



February 2025

Sorry, TikTok isn't available right now

A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now.



Welcome back!

You can continue to create, share, and discover all the things you love on TikTok.

TikTok Whiplash: A 14-Hour Ban Sparks Divided Opinions LCC students share contrasting views on the TikTok controversy.

By Kat Tabor

In a whirlwind series of events, TikTok faced a U.S. ban that lasted only 14 hours. During the ban, Lane Community College students were among the users attempting to access the app who were greeted with a message:

"Sorry, TikTok isn't available right now. A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok for now. We are fortunate that President Trump has indicated that he will work with us on a solution to reinstate TikTok once he takes office. Please stay tuned!"

The app offered two options: "Learn More" and "Close App." However, the ban was reversed just 14 hours later, on Sunday, Jan. 19. Users were greeted with a new message:

"Thanks for your patience and support. As a result of President Trump's efforts, TikTok is back in the U.S.! You can continue to create, share, and discover all the things you love on TikTok."

During his first presidency, President Donald J. Trump alleged that the app contained malware threatening U.S. national security. The message framed Trump as the hero for restoring access to the app, despite him being the one who initiated the idea of the ban in the first place.

Trump announced plans to issue an executive order to postpone the TikTok ban while negotiations progressed, leading to the platform's restoration. TikTok confirmed the reinstatement in a statement on X, noting that services were being



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restored in collaboration with its providers. "In agreement with our service providers, TikTok is in the process of restoring service," stated in a post on X.

Jan. 20, President Donald Trump signed an executive order instructing the Attorney General to pause enforcement of the TikTok ban for 75 days.

The rapid reversal has prompted mixed reactions among Lane Community College students.

Freedom Browne, Gender Sexuality Alliance president, raised concerns about the government's power to restrict access to platforms, saying, "This shows us the government can take away whatever they want, whenever they want. This goes far beyond memes and funny videos."

Browne questioned the timing of the ban and its reversal, adding, "Donald Trump cannot be both the disease and the cure to the government's restrictions on freedom of speech."

First year LCC student Emma Russell shared her thoughts on TikTok, highlighting its value in connecting audiences and sharing real stories, especially during natural disasters. Reflecting on the app's potential risks, she added, "I dislike the notion of possible corrupt organizations storing and tracking citizens' information, especially when it could potentially harm the safety and security of the United States."

Amelia Hampton, secretary for the Council of Clubs, took a critical view of TikTok itself, describing its influence as harmful. "I believe (TikTok) to be one of the biggest factors in creating the overall mental state we have today," she said.

While acknowledging that TikTok has provided awesome opportunities for smaller creators and communities, Hampton argued that its drawbacks — including "extremely short attention spans," heightened insecurities, and the "need to be online 24/7 to avoid FOMO" — outweigh the benefits.

She also supported banning the app entirely, saying, "I think Trump is right in his suspicions (because basically everyone collects and sells users' data), but I would urge him to ban it entirely, regardless of whether or not China is collecting data, as it has ultimately changed our society for the worse."

The data collection Hampton was referring to is instances of reports about major corporations collecting user data, including Google, Amazon, Apple and Facebook (Meta), which have been allegedly been engaging in data-gathering practices.

An example of this is a class-action lawsuit that began in 2020, Google was found to have been collecting data from users in incognito mode. According to the amended complaint filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, "Google only recently admitted that it engages in these practices, after Plaintiffs filed their Complaint and in its motion to dismiss. Google previously represented and led users (and regulators) to believe — falsely — that users could limit Google's data collection practices by setting their web-browsing software to private browsing mode."

Emma Duncan, an LCC student and SGA senator, offered a balanced perspective on the TikTok ban saying, "As nice as it is to have a platform for voices, as well as a quick fix of entertainment, I feel like it also cultured an unhealthy routine of disconnection and distraction in our generation; it was a double-edged sword."

Richard McConochie, vice president of the Creatives Club, expressed concerns about the situation, saying, "I think it's entirely a runaround to siphon off more money while making vague motions to do something that might be relevant to people's lives. It's just another con within a con." He also described it as "a terrifying message" about the power to eliminate alternative sources of information.

An Exquisite Corpse Poem

By Members of The Poetry Alliance: Kat Tabor, Amelia Hampton, Cosmo McBurney, Nova Meyhoff and Simangaliso Mdlaluse.

Didn't think letting a child come to harm was a good way to build character

I then realized that child was me, I was the one that was harmed not the fantasy and evil I

thought it was but my own experience I had drawn from

My past

Leaving me to wonder what I really lost me or the plot?

Had my soul been forever changed?

Or had it always been this way? Had growth been expected had it never truly left?

Jigsaw puzzles that didn't fit into the larger picture. Was this a sign of growth?

My pieces are lost now, I can't finish my puzzle.

We both sit there, forever incomplete

Theres a beauty in that though isn't there? Never quite being alone. Unison with the company of nature

One with my peers in this life

I look at them hand in hand with a tear in my eye So special, others love, not like my own.

I cant relate to my other half anymore

Perhaps were no longer of the same coin

Were a different currency from head to tail any disagreement becomes our deficit to share

The Torch x The Denali are Back!

By Chandlor Henderson

In 2021, shortly after the nation was gripped by the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests demanding reform for racial violence, I was offered the role of editor-in-chief of The Torch by then-advisor Dr. Charlie Deitz. At the time, The Torch was online only, as the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted campus activities, and printing the paper was deemed unnecessary.

However, despite not having a print edition, our online analytics showed quite impressive readership, earning 49k unique views in 2021, compared to 37k in 2020 and 40k in 2022.

In the summer of 2024, new advisor and longtime LCC writing and journalism instructor, Dr. Camilla Mortensen, asked me to return to help reboot The Torch, which had become inactive due to bureaucratic failures. For the first time in over five decades, Lane Community College had no campus news publication. To many, this was a travesty, and thankfully, Dr. Laura Pelletier assisted in saving our long-standing student newspaper.

My second term at The Torch has been challenging. The students are younger, I'm older, and Donald Trump is back in office. It seems as if history is repeating itself, and our American democracy is in peril, at least from my vantage point. But that's what makes journalism important. While I may not share opinions with everyone on campus, I invite anyone to share their work with us and be a part of our community. As long as your opinions aren't hateful or demeaning to anyone in our shared community, all are invited to be involved.

I've been fortunate to work with Kat Tabor and River Shepherd, who have been patient with me as I navigate bringing the print paper back, managing dual enrollment at Lane and University of Oregon, and dealing with general anxiety about the future. As we work on revitalizing The Denali, in addition to The Torch, I will be leaning on them to assist with the layout and design.

The Denali has been publishing artwork from Lane's community since 1971. Any art is welcome including but not limited to short story, prose, poetry, photography, and graphic art.

I'm happy to say this paper will be printed monthly going forward, along with The Denali, which is now a subsidiary of The Torch. Now more than ever, we need student journalists, advertising designers, social media influencers, and artists to help us navigate the changing country and cultural norms. We need your words, thoughts, art and music to continue shaping Lane Community College and Eugene as a whole. We are here to help and provide guidance.

Please send me an email at torcheditor@lanecc.edu so we can collaborate.

Cheers,


Chandlor Henderson



theTorch

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Lane Community College

Unlocking doorways to brighter futures Career Pathways, CARE, and supporting Lane students.

By River Shepherd for The Torch



“When I first started in 2010, it was just a department of one. It was just me.” Rosa Lopez, Career Pathways faculty coordinator, said in a recent interview with The Torch.

While it may have started with a solo staff member under a different department’s umbrella, over time and with dedicated work, Career Pathways has branched into its own hub of student support, housing a variety of programs, grants and resources benefitting Lane students.

They include vital programs such as STEP (a program for those on SNAP benefits), ICAP (for those with disabilities working with vocational rehab), PASS Lane (for English language learners), Opening Doors (for immigrants and refugees), and CARE (Community Advocacy and

Resource Education open to all LCC students), to name a few.

Career Pathways, now located in Building 4, Room 210, includes a lobby complete with tables and chairs, a free lunch pantry, and a snack table complete with coffee pot and tea kettle.

There are computers and a printer available for students, and a benefits navigator/coach available for drop-in appointments during open hours.

“My experience with Career Pathways coaching has been incredibly positive,” said STEP Program student Danielle Nyholm.

Nyholm also currently works as a peer support specialist at Career Pathways and is studying to be a chemical dependency counselor.

“The STEP program has been instrumental in helping me move closer to my goals,” Nyholm said. “It provided resources and guidance that made navigating my education and career path much clearer.”

Nyholm described how STEP supported her by providing funding for necessary coursework, along with the coaching required to participate in STEP and other grant-funded programs through Career Pathways. Describing the STEP Program as a “Godsend,” Nyholm said, “My coach Mike cheered me on the entire time I’ve been at Lane. He inspires me to be better every day.”

Growing the department

The team at Career Pathways has been applying for, facilitating and implementing various Workforce Development grants, eventually including the Career Pathways Alliance consortia grant, since 2010.

Some of these grants are funded through state legislation. Once a grant is awarded, if the grant has a continual source of funding such as coming from the state, it typically must be re-applied for regularly to show that the college is using the funds appropriately and still needs the grant.

Even though grant writing has never been an official part of her job description, “we just see the need, and it has to be filled,” Lopez said.

Since grants are often only for a set amount of money or a set time frame, “every time we get a new grant, we grow and we change a little bit because we adhere to the grant,” Lopez said. “We have several, there’s the Career Pathways funding through Future Ready, and then there’s also several of our training grants like STEP and ICAP.”

Marcia Koenig, who serves on the lead team for Career Pathways and coordinates the immigrant and refugee workforce services for Opening Doors said, “Once we secured the STEP grant, that enabled us to do a lot more because of the year-by-year effect that the funding has.”

Koenig joined forces with Lopez in 2016, and after “quickly hiring admin Tricia Singleton,” together they began to ramp up the help available through grant funding to Lane students.

Soon, programs within Career Pathways were added serving English language learners, immigrants, and refugees, including PASS Lane and Opening Doors.

Koenig explained that the Refugee and Immigrant Services Program of Catholic Community Services of Lane County can now accept up to 75 refugees and asylum seekers each year.

“As a county, we’re just at the beginning of refugee resettlement work,” Koenig said.

Not every immigrant fleeing their home country can claim the political designation of “refugee” or apply for asylum. “And that’s a group of immigrants that we largely serve in Opening Doors,” Koenig said. “There’s a whole population of individuals who you might think of as refugees since they have fled because of uncertainty or fear for their life, and left their countries, who aren’t afforded the political label of refugee,” Koenig said.

Many immigrants and refugees come to the US with existing education and/or work experience, and through the Opening Doors program, “we help determine how international educational or work experience may apply in the US, helping them to continue within their field.” Koenig said.

By the 2019–2020 academic year, Career Pathways had grown into its own space in Building 4, hiring more staff and adding coaches.

CARE became established after House Bill 2835 passed in 2021, which added benefits navigators to the mix.

‘You don’t know what’s behind the door, but you have a key...’

“I sometimes think of us as keys to unlock doors,” Koenig said. “You don’t know what’s behind the door, but you have a key, and that can open up resources and possibilities that you didn’t know existed.”

The purpose of CARE is to help students apply for public benefits and get their basic needs met, like housing and food, while attending school. This helps ensure students can stay in school, complete their chosen programs, and achieve economic mobility.

“CARE is open to all LCC students, and it is resource education and benefits navigation,” Lopez said.

Resource and benefits navigation covers a wide range of needs, like helping students find housing or get on waitlists for housing, find

childcare, resources available for disabled students, and much more.

Where the Community Advocacy part comes into play is in the relationships built between partner organizations in the community and CARE at LCC.

“CARE serves as a bridge between the student and the resources we identify that a student needs or qualifies for,” Benefits Navigator Rebecca Ramos said. “We depend on community partnerships to serve our students,” ... “so we form strong relationships with each of these agencies and non-profit organizations, and when our students come up against barriers that prevent them from accessing the care and resources they need, we work together to identify barriers, discuss possible solutions, and streamline communication so our community is better served,” Ramos said.

“As Benefits Navigators we are all about breaking down barriers a student may be facing so that they can continue their education,” Ramos said. “We will advocate with these agencies and organizations on behalf of any student who is having difficulty accessing or continuing to access care.”

Ramos said that not only do they work with state and local agencies such as ODHS, CARE also partners with many local non-profit organizations including ones such as 15th Night and Volunteers in Medicine. “We had someone come in recently who was almost out of their medication which was essential to their health,” Ramos said, “We connected with Volunteers in Medicine, scheduled them an intake appointment, and the student was able to receive a 6 month supply of medication free of charge.”

There is a statewide network of Benefits Navigators at every state community college and public universities, and they are each dedicated to helping students overcome barriers that would otherwise prevent them from starting or continuing their educational journey. Each staff member interviewed for this article said that for any student facing a crisis and/or basic needs insecurity that is causing them to struggle at LCC, it

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is important to speak with a benefits navigator who can help you explore all available options for your specific situation.

'we're collective around here...'

Lopez notes that while there is a distinction between the two, CARE drop-in appointments or referrals are often the doorway for students into a Career Pathways program. "We get referrals for CARE, and then CARE provides resource navigation while also screening for Career Pathways programs the student may be eligible for," Lopez said.

Regarding who does coaching for Career Pathways and who does CARE shifts for resource navigation, "Because we're collective around here, everyone learns everyone else's job," Lopez explained.

"So the coaches are benefits navigators through their caseload, and they can contribute at least one shift to CARE," Lopez said. "So that you don't have one person trying to be the benefits navigator for the entire college."

Whether providing CARE services during her weekly drop-in shift or interacting with coaching students, "what motivates me to do it is because I see the difference that it makes for students who receive the support," Koenig said. "And you can show that in numbers, but really it's always the stories that make the difference, and those stories that we see are all based on economic mobility."

"It's super inspiring to see students setting a goal themselves," Koenig said, "and walking alongside somebody when they're doing that."

Nyholm's final thoughts speak to her journey at Lane, and to the strength and persistence of so many past and present Titans who have come to college seeking to make major changes in their lives.

"Change doesn't happen overnight, but every effort you make brings you closer to the life you deserve. Stay determined, and never underestimate the power of your resilience. You've got this!"

If you are a student experiencing challenges with access to food, paying rent or utility bills, healthcare/medical bills, childcare, transportation, or other basic needs emergencies, please visit the CARE team in the Career Pathways department. Students can meet with a coach to learn about resources related to needs during Drop-In hours Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Main Campus in Building 4, Room 210, no appointment necessary, or call (541) 463-4701 if you prefer to schedule an appointment.

Digging in (Staying)

By River Shepherd

Whether disease kills me slowly,
(or I do all at once, 'cause
sometimes I'm super sad)

Whether I'm killed by climate chaos,
(or someone else does 'cause my
existence makes them mad)

I don't know how much time I have,
How many days or months or years.

All I know is this:
I have already survived
Some of my darkest fears.

Now THIS is all that I can do:
Help my neighbors, no matter who!

Hug my friends, hold them close,
Tell my loved ones, I love them most.

Will you join me in this quest?
You don't have to be the best!

Every person, every day,
Each can help, in some small way.

Don't lose hope, don't lose heart,
It takes us all digging in, doing our
part.

Our voices and hands are needed,
Each person has their role to play.

Our hearts are needed here,
Make no mistake, we should stay.



MECHA de Lane Community College: A Closer Look at the Name Change

By Kat Tabor

MECHA de Lane Community College, known as MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán), adopted a new name in 2019 to align with the national rebranding of the organization. The group remains committed to educating and engaging both its members and the campus community about this transition and about the work of MECHA on campus within their cultural events and weekly meetings Tuesdays at 3 pm in the Multicultural Center Bldg 1 Rm 206.

Lane MECHA Student President Abbygail Villegas shared insights with The Torch regarding the reasons behind the change and the challenges it has brought.

Villegas emphasized that MECHA's roots lie in advocating for equity in higher education. "This is a movement," she said. "It's not just for Latino or Indigenous people but for anyone committed to equity. MECHA began as a movement for Indigenous people to access higher education, and it started in Colorado."

Villegas explained that the decision to change the name was part of a national effort, not solely by Lane Community College's chapter. "The name change happened in 2019 at a national conference in California," Villegas said. "Essentially, the decision was made to move away from the acronym and simply call it MECHA." The change was unanimously approved during the April 2019 conference in Los Angeles.

The shift was driven by concerns about the terms "Chicano" and "Aztlán," which have been criticized for being potentially homophobic, anti-Indigenous and anti-Black according to Jacqueline M. Hidalgo of Williams College.

While some chapters, particularly in the southern United States, have opted to retain the original name for its historical significance, Villegas noted that most chapters have embraced the change. "Some chapters, especially in the South, continue using the old name," she said. "They argue it's about preserving history, and that's fine for them. But for the majority of us, it's about evolving with the times, not erasing history."

Villegas described the name change as a step toward progress. "We honor MEChA's legacy, but we're focused on ensuring the organization reflects current values and remains inclusive," she said.

She also discussed the challenges in implementing the change, particularly

than willing to have conversations with anyone who's open to understanding," she said. "I've attended other cultural groups and meetings on campus, even when they're not tied to my own identity. Being in those spaces has helped me learn and grow, and I hope to create the same welcoming environment in MECHA."



due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These difficulties have made it harder for the student body and MECHA members to fully understand the transition. Since her election in June, Villegas has worked to educate members about the organization's mission and history.

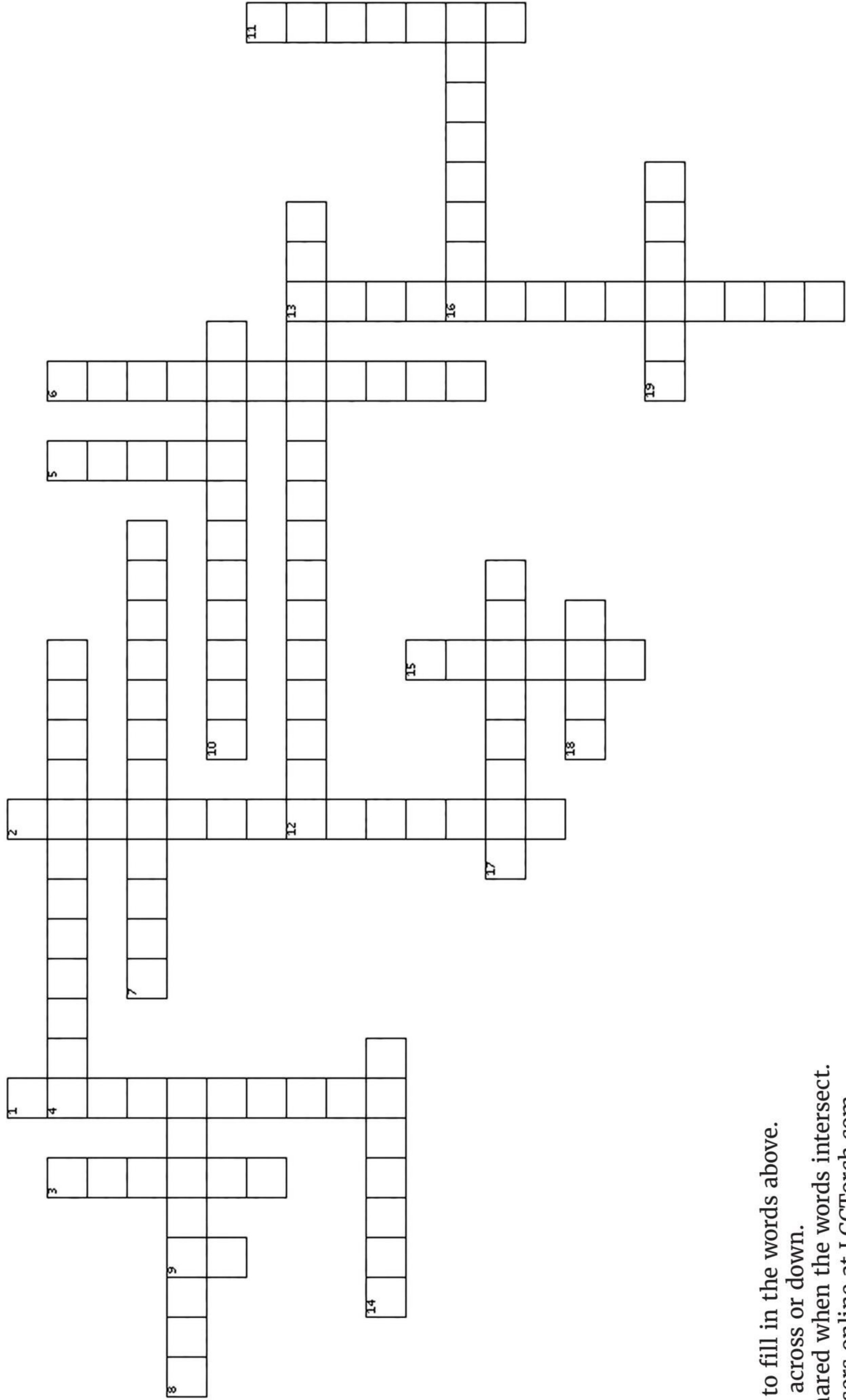
"In a few weeks, I'll be meeting with MECHA members to share the group's history and help them understand what they've joined," she said. "It's important to clarify that MECHA is not just a Latino student union — it's an activist movement."

Reflecting on the progress since 2019, Villegas acknowledged the work still ahead. "We've gone through two previous presidents since the name change began, and now we're continuing to build and move forward," she said. "We're committed to figuring it out as we go while staying true to our mission."

Inclusivity remains central to MECHA's identity, and Villegas expressed her openness to conversations with those interested in learning more. "I'm more

MECHA de Lane Community College also shared its updated mission and vision voted on by the group in 2024: "MECHA de LCC (Meh-ch-UH) is a social justice organization that aims to unite, educate, and empower nuestra raza and Lane students. We take responsibility for promoting the Latinx experience within the campus and community. We aim to provide personal, social, and academic support while encouraging leadership skill development to serve the needs of the growing Latinx community in Lane County. Our MECHA chapter strives to ensure the presence of nuestra raza at Lane Community College through positive interaction not only with Latinx students but with all Lane students. Membership is open to all Lane students and community members who wish to join us in our movimiento. We implement our mission and vision through leadership trainings, cultural events, community outreach, engagement with high school students, student activities, and student conferences."

Weekly meetings occur Tuesdays at 3 pm in the Multicultural Center Bldg 1 Rm 206



Use the clues to fill in the words above.
Words can go across or down.
Letters are shared when the words intersect.
Find the awnswers online at LCCTorch.com

DOWN

- 1. An official record of your academic achievements.
- 2. Two words, Short Term Training and Workforce Connections in Bldg 4 Rm 210.
- 3. You can get a 2- or 4-year one of these.
- 5. Opportunities to pursue hobbies and interests and connect with other students on campus.
- 6. A short-term program designed to allow you to go right into the work-force.
- 9. The name of our school mascot.
- 11. A quiet place to study with access to books and computers located in Center Bldg
- 13. Two words that include GSA, APISU, MECCHA, NASA, BSU, and NDSU.
- 15. A mix of online and in-person learning.

ACROSS

- 4. The process of signing up for a new term's classes.
- 7. A graduation ceremony for students completing their programs.
- 8. Exams given halfway through the term.
- 10. A financial award that helps students pay for college or other education.
- 12. Two words, assists with academic planning located in Bldg 1 Rm 103.
- 14. Units that count toward completing a degree.
- 16. Moving credits from a community college to a university.
- 17. An essential guide to the content and rules of a course.
- 18. A federally funded program with the goal of helping students stay in school, located in Bldg 1 Rm 218.
- 19. Two words, quiet space for you to relax and rejuvenate, has massage chairs in Bldg 18 Rm 102.