

# COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

## THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

November 3, 2015

### PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

October was an extremely busy and productive month for COS, as reflected in all of the updates in the rest of this month's Campus Connection. I would like to share a few updates from my office.

California Community Colleges State Chancellor Brice Harris has announced that he intends to retire. Brice has done an excellent job for us for the past three years and we will surely miss his leadership. The California Community Colleges have experienced dramatic change and evolution under Dr. Harris's tenure as System Chancellor and have benefited from his dedication and stewardship during these turbulent times. I will be attending a meeting between Dr. Harris and the California Community Colleges CEOs at the CCLC Conference in San Francisco later this month.



I will be attending an Institutional Effectiveness Workshop in Clovis, California, on Friday, November 6, with Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Todd Scott, and Vice President of Student Services, Melissa Green. The three of us will also be attending the Annual California Community College League Conference November 19 thru 21.

We are continuing to finalize our Accreditation Self Study here at COS. We have fallen behind by a couple of weeks, so we are not taking our "Draft" to the Board of Trustees this month as we had hoped to do. We will be finalizing our Self Study during the month of November and taking it to our Board in December for review and then again in January for final approval before submitting the final document to the Accrediting Commission in January.

COS continues to monitor the discussions throughout California relative to the Accreditation Commission for Junior Colleges and the State Chancellor's Office recently released report from the Report from the CCCC 2015 Task Force on Accreditation. It appears that one recommendation from the Task Force's Report is gaining common endorsement, rather than all recommendations contained in this report. The CEOCC Executive Board took an action to endorse and support the taskforce report to explore any and all options, including a recasting of the current accrediting agency, to result in an improvement of the accrediting process. The CEOCC Board and all of the CEO's are committed to supporting the process to seek this new model of accreditation. It appears that other entities representing the California Community Colleges are adopting a similar stance.

I will be leading an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative Team in a visit to Lassen College in December. I am anticipating that this involvement will lead to COS also requesting assistance from this initiative. Colleges can receive up to \$150,000 to assist in improving its operation through this process.

## **FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### **Public Relations**

Wow! Where has the semester gone? The fall semester seems to just be “flying by,” especially the month of October.

Lots of activities and events occurred during the month, which meant a lot of promotion. The ASB and Drama Club sponsored “LIGHTS” in the COS Theatre; our own Music Department presented a “Winter Preview” of their upcoming December concert; COS Senior Theatre and the New Frontier Theatre Company presented “Take 10” – a series of one-act skits; and the Football, Volleyball and Cross Country teams continued their seasons with excellent competition and successful outcomes.

Both the Weed and Yreka Campuses participated in emergency drills/building evacuations last month. Our main goals were to test the Everbridge Communication System, our campus phone system, and see how long it would take to evacuate the buildings on campus and relocate our students and employees to designated locations. Immediately following the drills, a debriefing meeting was held at each Campus to discuss what we learned and what needed improvement.

Before the weather turned cold and wet, Mike Graves and I spent one morning in October “out and about” on Campus getting aerial footage of the Campus (video and photo) to be used to create a “virtual tour” of the Weed Campus. Due to Mike’s excellent piloting skills, we have lots of great video and digital photos to use in our project.

**Spring Registration Opens in November** – Just a quick reminder that open registration for the 2016 Spring Semester will begin November 16. Remind students to register early to get the classes they want and need. The spring schedule is available online for “viewing” only.

### **Foundation**

#### **Holiday Craft Fair**

The COS Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Friday evening, December 4 (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.), and Saturday, December 5 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), at the COS Weed Campus in the Gym. This Craft Fair celebrates the finest of hand-crafted products produced by local and regional artisans and crafters.

### **November Events**

- November 1: COS Senior Theatre Production Presents “Take 10” – 2 p.m., COS Black Box Theatre (limited seating, tickets \$10 each)
- November 2: Christmas Extravaganza Sale at the Eagle’s Nest Shop (123 Main Street, Weed). Shop will open at 7 a.m.
- November 3: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Closed Session at 5 p.m. / Open Public Session at 6 p.m., Yreka Campus RHSI, Room 121
- November 6 and 7: COS Fall Play – “The Servant of Two Masters,” 7 p.m. in the COS Theatre (advance tickets on sale at the COS Weed Campus Bookstore - \$12 general / \$8 students & seniors)
- November 9: Priority Registration (1<sup>st</sup> Tier) for Spring 2016 Begins (applicable to Foster Youth, DSPS, Veteran’s, and EOPS)
- November 11: Campus Closed for Veteran’s Day Holiday
- November 12 and 13: Matinee Production for Siskiyou County Schools of “The Servant of Two Masters,” 11 a.m. in the COS Theatre
- November 13: Priority Registration (2<sup>nd</sup> Tier) for Spring 2016 Continues (applicable to continuing students in good standing and new students who have matriculated)
- November 13: Volleyball vs. Butte College, 6 p.m. at COS Gym
- November 13 and 14: COS Fall Play Continues – “The Servant of Two Masters,” 7 p.m. in the COS Theatre (advance tickets on sale at the COS Weed Campus Bookstore - \$12 general / \$8 students & seniors)

- November 14: COS Football vs. Sierra College (Last Home Game of 2015): 1 p.m. at Weed Campus Stadium (Tailgate Party next to the COS Tennis Courts, 11:00 a.m. – Bring Your Own Supplies)
- November 15: Finale Performance of COS Fall Play – “The Servant of Two Masters,” 2 p.m. in the COS Theatre (advance tickets on sale at the COS Weed Campus Bookstore - \$12 general / \$8 students & seniors)
- November 16: Open Registration for Spring 2016 Begins
- November 16 and 17: Open Call Auditions for spring performance of “You Can’t Take It With You” – 6 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. at Weed Campus Theatre (11/16) and Yreka Campus Training Center (11/17)
- November 19: COS Speakers Series Presents – “The Power of Music” by Ron Slabbinck, 7:30 p.m. (location TBA).
- November 20: Last Day to Drop without a Grade
- November 23: K-12 Grade Admit Registration for Spring 2016 Begins
- November 25: No Evening Classes
- November 26 and 27: Campus Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

October is always a busy month. It seems to be conference month so there has been travel to two conferences. Also in October is our final visit from our external auditors. They are just wrapping up as I write this. I will be off to Southern California on Sunday for a conference next week. Earlier in October was the CCIA Conference (Community College Internal Auditors). That was a great conference where we always learn new tricks of the trade with regards to fraud. We also get a peek at what the state audit guide will include in relation to state compliance for the year. As expect, new steps are being added in to test compliance for the SSSP Programs. Next week’s conference is ACBO (Association of Chief Business Officials). That is a great place to find best practices on various subjects. It is also where we get our first glimpse on what is being requested for FY 2016/17 budget requests from the Chancellor’s Office. It is also the place where we get clarification on expectations for new programs or funding that is put into place in the current year. It is always a very valuable conference.

Ellucian’s survey has been completed and their subject matter experts are sifting through all the responses. I would like to thank all those who did take the time to respond to the survey. It will really help this process to be successful. Ellucian will be coming for their on-site visit November 17 through the 18. During that time, they will be interviewing those of us who are the more frequent users of Banner in all areas. The schedule should already be distributed by the time you receive this. We are so looking forward to a great result from this project!

We will be going out with an RFP (request for proposal) for a new food service vendor in November. We will need to have a new company in place June 1, 2016.

### **Maintenance**

The Maintenance Department has been working on a variety of things. The sidewalk improvement project is underway and several areas have already been completed. This will make our Campus much safer for all who cross our paths.

### **Business Office**

The Business Office has been busy keeping the flow of information going to the auditors this week. They will be wrapping up their field work and begin on the financial statements and the various levels of review on their end. It is always a relief to get that behind for another year. Thank you for all the hard work that Kent and his staff have to put in to make this project successful. So far, I am hearing good remarks from the auditors. Roxie, our new manager on the job, is a COS Alumni and grew up in this area.

### **Technology**

Technology is working with the Campus on the Ellucian project to get things rolling for this great evaluative project. There are a variety of other upgrades and updates that occur on a regular basis along with the various installations as grant expenditures are being initiated.

### **Eagle's Nest**

The Eagle's Nest is preparing for the Holiday Extravaganza on November 2. That is the beginning of their holiday shopping season. They will be having their Volunteer/Staff Christmas Party on December 9. Busy season so be sure and stop by to see what you might need!

## **INSTRUCTION**

October has been a busy month, quite a bit of time has been devoted to developing the Spring 2016 Schedule, which by this time has been completed. This month, I have met with the Superintendents of both Siskiyou Union High School and Scott Valley Unified School Districts. The meetings were very productive and have forged a relationship for the benefit of our region. I have had initial discussions with both districts in regard to a special program that I am working on. I have attended both the Nursing and Fire Advisory Board meetings, both are productive boards with many ideas for both sustainability and growth. I am excited about the progress of the Fire Technology Program and the plans Mike Wilson has made for the future. Our next fire academy is at capacity including a wait list. We are trying to accommodate as many fire students as possible.

Fall Planning Day was October 9; it gave me the opportunity to have discussions with staff and faculty regarding our student access and success plans. Student demographics were presented as a way to begin to introduce the idea of using relevant data to inform our decisions for the future. Work was also done on our Institutional Master Plan which I plan to present to the Board in the near future.

On October 15, I had the opportunity to attend the Ore-Cal RC&D Planning Session. We discussed ways in which COS and the Ore-Cal RC&D can partner to increase educational opportunities for the region. I look forward to more collaboration with this group in the future.

On October 20, I went to Dunsmuir to meet with representatives of FireWhat. We had initial conversations about collaborating in educational areas such as Geographic Information Systems, drones, and prescribed fire. I look forward to developing a partnership with this organization; they are very forward thinking and are concerned about the economic opportunities for the region.

As I write this, I am at the Chief Instructional Officer Conference for California Community Colleges. Discussion and action has centered on our current accrediting body, updates from the Chancellor's Office regarding curriculum and the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative, and regional economic and workforce development.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **VPSS**

Val Roberts and Melissa Green attended the Student Equity Plan and SSSP Conference in Sacramento. Valuable information was shared regarding program changes.

Dr. Todd Scott and Melissa Green visited with the principal from Dunsmuir High School and discussed high school concurrent enrollment opportunities. We are looking forward to partnering with them to further address the needs of their students and community.

Planning Day went well and Melissa facilitated a discussion on Non-Instructional Program Review. Later that afternoon, all Student Services Programs met to discuss the FY 2015/16 program reviews for our areas. Melissa attended New Chief Student Services Officers meeting in Sacramento. Topics included changes to Title IX, Campus Safety, Student Equity Plan, Title V, Education Code, MIS reporting, and the Categorical programs.

The Student Equity Plan's deadline has been extended to December 18, and will go to the Board at the December meeting. People who have positions that were identified by the Chancellor's Office as needing to collaborate on the plan have been contacted via email. If you did not receive or lost the email, please contact Melissa if you'd like to participate in the creation and/or review of the plan.

### **Student Life:**

On October 15 and 20, members of the Safety Committee held evacuation drills at both Weed and Yreka Campuses. The drills provide a planning opportunity for Building Stewards and awareness for students, faculty, and staff about the communication systems used during a crisis at College of the Siskiyous. Feedback on the drill was documented and deficiencies are being corrected. Recommendations for improvement include an online reference guide for basic response to crises on Campus and correcting sound problems with the telephone intercom system. Members of the Safety Committee also have asked for several student success seminars to be held on topics related to campus crisis and emergency planning. Denis Hagarty will be hosting seminar sessions in November about surviving an active shooter.

In early October, Student Services, Financial Aid, Student Lodging, and the Business Office collaborated on a series of messages sent to current students identified as needing support to complete paying off their student accounts. Spring 2015 Registration starts in November and financial holds can stop students from continuing with their education.

In November, the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) is using the beautiful COS Weed Campus and the Life Science conference rooms to host a fall Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician Class. COS assists by coordinating conference services for this month-long training program that bring students from all over world to our area. The program is starting the fourth year of collaboration between NOLS and COS.

### **Counseling/Student Support**

#### **SOAR**

We've scheduled several spring SOAR sessions and will add more if/as the need arises.

#### **Basic Skills Student Support**

Michelle Knudsen, our new Counselor, is working with the Basic Skills students providing follow up and support. She has reached out to the faculty teaching Basic Skills Math and English, and is their contact person regarding students who demonstrate behavior that is not conducive to course success.

#### **Active Shooter Training**

Denis Hagarty attended the SOU Active Shooter Training. Because many SOU students had questions and Denis assumed our students would be interested in the information too, he has scheduled Success Seminars to share what he learned. Denis is working with Doug to provide information to other groups as well.

#### **Foster Youth Success Program**

Shannon Eller attended two conferences recently focusing on support to students who are Foster Youth and former Foster Youth - one conference was organized by the California Community College Chancellor's Office and the other by the Burton Foundation. Knowledge of resources and idea gathering/sharing is imperative as we establish and grow our new Foster Youth Success Program. While every community college is required to have a contact person for Foster Youth, we have developed this "contact person" into a full-support program. Our program staff and support (meal cards, transportation assistance, and school supplies) is being funded through Student Equity.

#### **Connections with High Schools**

Based on a request from one of the local high school counselors, an email group of the local high school counselors (and others interested) has been created. An "updates" email was sent recently, and the next day we had received five replies – two of which included requests for information on our online course offerings for spring semester and one asking for us to come to their campus to assist students in applying to College of the Siskiyous. This is the beginning of better and more frequent communication with our service areas schools.

Blaine Smith was invited to and attended a College Night Event at Corning High School (he attended there!). It was well attended and there was enough interest in College of the Siskiyous that he's been invited back to talk to all the senior classes.

### **Program Plans**

Program Plans for CalWORKs, EOPS/CARE, and SSSP are due to the Chancellor's Office in November. These Plans outline efforts and services, and costs associated, for the upcoming year.

### **Speaking of SSSP...**

We were notified by the Chancellor's Office very recently that our SSSP allocation increased for the current year by 131 percent. For FY 2015-16, we will have \$495K to use to provide and/or improve assessment, orientation, education planning, and at-risk student follow-up services to our students. This increase in funding is the result of the aforementioned efforts of our counselors and advisors and accurate MIS reporting of those efforts. A huge "shout out" goes to those folks involved!

Some of our identified efforts for this year include: tools for evaluating coursework from other colleges to increase the accuracy of Degree Works and the education planning process; increasing the number of comprehensive education plans completed with/for students; increasing the number of students who are certain about their declared educational goals, staff, early alert; and improved online orientation.

### **Enrollment Services**

#### **Recent Trips:**

**Bakersfield:** A team traveled to Bakersfield to meet with our counterparts for the FIELD (Farmworker Institute of Education & Leadership Development) ISA Program. Field's mission is to promote economic and social prosperity in rural communities for Latinos, working people, and their families. We provide basic education and skills upgrade training to immigrants, farm workers, and low-skilled workers in rural communities to give them the confidence to realize their dreams. FIELD is an important partnership pulling in 308 FTEs for FY 2014-15.

Meghan explained the registration and grading process, asked for input on their end, what could be improved, etc. Steve Reynolds explained instructor evaluations and accreditation standards. Jude Baldwin gave a presentation on Mango, an online ESL skills lab, which is free to all students taking courses through College of the Siskiyous. She started the process of training and implementing the program. There was lots of interest in Nursing, Paramedic, and Fire Programs. We have been invited back in March for their Vocational College Fair.

**San Francisco – October 27-29:** Orientation and Business Meeting. The SFPD ISA accumulated around 560 FTEs last year. Currently, we have an additional 26 Degree Completion students who are currently working toward our AA in Administration of Justice adding to our base FTE. Jack Hart – Educational Coordinator for SFPD has requested loading COMPASS assessment to some of their computers in the lab in order for Officers interested in the Degree Completion Program to take their assessments to start off the program.

#### **Other Projects**

CCC Apply update: The College is aiming for a December 11 live date. At that time, the application will switch over from Banner Baseline to CCC Apply. Much data entry and pairing has to happen between now and then to make the transition smooth. Once CCC Apply is up and running we will start on the e-Transcripts implementation. This has date of June 30, 2016.

#### **Registration Dates:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tier Priority Registration begins November 9 includes: Foster Youth, DSPS, Veterans and EOPS.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Priority Registration begins November 13 included: Continuing students in good standing and new students who have matriculated.
- Open Registration for all college students begin November 16.
- K-12 Special Admits can begin registration November 23.

### **Financial Aid**

It's hard to believe we are in November already and past our second big financial aid disbursement which occurred on October 16. We disbursed Pell grants to 594 students for a total of \$671,718! Our grand total for the fall semester so far is \$1,444,662 in Pell Grants! At this point in time last year, we had disbursed a total of \$1,310,751 in Pell Grants.

On October 23, Jennie Cannon attended the Region 2 Veterans Program Consortium held at American River College. The purpose of the meeting was to collaborate with area community colleges and universities in order to share best practices and advocate for the educational and support services rights of our returning United States Veterans, active military and their families. Jennie is our Veteran Certifying Official and came away with a lot of good information in order to serve our Veteran population.

Jan Harris, Jennie Cannon, and Karen Chandler will be attending the CASFAA (California Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators) conference held in Sacramento on November 1 through November 3. We will be attending a variety of workshops in order to get up-to-date information regarding federal regulations and best practices. It's always a good chance to reconnect with our colleagues from other California Community Colleges and compare notes!

## **ACADEMIC SENATE**

**Academic Senate** and shared governance committees have been meeting regularly.

**The COS Speakers Series** (a faculty-driven effort) had a full house (40-45 people) for its first presentation of the year, Ken Goehring's talk on "Recent Events in Human Evolution." The next presentation, Ron Slabbinck's, "The Power of Music," will be on November 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Science Building Room 210.

Mike Graves and Jim Gilmore attended **SOLIDWORKS 2015** (Computer Aided Design - 3D Training) in Reno, NV. There were 32 hours of hands-on classroom training. They will use this in the classroom with our students when using the soon-to-be-purchased 3D printer. There were also three faculty members from Tulelake High School that attended the classes.

The Academic Senate has formalized what we see as necessary **improvements to the hiring process** to make sure applicants feel welcomed and respected. We are working on an aerial tour for distance interviews, have planned out faculty sponsors to take finalists out for a meal, and other hospitality-related steps. We will be working with HR to seamlessly integrate these elements.

**Statewide CTA/CCA** officials made a Campus visit October 28-29. All unit members were invited out to dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> saw the officials touring the campus and meeting with faculty.

**With the significant reduction in Foreign Language offerings**, the Senate is concerned we will be severely handicapped in our ability to offer TAG programs, ICETC completions/certificates and/or full transfer status to Oregon transfer students. The last three times the advanced ASL class was offered, it was cancelled. With reducing our fall Spanish offerings to one section, there will be fewer students eligible to take Spanish 1520, and we are concerned this course might be cancelled. Also, SOU, our biggest transfer school for a Bachelor of Arts Degree, requires completion of one year of foreign language at the second year level (SPAN 2010 + 2520) or four years in a single language in high school or pass language exam at SOU. American Sign Language is not accepted for this requirement. We are no longer offering SPAN 2010 or SPAN 2520.

The Faculty are looking forward to the enrollment opportunities provided by **AB 288**. We are, however, concerned about our ability to meet some of the regulations. We look forward to working with the Administration to effectively offer dual enrollment classes while insuring compliance with the legal requirements.

**Students have taken midterms**, performed in concerts and plays, football and volleyball are finishing while basketball is starting, and baseball and softball are finishing their fall games and gearing up for their seasons.

**Hiring committees** are getting ready to interview for Math, Psychology, Welding, and Nursing. I will be attending the Statewide Academic Senate/Chancellor's Office EEO Training & Senate Plenary tomorrow.

***No other reports were submitted this month.***