



MENDOCINO COLLEGE
Foundation

Spring-Summer 2010 Newsletter

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Mendocino College Foundation Awards Scholarships



Above: Mendocino College Foundation Academic Excellence Scholarship winners included (from left) Zachary Hedges, Corinne Chaulk, Darleen Castanon, Alice Bourdykina-Jelobniouk, Kelley Boss, Fujun Bernie, Amanda Andersen, and Sara Adams. *Below, center:* Kathleen Fetzer (far right) presented the Kathleen Kohn Fetzer Family Foundation Nursing Scholarship awards to (from left) Anthony Burich, Jacqueline Graumann, and Barbara McKey. *Below, bottom:* Foundation Board member Gary Smith congratulated Mariam Ballaho, winner of the Thomas M. Evans Scholarship.

Mendocino College Foundation recently presented nearly \$123,000 in scholarships to high school and college students planning to continue their education at Mendocino College. Foundation Board members, College Trustees, faculty, and staff honored the recipients Friday, May 21, during the annual Scholarships Awards Ceremony at the College's Ukiah campus.

Students receiving the **Mendocino College Foundation Academic Excellence Scholarships** in the amount of \$1,500 each included Sara Adams, Amanda Andersen, Ignacio Ayala-Aguilar, Fujun Bernie, Kelley Boss, Alice Bourdykina-Jelobniouk, Darleen Castanon, Corinne Chaulk, Krisy Fletcher, Christine Hawley, Zachary Hedges, Veronica Hernandez-Clow, Alondra Herrera, Monica Jimenez-Covarrubias, Sarah Johnson, Jane Khoury, Victor Macias, Susan Madison, Ryan McCartney, Cristianne McElhenie, Barbara McKey, Daniel O'Connor, Rachana Panchal, Rachel Parmenter, Connie Patterson, Katharine Payne, Alexandro Reyes Murrillo, Silvia Sanchez, Laura Smith, Karen West, Pamla Wood, and Christine Zurcher.



Gala
ON THE *Green*

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2010
5:30 PM
GARDEN TOURS 4:30-5:30 PM

Campovida
(formerly Fetzer Valley Oaks
Food & Wine Center, Hopland)



From the Foundation President

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE PLANS ANNUAL GALA

Mark your calendar for the annual Gala on the Green. Saturday, September 11, is the chosen date; and planning for the Mendocino College Foundation's major fundraiser is the primary focus of the Special Events Committee.

The event will take place at Campovida, formerly the Fetzer Valley Oaks Food and Wine Center, Hopland, the same setting as the last two years' Gala, Committee chair Richard Cooper has announced. Gala festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. However, guests may enjoy tours of the Campovida gardens prior to the Gala, between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.



The annual fundraiser features dinner catered by Kilkeny Kitchen of Ukiah and fine wines from Lake and Mendocino county wineries, musical entertainment, dancing, and live and silent auctions.

Ticket prices are \$85 per person or \$680 per table of eight. To obtain tickets or inquire about the event, call the Foundation office, 707-467-1018.

WOJCIESZAK NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Foundation President Channing Cornell welcomed visitors to the Mendocino College campus during Open House activities in April.

The Mendocino College Foundation is pleased to announce that Katie Wojcieszak has accepted the position of executive director for the Mendocino College Foundation. She was selected from a field of 24 applicants. Katie's high energy lights up a room. Her dynamic personality and experience will prove to be a real asset to the Foundation.

Katie will start with the Foundation on July 26. She is currently employed by the Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) as executive assistant/public information officer, a position she has held since 2003.

When our new executive director is on board, her first objectives will be working with President Lehner, getting to know the Board members, and learning about the strategies and goals of the Foundation, as well as those of the College.

In her position with MCOE, Katie has been responsible for communications, project coordination, public relations, marketing, and strategic planning. She



Katie Wojcieszak

also played a key role assisting with the writing and implementing of grants. From 1996 to 2002 she was employed by Mendocino College as an administrative secretary, coordinating the scholarship program and assisting with other student services work.

Katie obtained an associate's degree in Liberal Studies from Mendocino College and a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from Sonoma State University. She has lived and worked in Mendocino County her entire life. Her husband Darren grew up in Lake County and is administrative captain with the Ukiah Police Department.

At the recent Foundation Board meeting I was able to report good news for the College's Nursing Program.

Superintendent/President Kathy Lehner and I have been working with Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, and Sutter Lakeside Hospital in Lakeport to help with the \$100,000 budget shortfall for the program.

The three hospitals will contribute enough to help cover the shortage. Without the help from the hospitals, the Nursing Program would have to cut back to one graduating class every other year, which could hurt the need for nurses at our local hospitals.

I am also pleased that the Foundation Board and College Board of Trustees met earlier this year for a joint workshop. This session gave members of each board a chance to get acquainted. President Lehner reviewed bylaws of both boards and answered questions about strategic planning. Another meeting will be scheduled to decide on specific projects that the Foundation Board members and Trustees can develop together.

Channing Cornell
President
Mendocino College Foundation



From the College President

MEETING FINANCIAL GOALS IN THE COMING YEAR

The end of another school year is upon us. Mendocino College is completing its 36th year of service to our communities, and the Mendocino College Foundation, its 26th year of supporting students in their quest for a better life.

In what is possibly the worst economic downturn in the history of Mendocino College, College staff and Foundation volunteers have come together to provide the financial support necessary to meet our goals and provide a quality education to our students. Advances we have experienced in donations to the Foundation and support of the College include:

- **Over \$165,000 in scholarships** are awarded to students annually. Over 160 scholarships provide students with the funding necessary to pay enrollment fees, purchase textbooks and meet personal expenses that allow them to attend college. A generous perpetual scholarship donation was received this year, and several others are under discussion with potential donors. A \$25,000 donation provides a perpetual, annual scholarship of \$1,000, and the donor may set specific criteria that the recipient must meet.
- **The Yvonne Sligh book award program** has grown from \$5,000 annually a few years ago to almost \$20,000 that will be available for awards next year. As textbook costs skyrocket, the Foundation has doubled its contribution to the fund and College faculty and staff have stepped up to the plate with payroll deductions to aid the book scholarship program. Additionally, our contracted bookstore company on campus has committed to contribute \$5,000 annually.

- **Foundation support for selected College programs** this past year included a \$50,000 contribution to the salary of the newly-hired Dean of Career and Technical Education, and over \$55,000 to various other projects requested by faculty and staff, and selected by the Deans and the Vice Presidents.

This support follows similar donations in previous years, when the Foundation partially funded a nursing faculty position, helped to purchase a new commercial kitchen for the Culinary Arts program, funded a major portion of the campaign costs that resulted in the passage of our Measure W bond initiative, and provided an interest-free loan to the Athletics Department to purchase stadium seats.

- We have seen an increase in the number of local fifth-grade students honored in the **“Adopt-A-Fifth-Grader” (previously called “Adopt-A-School” program)** from 13 last year to 17 this year. (See story on page 6.)

For each donation of \$700, one fifth-grade student is awarded a \$25 cash prize at the end of his/her fifth-grade year, with a commitment by the Foundation to award the student an additional \$500 upon graduation from high school in approximately seven years, or, if he/she enrolls in Mendocino College, a scholarship of \$1,000. Our goal is to have an award each year for one student from every fifth-grade class in the College District.

- There has also been an increase in the number of Foundation Directors and College Trustees contributing to the **Annual Directors/Trustees Fund**. This fund was established in 2008 with the intent of encouraging donations from our local community members by showing

them that 100 percent of our directors and trustees are making personal donations to the Foundation. The Foundation Executive Committee determines the best use of the funds each year. Last year the fund totaled over \$14,000, with \$6,000 being used for six additional scholarships and over \$5,000 added to the Foundation’s support of Career and Technical Education.

- **Community organizations have also stepped up** to support particular College programs, specifically the Nursing Program. Local hospitals have generously committed to fund one nursing faculty position to allow the College to continue accepting a new class of nursing students each fall.

Without this financial commitment, the College was facing the potential reduction of the Nursing Program to accepting a new class of students every two years, as it was when the program was started.

While the California State budget situation is not expected to improve for a few more years, the growth of our fundraising efforts and our outreach to the community gives us confidence that we will be able to meet the needs of our programs and our students. As all College employees have taken a 4 percent salary reduction and 18 employee positions are being left vacant to save costs, the Foundation and the College gratefully request ongoing donations in the coming year.

Kathryn G. Lehner
Superintendent/President
Mendocino-Lake Community
College District

Students Earn State Honors

Two Mendocino College students are among the 67 individuals selected for the 2010 All-California Community College Academic Team, a recognition program administered by Phi Theta Kappa. Art major **Dustin Crown** and business administration major **Heather Gardner** were named to the All-California Academic Third Team. They received medallions of honor and certificates recognizing their accomplishments.

Selection to the All-California teams was based on grades, leadership, and community service. Crown and Gardner received scores from Phi Theta Kappa judges at the national level that qualified them for the honor at the state level. The students were acknowledged at a special awards luncheon in Sacramento. Gardner was also the featured student speaker for the 2010 Mendocino College commencement on May 27.

"We are very proud of Dustin and Heather for their achievements," said Mendocino College Superintendent/President Kathryn G. Lehner. "They are excellent students



Dustin Crown



Heather Gardner

with ambitious goals who have clearly earned these state level honors. We wish them well in their pursuit of degrees beyond Mendocino College."

Gardner and Crown were Mendocino College Foundation scholarship recipients in past years.

Crown, a 24-year-old Ukiah resident, will transfer to San Francisco State University; and Gardner, 32, to the University of California, Santa Barbara, in the fall to continue their education.

Crown plans to obtain a bachelor's degree and then a master's in fine arts, focusing on sculptural media. "My career goals

are aimed at teaching art between two-dimensional and three-dimensional fields," says the Ukiah High School graduate. "I would love to see myself grow talented enough to participate in the making of an animation movie or series."

Garnering a 3.7 grade point average as a student at Mendocino College, Crown belongs to three clubs -- Phi Theta Kappa, Ceramics Club, and the Artists Club. He also works for the College's horticulture nursery.

As a full-time student with a 3.761 grade point average, Gardner works part-time as an administrative assistant at the College's Child Development Center and as a tutor. Her club affiliations include MESA and the Parent's Club, in addition to Phi Theta Kappa.

Gardner currently resides in Ukiah with her husband Tyler and their 5-year-old son. She said she is looking forward to living in Santa Barbara, where all three will attend school -- her son will begin kindergarten in the fall.

Annual Emeritus Luncheon



The Mendocino College Foundation's Board of Directors welcomed a group of 45 people on Friday, April 16, for the annual Emeritus Luncheon. Current and past Foundation Board members and current and past Trustees were joined by College administrative staff for the event held at the Walter Café this year. Board President Channing Cornell opened the afternoon program while attendees enjoyed lunch with wine contributed by Foundation board members Paul Conrado and Tommy Thornhill. Foundation Vice President Rhonada Clausen (above left) thanked Board members and Trustees, former and present, as well as faculty and staff, for attending the luncheon and continuing to support the Foundation's work. Above center: Former Board member Charlie Mannon and current Board member John Behnke. Above right: Former College Superintendent/President Lee Lowery and past College Trustee Nancy March.

Eberhard Joins MCF Staff

Mendocino College Scholarship Coordinator **Lana Eberhard** is the newest member of the Mendocino College Foundation staff. Eberhard, the Foundation's support specialist, replaces Kerry McMullen, who resigned earlier this year to spend more time with her family.

Eberhard continues in her capacity of scholarship coordinator for the College while taking on additional duties in the Foundation office. "Because the Foundation funds most of the scholarships awarded at the College each year, I've had a relationship with the Foundation office since beginning my employment."



Lana Eberhard

Speaking about her decision to apply for the support specialist position, Eberhard said it "seemed like a great opportunity for me to move into a position where I could better serve our students, the College's programs, and continue in my role as scholarship coordinator. It's a lot of fun to give money to our students and reward them for their hard work and dedication to their academic and career goals."

"Lana brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position, which will be tremendously helpful in managing the Foundation's budget, maintaining its new website, helping to develop newsletters and other communication materials, and helping to coordinate the efforts of a twenty-two member volunteer board!" said Mendocino College Superintendent/President Kathryn G. Lehner.

Hired in March 2008 as administrative assistant to the College's Dean of Student Services and as scholarship coordinator,

Eberhard has an extensive background in marketing and graphic design. While attending Santa Rosa Junior College in the Applied Graphics program in 1993, Eberhard was employed as executive assistant to the Exchange Bank's chairman of the board. In June the same year she graduated with a certificate in Applied Graphics. Soon after, she created the bank's first website and produced its monthly newsletter.

She used her skills when in 2000 she joined the bank's Marketing Department as marketing specialist and in-house graphic designer. She produced ads and the daily electronic newsletter, designed brochures, collaborated with outside advertising agencies and vendors, and was responsible for all the production on the bank's external website.

"I retired from the bank in January 2008 after working there for 15 years," said Eberhard, "so, really, working at the College is my 'after-retirement' job."

Eberhard and her husband Steve reside in Willits, where they have made their home since 2002. Soon after moving there from Santa Rosa, Eberhard put her graphic and marketing skills to use designing and producing the 44-page printed program for the annual Willits Frontier Days. She was responsible for the program, with her husband's assistance, for 7 years. She also rebuilt the event's website.

Foundation office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday during the months of August through May. The office is closed Fridays during June and July.



SUPPORT STAFF

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GO PAPERLESS!

Send your email address to Lana Eberhard, Foundation Support Specialist and Scholarship Coordinator, leberhard@mendocino.edu



Adopt-A-Fifth-Grader Achievement Award Program

THANK YOU, FOUNDATION

I have been fortunate enough to have been a recipient of your scholarships as well as many others for both of my years at Mendocino College. In all of my award ceremonies I have never felt so compelled to thank you for what you all do.

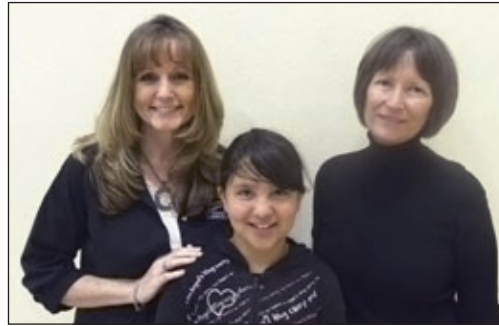
When I came into the ceremony tonight, I sat next to a young girl, still in high school, receiving her first scholarship through the foundation. She was very nervous about standing in front of all those people, yet glowing with excitement. When I looked over at her, I said, "You have worked hard for this, be proud of yourself," even though I had never met her before. It was in that moment that I realized that there are so many people there, just like me, who need this financial help.

Every one of those people has worked hard to earn those scholarships, but those scholarships would not be here if it weren't for the Foundation board members and donors. Each and every one of you has put in so much work and effort to make this a possibility for us students. I really appreciate what you do, and what you have done for me, and my fellow classmates.

After graduating I am transferring to Humboldt State to earn my bachelor's in Psychology, and my teaching credentials. I want to become a kindergarten or first-grade teacher. Eventually I am going to continue on to earn my master's degree, and fulfill my dream of building a learning center for children. I hope that after I have successfully achieved these goals I can donate funds to schools and scholarships such as the ones you offer.

Sincerely,

Kirsty Cordell



Terrace Middle School fifth-grader Breanna Perry (center) received her achievement award from Mendocino College Foundation Board member Peggy Campbell-Debolt (right) and Mendo Lake Credit Union Assistant Branch Manager Kim Bradley.

Seventeen fifth-graders in schools throughout the Mendocino-Lake Community College District are receiving awards made possible this year by the Mendocino College Foundation's Adopt-A-Fifth-Grader Program, College Superintendent/President Kathryn G. Lehner has announced. Award winners are being honored at the schools in ceremonies at the end of the school year and in August.

Thanks to the generosity of several new donors and a few repeat contributors, the number of achievement awards has increased significantly over the last couple of years.

Ukiah school students honored this year are **Liset Escamilla**, Oak Manor Elementary, donor Mendo Lake Credit Union; **Jessica Garcia**, Grace Hudson Elementary, donor Kathryn G. Lehner; **Selena Magana Sutherland**, **Daniela Cocone**, and **Katheryn McCoy**, Nokomis Elementary, donors Tommy and Ann Thornhill; **Harmony Hutchins**, River Oak Charter, donor Ed Haynes; **Alexis Small**, Yokayo Elementary, donors Donna and Ed Berry; and **Claudia Kelly**, Frank Zeek Elementary, anonymous donor.

Award recipients in other areas of the College district are **David Eligio**, Anderson Valley Elementary, donor Charlie and Wanda Mannon; **Jely Espinoza**, Redwood Valley Elementary, donors Christy and Dave Scollin; **Roselyn Alvarez**, Hopland Elementary, donor Wade and Mary Lou Koeninger; **Breanna Perry**, Terrace Middle School, Lakeport, donor Mendo Lake Credit Union; **Nona Hope Delaine Hoaglen**, Round Valley Elementary, Covelo, donor Mendo Lake Credit Union; and **Isabel Guterrez**, **Natalee Lopes**, and **Tia Lynn Grant**, Blosser Lane Elementary, Willits, donors

Tom Herman, Claudia Smith Hill, and the Rotary Club of Willits.

The recipient from St. Mary of the Angels School in Ukiah (donor Paul Conrado) has yet to be announced.

The program is in its third year for the Foundation. The first award was given at Hopland Elementary School, made available through the generosity of Wade and Mary Lou Koeninger, who started the program there 17 years ago.

Contributors sponsor fifth-graders at elementary schools within the College District by donating \$700 per student. The \$700 gift is invested and, based on an average 7% return per year, grows to over \$1,000 by the time the recipient graduates from high school, allowing for a maximum \$1,000 scholarship.

The award winners are chosen in a manner designated by the students' schools. At the end of the school year, each student receives \$25 and a certificate as the recipient of the award. Upon graduation from high school, the student receives a \$500 cash incentive or a \$1,000 scholarship if he or she elects to attend Mendocino College.

Donations are tax deductible. Anyone interested in sponsoring one or more fifth-graders may make a \$700 donation per student. Donors may designate a school preference or allow the Foundation to choose. Donations to sponsor a school in perpetuity are also accepted. The Mendocino College Foundation seeks to receive contributions for sponsoring at least one fifth-grader from every elementary school within the District.



Oak Manor Elementary School Principal David Warken (left) congratulates fifth-grade award recipient Liset Escamilla. Mendocino College Superintendent/President Kathryn G. Lehner and Teri Ulrich from Mendo Lake Credit Union presented the award earlier this month.

Foundation Support Benefits Mendocino College Programs

BY MERIDITH RANDALL, VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

Each spring for the past few years, the Mendocino College Foundation has generously allocated approximately \$50,000 for educational programs and events at Mendocino College. The three instructional deans and I solicit requests from managers, faculty and staff, and then allocate this funding to projects that support students and the College mission.

Without this funding, several important events that benefit students could not happen, especially in this budget climate. We are grateful that the Foundation gives us this opportunity to improve the college experience for students.

One event supported annually by the Foundation is the Latino Student Retreat, which brings 300-400 Latino high school students to the campus each spring to hear motivational speakers and learn about the College programs. Foundation funding pays for the speakers and transportation for the students.

Another annual event that started more recently is Earth Day; the Foundation covers the costs for setting up the booths, advertising the event and paying speakers. The Foundation funding allows the College to hold a yearly Native American Motivation Day, which, like the Latino Student Retreat, brings many Native students to campus for the purpose of learning about College requirements and opportunities.

Many faculty have relied on Foundation funding for professional development and class projects. Annually, Bob Alto, long-time speech instructor, takes 20 to 30 students on a field trip to the Bay Area to hear well-known speakers; one year, they were able to hear former President Clinton. The ceramics program pays for guest speakers to hold workshops; the music department brings in a guest artist for one week to meet with classes and perform under the Recording Artist in Residence program; and the Jazz Band has received Foundation funding to compete in Reno each year.

Individual instructors have participated in conferences in their fields, such as the Teaching English as a Second Language national conference in Boston last year. We have very



Children's author Elizabeth Vega conducted an interactive workshop for youngsters and adults at LitFest 2010, the third literary festival sponsored by the Mendocino College Foundation and its affiliate organization, Friends of the Mendocino College Library.

little state funding for professional development of faculty, so without the Foundation, professors would not be able to attend conferences with others in their discipline.

In addition to the yearly allocation of \$50,000, the Foundation also gave the College another \$50,000 in 2009-2010 to help finance the salary of Dean Sue Goff, Mendocino College's first dedicated Career and Technical Education dean. Goff joined the College in August 2009 and has already met with a wide variety of businesses and other community partners. She has enabled the College to begin offering a pharmacy technician program this summer, in partnership with Boston Reed College, and recently hired an expert to help develop "green" programs over the next few years.

Other projects under way include revamping of the Computer Science and Culinary Arts areas; increasing internship opportunities, including farming and political science internship classes; and the possibility of initiating a physical therapy assistant program in the near future.

Our students would have a fairly "generic" college experience without the events and opportunities the Foundation supports, and we would not have made the progress we have in the CTE areas. You can imagine why we are thankful for the Foundation's generosity!



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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SCHOLARSHIPS, cont. from Page 1

Recipients of the Foundation's \$1,500 **Evelyn R. Foote Scholarships** are Laura Alexander, Ana Alvarez-Magana, Rebekah Carlson, Monica Ceja, Shelley Christensen, Holly Cochran, Kirsty Cordell, Tarabeth Dufour, Joe Ann Dvornik, Lezlie Elmer, Ivette Fernandez, Jesus Fonseca, Nayley Garcia, April Hildbrand-Ford, Emily Houghton, Nicole Ibrahim, Tawna Jamison, Darlene Klaiber, Jonelle Sornes, Michael Teller, Rolinda Want, and Rachelanne Weiss.

Additional award winners included Mariam Ballaho, the **Thomas M. Evans Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,500; Erika Lund, the **George R. Szanik Scholarship**, \$2,500; Rachel Reichard, the **Jim Meyer Scholarship**, \$2,000; Natasha Jelen, the **Carl J. Ehmann Scholarship**, \$2,000; Deidre Hallman, the **Hulda and Alfred Weger Scholarship**, \$1,000; and Vernida Brown, the **Mary Oosting Fine Arts Scholarship**, \$1,000.

For the **Nursing Program**, recipients included Iana Lima and Ashtin Salisbury, the **Karen L. Atkinson Nursing Scholarship**, \$1,250 each; Erika Lund and Julie Pulse, the **Heidi Marie Daniel Nursing Scholarship**, \$500 each; Anthony Burich, Jacqueline Graumann, and Barbara McKey, the **Kathleen Kohn Fetzer Family Foundation Nursing Scholarship**, \$2,500 each.

Recipients of the **Bernard Osher Foundation Scholarships**, also \$1,000 each, are Scott Diebold, Veva Garcia, Luz Gutierrez, Stacy Holden, and Jennifer Tovar.

Selected to receive the **Directors/Trustees Annual Fund Scholarships** in the amount of \$1,000 each, jointly presented by Trustee Janet Chaniot and Mendocino College Foundation President Channing Cornell, were students Brian Cahill, Ariana Foster, Megan Gardner, Willow Karlsson-Champion, Ryan Maidrand, and Janine Rose.

UPCOMING 2010 FOUNDATION BOARD MEETINGS

SEE THE FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES.

Foundation Board meetings are held in MacMillan Hall on the Ukiah campus, except for the June meeting, which is held at the Lake Center in Lakeport. They are open to the public and begin at noon.

<http://foundation.mendocino.edu>

PHOTO CREDITS: LANA EBERHARD, STEVE EBERHARD, VICTORIA GULLICK, LISA LUNDE, AND SUSAN STOUT