

# BOARD REPORT



## THE CURTAIN GOES UP ON THE MCFPA

After years of dreaming, planning, fundraising, groundbreaking, and building, Reedley College proudly held its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the McClarty Center For Fine and Performing Arts (MCFPA) November 19, 2024. This \$30 million, 508-seat facility is now the crown jewel of our campus, and will host many performances, conferences, and campus and community events for decades to come. Guest speakers included Chancellor Goldsmith, Board President Magdalena Gomez, former RC President Dr. Sandra Caldwell, Greater Reedley Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Erik Valencia, and Harold McClarty, who donated \$1 million toward construction of our amazing building. Mr. McClarty, his wife Debbie, and their grandchildren cut the ceremonial ribbon, and our magnificent donor wall was unveiled shortly thereafter. Thank you to the many donors and supporters who helped make this amazing facility a reality. Take a self-guided tour of the McClarty Center for Fine and Performing Arts [here](#).

[ABC 30 STORY](#)

[BUSINESS JOURNAL STORY](#)

[GV WIRE STORY](#)

[MID VALLEY TIMES STORY](#)

## AG CONFERENCE IS FIRST EVENT IN NEW McCLARTY CENTER

It was only fitting that the very first event inside the new McClarty Center was agriculture related. Our annual Ag Conference took place the very next day (November 20) with more than 200 people in attendance, which included growers, ag business leaders, faculty, and students. President Buckley welcomed everyone to the conference and moderated the first panel discussion "Workforce of the Future." Other conversations included the CA ETP Program & Employer Benefits, the F3 AgTEC Certificate, Food Safety, Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture, Local Industry Resources, and the proposed RC Innovation Center. The conference concluded with AgTech demonstrations that focused on labor solutions and efficiency.



## AABERG WOWS CROWD AT HOLIDAY PIANO PERFORMANCE



Students, staff and our community were treated to a magical few days with Grammy and Emmy nominated pianist and composer Philip Aaberg December 5-7. Mr. Aaberg taught music improvisation to our music students, held masterclasses for young pianists, and ended his visit with an amazing holiday solo piano concert November 7 at the McClarty Center for Fine and Performing Arts. Mr. Aaberg performed using our newly gifted Steinway D Concert Grand piano, which was donated by his in-laws, the Belknap family, who are longtime Reedley residents. Mr. Aaberg has worked with musical legends Kenny Rogers, Peter Gabriel, Vince Gill and the Doobie Brothers. Approximately 250 people attended the memorable performance. Mr. Aaberg and Director of Marketing and Communications George Takata promoted the concert on KSEE 24's Central Valley Today December 6. [View it here](#).

## CHOINUMNI MONUMENT DEDICATION

Reedley College is proud to hold a Choinumni Monument Dedication Ceremony in honor and respect to our local Native American tribal community January 11, 2025 beginning at 11am on the South Library Lawn. The unveiling program also includes Native American food, dancers, and cultural demonstrations. Parking will be relaxed in Lot D. The event runs until 3pm.

## EXCELLENCE IN AG EDUCATION RECOGNIZED ONCE AGAIN

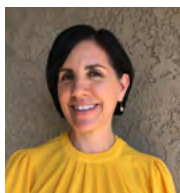


*L-R: Nick Deftereos, Stephen Hawkins and Kevin Woodard.*

Congratulations to our multi-award winning Agriculture Department, who were named the Outstanding Post-Secondary Department for the East Fresno/Madera Section at the San Joaquin Regional California Agriculture Teachers Association meeting. RC was also named the Outstanding Post-Secondary Department for the entire San Joaquin Region. We are now in the running for the Outstanding Post-Secondary Department for the entire state of California, an award we have won multiple times before. Instructors Nick Deftereos, Stephen Hawkins and Kevin Woodard were on hand to accept the hardware.



## FRANCESCA AMEZOLA NAMED MURO DE HONOR HONOREE



Spanish Instructor Franchesca Amezola received an early holiday gift, as she was inducted into the Muro de Honor (Wall of Honor) December 10. Muro de Honor recognizes the contributions of dedicated and outstanding members of the Chicano/Latino community associated with the State Center Community College District. The induction ceremony took place at Arte Americas - Casa De La Cultura in Fresno. Congratulations, Franchesca!

## HONORS STUDENTS OF THE SEMESTER

**Nicolette Fierro** (September) Nicolette is majoring in Psychology and will be transferring in fall 2025. She looks forward to earning a bachelor's degree in Psychology and becoming a clinical psychologist. She is the founder of Reedley College's Lemon Club, which combats pediatric cancer through the nonprofit Alex's Lemonade Stand. Additionally, she is involved in Alpha Gamma Sigma (a community-service based honors society) and Active Minds, a club that aims to promote greater mental health awareness on campus.

**Jocelyn Davis** (October) Jocelyn is pursuing associate degrees for transfer in both History and Art History at Reedley College, with the goal of double majoring at UC Santa Cruz in fall 2025. She serves as the secretary of Reedley College's Lemon Club, and she works as the Student Navigator of the Social Sciences Pathway, where she helps connect students to on-campus resources and Social Sciences faculty.



L-R: Nicolette Fierro, Jocelyn Davis, and Anapaula Ochoa.

**Anapaula Ochoa** (November) Anapaula is majoring in Animal Science for its diverse opportunities related to veterinary medicine and her aspirations in becoming a veterinarian. She finds joy in helping her peers as a tutor for our Reading and Writing Center, and she looks forward to transferring to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in fall 2026. She is excited about taking risks in pursuing more academic opportunities, and she feels that the Honors Program has provided her inspiration and a plethora of new academic challenges.

## ANOTHER STUDENT SOLO MISSION



Congratulations to Flight Science student Meagan Ricketts, who completed her first solo flight last month. Her friends and family came out to the Reedley Airport to watch and celebrate the milestone occasion. Meagan's instructor is the very proud Brian Rouska. Congratulations, Meagan!

## HONORING VETERANS DAY

Our annual Veterans Day program was held at Veterans Memorial Park on campus November 7. Special thanks to the Reedley College Saxophone Quartet, Master of Ceremonies Patrick Crowe, and guest speaker and United States Navy Veteran Michael Maher for their impactful contributions to our ceremony. United States Marine Corps Veteran and RC student Tom Bear played Taps, and our Tiger Café staff provided a "chow line" of chili, cornbread and cake at the conclusion of the program.



## STEM NIGHT

Over 100 students of all ages came to the Math and Sciences Building for STEM Night November 14. Activities included a planetarium, lasers, rubber band helicopters and paper airplane launchers, elephant toothpaste and polymer worms, a hologram, the always popular slime demonstration, and much more. The event was put together by the STEM Department in collaboration with the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative and the TK College & Career Collaborative.

## WOMEN'S GOLF FINISHES 3RD IN STATE

Our women's golf team finished in third place at the 3C2A State Championships for the second consecutive year. The Tigers fought hard through strong windy conditions at Monarch Dunes in Nipomo. The Tigers were sitting in second place after Day 1, with Modesto JC leading by 8 and Mt. San Antonio College behind them by 1 stroke. The second round would prove to be an uphill battle. The Tigers were led by freshman Miya Promwongsa, who shot 77 & 74 for a two-day total of 151. That score would qualify her as fourth overall and a selection to the All-State Team. The Tigers battled but couldn't quite get the edge and fell to a 329 team score on day two for a tournament team score of 645. The eventual champion was Mt. San Antonio College, who posted a 631, with Modesto finishing second with a 638. The Tigers had another fantastic season overall, winning the NorCal Regional and the Big 8 championship. Sophomore Ethel Asequia was named the Big 8 Conference Champion.



## STRESS LESS WEEK



Students were given the opportunity to take break from studying for finals with our stress-free activities December 2-6. Bingo, a Hmong New Year Celebration, bracelet making, ornament painting, and Pajama Day made for nice temporary distractions. Free snacks, scantrons and bluebooks were available in the Student Activities Office, thanks to our Associated Student Government.

