Mendocino College Foundation NEWSLETTER *Dedicated to the Legacy of Learning*

August 2025

We are excited to debut this monthly newsletter as a way of sharing the work the **Mendocino College Foundation** is doing and how your contributions **support local students** who are bettering their lives and their communities. Recently the Foundation invested in new software solutions that will enable our small shop to work more efficiently and communicate more effectively. With this newsletter we will be highlighting stories of students and alumni that reflect the impact of your donations towards scholarships, the Adopt a Fifth Grader program, campus food pantries, student emergency grants and the thirteen affiliate groups that provide direct support to various Mendocino College departments like Nursing, Athletics, Theater Arts as well as our Centers in Willits, Fort Bragg and Lakeport. We want to hear from you! Reach out by phone 707-467-1018 or email: foundation@mendocino.edu.

This month's NEWS

Fall Semester is underway

Most classes began this week, with some late-start classes starting in September. Enrollment at Mendocino College has been steadily climbing, with a 38% increase in student headcount in summer 2024 compared to the prior year. We are ready to rock and roll Fall 2024! Here is a link to the class schedule.

Scholarships

With the start of the new academic year, the Foundation is sending out checks to the students who received scholarships this past spring: 184 awards totaling $229,150 to help students pay for their classes, books, supplies and whatever else they need to stay on track to achieve their educational and career goals. Many students write thank you letters to tell us what the scholarship means to them. Reese Zanzi said, "This award is like a true God send to help me get through this academic endeavor I am on. I am a working mother, a full-time student, and a wife, so life can feel a little overwhelming in these times of trying to pursue bigger and better things. But life keeps surprising me with blessings and signs that I am doing the right thing! My family was so proud of me as I beamed while reading them all my award letter. I cannot thank you enough!" Helping students like Reese is seeing the mission of the Mendocino College Foundation come to life. Thank you to all of the donors in our community who help us transform lives.

Adopt a Fifth Grader

We are also fulfilling our pledge to students who were awarded an Adopt a Fifth Grader Scholarship in fifth grade. Those who attend Mendocino College receive $1,000. Emily Silva Hernandez was a fifth grader at Oak Manor Elementary in 2016 when she was selected. Today she is studying at Mendocino College to be a dental hygienist. Here's what Emily has to say: "Being a recipient of the Adopt a Fifth Grader scholarship has impacted aspects of my schooling in positive ways. Besides being a generous financial aid, it was one of the reasons that persuaded me to attend Mendocino College. During my senior year of high school, I became very indecisive about what I wanted to do after I graduated. Coming from a family with a low-income background, I had to be cautious about where I wanted to go for college since we don't have a lot to work with. I was already familiar with Mendocino College since I've taken some classes before and had a family member who attended as well. **I knew that this would be my best option in terms of furthering my education, all the while being financially stable**. This became especially true thanks to my scholarship. I became even more persuaded to go to Mendocino College because I had some funds to help aid me in my studies. School is such an important aspect of my life, but it can get expensive. That's why I'm thankful knowing I have a boost to help me in my pursuits. The Adopt a Fifth Grader scholarship has definitely led me towards a more secure path."

Community Events

On Saturday August 10th the Foundation teamed up with Mendocino College Outreach Team to provide school supplies to local K-12 students at the Back 2 School Bash hosted by The River Church. The Foundation supplied raffle prizes including four scooters; four $50 Amazon gift cards; and one birthday party package at Slam Dunk Pizza. More than 400 kids were able to prepare for a great start to the school year. We love community outreach, so let us know about your events!

Meet our newest Foundation Directors

The Foundation welcomed two new Directors to our Board this summer: Ramon Jimenez, Executive Director of Visit Mendocino, and Stephanie Swain, BSN, RN, BSHA.

Ramon Jimenez

Executive Director of Visit Mendocino

Stephanie Swain

BSN, RN, BSHA

New Platform for Internships: Handshake

If you are an employer in Mendocino or Lake Counties looking to hire interns or employees, Mendocino College is now using Handshake to connect students and employers with internship and employment opportunities. Contact the Career Hub for more information 707-468-3044.

Mendocino College Radio Hour

Catch up with the Mendocino College Radio Hour hosted by Foundation Executive Director Julie McGovern the first Tuesday of the month at 9 am on KZYX. The August show guest was Rebecca Montes, Dean of Instruction, who talked about the Zero Cost Textbook initiative and the California Virtual Campus.

Listen on Spotify

How did we do?

Let us know if there is a specific area of the College or a Foundation program that you are interested in hearing more about. We can set communication preferences so that you only receive news you want, including events or volunteer opportunities.

Help Us Help Them!
donate today
foundation.mendocino.edu

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