



Dr. Arturo Reyes
Superintendent/President Candidate

Dr. Arturo Reyes has served as Superintendent/President of Mendocino College in Northern California since 2013. As a successful community college leader and educational justice advocate, Dr. Reyes brings over thirty three years of experience as a member of the classified staff, faculty, and administration in California's public education system. His proven leadership strengths include respecting and strengthening shared governance processes, supporting professional development, improving student outcomes, advancing equity initiatives, and aligning institutional practices to ensure success among disproportionately impacted student groups.

Prior to Mendocino College, Dr. Reyes served as the Executive Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Solano College, Interim President and Vice President of Academic Affairs at San José City College, and Dean at the California Community College Chancellor's Office in Sacramento, where he held a leadership role in both Academic Affairs and Workforce Preparation/Economic Development. Dr. Reyes was a full-time tenure-track Spanish professor and athletic coach at Cosumnes River College before serving as the college's Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences for seven years.

He holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Davis having earned his Master of Arts degree in Education and Administrative Services credential at California State University, Sacramento where he participated in the Bilingual Leadership Training Program, and received dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Communication Studies and Spanish. He also holds a secondary teaching credential from the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Reyes has successfully guided college planning, institutional effectiveness and accreditation initiatives with over two decades of experience in strategic planning, assessment, and adhering to accreditation standards. His leadership has contributed to excellent comprehensive and inclusive preparation practices as well as positive ACCJC evaluation outcomes. President Reyes has led colleges to meet strategic goals, complete facilities improvements, acquire new district territory, oversee general obligation bond passage and implementation, strengthen partnerships with K-12 districts, plan international student programs, and garner increased state, federal, and private funding. He has served as a college faculty association representative, has experience in

negotiations, directed study abroad language immersion programs, and has training in the interest-based approach to problem solving.

As a scholar and former faculty member, he has a long history of supporting sound educational methodologies and practices including learning communities and first-year experience programs; Umoja and Puente; numerous faculty-driven initiatives to close the achievement gap; and innovative instructional practices. He has promoted equity-minded thinking, culturally appropriate pedagogy, accelerated student success with focused professional development, and introduced critical approaches and methodologies through partnerships with Achieving the Dream and Center for Urban Education reform movements.

During Dr. Reyes' tenure, Mendocino College has made critical changes to meet the needs of all students. For example, the college has doubled the number of full time counseling faculty, increased concurrent/dual enrollment by over 500%, created a career center, increased annual grant funds by nearly 6 million dollars, celebrated the opening of two new center facilities in two cities, acquired a third center in Fort Bragg, grew the EOPS program by over 300 students, and expanded the MESA program by more than 150 students. Recognizing our service area has the third highest number of tribes in California and fourth highest in the nation, we created a highly successful culturally appropriate "Pomo Pathway" Native American first-year, transfer focused learning community on the Coyote Valley reservation. Other impactful equity-minded initiatives include starting a successful middle college, opening a new Veteran's Center, establishing a dreamer center, improving Latino access by over 10%, identifying safe zones for our LGBTQ+ community, and increasing professional development funds while maintaining financial stability with a 20% general fund reserve. We have also increased summer courses for high school students, college bridge programs, and CTE courses to better serve Lake County, currently one of the most challenged counties in California recovering from recent fires and with high truancy, foster youth and drug addiction rates. Dr. Reyes is most proud of the Faculty Equity Project in which faculty participate in a semester long inquiry-based project to define equity, recognize micro-aggressions, address equity performance gaps, and challenge implicit bias to engage in equity-minded practices, analyze their own course level data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, and revise their syllabus through an equity lens. Under Dr. Reyes's leadership, these new initiatives serve all students, strengthen our communities, and raise the educational attainment level of our region.

His community service history includes participating as a board member on the Vacaville Public Education Foundation, chairing the Travis Credit Union Supervisory Committee, serving as Board Member of the Vacaville Boys and Girls Club and as a member and current President of the Ukiah Rotary Club. Dr. Reyes has also joined the Community College League of California Advisory Committee on Education Services, participates on the Ukiah Valley Medical Center Community Advisory Council, has built strong partnerships with the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento and San Francisco as well as the United Pomo Nations Council. He has attended the Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior (IME) educational conference in Mexico City to advocate for Mexican students enrolled in California Community Colleges. Dr. Reyes has been an especially strong activist for underrepresented students while forming meaningful mutually beneficial alliances with business, industry, and Native American tribes, as well as military, education and community organizations.

Dr. Reyes has a long history of creating environments that value all people and respect cultural, gender, linguistic, academic, sexual orientation, disability and socio-economic diversity. As a first generation, ESL student from a working-class, low-income, Mexican immigrant family, he values education, advocates passionately for increased access to higher education, and is unapologetically committed to creating inclusive, equity-minded educational communities. His experience building community partnerships, holding high expectations for all students including students of color, willingness to address obstacles confronting traditionally underrepresented students, and commitment to the community college mission move him to seek this important leadership position.

Dr. Reyes is a lifelong California resident. He and his wife Lidia have been married for thirty two years. They have two sons who attended community college: Fernando, who is graduating from UC Davis Law School in May; and Diego, a university bound transfer student-athlete.