



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MAY  
2023

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



## 35TH ANNUAL LATINO STUDENT RETREAT



The 35th Annual Latino Student Retreat was held on Friday, April 21, on the Ukiah Campus. The college welcomed about 300 students, teachers and parents from our area's schools. This event aims to promote social and cultural awareness to high school students from Mendocino and Lake Counties and includes motivational speakers, workshops, entertainment, and lunch. This year's keynote speaker was Erica Alfaro, an award-winning author and education advocate. In 2019, her graduation pictures went viral and made headlines around the world. She was featured in major media outlets such as CNN, The Huffington Post, and Yahoo News. Her book, *Harvesting Dreams*, won the 2022 International Latino Book Award in the Most Inspirational Young Adult category. A teacher from one of our feeder/partner high schools wrote to our deans noting; "Yesterday I attended the 35th Annual Latino Retreat and it was informative, and your staff was very well prepared. I was impressed by how the counselor for MC was telling students how important it is to make appointments to see counselors for whatever their needs may be."



With the end of the term upon us, it has been an incredibly busy time throughout the district with students and faculty preparing for finals week; students enrolling in summer session, many district events and planning commencement.

A partial list of the range of events on campus the last two weeks are the Latino Student Retreat with about 300 high school students attending, student club day, the plant sale, career fair with over 60 employers tabling, closing reception of the student art show, scholarship mixer, Native American Motivation Day with hundreds of middle/high school students, and the EOPS ceremony. Each of these events required many hours of planning by district employees, the helping hands of innumerable volunteers, stretching staff support in logistics and set-up, and many other collaborators and partners. The time, energy, dedication displayed to support our students and the community is incredible.



**NATIVE AMERICAN MOTIVATION DAY**

The 36th Annual Native American Motivation Day was held on the Ukiah Campus on Friday, April 28th. We hosted around 400 middle-high school Native American students. Featuring students as keynote speakers and engaging workshops focused on culture, math, science, theater, athletics, music, and fun! The day concluded with information booths, vendors, Pomo Dancers – including students who attended the event - and Indian tacos, with support from the Indigenous Nations Club. Students made themselves at home on our campus and made connections with our community.

**PEER MENTORSHIP**

With the transition of many support programs being co-located in the Lowery Student Center, we are now in a position to see one of the benefits of this transition. These programs, including the Native American Student Resource Center, Basic Needs, Dream Center and CAMP, have hired student workers to support students. Our student workers have been helping at all of the events throughout the semester, helping to make our new space warm and welcoming to all students, and building a sense of community. We are very grateful for our student leaders and feel their presence is a key part of the new center's success.

**CAREER FAIR**

We held our first Career Fair since 2019 (pre-Covid) on April 26th. Over sixty employers were present from 11:00 - 1:00pm and 4:00 - 6:00pm (for evening students) to greet and speak to students as they visited their tables. High school groups attended the fair along with Mendocino College students to learn about the types of careers available from local employers. There was also a "Career Closet" available all day offering donated professional-style clothing suitable for interviews. Students were welcomed to choose clothing for themselves.

**EOPS / CARE AWARDS CEREMONY**

This year's EOPS/CARE Awards Ceremony was held on April 28th. It was a very special evening for EOPS and CARE students who are graduating this May and/or who have maintained at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average. Those graduating received their Graduation Packet, which included their graduation cap, gown, 2023 tassel, Honors Cord (for those who are graduating with honors), PTK Stole (for those who are members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society), an EOPS Alumni t-shirt and a frame to display their degree/certificate. A dessert reception followed the ceremony and students received a meal card to celebrate with their loved ones.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

During the month of April, Mendocino College Health & Wellness teamed up with Human Resources and Project Sanctuary to promote Sexual Assault Awareness Month and "Denim Day." Counselor/Coordinator Lisa Larimer-Burtis and Jamie Pittman, Outreach Coordinator for Project Sanctuary, supplied an art project during the Career Fair inviting people to color a square to denote if they or someone they knew had experienced sexual assault (depicted by a particular symbol) and a color representing the type of assault encountered. There was great participation and over 40 squares were completed during the day. The hope is to quilt together the squares to create a wall hanging that we can display. Also during the month of April, Lisa provided 5 classroom presentations at the Lake Center, 1 classroom presentation at the North County Center and provided support to ceramic students following the passing of faculty member Doug Browe. Additionally, an in-class grief counseling demonstration was provided in the Psychology of Loss/Death class.

**HSI GRANT**

We received notification from the Federal Department of Education that our district has been awarded a Hispanic Serving Institutions grant. The 5-year grant will begin in October 2023 to September 2029. The district will begin the recruitment process for a program manager to be completed prior to October 2023. Special thanks to Minerva Flores and the HSI Grant Planning Team (Alicia Mendoza, Robert Parmenter, Yuliana Sandoval, Ulises Velasco, Amanda Xu Brianna Zuber, Eric Hoefler, Valentina Velazquez-Zvierkova, Sarah Walsh, Casey Terrill, Fernando S. Calderon, Monica Flores, Jaime Cechin, Rebecca Montes; Antonio Lopez, Mark Edward Osea).

Below is a brief description of the projects.

This Title V METAS Project (Mendocino Equitable Transition for Access and Success) intends to support, understand and enhance the second year transition for Hispanic and other minoritized students, through targeted cohorts, mentored by classified staff and counseling faculty with follow-up services that ensure student-guided services for successful goal completion. The cohort model groups together students with similar interests and goals that enable them to form a bond that supports them through their college experience from entry to completion.

**NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SUPPORT AND SUCCESS PROGRAM GRANT (NASSSP)**

The Chancellor's Office has selected Mendocino College as 1 of 20 colleges to be awarded a pilot Native American Student Support and Success Program Grant (NASSSP). It's a 5-year \$1.5M award. The Chancellor's Office will provide a plan template in early Fall 2023 with workplans due in December 2023. The Chancellor's Office is impressed with our existing efforts concerning Native American students. A portion of the grant must be used to hire a full-time program coordinator and tribal liaison position. The coordinator shall also act as a liaison between the community college and local Native American tribes for the creation and implementation of the program.

**ENROLLMENT**

SEMESTER	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	NUMBER OF SECTIONS	TOTAL FTES
SPRING 2023	4502	606	3896	785	945.09
SPRING 2022	3758	499	3259	679	837.42
SPRING 2019	4380	755	3625	755	1067.54

**FEATURED EVENTS**

Below are some highlighted events over the next month. A full listing can be found at [www.mendocino.edu/events](http://www.mendocino.edu/events)

**Registration Fiesta**

Thursday May 11th at the Lake Center,

**Registration Fiesta**

Friday May 12th at the Coast Center.

**Native American Learning Symposium-Theme of Icons and Activists**

Friday May 12th from 3:00pm-4:40pm

**50th Anniversary Gala**

Saturday May 13th from 1-5pm at the Stadium Field

**Krenov School Graduation Show**

Highlight Gallery, Mendocino CA

May 13-21st, 2023

Open daily 1—4PM

Reception May 13th 4—7PM

**Ukiah Symphony Orchestra**

Sat May 13, and Sun May 14th

Tix: [www.ukiahsymphony.org](http://www.ukiahsymphony.org)

**Nursing Pinning Ceremony**

Thursday May 18th from 5pm-7:00pm at the Theater

**College Commencement**

Friday May 19th at the Stadium Field.

**Athletics**

To check out upcoming athletic events go to

<https://www.mendoeagles.com/landing/index> for a full listing of game days and times.

**NOTICE: Road Resurfacing**

Please be aware that Hensley Creek Road will be undergoing construction for road resurfacing May 22nd-June 11th.



## REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS

**HEP STUDENTS LISTOS TRAINING**

The HEP Program, in collaboration with Vecinos en Acción, UVA (Neighbors in Action), a local Latino Organization, organized a LISTOS training on April 21st and 22nd at the Mendocino College, Ukiah Campus.

Alertar y Preparar LISTOS was developed by Aware & Prepare to provide Spanish-language disaster preparedness education, both locally and nationally. The Alertar y Preparar LISTOS design's core is building sustainable relationships and partnerships with local businesses, community leaders, and non-profit organizations.

HEP students and their families attended this training in Spanish for two days. More than 30 people attended these training courses.

On the last training day, the Ukiah Valley Fire Department came to demonstrate how to use the extinguisher, and the participants had the opportunity to practice.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT RETREAT**

Thanks to a grant from the Professional Development Committee, the English department was able to gather for the first retreat and workshop in four years. The focus was on creating anti-racist curriculum and cultural competency, among other no less important topics of MLA formatting, Online Education Resources, and syllabus creation.

This was the first opportunity for us to reconnect face-to-face post lockdown. Six full-time and nine adjunct faculty worked together, laughed together, and ate together.

Jason Davis walked us through the growth zones to becoming anti-racists. We compiled lists of materials written and created by writers of color. John Rall took on us a deep dive toward low-cost and free materials to

increase accessibility for all students. Vincent Poturica shared a year-long project meant to improve the creation of syllabi. He explained how we can construct more culturally competent, supportive, and inclusive course syllabi for all our classes. Ginny Buccelli oversaw the planning and organization of the event; Jaime Cechin and Bart Rawlinson offered strong guidance and general cheerleading.



## SPRING PLANT SALE



Another successful plant sale!

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Mendocino College Agriculture Department, and everyone that contributed to making it a success.



## STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

We celebrated the Student Art Exhibit with a wonderful closing reception that included live music, models from the dance department, plein air pastels, and a showing of the artwork. Thanks to the dance department, and to everyone that came out to support our students' work!





# EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT



### Opening Reception

All current and past faculty and staff  
are invited to an  
opening reception with light refreshments on  
**Friday, May 12th**  
**12pm - 2pm**

This retrospective exhibit celebrates Mendocino College's 50-year history, reflecting on the ways we have grown with our community.

Opens May 12, 2023

Dates & Hours at:  
[www.mendocino.edu/gallery](http://www.mendocino.edu/gallery)

Mendocino College Gallery  
1000 Hensley Creek Rd., Ukiah  
[gallery@mendocino.edu](mailto:gallery@mendocino.edu)