

Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association

To: President Richard Carvajal

Fr: Marshelle Thobaben, Professor Emerita, President of Humboldt-ERFSA

Re: Humboldt ERFSA Overview

Date: August 11, 2026, Meeting

Executive Committee

Humboldt-Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (Humboldt-ERFSA) is led by a volunteer Executive Committee committed to supporting retired faculty, staff, and administrators while strengthening connections with Cal Poly Humboldt.

- **Marshelle Thobaben**, Professor Emerita, Nursing – President and ERFSA Representative to the University Senate
- **Jeffrey Borgeld**, Professor Emeritus, Oceanography – Membership Chair
- **Lou Ann Wieand**, Professor Emerita, Psychology – Treasurer
- **Susan Dobie**, Lecturer Emerita, Communication – Program Chair
- **Kumi Watanabe-Schock**, Library Emerita, Media Coordinator – Communications Chair
- **Steve Karp**, Liaison with the President's Office; Acting Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director, Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation

University Support

Humboldt-ERFSA benefits from strong university support through the efforts of dedicated volunteers and staff.

- **ERFSA Executive Committee** provides volunteer leadership.
- **Steve Karp** serves as liaison with the President's Office
- **Angie Petroske**, Executive Assistant and Foundation Board Coordinator, provides support for the ERFSA website.
- **Nate Cacciari-Roy**, Office of Academic Affairs Budget Analyst, manages the University's TV012 account, where membership dues are deposited and from which ERFSA operating expenses (excluding grants) are paid.

Membership

- As of the 2025–2026 academic year, Humboldt-ERFSA has **66 members**.
- Membership is renewed annually. Annual dues are **\$70**, supporting ERFSA programs, educational events, advocacy efforts, member services, and outreach activities.
- As of 7/1/26, the **CPH TV012 operating account balance** was **\$6,7931**

Emeritus Status <https://www.humboldt.edu/emergitus-and-retired-faculty/emergitus-status>

- Approved by the Provost Capps on April 8, 2021, the University Senate expanded eligibility for emeritus status to include retired faculty, staff, and administrators who meet established eligibility criteria. Tenured faculty who retired from Humboldt State University prior to December 2020 were granted emeritus status automatically and do not need to reapply. [20-2021-facemerituspolicysecondreading.pdf](#)
- The ERFSA website includes eligibility requirements, application information, and **a listing of faculty, staff, and administrators who have received emeritus status since February 2022**.
- Although emeritus status is conferred by the University Senate, Humboldt-ERFSA assists eligible retirees throughout the application process.

- Each spring, Humboldt-ERFSA and the Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation co-sponsor the **Emeritus Status Reception**, recognizing newly designated emeritus faculty, staff, and administrators, as well as the year's ERFSA competitive grant recipients.

Donor Funded Competitive Grant Program [Grant Program for Tenure-track Faculty, Lecturers, and Staff | Cal Poly Humboldt](#)

- The HAF&WRCF Account June 30, 2026, grant fund had a balance of **\$65,648.39** on June 30, 2026, with the value fluctuating according to market performance.
- Supporting early-career faculty and staff remains a central part of Humboldt-ERFSA's mission.
- Through donor-supported funding, the organization provides annual competitive grants that help tenure-track faculty, lecturers, and staff establish and advance their scholarly, creative, and professional work. During the past year, Humboldt-ERFSA awarded **\$8,423** to **nine recipients**.
- Video messages from several recipients expressing their appreciation are available on the Grant Program webpage. [Grant Program for Tenure-track Faculty, Lecturers, and Staff | Cal Poly Humboldt](#)
- To sustain this important program, Humboldt-ERFSA conducts fundraising every two years.

Monthly Luncheon Program

- During the academic year, Humboldt-ERFSA hosts monthly luncheon meetings; in '25-'26 they mainly occurred at Baywood Golf and Country Club, with one meeting onboard the *R/V North Wind*.
- These gatherings feature presentations by faculty, staff, grant recipients, students, and community leaders on topics of interest to retirees and the broader community.
- Luncheons speakers are publicized through local media outlets, increasing visibility for both Cal Poly Humboldt and Humboldt-ERFSA.
- Luncheon room rental and speaker lunches are supported through membership dues.

Draft Fall 2026 Schedule—Speakers volunteer to present

- September 10, 2026 – Ryan Aylward, NOAA Warning Coordination Meteorologist. *"El Niño—Just Hot Water."*
- October 8, 2026 – Cutcha Risling Baldy, Professor of Native American Studies and 2026 Outstanding Professor Award recipient. *"Indigenous Cooking."*
- November 12, 2026 – Dr. Justus Ortega, Interim Dean, College of Professional Studies, and Dr. Sarah Landis, Director of the Health and Medical Science Program and Biomechanics Lab Manager. *"Physical Balance and Fall Risk."*
- December 10, 2026 – Christine Noel, Education Curator, Sequoia Park Zoo. *"Stories of Survival at the Sequoia Park Zoo."*

University Service

Humboldt-ERFSA members continue to contribute their expertise through university governance and service. Current service includes:

- **ERFSA Representative to the University Senate** – Marshelle Thobaben
- **2026–2027 University Advancement Search Committee** – Rees Hughes
- Anticipated participation on the upcoming Provost Search Committee
- Service on departmental committees as opportunities arise

CSU-ERFSA Affiliation <https://www.csuerfsa.org/>

Humboldt-ERFSA is affiliated with the **California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA)**. Since 1985, CSU-ERFSA has advocated for the pension, healthcare, and other retirement benefits of retired California State University employees.