

COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

May 2, 2017

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Our search for the next COS President is complete! I am told that we had a very large pool and excellent candidates. I look forward to a smooth transition to our new Administration.

We extended the first review date for our Vice President of Administrative Services. Hopefully, this will allow for a few additional applications to be submitted. The screening committee has met and identified questions to consider for the paper screening process as well for the oral interviews that should take place in May. Our goal is to have the new vice president in place by July 1.

We have conducted 29 job searches thus far this year. Of these job searches, 22 have been to replace vacancies and 4 of the 7 new positions have been funded by grants or categorical funds.

We continue to be successful in acquiring additional grant funds. Presently, grant awards since July 1, 2016, total around \$3,294,000.

State Update

The Legislative Analyst Office is estimating that only 14 of the 72 California Community College Districts (just under one-fifth) expect to meet their enrollment targets in 2016-17.

The California Legislature could consider a proposal to provide fee waivers to all first-time community college students who are enrolled as full-time students. Placeholder trailer bill language would amend statute to waive tuition for California students enrolled in 12 units or more in their first academic year. This action could reduce tuition revenue for colleges by an estimated \$48 million. Similarly, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) has reported that the State needs to produce 1.1 million more bachelor's degrees by 2030 above current levels to meet future workforce needs. The PPIC notes that California ranks 47th in the country in terms of the number of high school students who attend college.

Aid does not adequately help low-income community college students. According to analysis by The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), about 55% of community college students have a family income so low that the U.S. Department of Education estimates they cannot support any of the costs associated with college. Yet, California Community College students typically have less access to aid than other students. Unlike UC, for example, community colleges do not offer significant institutional aid to help cover living expenses.

Research presented by TICAS at the February hearing showed that the net price for community college students, which is the total cost of college after aid, is often higher for community college students in the nine regions around UC campuses. The chart on the next page shows average aid amounts for students at the three public higher education segments.

TABLE 1: AVERAGE GRANT AID PER UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AT CALIFORNIA PUBLIC COLLEGES, 2015-16					
	Segment	Institutional Grants	State Grants	Pell Grants	TOTAL
Per Pell Recipient	CCC	\$1,700	\$400	\$3,400	\$5,400
	CSU	\$2,900	\$3,100	\$4,300	\$10,300
	UC	\$10,000	\$10,600	\$4,600	\$25,200
Per FTE	CCC	\$700	\$200	\$1,400	\$2,300
	CSU	\$1,800	\$1,900	\$2,700	\$6,400
	UC	\$4,100	\$4,300	\$1,900	\$10,200

Notes: Calculations based on data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office's Data Mart, California Department of Finance, the California Governor's 2016-17 state budget summary, the California Student Aid Commission, the California State University Office of the Chancellor, the Federal Student Aid Data Center, and the University of California Office of the President. For community colleges, state aid includes Cal Grants and Full-Time Student Success Grants; for CSU and UC, it includes Cal Grants and Middle Class Scholarships. Grant aid per student are intended to show relative aid availability for students at different colleges, not suggest average amounts of aid received by any given student. All figures are rounded to the nearest \$100. Totals may not add up to sum of individual categories due to rounding.

Low-income community college students face similar costs to students attending four-year universities but receive less State aid.

According to Student Aid Commission estimates, students face about \$2,952 in costs related to books and supplies and transportation.

According to TICAS research, low-income community college students who receive more financial aid perform significantly better than students who receive less aid. As discussion continues around the right types of programs to implement at community colleges to improve outcomes, it is important to note that providing more aid to students may be one of the most effective ways to increase the number of students who complete programs.

Full-time students have much higher success rates than part-time students. Increased financial aid can allow students to work fewer hours and take more units, thus increasing the likelihood that they will complete their program.

Here at COS:

- The Tentative Budget will be available for everyone to see in June.
- Registration for summer and fall semesters has begun.
- Classified Staff Development Day will be held on June 1.
- The COS Women's Softball Team placed second in our conference and we are expecting to hear shortly about our post-conference games. We expect that our first game will be an away game.
- The COS Track and Field athletes are participating in conference championship competitions and doing well.
- We will be going to the four-day summer schedule in June and July. Staff will have the option of choosing the number of hours worked, and for some departments there are also alternate work days, either Monday through Thursday or Tuesday through Friday. Staff should be working with their supervisors for this scheduling.
- The District is looking into other options for health insurance. Keenan is helping us to see if there are better options. This decision will need to be made in the next couple months.
- The Academic Success Center (ASC) remodel is being planned. We need to determine if wiring is in place or if we can have wireless computers. We want it to be a more visibly attractive area.

- We hope to hear soon from the State that the Police Academy will be able to start in the fall.
- There have been 33 student athletes who have signed with four-year colleges. There are 103 students who are scholar athletes (12 units with a 3.0 GPA). Of those, nineteen have a 4.0 GPA.
- The Ford Family Foundation (FFF) put out a proposal to fund Siskiyou County for job projects that require less than a bachelor's degree and they would like COS to be involved. There will be a CTE strategic planning meeting in May that the FFF is funding which we will be attending.
- Education 655 Boot Camp is starting for football and soccer. These students come in three weeks before regular classes start. We enroll them in a non-credit class to get their skills up; sort of a refresher class.
- Math and English sequencing comparisons were made from the last two years. Math was set up last year and English sequencing will be set up next year. The Math curriculum had to be rewritten and approved. Math classes were 3 credits with one credit lab included. Most Language, Art, and Science (LAS) students are not Math majors. These students are enrolling in statistics, passing, and moving onward. In reviewing the data, Math completions went from 40 to 230 completions from 2015-2016 to this year.
- We have already received 34 Lodge applications for the fall semester. We have also received ten international student applications, thanks in large part to the efforts of COS Soccer Coach, Ed Kephart. ☺
- We will have seven different summer camps here in the Lodges.
- The Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) meets every two weeks. The team has reviewed 24 student cases so far this spring.
- We received good news regarding the State budget. Revenues for March are up and the previous deficit is covered. Revenues now exceed projections by nearly \$1 billion. This will lessen the likelihood of a deficit factor being applied to our apportionment this year.
- We have selected a bank for the \$4 million loan. It is a private placement bond. We do not have to go through the logistics of a lease revenue bond and it is less costly for us. These funds will be used for a parking lot restructuring, renovation of the football/softball field with underground wiring for future lighting additions, some tree removal and installing air conditioning in Life Science, plus funding the Ellucian project. Instead of a 20-year bond, it will be a 15-year bond. It will increase the debt service but it will still stay within the amount we discussed. After five years, we can prepay on the balance with no penalty, and this would save several thousand dollars over the life of the bond. The process is going very quickly and we should receive the funds in June.
- We have received 52 applications for the Siskiyou College Promise so far. We expect many more to come in, with the expectation that we will more than double this number by the end of May.
- Student worker hiring information sessions are scheduled next week. Student ambassadors are needed as well as resident assistants for the Lodges.
- Graduation will be a little different this year. The way the stage is set up will be different with the addition of risers and a new curtain has been purchased to place behind the stage. This will also make visual and musical cues easier to see, and it will hide the wiring around the stage.
- We have a number of facility projects that will be done during the summer. They include:
 1. The Weed Campus paving project which will start in June, when the bond closes.
 2. The roof in welding should start in July.
 3. Renovation of dorm rooms has already started in unoccupied rooms. The Juniper Lodge food prep and laundry work is underway.
 4. Installing a server wall in LRC Information Tech.
 5. The LRC exterior painting project should start in late June or early July.
 6. The air conditioning repair is being scheduled for the Yreka IT.
 7. Painting in the Yreka Campus room with the new raised flooring is being scheduled and Phase II of landscaping in Yreka.
 8. One of our old riding mowers is being moved to Yreka so work does not have to be done with a walk-behind mower.

We have had an excellent year thus far and I look forward to accomplishing, or starting, several more significant efforts, between now and June 30. ☺

FOUNDATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

The month of April was mostly a blur for me as I was out of the office much of the month enjoying a much needed family vacation spent in Dallas, Texas; which was immediately followed by attending the Annual California Community College Public Relations Officers (CCCPRO) Annual conference held in Anaheim, California. I really enjoyed the CCCPRO conference this year and I attended many great sessions presented by Public Relations and Marketing professionals from California Community Colleges. One of the sessions I attended was titled “*Welcoming Your New CEO.*” Good timing. ☺ It was also great being able to visit and network with fellow public relations/marketing professionals (who I know through the Public Information Officer email list serve) and gain valuable information to help with our social media platforms, branding of the college, website/logo updates, recruitment, media relations, and graphic design. I’m looking forward to working with the campus to implement many of the ideas and suggestions I brought home with me from the conference.

Marketing/Advertsing (REG365) – With the arrival of May comes lots of advertising for the upcoming summer session, fall semester, and now with REG365, and the new compressed calendar for 2017/2018; registration for winter intersession and spring semester classes.

The College will be back “on the air” in May. A new promotional commercial for COS is in production and scheduled to begin running as soon as ready on KTVL and KDRV. In addition to the TV advertising, we will also have a digital marketing campaign running during the same time period. A second commercial will also be produced and will run in July and August promoting the fall semester as well as opportunities to register for winter intersession and spring semester classes.

Summer Camps – Holy Cow!! It’s almost summer time! This summer, we are offering youth summer camp options: www.siskiyous.edu/camps/ - forms and more information online.

- Back after a taking a break, is the **Summer Show Choir and Jazz Camp**. COS Music Instructor, Ron Slabbinck, will be the Camp Coordinator/Director. This camp will be held at the Weed Campus in the Theater, June 25 – July 1. Students can register for camp as a resident or day camper.
- Ed Kephart, new Head Soccer Coach, is holding a **Soccer Camp** at the Weed Campus, June 19 – 23. The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. during the week.
- Back this summer is the fifth annual **Camp Broadway!** This year’s Camp Broadway production will be Shrek Jr. and Wendy James is the Director. Camp Broadway will be held July 10 – August 6. The camp will meet Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the COS Theater. Auditions will be held May 13.

Foundation Scholarships

The COS Foundation Scholarship Readers Task Force met in April to select recipients for 2017/2018 awards. Representatives on the task force included: 2 - COS Foundation members, 1 - COS staff member, 2 - Community members. The task force read 34 applications and selected recipients for awards. Now that the recipient selection is completed, high school principals and counselors will be notified as will the COS continuing students. Scholarship awards for high school seniors are presented at their senior awards night or graduation and COS continuing students are notified by mail or in person.

Siskiyou Promise

Please help the College and the Foundation to spread the word in the community about the Siskiyou Promise opportunity for Siskiyou County high school students who are graduating next month (June 2017). Information on how to apply can be found online at www.siskiyous.edu/promise/. It’s very important to encourage the high school seniors to also apply for the FAFSA (financial aid) to be an eligible candidate to receive the Siskiyou Promise. Many parents I’ve talked with have said to me their child did not submit a FAFSA as they “probably”

wouldn't qualify for financial aid. That's when I remind them it's not about receiving federal financial aid, but to qualify for the Siskiyou Promise, it is one of the steps that needs be taken in order to determine award funding.

Save the Date!!

The COS Foundation and Athletic Department will host the "*Swing into Action*" Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 17, at the Lake Shastina Golf Resort. Tournament registration is open and the cost to participate is \$75 per player or \$300 for a team of four. Funds raised will support the COS Athletic Department and our many sports. Contact Dawnie if you would like to play in the tournament or download the registration form:

<http://www.siskiyous.edu/foundation/events.htm>

May Events:

Here's what's coming up in May:

May 1 - 7

- May 1: Reg365 for 2017/2018 summer session, fall semester, winter intersession, and spring semester classes begins
- May 2: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Closed Session at 5 p.m./Open Public Session at 6 p.m., Board Room
- May 3: Annual ADN to BSN College Transfer Fair – 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Yreka Campus RHSI Lobby
- May 5 and 6: Senior Theater Presents "Are We Nuts Yet?" – 7 p.m., Black Box Theater (T4)
- May 7: Senior Theater Presents "Are We Nuts Yet?" – 2 p.m., Black Box Theater (T4)

May 8 - 13

- May 8: COS Student Photography Show "Authentic Silver Prints" Opens – On display through May 23, LRC Art Gallery (Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- May 9: Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble Concert – 7 p.m., COS Theater
- May 11: Kindergarten Day – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Campus
- May 13: Camp Broadway Auditions for Shrek Jr. beginning at 10 a.m. COS Theater
- May 13: Choir Concert "A History of Music Through Son" – 3 p.m., COS Theater

May 14 - 20

- May 18: Psychology Club Movie Night Presentation "Finding Dory" – 3:30 p.m., Weed Campus Distance Learning Center, Room 3
- May 19: COS Registered Nurse Graduation/Pinning Ceremony, 5 p.m. at COS Theater
- May 19: Graduation Practice, 10 a.m. at COS Gym
- May 19: COS Graduation, 7 p.m. at COS Gym (reception to follow in Student Center)
- May 20: COS Fire Academy Graduation, 1 p.m. at COS Theater

May 21-27

- May 21: Chamber Music Ensemble Concert – 3 p.m., COS Theater
- May 22 – 25: Finals Week
- May 23: Retirement Reception for COS Employees, 3 p.m. at Science Building Foyer
- May 25: Spring semester ends
- May 25: End of Year BBQ at Scotty and Sharie Thomason's House, 5 p.m. in Lake Shastina (details to be sent out soon)

May 28 – June 3

- May 29: Campus Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
- June 1: Classified Employee Day (tentative)

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The State revenues are headed the right direction as I had hoped. The March numbers are showing revenues exceeding the forecast by \$1.4 billion. This increase more than wipes out the year-to-date shortfall of \$239 million through February. Year-to-date State revenues are now \$1.1 billion ahead of the Governor's budget forecast. Hopefully, this will hold through the end of the fiscal year. If it does, we can hope for additional one-time funds and possibly no deficit factor applied to our apportionment. If we do receive additional one-time funds, we likely will not see those until next fiscal year with the recalculation in February.

The May Revise from the Governor for the 2017-2018 budget will be out within a couple of weeks. This will help us to finalize the District Tentative Budget. The Tentative Budget will be working its way through the various councils over the next month. It is very near completion at the time of this writing.

Information Technology

Information Technology is working on the resolution of little issues that relate to the migration to the Cloud environment. We are operating in the Cloud as most of you know. That has certainly been the focus of this last week. Thank you for all the extra hours and efforts that have been put in by IT staff.

Maintenance

There is a lot going on in our area. Here are some of the highlights.

- The Ponderosa laundry/meal prep remodel is complete.
- The visitor baseball dugout rehabilitation is complete.
- Quotes are coming for the server room wall and the kitchen remodel phase II.
- The new boilers for LRC, Ponderosa, and Juniper have been ordered, the project bids next week.
- The painting of the Technology Center 1 and 2 has been scheduled as has the replacement of the plastic duct work and failed a/c in the Industrial Tech building office in Yreka.
- Electric garage doors have been ordered for Yreka and Weed metal bay doors.
- The pavement rehabilitation project design is nearing complete.
- Dorm room remodeling and Yreka landscaping upgrades have resumed and Fire Alarm testing for Yreka has been set for June 16.
- Facility's completed their 1200th work order since July 1!
- Congratulations to Melinda Garland our newest Facility's team member (Administrative Assistant II) who will be joining us on May 2. Please come by and introduce yourselves.

INSTRUCTION

Progress is being made on the development of a new Agriculture Business Degree. We will follow the process to have it approved as an Associate Degree for Transfer. Mark Klever is the lead faculty member for this initiative. It was reviewed by Instruction Council and the next step will be to present the proposal to the North Far North Regional Consortium.

Beginning in June, Anne Marie Kuhlemann and Michael Reetz, our distance learning staff, will begin the process of updating the look of our home page. A preview presented to President Thomason was well received and this basic facelift will update our look until we can decide upon a more permanent solution.

The remodel in the Academic Success Center is on track. The new carpeting has arrived and the new furnishings have been ordered. Look for significant changes to this area in the summer.

I was able to attend a tour of the Lava Beds National Monument with local leaders. A group in Tulelake is petitioning for a change from a National Monument to a National Park which would bring a higher level of

recognition and more visitors. I was able to have a discussion about internship possibilities at the site for our students.

Soon, the County will receive a mailing advertising our Community Education, Non-Credit, and Adult Education opportunities. Thanks go out to Blaine Smith, Kim Freeze, and Dawnie Slabaugh for working on this project.

We have our final Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative team visit on May 4. We will have the opportunity to provide an update on the projects in which we have been working. Related to this, our Curriculum Committee has been working hard to “clear the queue” of new courses and updates to existing courses so we can begin our transition to eLumen.

On April 13, approximately 30 people gathered in the Library to celebrate poetry with “An Evening of Expression” featuring original works by students, faculty, and staff. Poets included (in alphabetical order): Shondi Farris, Maria Fernandez, Beckie Hobbs, Cathy Kigerl, Haley Martin, Quintilus McDowell, Tylor Myers, Taylor Scully, Cory Short, Mercy Talley, Corina (Ponepila) Vorachith, and Samantha Worthington. This now annual campus event in honor of National Poetry Month was organized by the COS Writers Club and the Library.

STUDENT SERVICES

Vice President of Student Services

Graduation is almost here, and we’ve been working out the details for a new and improved commencement ceremony. We purchased a blue curtain backdrop for our stage area, will incorporate “risers” from the Theater Department, (thank you Theater Department) which will be our actual stage, and will start the procession one hour earlier than last year, which will be Friday, May 19, 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal is scheduled for the same day – Friday, May 19, 10 a.m. A more detailed memo via email will be sent soon.

I began the month by attending the workshop, “Partnerships That Unlock Social Mobility,” in Redding, with Associate Dean Val Roberts. The purpose of the workshop was to meet with regional partners to help us all achieve prosperity through the acquisition of skills, and access to successful careers, by collaborating and improving our ability to provide career counseling, job placement, and supportive services. We looked at Regional Workforce Plans, Strong Workforce Taskforce Plans, and the Adult Education Block Grant Regional Plans. It was great to see the good-will and willingness of our colleagues in other community agencies and colleges to work toward sharing resources for the common good.

I then spent most of the second week in April working on the President Search Committee meeting in interviews. We had some outstanding candidates and, given the tough competition, I congratulate all those who made it to the first round of interviews. When I completed my service to the Committee, I left feeling confident and hopeful, having experienced first-hand the high level of integrity, intelligence, and honorableness each committee member displayed. It was humbling to work with such outstanding people. Whomever the Board chooses, I am certain that we will have a good president.

At the end of the above mentioned week, the Diversity Committee held a morning long retreat in order to identify our mission and values. After a wonderful discussion, we crafted the following statement:

The College of the Siskiyous Diversity Committee takes a united stance to promote a sense of belonging where everyone feels valued and respected.

Our vision is to create a safe environment through celebration, education, and the challenging of beliefs, perceptions, and biases.

Diversity Committee – April 14, 2017

Our next items will be to identify goals for 2017-2018 and work on our Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Plan.

The following week, a team of COS folks attended an Active Shooter Training in Redding. The presenter, a former law enforcement official, stated that they are continuously analyzing the latest shootings and learning from them. The most recent mode of response is to: RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT! In other words, if you can run and escape, that's the first option, if not, hide, and if you can – fight! A couple other “take-aways” are that anything has the potential to be a weapon (such as a pen) and the most important thing is to have a survivor mindset. ***If you think you'll survive, then you will.*** (That's rather philosophical too!) Expect to hear from us soon regarding drills and additional training.

On Friday, April 21, we hosted a Principals and Superintendents luncheon at the College. We enjoyed meeting our School District partners, and explained to them the various programs that reach out and visit their campuses. We also gave them an update on their Siskiyou Promise students and our plans for the 2017-2018 academic year. A couple of them stated they appreciated being invited to the lunch and hope we can do it on a regular basis (which is the very thing we plan to do).

That week closed with a great time at the Weed Chamber of Commerce Chinese Auction at the Sons of Italy Hall. The food was outstanding, and yours-truly won TWO prizes! One prize has been donated to the Foundation for the Scholarship Auction, and the other will be enjoyed by my family (a gift card to Grocery Outlet, subscription to the Siskiyou Daily News, and two cases of water and Pepsi.)

Happy May everyone!

When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.
~ William Arthur Ward

Admissions and Records

The month of April has been very busy getting prepared for the 2017-2018 registration year. Registration started off by giving 280 students priority registration on April 24 and an additional 880 were given priority on April 28. All other regular students will be able to register on May 1.

On May 8, K-12 Special Admits registration opens. We are currently setting up a mailer for the 181 currently enrolled K-12 students to register for next year.

We are also setting up for graduation at this time. Currently, we have 183 petitioners with 50 students confirmed as walking in graduation.

Counseling and Student Success

Counseling and Advising

Priority registration for Tier 1 (DSPS, EOPS, Veterans, Foster Youth, and CalWORKs students meeting the criteria) began April 24, Tier 2 (continuing currently enrolled students) began April 28, and open enrollment on May 1. Registration is for potentially four terms now. This means it's been very busy for the counselors, advisors, and staff in the Counseling and Student Support Programs area. Wait time to see a counselor is still only two to three days, and advisors see students on a walk-in basis.

The EOPS/CARE, SSS, Foster Youth, and CalWORKs honors and graduation celebration is scheduled for May 18. In order for a student to receive Honors, they must have completed at least 21 units during the spring 2016 and fall 2016 semesters and have a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74. For a student to receive High Honors, they must have completed at least 21 units during the spring 2016 and fall 2016 semesters and have a GPA of 3.75 to 4.0. We are proudly inviting 85 students from these various programs.

CalWORKs

CalWORKs will have two students graduating this month. Congratulations to these students!

DSPS

DSPS will have 16 students graduating this month. Congratulations to these students!

Dr. Sunny Greene, at the request of the DSPS Advisory Committee, has started publishing a monthly DSPS Newsletter. The first edition was distributed to the Advising Committee in late April. If you would like to read it, look for the monthly newsletters posted on our DSPS webpage.

EOPS/CARE

EOPS will have 32 students graduating this month. Congratulations to these students!

The CARE Regional Conference is being planned and is scheduled for June 2 – 3 in Redding. This conference will consist of CARE students from College of the Siskiyous, Shasta, Lassen, and College of the Redwoods.

Workshops and key note speakers will provide useful information to these students who are single parents on topics related to stress release and self-care, self-defense, and making good life choices leading to goals and success. Last year's conference was the first, and students had great feedback about the positive impact it had on their lives and the renewed focus it helped them gain.

Foster Youth Success Program

The Foster Youth Success Program will have its final Monthly Meet Up of the semester. These Meet Ups have included people from the campus who provide support to students outside the classroom so that connections can be made. Meet Ups have also provided an opportunity for our students, who are former foster youth, the opportunity to meet others with the same background. The students who have participated have enjoyed these events. We plan to extend the invitation to our foster youth who are seniors in our Siskiyou County high schools when we start the Meet Ups in the fall.

Shannon Eller and Val Roberts have been invited to visit Stronghold Court School in Canby, California, the past two semesters to talk to their students about college with specific focus on College of the Siskiyous. We were recently contacted again because they have students who have expressed an interest in taking summer classes. We will be visiting later this month to help students enroll.

Student Success and Support Programs – SSSP

SOAR

Siskiyou County High School SOAR sessions have been scheduled for mid to late May. We have 14 sessions scheduled! This is the first year we've been invited to Butte Valley and Jefferson, and we're happy to work with them. In addition to High School SOARs, we have several on campus sessions schedule for May to welcome students who will be new for summer or fall.

Assessment

The CCCAssess team reports that the 13 original "Pilot" schools will implement the new Common Assessment in fall 2017. We have requested to be among the "Early Adopters" who implement spring 2018. More information will follow as details are shared with us.

We recently received notification that we have been approved by ACCUPLACER to administer their placement test. The English faculty will set cut scores, and we will begin use of ACCUPLACER as part of the multiple measures placement of students into English courses in the next few weeks. More information will be provided once this process is fully implemented.

Transfer and Articulation

ASSIST Next Generation, the updated ASSIST site, has been made available to community college Articulation Officers in preparation for a "go live" date of July. ASSIST is an online student-transfer information system that shows how course credits earned at one public California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's public colleges and universities and provides the most accurate and up-to-date information about student transfer in California. The "Next Gen"

version will allow for on-going curriculum updates, rather than the previous process of submitting new or updated course information quarterly. This means anyone using ASSIST will have current information. It is also said to be more user friendly. ASSIST is a helpful tool, and is used daily by counselors and advisors, as well as by many students.

TRiO – Student Support Services (SSS) and Upward Bound

The TRiO staff will be attending a workshop on “Improving Financial Aid and Admissions Outcomes and Increasing Financial and Economic Literacy.” This training is specifically for TRiO professionals.

SSS has 25 students graduating. Of the current students in the program, when looking at spring 2016 and fall 2016 grades and units completed, 15 students will receive High Honors and 15 students will receive Honors. Congratulations to these students!

Upward Bound is wrapping up Summer Academy planning and hiring. This year’s summer curriculum will be widely derived from “Serial,” an investigatory podcast series. A variety of activities from DNA extraction to forensic science case studies will be provided for students as interactive learning tools.

Veterans

One of our Veteran students received the NorCAL PRIE (Northeastern California Preparation and Retention of Indian Educators) scholarship which is offered through CSU Chico. This program provides financial support (tuition, books, and a monthly stipend) to qualified American Indian (AI) and Alaskan Native (AN) students who are eligible to start a teaching credential program and are interested in using their training to benefit the AI/AN community. Congratulations to our student!

We had an audit for the Veterans program in early April, and recently received word that we had passed. We also received verbal accolades for streamlining the process for veteran students to be certified. Thanks goes to Denis Hagarty for being well prepared for this audit and for doing a great job serving our veteran population.

Financial Aid

April was a whirlwind that flew through not only with the weather but Financial Aid! The staff has been working furiously to get forms ready and Banner processes set up for 2017-2018. On April 21, we sent emails to 1,546 prospective students informing them that they can begin submitting documents in order to complete their financial aid files! The emails are also sent to students who have completed their 2017-2018 FAFSAs but haven’t applied to College of the Siskiyous. This will allow contact to a group of students that in the past were not acknowledged of their interest in attending COS.

Students can still apply for the 2016-2017 aid year and, if eligible, receive their aid for fall and spring. For those students who are enrolling in the summer 2017 term they must complete a 2016-2017 FAFSA if they haven’t done so already.

The Department of Education announced that due to suspicious activity with the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), it will no longer be available to students and their families to use while completing their FAFSAs. The IRS DRT provides tax data that automatically fills in the income information on the FAFSA. Once enhancements are made to encrypt or mask sensitive data, the IRS DRT will be reactivated.



Is there a Financial Aid dress code???

Student Equity

Siskiyou Promise Applications have been steadily coming in for our 2017-2018 school year and we are on track to see our numbers grow from last year. We are very excited to welcome these new students to College of the Siskiyous in the fall and have a lot of events and activities planned for our incoming freshmen to help them acclimate to campus, as well as for our second-year promise students. Just a reminder, if students have questions regarding the Siskiyou Promise Program, please refer them to the Campus Resource Center located in the Welcome Center, or have them call Regina Weston directly at 938-5367.

In preparation for our on-site high school SOAR events, which are scheduled for the beginning of May, Regina visited Etna High School and the Yreka and Mt. Shasta campuses of Golden Eagle Charter School. At these pre-SOAR events, Regina discussed the Siskiyou Promise Scholarship and made sure that all students had completed their FAFSAs and CCCApply applications. She provided information about programs and services available to new students and collected information to make sure that the on-site SOAR orientations would run smoothly and efficiently.

The partnership between Student Equity, Adult Education Pathways, and the local Community Resource Centers is working very well. Our first Adult Education Outreach was held at the Yreka Community Resource Center on Monday, April 24, during the dinner portion of their parenting education class. We received a very positive response from participants and many were not aware of the programs and services available through the college for adult learners. We are hoping to schedule more of these outreach events over the next couple of months and hope to continue to see these outreach efforts grow.

Regina attended the Mazama High School career fair on April 12, where over 1,000 local high school students from all over the Klamath Falls area were in attendance. She enjoyed interacting with the students and answering questions about College of the Siskiyous.

In an effort to bring awareness to students about the programs and services available to them throughout Siskiyou County, we held an Eagle Student Resource Fair on April 26. This event featured over 20 informational booths for students to visit and learn more about the services that participating organizations provide. Our hope is to offer a similar event in the fall to help build the connections between the College and these wonderful local organizations.

In closing, please remember that help is available in the Welcome Center. If students come to you with questions regarding the Siskiyou Promise, Financial Aid, or if they are having issues with transportation, etc., please refer them to Regina for help. They can receive one-on-one attention and get their questions answered.

Student Life

The Associated Student Board held elections for fall 2017 Senators and the Student Trustee. Congratulations to Wesley Turnquist and Calvin Wagner who were selected as senators and to Calvin Wagner who has been nominated as the Student Trustee for the 2017-2018 for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

The search for Lodge Resident Advisors was extended to allow more applicants to apply. Interviews for this position are being scheduled for May 8-12. Applications for on-campus housing are rolling in with 38 applicants as of April 30; this is consistent with prior years for this same time period.

The College of the Siskiyous Behavior Intervention Team (BIT) assisted 24 students who were showing signs of crisis in the first four months of 2017. The BIT is a group of College faculty and staff that meet regularly to focus on interventions with students experiencing crisis and/or are displaying harmful or disruptive behavior. The team receives reports, conducts an investigation, performs an assessment, and determines the best mechanisms for support, intervention, warning/notification, and response. The BIT members then coordinate follow-up. Additionally, the team tracks "red flags" over time, detecting patterns, trends, and disturbances in individual or group behavior and implements additional follow-up if necessary.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The annual Retirement Reception will be held in the Science Building Lobby on May 23, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Presentations will be made at 3:30 p.m. with refreshments and dessert to follow. This year's reception will honor the following Retirees: Nancy Funk, Jan Keen, Nancy Shepard, Scotty Thomason, and Connie Warren.

Classified Staff Day will be Thursday, June 1. Workshops will be presented by Jeremiah LaRue and the IT Department. An agenda will go out soon via email. The lunch will be catered by Food Services and will be a Vintage Campout theme complete with burger bar and s'mores for dessert.

Testing continues on the HireTouch Applicant Tracking Software. A soft rollout will begin the week of May 15. One position and committee will be selected to utilize the software through the entire process. Once it is determined that the software is ready to utilize for all recruitments, it will be rolled out to all. There will be training opportunities for both individuals serving as committee members and hiring managers. We are excited to implement this time and paper-saving resource!

We would like to welcome the newest member of the Human Resources permanent staff! Beverly Muelrath will start as the Administrative Assistant III, Human Resources effective immediately. Welcome Beverly!!

Recruitment	
Position	Status
Student Services Specialist, A&R	Jennifer Rubio
Administrative Assistant II, MOT	Melinda Garland
Superintendent/President	In negotiations
Music Instructor, Instrumental Performance	Interviews Scheduled
Food Services Assistant	Screening
Vice President, Administrative Services	First Review Extended 5/9/2017
Political Science Instructor	First Review 5/4/2017
Administrative Assistant II, Public Relations & Foundation	First Review 5/15/2017
Fiscal Analyst	First Review 5/11/2017
Communication Studies Instructor (Interim)	First Review 5/17/2017
Student Services Specialist, Financial Aid	First Review 5/30/2017
Dean of Instruction	Building Committee

No other reports were submitted this month.