



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FEBRUARY
2024

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT KARAS



The beginning of 2024 began on a somber note. We received notification of the passing of long-time Board of Trustees member John Tomkins. Trustee Tomkins served our district for many years. He was an advocate for student success and his trustee area of northern Lake County. I, along with a few other district staff, attended the memorial service in Upper Lake on February 3, 2024.

SPRING 2024 ENROLLMENT

The Spring 2024 semester began approximately 4 weeks ago. Outside of late-start shorter-term courses the majority of courses have begun. Due to the collective dedication and focus on our students by everyone in our district, our FTES has almost recovered to FY2018/2019 and FY 2019/2020 levels. A significant recovery has been in the number of full-time students. This places the district in a strong position leading into next year when funding will be re-benched for all districts. Many districts in the State still experienced double-digit declines over the FY2019/2020 numbers.

SEMESTER	ACTIVE STUDENTS	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	TOTAL FTES
SPRING 2024	5029	932	4097	1025.12
SPRING 2023	4187	721	3466	912.03
SPRING 2020	4225	957	3268	1050.21
SPRING 2019	4226	945	3281	1030.56

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT DATA TREND

The table below was pulled from the California Community College Chancellors Office Datamart for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 annual terms. The table ranks the top 10 colleges by the number of Native American student headcount and the percentage of total college student count. Over both annual terms Mendocino College had the highest headcount and percentage of Native American students in the California Community College system. Of the top ten colleges, seven of the ten are in the North/Far North Region. Prior to 2021, College of the Redwoods has the highest percentage of Native American students in California Community Colleges.

Over the past two-years departmental structures have evolved; new staff and management position added to the district; collaboration; and countless hours of dedicated staff, faculty, and management time and energy devoted to improving college going rates and success of our Native American students. There remains much more work to do to support our indigenous communities; however, some of the seeds we have sown over the last few years are growing. The Board presentation from May 10, 2023, can be read for in-depth information. The presentation is available in BoardDocs under the May 10, 2023, meeting agenda.

BASIC NEEDS

Basic Needs program kicked off this semester with a successful Student Food Distribution on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. We served over 80 food bags for students. We will continue to have the Student Distribution monthly during this semester. Also, we will test out a new project called "Produce Wednesday" during which we will give out free produce for students.

We had support from our MC Baseball team packaging the food bags and our volunteers during distribution. Our food distribution event was accompanied by our monthly clothing closet - a week where gently used clothing is displayed for students to take what they need.



		Annual 2021-2022	Annual 2021-2022	Annual 2022-2023	Annual 2022-2023
		Student Count	Student Count (%)	Student Count	Student Count (%)
Mendocino Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	279	4.76 %	340	5.00 %
Redwoods Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	243	3.99 %	312	4.77 %
Feather River Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	62	2.44 %	62	2.27 %
Lassen Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	60	2.01 %	97	3.00 %
Shasta Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	228	1.98 %	241	1.94 %
Siskiyou Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	63	1.87 %	66	2.33 %
Cerro Coso Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	134	1.72 %	135	1.66 %
Butte Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	142	1.10 %	186	1.38 %
Palo Verde Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	65	1.07 %	61	0.94 %
American River Total	American Indian/Alaskan Native	243	0.59 %	226	0.54 %

FROM THE BOARD ARCHIVES

The 2022-2025 Student Equity Plan was presented at the December 14, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting. The Plan has data analysis of student metric related to enrollment, completion, persistence, transfer-level math and English, and transfer. The plan indicated student groups with disproportionate impact and 3-year target outcome. The document is available in BoardDocs under the December 14, 2022 meeting agenda.

FINISH LINE

On your marks, get set, GO! Mendocino College's Finish Line Program, for which we receive specialized state funding, has a mission to help students reach the finish line! This year Finish line has been able to financially support twenty-six students. We have been able to interact and motivate students throughout social gatherings. In addition, we make sure our finish line students are continuously meeting with their counselors and have provided them with numerous workshop opportunities to keep them involved with campus events.

RETENTION SUPPORT

Our Retention Specialists, which were newly hired at the end of the Fall semester, have begun providing support throughout the District. They are working with the Counseling faculty to support the early alerts, which faculty raise when a student needs additional support during the first weeks of school. Faculty concerns include students who missed their first classes, needed extra help with our software and learning how to navigate CANVAS.

NASSP

Our Native American Student Success & Support Program (NASSSP) has begun its growth in the first semester of Spring 2024. We are continuing our culturally embodied programming. The current activities provided are Weaving Wednesday's and Regalia evenings (also on Wednesdays). Future activities we seek to begin this semester are Auntie's Frybread workshops every third Monday of the month. We are also excited to work on the annual Native American Motivation Day happening on Friday, April 12, 2024. The student success, support, and retention portion of the program is developing with solid communication to the counseling department, the faculty, outreach, and the other campus sites throughout Mendocino and Lake counties. We continue to learn and develop best practices for our students' success.

NEW STUDENT RETENTION SOFTWARE

Mendocino College is currently implementing the software, Starfish, which should help many departments on campus better support students. The Starfish integration team continues to work diligently toward learning the intricacies of how the system works, as well as identifying first steps in our soft-launch in mid-Spring. On the recommendation of the Starfish team, we are going to focus on the early alert capabilities and creating support networks for students as our first priority. Scheduling capabilities will be launched a bit later than originally communicated so that our faculty and staff may become more familiar with the tools prior to using these functions.

COUNSELING OFFICE UPDATE

Dean Larsen presented to the Friends of Mendocino College at the Lake Center to provide an overview of the vast plethora of counseling programs students at the centers and at the main campus can benefit from.

Lead Counselor, Alicia Mendoza and Dean, Ingrid Larsen are being interviewed on a local radio show February 6th to promote Mendocino College Counseling Services. This date is unique in that this week is National School Counselor Recognition week.