



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER
2023

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



Since the last Board meeting in August 2023, the district has been busy preparing for the fall semester and then beginning the semester. During this past month everyone has leaned in to support our students to register for classes, guide them to their classrooms and services, and support them in their first weeks of instruction.

Prior to the beginning of the semester, there was a part-time faculty orientation on Thursday evening. I had the honor to make some introductory comments. The room was full and many joined via Zoom too. Thank you to the instructional deans for planning the orientation. Friday was in-service, which was a full day of presentation and workshops. In the morning the college community received updates from the Vice-Presidents and me. I had the honor of welcoming 19 people in their new full-time positions and 27 years of service recognitions (10yrs., 15yrs., 20yrs., 25yrs., 30yrs, and 35yrs.). I wish to acknowledge again the 4 people receiving 35 years of service recognition.

They are:

- Sue Blundell– Full Time Faculty, Biology
- Sal Delgado – Painter/Utility Worker
- Elizabeth MacDougall – Adjunct Faculty, Music
- Marilyn Simpson – Adjunct Faculty, Music

During the first two weeks of the semester the Week of Welcome events took place. Many staff, faculty, and managers volunteered to work the welcome tables. I found the time working at the table a great way to connect and help students. To see so many students on campus was exciting. Many departments tabled in Pomo Plaza to introduce students to their services, food was served to students to give them a healthy meal during a busy time, and fun activities were held for students too. I had the opportunity to participate in the dunk tank. Given the number of times I was in the water, I think people enjoyed themselves.

REDWOOD REGION RISE (RESILIENT INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY)

Mendocino College has been selected as 1 of 9 Mendocino County voting members for Redwood Region RISE, the regions Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) initiative. Phase 1, through 2024, is focused on regional planning and forming the group. I have been attending meetings for several months and it is exciting to be selected to serve as a voting member. It is critical that the education sector is acknowledged as having a substantial role in economic development, workforce development, and community building. The State created regional clusters to facilitate economic development and infrastructure funding (State/Federal) to communities. <https://ccrp.humboldt.edu/redwood-rise>

Community Economic Resilience Fund Program (CERF) supports communities and regional groups in producing regional roadmaps for economic recovery and transition that prioritize the creation of accessible, high-quality jobs in sustainable industries. Our CERF Region includes Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties. Redwood Region RISE's collective mission to create thriving-wage opportunities for workers in our Region while pursuing sustainable economic growth that aligns with California’s goals for a carbon neutral future. Program Objectives Include: Support the development of meaningfully inclusive regional planning processes that produce regional roadmaps for economic development efforts that prioritize the creation of accessible, high-quality jobs in sustainable industries.

Invest in projects proposed by regional planning tables that align with regional strategies and meet criteria for equity, job quality, and sustainability, among others.

Align and leverage state investments (e.g., High Road Training Partnerships, community capacity building programs), federal investments (e.g., Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), and philanthropic and private-sector investments in regions to maximize economic development efforts.

ENROLLMENT

The Fall 2023 session has started strong. This is the culmination of sustained work of staff, faculty, and managers to meet the educational needs of our communities.

SEMESTER	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL FTES
FALL 2023	4354	943	3411	991.96
FALL 2022	3610	750	2860	848.48
FALL 2019	4028	1034	2994	1037.82

In every category there is significant growth in numbers year-over-year. Total FTES is 17% higher year-over-year. Enrollment has climbed to approach 2019 levels, being only 4.4% below 2019 levels. This is critical in maintaining our current and future funding levels as emergency protections due to the pandemic have ended. District funding will be re-benched in FY2024-2025 FTES.

NATIVE SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

This summer, the Native Summer Enrichment Program, a collaboration between Pinoleville Pomo Nation and the Instruction office, returned to the Ukiah campus for the first time since the Covid shutdown. 25 Native American students from 7th to 12th grade participated. Over two weeks, the students attended workshops with 17 different Mendocino College faculty and staff. They were exposed to a wide variety of college pathways and career possibilities. Highlights included cooking in the Culinary Arts kitchen, making clay figures in our Ceramics studio, playing basketball in the gym, completing scientific experiments in the Chemistry lab, and developing their creative writing and mathematics skills.



Our partners at Pinoleville recruited local experts to provide complementary instruction in areas of traditional cultural knowledge, including medicine making; contemporary Native Art; and acorn preparation. During the program, the students bonded with one another and really enjoyed their time at the college. The program ended with a celebratory dinner at which President Karas addressed the students' parents and stressed our commitment to providing educational opportunities for our Native students.

EVENTS**Native Learning Symposium**

- Science - Sept 15th (Ukiah)
- Plants & Foods - Oct 13th (Lake)
- Contemporary Art - Nov 3rd (NCC)
- Language - Nov 17th (Ukiah)

Symphony - Brahms Serenade No. 1
Sept 23rd at 7pm and Sept 24th at 2pm

Full Circle: Wesley Wright Sculptures
Sept 28th 4-6pm Gallery Reception

Plant Sale
September 29th - 30th 9am-4pm

Surplus Sale
September 29th - 9am-4pm

UnRedacted - Documentary Film
September 29th at 6:30pm - CVPA

College & University Day
October 3rd - Pomo Plaza

Health & Wellness Fair
October 4th at 10am - Pomo Plaza

Jaca Concert (UCCA)
October 8th at 7pm - CVPA

Indian Child Welfare Film
October 12th at 9am - CVPA

Promise of Paradise - Theatre
Oct 19 - Oct 22nd, CVPA

Dia de los Muertos
October 25th, Pomo Plaza

Rocky Horror Picture Show
October 26th (RAT Club)

For a complete list:

<https://www.mendocino.edu/events>

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING



For 2023/2024 we're switching to Mimecast Cybersecurity Awareness Training videos. Instead of a single one-hour training, you will receive a short 2–3-minute video each month with a single question check for understanding.

TECHNOLOGY TRAINING RESOURCES

Technology Training Resources document lists the monthly technology training sessions via Zoom as well as videos of previous training sessions and other online technology training resources. <https://bit.ly/mctechtraining> Training is eligible for Flex.

Fall 2023:

Date	Time	Topic	Location	Format
Friday, August 25, 2023	1:30pm-2:30pm	What's New in Information Technology?	Zoom	Lecture
Friday, September 22, 2023	1:30pm-2:30pm	Introduction to AI Tools	Zoom	Lecture
Friday, October 13, 2023	1:30pm-2:30pm	New Classroom Technology	Zoom	Lecture
Friday, November 3, 2023	1:30pm-2:30pm	Using Microsoft Teams	Zoom	Lecture
Friday, December 8, 2023	1:30pm-2:30pm	Introduction to Google Workplace Tools	Zoom	Lecture

Note: Please [register](#) at least 24 hours before the training begins. The links to the meetings are above.

MENDO CARES

Mendo Cares will continue to offer the following to support each other to better serve students:

1. Departmental Open Houses
2. Branded Lanyards with ID Holders
3. Magnetized Name Tags
4. Warm Referrals
5. Taking the first approach.

Learn more at www.mendocino.edu/mendo-cares



EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD



The emergency road connecting the western edge of campus to Orr Springs Road is nearing completion. This road has been a long-time goal of both the College and the Foundation. The Foundation purposefully purchased land over the past decade to make this road possible. The road will greatly improve the safety of faculty, staff, and students by providing an alternate route in emergency situations that require evacuation. The College will work with local first responders to familiarize them with the new road, which will only be open to vehicles during emergencies. This project took a tremendous amount of planning, engineering and construction. Many thanks go to Mac Lojowsky, Director of Facilities Planning, Operations and Sustainability for his dedication in seeing this project through.

WELCOME CENTER IS OPEN



The Welcome Center in MacMillan Hall is now open. While we await the installation of the final sign in the coming weeks, the center is open and serving students. Stop by to say hello! The Welcome Center houses the Outreach Team, as well as offers assistance with forms, applications, and referrals.

EAGLE SUPPORT CENTER



The Eagle Support Center, the space in Lowery that previously housed the bookstore, has been renamed and offers the following:

- Basic Needs Center
- Native American Student Resource Center
- CAMP
- Dream Center

Soon, the Native American Student Success & Support staff will also be housed in the Eagle Support Center.

TRANSFER CENTER



The Transfer Center is opening soon in a new location! The space, in Lowery will provide Transfer Counseling, information, and a space for visiting university partners.

STAYING INFORMED

As this single edition of the President's Report demonstrates, there is always a lot going on at Mendocino! There are a number of resources available to the campus community to help everyone stay informed.

Our Strategic Planning Documents are available on the website, at:

<https://www.mendocino.edu/about/leadership/district-strategic-planning>, including:

- Educational Master Plan
- Technology Action Plan
- Facilities Master Plan

Committees post their documents in the OneDrive, including:

- Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC)
- President's Policy Advisory Committee (PPAC)
- Curriculum Committee

CVC - MENDOCINO COLLEGE

Mendocino College is now a teaching college with the California Virtual Campus (CVC). This allows students from other "home" colleges to take classes at Mendocino, up to 6-units. Discover our offerings at:

<https://cvc.edu/online-courses/>

NEW AND RECENT PROGRAMS**Non-credit Certificates**

- Basic Computer Skills, Certificate of Competency (2019)
- Introduction to the Construction Trades, Certificate of Completion (2021)
- Automotive Chassis Specialist, Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Advanced Automotive Chassis Specialist Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Intermediate ESL Preparation, Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Word Processing Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Presentations Certificate of Completion (2023)
- Spreadsheets Certificate of Completion (2023)

Certificates of Skills

- Beginning Baker, Certificate of Skills (2019)
- Intermediate Line Cook, Certificate of Skills (2019)
- Line Cook, Certificate of Skills (2019)

Certificates of Achievement

- Technical Theater Certificate of Achievement (2021)
- Advanced Automotive Hybrid and Electric Vehicles Certificate of Achievement (2023)
- Business Information Worker II Certificate of Achievement (2023)

Associate Degrees

- Physical Therapy Assistant Associate of Science (2019)
- Culinary Arts Management Associate of Science (2020)
- Associate in Science in Chemistry for UC Transfer (2021)