of directors.

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE EVENT

Several college employees worked together to host the Annual Native American Heritage Event on November 4th. The event welcomed over 200 community members to Pomo Plaza and offered attendees warm chili and corn bread from our Culinary program, frybread from a local vendor, cultural activities, and a handful of vendors. The event opened with a blessing from Gayle Zepeda and closed with Big Valley Dancers.

**EMPLOYEE 5TH ANNUAL ORNAMENT EXCHANGE AND UGLY SWEATER CONTEST**

On December 7th, Financial Aid Coordinator Karen Cavanaugh organized the 5th Annual Ornament Exchange and Ugly Sweater Contest for college employees. Many classified, faculty, and management employees attended the event that began with a pot luck. After the meal, participants enjoyed a holiday ornament exchange which was followed by an Ugly Sweater Contest. This year, Naoto Horiguchi won first place for having the ugliest sweater. Second place went to Bonnie Lockhart and third place to Mariana Martinez.

10TH ANNUAL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, November 2nd Mendocino College hosted the 10th Annual Dia de los Muertos celebration in Pomo Plaza. The event was well attended and was huge success because it celebrated culture, provided a space for community and was fun overall. There were over 20 altars in the Lowery Student Center created by the staff and students. Our very own Gus Calderon served as the MC and accompanied by the DJ it kept the event lively. For the Children there were two pinatas and face painting. A group of young dancers performed as well as our very own Latino Club! Our students practiced for weeks with the direction of Juvenal Vasquez to prepare for the event. Mr. Vasquez has been instrumental in ensuring that this event is held yearly and executed well for our students and community. Also, this event could not have been accomplished without the organizing committee and the volunteers that donated their time with setting up, working at a booth and cleaning up.



VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

The Veterans Resource Fair and BBQ Lunch was small but well attended. The event included free food for students and information booths from multiple programs and community partners. Many thanks to Sid Harper and Brady Wildberger from the Savings Bank and Dean Lopez for masterfully BBQing 100 pounds of tri-tip! Also, to Director Simpson-Logg for organizing and the volunteers that assisted with set-up, clean-up and serving as well as those that participated in the resource fair and to all that supported the event by attending.



LOWERY STUDENT CENTER

In the month of November, multiple student programs relocated to the site previously occupied by our bookstore. In the reconfigured space, we have welcomed our Basic Needs Center, Native American Student Resource Center, Dream Center and CAMP Program. The space has been renovated with new furniture and technology to help support students. The close proximity of these programs to each other, at a centralized location on campus, is intended to help promote student activity, success and collaboration. Furthermore, it allows for multiple student support programs to be more easily accessible to a larger number of our students. A formal open house will be organized in the Spring semester once all programs have been fully settled in their new space.

CELEBRATING OUR VOLLEYBALL TEAM

On November 14th, Mendocino College hosted a tailgate party attended by most student athletes and many college employees to celebrate the volleyball team making the playoffs for the first time in 50 years. Our Student Life Office and Athletics department collaborated to celebrate our team and bring our campus together. We have a small but mighty team in each department and working together is what can inspire us to do our best work.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Our Outreach Staff have been busy over the last month supporting presentations for scholarships and financial aid at area high schools and assisting high school students in the onboarding process through the Reg-2-Go program with many more dates scheduled in the coming months. Locations for these presentations/onboarding events include Ukiah High School, Round Valley High School, Anderson Valley High School, Willits High School, Ukiah Adult School and Sherwood Rancheria.

The Outreach van, decked out in gold and blue tinsel and lots of lights, was entered in the 2022 Ukiah Parade of Lights. Though we did not place in the contest, viewers enjoyed seeing the updated mascot emblazoned on the van as well as the actual Eagle riding as a passenger. The van will be entered again in 2023 and plans are under way to create an impressive entry.

COUNSELING MEETINGS WITH UKIAH HIGH SCHOOL

Building on our recent College and University Day event, and our Outreach, CTE, CAMP, Equity and PUENTE programs and other departments attending Ukiah High School's (UHS) College and Career Fair, there is a shared interest in more coordination and collaboration. The Counseling departments from Ukiah High and Mendocino College have been in regular contact and have shared department meetings schedules. It has been agreed to have open invitations to our respective meetings to share important and relevant information to serve the students in our shared community.

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ENROLLMENT: AGE OF STUDENTS

The district is beginning to rebalance towards a student mix closer to pre-pandemic years. In Fall 2022 students in the age groups of 22-30 and 31-40 have increased their percentage of the student body. The return of more in-person and hybrid courses may attribute to the increase. This is good news for the district. These age group are critical to stable district enrollment. The age group 18-21 remains lower. Students that experienced two years of at home learning during their final high school years may have become disconnected with higher education pathways.

More detailed information is available on the institutional research page, www.mendocino.edu/college/institutional-research/student-data. Thank you to the Research Office of Isabel Lopez and Minerva Flores for producing these reports.

TERM	UNDER 18	18-21	22-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61+
FALL 2022	11.53%	26.01%	23.69%	15.88%	8.94%	4.75%	9.20%
FALL 2021	20.07%	24.99%	20.45%	14.66%	7.89%	4.71%	7.23%
FALL 2020	18.12%	29.43%	22.15%	14.54%	7.36%	4.00%	4.40%
FALL 2019	13.28%	27.63%	21.75%	15.08%	8.49%	5.45%	8.35%

2022-2024 DISTRICT PRIORITIES

One of our District Priorities is to “Strengthen educational opportunities and pathways to Native American communities to achieve the highest percentage of Native American students in the California Community College system.”

This chart compiled through the Chancellor’s Office DataMart, illustrates a significant achievement for Mendocino College. Mendocino College has the highest Native American student count within the 116 California Community Colleges. We also have the highest percentage rate.

We will continue to strengthen our efforts to increase the number of Native American students at Mendocino College.

	College	2021-2022 Native American Student Count	Percentage of Overall Student Count	Total Student Population
1	Mendocino	279	4.76%	5,863
2	American River	243	0.59%	41,494
3	Redwoods	243	3.99%	6,090
4	Shasta	228	1.98%	11,487
5	Fresno City	166	0.49%	33,825
6	Palomar	152	0.55%	27,455
7	Mt San Antonio	149	0.23%	63,727
8	Butte	142	1.10%	12,885
9	Santa Rosa	136	0.46%	29,316
10	Sacramento City	135	0.47%	28,922
11	Cerro Coso	134	1.72%	7,784
12	Sierra	125	0.53%	23,611
13	Modesto	119	0.51%	23,485
14	Bakersfield	116	0.31%	37,556
15	Cerritos	109	0.38%	28,748
16	Santa Ana	98	0.18%	54,421
17	Mt. San Jacinto	91	0.42%	21,518
18	Folsom Lake	90	0.64%	14,072
19	East LA	86	0.17%	51,672
20	Cosumnes River	84	0.40%	21,226