

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

December 8, 2015

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

We have had a very busy and highly productive month in November. The fall semester is winding down and preparations and registration for the spring semester are speeding up. Things continue to go well for COS.

The Annual Audit for FY 2014-2015 has been completed and appears to be the best audit that we have received in many years. This reflects a lot of hard work by our staff.

We completed the Accreditation Self Study and plan on sending it to the Accreditation Commission by the end of this week. The Accreditation Self Study has been posted to the COS web site and hard copies are located in the staff break room at both Campuses as well as in the Library in Weed. This culminates over a year of very hard work by an outstanding group of people – you the COS employees! Thanks to everyone for their contributions and congratulations on a job well done! Steve Reynolds, our Accreditation Liaison Officer, has worked tirelessly on the Study for us and his “steady hand” and perseverance has been much appreciated. I believe that we have an excellent “final” report. ☺

I am in communication with Dr. Rajen Vurdien - Chair of the Accreditation Team that will be visiting COS at the end of February. Dr. Vurdien, who is the President of Riverside Community College, will be here on January 12 for his initial visit to work on the logistical aspects of the visit. Actual meetings with our Visiting Team members will occur while they are here the week of February 29. I expect that in January, we will begin the process creating the schedule of all of the meetings that will take place during the visit.

The Classification Study project is also finally completed. We have looked forward to conducting and completing this project for quite a while now. I really appreciate everyone's patience and efforts in getting this completed and implemented. Again, thank you everyone!

Our new Institutional Master Plan (IMP) has also finally arrived! Many thanks to Todd Scott, Vice President of Instruction, and the Planning Committee for their work on this project.

We will be having a TV Advertising Campaign starting in December to promote COS and enrollment in the Spring 2016 Semester. Watch for our commercials on television. Also, we will be using videos from this effort in our outreach and communications to the communities.

Dr. Todd Scott is taking the lead in our effort to create a Siskiyou College Promise. This is along the lines of President Obama's advocating for “free community college” education. The COS Foundation has created a sub-committee to pursue providing funds in support of this effort.

Several employee searches have been completed and others are “in the works.” We will be sharing specifics of completed searches at the December Board meeting. Searches in process include four full-time faculty – Math, Nursing, Psychology, and Welding; Directors of Admissions and Records and Maintenance; Interim Director of IT, Custodial Supervisor; Administrative Assistant – DSPS; Student Support Specialist – Enrollment; and Instructional Support Specialist – Science.

We continue to meet our Full-Time Faculty Obligation Number (FON) each year. In Fall 2015, the FON was 34 and our actual FTF was 34.05. We expect to go out for a couple additional full-time faculty positions in the spring. Our process is for the Academic Senate to create an initial list of potential disciplines where we might

want to hire additional full-time faculty. Their list then goes to the Instruction Council where data is considered relative to department and anticipated student needs are incorporated in the analysis. The “list” then proceeds to the President’s Cabinet and to the Board of Trustees.

November 19 thru 21, Dr. Todd Scott and I attended the annual CCLC Conference in Burlingame. We received a lot of updates on a variety of topics and acquired some very good information relative to things happening at other California Community Colleges (CCCs) that we may want to emulate here at COS.

As you have probably heard by now, Dr. Brice Harris will be retiring in April after serving three years as the California Community College’s Chancellor. The Board of Governors has initiated the process of finding a new State Chancellor. Some information to share from the CCLC Conference relative to what we expect will be happening in the near future:

1. Accreditation – The California Community Colleges are seeking a new model for Accreditation. The Department of Education will have to approve what we come up with. It will probably take six to ten years if we move to a different Accrediting Commission, if we end up going that direction. The Chancellor’s Office is to report back to the Board of Governors at their March meeting with a plan and a timeline for implementation of the recommendations from the Accreditation Task Force’s Report.
2. Over the last ten years, two-thirds of the CCC’s were on some kind of Accreditation Sanction. Only 37 of the 112 colleges had no sanctions.
3. Part of the Prop 30 temporary taxes sunsets next year. There are efforts underway to extend or make permanent some of these taxes.
4. The November 2016 State Ballot is looking like it will include Capital Outlay Bonds, Prop 30 Tax Extensions, and Pensions.
5. Education and Health are two areas of the State Budget that continue to grow.
6. The significant increase in funding that California Community Colleges experienced in FY 2015-2016 was in great part attributable to an anomaly year – we are getting replenished from what we lost. FY 2016-2017 will not be nearly as good for CCC’s as was FY 2015-2016. CCC’s always run the risk of being “short changed” by the State relative to the amount of revenue we are “supposed” to receive.
7. We can probably expect several more years of additional funds from the state to hire more full-time faculty.
8. Twenty-six of the seventy-two California Community College Districts are in stability – not reaching their CAPs. Very few Districts are experiencing major growth.
9. Due to the unpredictability of our funding from the State, we must be very careful with commitments to ongoing expenses. We cannot count on the State to “bail us out.”
10. Bigger and bigger chunks of our budgets will go towards OPEB (Other Post-Retirement Benefits), Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), and GAP (Governmental Accounting Principles) requirements over the next several years.
11. PERS and STRS Employer contributions will be increasing on an average of 1.6 percent each per year.
12. A seven percent reserve will pay only one month’s expenses.

On October 17 and 18, we had a team from Ellucian visiting COS and meeting with many of our employees. They are providing an analysis to us, evaluating where we are with the implementation and utilization of our

Banner Operating System. They will be preparing a plan with timelines, costs, and other specifics for us to “finally” get Banner to function the way that we need for it to! Part of what we are realizing is that we have not been taking advantage of all what Banner might do for us, and suffering the consequences. ☹ We will keep everyone advised as we move forward with implementing the plan, once we receive it.

It is amazing to me that we are at the end of another calendar year and that the fall semester is coming to an end. We are an institution that is evolving and well into the process of remaking ourselves. Everyone is dedicated and working so hard – I believe that COS is a great place to be right now! I hope that you enjoy the Holidays with your friends and family! You have all worked hard and deserve a good rest. ☺

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public Relations



Stay Connected: Now is the perfect time to sign up for our communication system, Everbridge. This is a free system we use to notify students and staff of emergency situations, campus closures, or general information. To sign up, click on the Everbridge button located on the COS homepage, and follow the directions. If you're not signed up, you're missing out!!

Spring Registration Now Open – Keep spreading the word... registration for the 2016 Spring Semester is now open. Remind students to register before Christmas vacation to get the classes they want and need.

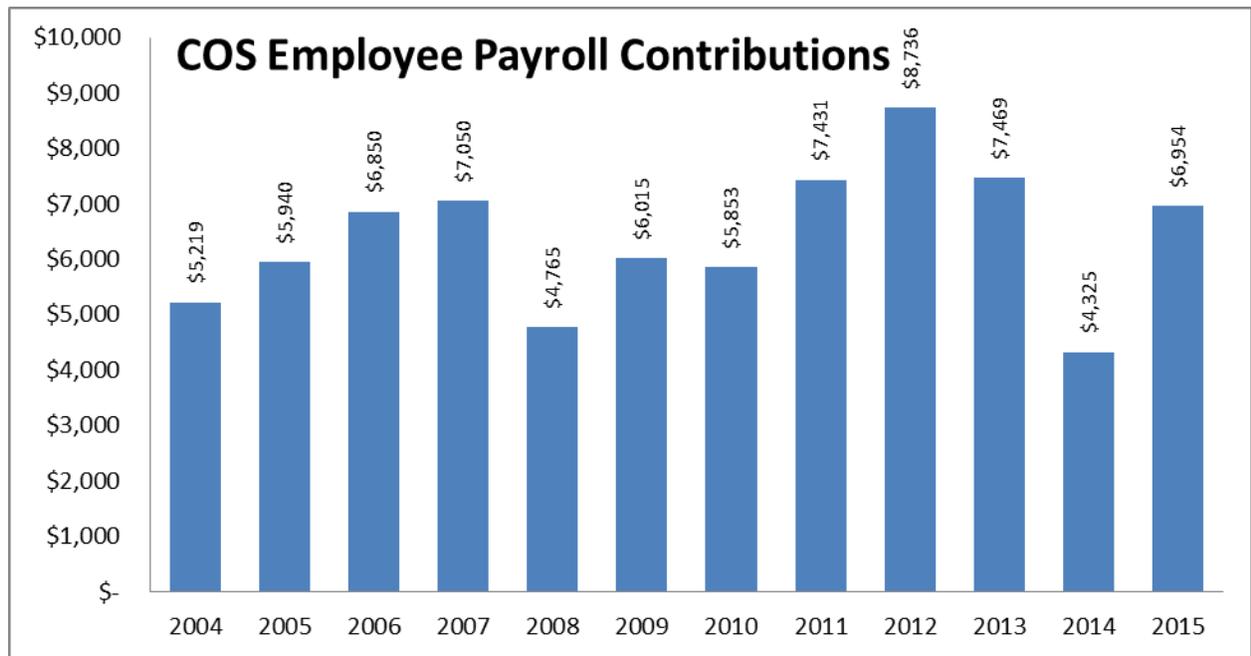
Foundation

Holiday Craft Fair – The 18th annual Country Holiday Craft Fair was held December 4 and 5. The Craft Fair was a huge success! In fact, this year's event was one of our best attended ever. Friday night, approximately 400 or more came out to see what the Craft Fair had to offer. Saturday was no different...the steady stream of foot-traffic was non-stop all day long (our last count was about 850 people). The Saturday food drive for the Siskiyou Food Assistance Program was well supported. Shoppers were encouraged to provide two cans of food or a cash donation as they arrived. At the end of the day, five large tubs were overflowing with food items and \$572 was collected in donations for the food program.

Special thanks to our Maintenance Department, Associated Student Body, Drama Club, Service Club, members of the Football/Track Teams, Scotty and Sharie Thomason, Dawna and Rex Cozzalio, Jan Mauck, Shan'del, Karen Tedsen, Angel Fisher, Bart Scott, and Doug Haugen for help setting up, breaking down, carrying items in and out for vendors, and volunteering at the door and in the concession stand. Also special thanks to everyone who came out and supported the event.



Together We Make A Difference – It’s that time of year again when we “kick off” the campus Payroll Contribution Campaign. The COS Employee Payroll Deduction Program began in 2004. Over the past ten years, COS employees have donated \$76,607 to the COS Foundation which has been used to support scholarships, fund the staff/faculty mini-grant program, provide funding for special projects such as the purchase of furniture for the Science Building’s lobbies, and much more. Employees can support scholarships, programs, departments and projects through our payroll contribution program. The amount of monthly contribution is not as important as the fact that you participate. Donations range from as low as \$5 to as much as \$50 or more, and all donations are tax-deductible. I hope you’ll consider participating. Look for an email from Dawnie with information. To participate click on the link <http://www.siskiyous.edu/ia/foundation/campaigns.htm#employee>



Broadcast Advertising – The College is going back “on air” this December/January. I have been in contact and working with advertising agents from Southern Oregon’s KDRV Channel 12 (ABC) and KTVL Channel 10 (CBS) television stations to produce a promotional commercial for COS’s spring semester. In addition to the TV advertising, we are also working on a digital marketing campaign to run during the same time period.

CASA Breakfast – On December 1, I along with Angel Fisher, Manager of the Eagle’s Nest Shop, and several of our Eagle’s Nest Volunteers attended a breakfast hosted by CASA at the Mt. Shasta Resort. This was a great networking opportunity and opportunity to learn more about CASA and its mission as well as meet community members who have a passion for our community and its residents – specifically children.

Foundation Board Retreat – The Foundation Board held their annual Retreat on Saturday, November 14. The focus of the Retreat was to discuss process improvement as well as future Campus projects and activities the Foundation may choose to participate in.

Bone Marrow Drive – In November, the COS Foundation along with the ASB sponsored a Bone Marrow Drive on the Weed Campus. Dr. John Harch coordinated the effort and said over 100 people signed up to be Bone Marrow Donors.

December Events

- **December 6 - 12**
 - December 6: COS Orchestra Concert – 7 p.m., COS Theater (Tickets - \$8 General/\$5 Students & Seniors)
 - December 7: COS Orchestra Concert – 7 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Church in Yreka (Tickets - \$8 General/\$5 Students & Seniors)
 - December 8: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Closed Session at 5 p.m./Open Public Session at 6 p.m., COS Board Room
 - December 10: Mt. Shasta Printmakers Collective Christmas Sale and Show – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., LRC Foyer
 - December 11: COS Choral Groups Present “The Elements” – 7 p.m., COS Theater (Tickets - \$8 General/\$5 Students & Seniors)
 - December 12: Auditions for 2016 Spring Musical (TBA)
- **December 13 – 19**
 - December 14 – 17: Finals Weeks
 - December 15: Vocational Nursing (VN) Pinning Ceremony – 5 p.m., COS Theater
 - December 16: COS Employee Christmas Party – 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Science Building Lobby
 - December 17: Fall Semester Ends
 - December 18: Eagle’s Nest Shop 18th Anniversary Celebration and Pre-Winter Clearance Sale
 - December 18 – January 18: COS Semester Break
 - December 18 – 20: Big Winter Production “OLIVER!” – 12/18 and 12/19 at 7 p.m., 12/20 at 3 p.m. (Tickets - \$15 General / \$10 Students, Senior Citizens, and Children Under 12)
- **December 20 – 26**
 - December 20: Final Presentation of Big Winter Production “OLIVER!” – 3 p.m. (Tickets - \$15 General / \$10 Students, Senior Citizens, and Children Under 12)
 - December 24 – 25: Campus Closed
- **December 27 – January 2**
 - December 28 – January 1: Campus Closed
 - December 28 – 30: Men’s Basketball Hosts Siskiyou Classic Tournament – Game Times TBA

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

I can’t believe it is November. I have officially been here one year already. Time flies when you are having fun! My November started off a little rough in that my grandson was in a serious accident and so I was away from Campus a bit. With that said, it certainly set the stage for Thanksgiving as he is doing remarkably well and my family and I are very grateful for that and all the support we received through the process. He still has a long haul ahead of him but I am amazed every time I see him at the progress thus far.

Ellucian was on site for their visit November 17 thru 18. Two days of interviews gave them the information they needed to compile an action plan for the College. Melissa and I are meeting with them for a condensed version of the plan this week and we should have the full report before we leave on Christmas break. Really looking forward to this and excited about the potential for all the Campus as end users of our system.

The Request for Proposals (RFPs) for food services have gone out and we have already received some inquiries with questions or additional information requested for them to complete their RFP. We are excited about this as well. We will need to have a new contract in place June 1, 2016.

I do want to take this opportunity also to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas! I hope you are blessed with a great time with family and friends as you celebrate the reason for the season.

Maintenance

Maintenance has had to bring out the equipment to practice snow removal which hasn't happened in a while. They have a number of projects on their list and continually work at checking them off. We have begun the process of hiring a new Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation so will hopefully have someone in place soon. Phil Alvarado is retiring as of December 30. He will be missed but we wish him well in the next phase of his "career" (fishing, grandkids, and landscaping).

Business Office

The Business Office has completed the annual audit and should really be applauded for how well it went this year. Great job and kudos to all! This involves way more than the Business Office. Meghan, Financial Aid, Val Roberts and all the categorical programs, thank you all!

Technology

Technology is working on the final stages of CCC Apply. The meetings with Ellucian went very well and we will be receiving our full report soon.

Eagle's Nest

The Eagle's Nest is preparing for the **Can Food Drive, December 3-14**. Bring in food and save money. For every item you bring in, you will receive a discount coupon.

We have partnered with ASM to help with Holiday Food Boxes. These are for our students and their families that are in need. Currently, we have approximately 55 students that are in need. Each student must be nominated by staff or faculty and are vetted to ensure there is a need. Please help us fill these boxes for our students and make their holiday filled with love and FULL tummies.

We have been asked to collect the following: turkeys, whole chicken (for single/smaller families), corn, green beans, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, mashed potatoes, butter, candy canes (basically anything you might need for a Christmas Dinner).

If you don't want to shop, we are gladly taking cash donations. Any extra food will be donated to our local food bank. I know most people will donate directly on Campus; however, if they want to refer a friend or family member that is interested in donating please call Angel at 938-4663.

18th Anniversary Celebration – Friday, December 18 - More information to come soon.

Holiday Closure – December 23 @ 12 p.m. through January 3. We will reopen Monday, January 4, 2016.

Donation Reminder – If you have Christmas items to donate, please do so by December 10. We start our holiday clearance sale on the 12th. Christmas items sell early so please get them soon.

STUDENT SERVICES

I attended the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) conference with Scotty Thomason and Meghan Witherell at Clovis Community College. The theme of the conference was student success.

A student forum/luncheon was held November 12, with 20 students in attendance. Students shared their experiences at College of the Siskiyous, which was very positive. Some of the students have agreed to be part of an ongoing Student Advisory Board, which will begin spring semester.

The Student Services team has decorated for fall. With the arrival of cold weather, students are gathering around the crackling fire in the Student Center. Come see the display case in the Student Center! (Thanks Mary Mericle!) Themes for the display case will change each month.

Plans are underway for our Spring 2016 Welcome/Welcome Back Week. Some of the events planned include:

- Spring Club Fair on the first Tuesday of school.
- Student Services staff to wear “Questions?” badges in order to encourage students to ask for assistance. Extras will be available for those who also want to participate. Student Ambassadors/Workers will also have these badges.
- A staffed information table in the Student Center. This table will provide information on student clubs, hours of operation for Student Services offices, up-to-date lists of classes and their locations, Campus maps will be also be available as well as free refreshments!
- Entertainment in Student Center during the lunch period, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We all wish you the very best holiday season!!

Student Life:

- ASB and House Counsel Club will be hosting some exciting events during the month of December.
- ASB is also planning to have a float in the City of Weed Tree Lighting Event on December 5 at 5 p.m.
- Dec 7 – “Casino Night” in the Ponderosa Lodge. Our bi-annual event that is geared towards our Lodge students and staff; however, if you would like to participate or play please RVSP this week at the ASB Office or Lodge Office.
- December 10 – “Holiday Open Mic Nite” with a free pasta dinner for all students and staff members. Event starts at 6 p.m. in the Student Center.
- December 11 – “College Nite at the Ice Rink” Free ice skating at the Shastice Ice Rink in Mt. Shasta, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free for all students and staff. Shoes provided at the Rink.
- December 16 thru 20 – ASB sponsored “Finals are Fun” table. Refreshments and snacks provided for all students in the Student Center along with a few furry friends to pet to take away the stress of finals.

I hope to see you there!!!

Financial Aid

It seems that the fall semester went by in the blink of an eye and now we are gearing up for the Spring 2016 Semester already! The new changes to our processing and procedures seem to go well; thanks again to the dedication of the Enrollment Services Staff.

We had a very productive semester! We disbursed Pell grants to 726 students in the amount of \$1,477,639. FSEOG was disbursed to 95 students for a total of \$19,600. With the addition of the new Cal Grant Full-Time Incentive Grant, we were able to award 93 students for a total of \$27,900 in addition to their Cal Grant B! We awarded 132 Cal Grant B students a total of \$97,082 and 12 students were awarded Cal Grant C’s for a total of \$3,014.

On November 1, Jan Harris, Karen Chandler, and Jennie Cannon drove to Sacramento to attend the three-day CASFAA Conference. Not only did they have a good time connecting with colleagues, they attended back to back conference sessions. They were able to hear about updates for the 2016-17 and information regarding important regulations that will be in effect. They also watched a movie entitled, “First Generation,” which followed four high-school students through their senior year and the obstacles they faced based on their backgrounds pursuing a college education. It made them all realize the impact we can have on these first generation students entering their first year as college students.

One thing that we will keep an eye on is the upcoming Prior-Prior Aid Year. Beginning October 1, 2016, students will be able to complete their FAFSA’s instead of waiting until January 1, 2017. Just when you thought financial aid couldn’t get any more interesting!

We wish you all a very happy holiday break, see you next year!!

Counseling and Advising

Registration for Spring 2016 is underway and the counselors and advisors have been very busy seeing many students.

Some of you may know that Michael Pautz, College of the Siskiyous adjunct instructor and part-time personal counselor for students, recently accepted a position with the county. This means Mike will no longer be available as the student crisis/personal counselor as of early/mid November. We have greatly appreciated Mike's flexibility and commitment to our students. However, we were fortunate enough to find a new personal counselor, Fred Fredette! Fred is available to students (through the Weed Campus Counseling Office X5353, Eddy Hall) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the McCloud 2B.

Fred wanted to send a message out to the campus:

I am very thankful for the opportunity I have to serve the COS community as a behavioral health consultant for staff and personal counselor for students. I have nearly three decades of clinical experience as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the State of California. My goal as a provider is to make the therapy as brief as indicated and to involve the client as much as possible in the intervention. I am a skilled clinician and have a knowledge base that has depth and is responsive to client needs. My approach to therapy involves problem-solving and skill-development focus.

My training is extensive in the treatment and recovery of trauma/abuse victims, and I have been successful in the treatment of clients with more severe mental illnesses including personality disorders.

I look forward to hearing from you, and being a part of a collaborative effort aimed at facilitating effective interventions to assure a high-level of student achievement.

ACADEMIC SENATE

As we wind up the fall semester, the faculty and students are buried under finals and research papers, writing and grading. We will survive!

The COS Speakers Series had a full house for Ron Slabbinck's magical "The Power of Music" presentation. The Speaker's Series will resume after the holidays with the next presentation in February.

Hiring committees have sent forth finalists for Math and Psychology.

Professional Development: Meaningful Program Review/Assessment/Curriculum Overhauls

Program review has increased in complexity and data requirements, assessment and meta-assessment, and curriculum have increased in complexity. As a result, the faculty acknowledge that we cannot accomplish meaningful program review, assessment, and curriculum overhauls without additional time together as a group. So, we decided to give up some of our time off and asked our negotiation team to add two additional, mandatory flex days to the full-time faculty schedule to allow us to perform these jobs. While this would mean minor additional compensation, the Chancellor's Office FULLY funds up to 14 of these additional days. This proposal was rejected by the Administrative Bargaining Team. Instead, the Administrative Bargaining Team asked the faculty to reduce professional development to only one off-calendar day per year. Obviously, it is not my job to bargain with the District, nor is it this Board's. However, the Board has asked the faculty to increase our professional development and have said that they support increased professional development. I urge you to follow through and make it clear you support faculty professional development, particularly since there is very minimal cost associated with such.

The **Academic Calendar** is coming to you without input from the Senate as required per AP 4010.

The Board is required to hold meetings on **AB 288 implementation**. I am looking forward to those sessions. Furthermore, AB 288 mandates that dual enrollment does NOT result in a reduction of load for full-time OR part-time faculty. It looks like our plan is to have contracts with individual high school teachers and to essentially farm out our classes. Not only would this greatly reduce the quality of our teaching, and cause significant harm to the reputation we are rebuilding, but will ultimately cause a loss of FTES.

I attended the **Statewide Academic Senate/Chancellor's Office EEO Training & Senate Plenary** and learned a lot! I hope to continue working with this Board and the Administration to make College of the Siskiyous the preferred choice for local students and an attractive choice for distant students. We have a lot to offer and need to focus on maintaining quality.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT/MANAGEMENT

Thank you to everyone who nominated students for the annual ASM Holiday Basket campaign which helps COS students who are in need of a little extra help during this holiday season. We are still looking for financial donors and/or volunteers to help expand our reach this year. Last year we were able to provide baskets to 40 families! We would love to serve that many again, but we need the help of generous individuals, constituent groups, and other entities in order to accomplish this wonderful goal.

Please contact Kelly Groppi if you would like to help with a donation. Thank you for your support for our students!

No other reports were submitted this month.