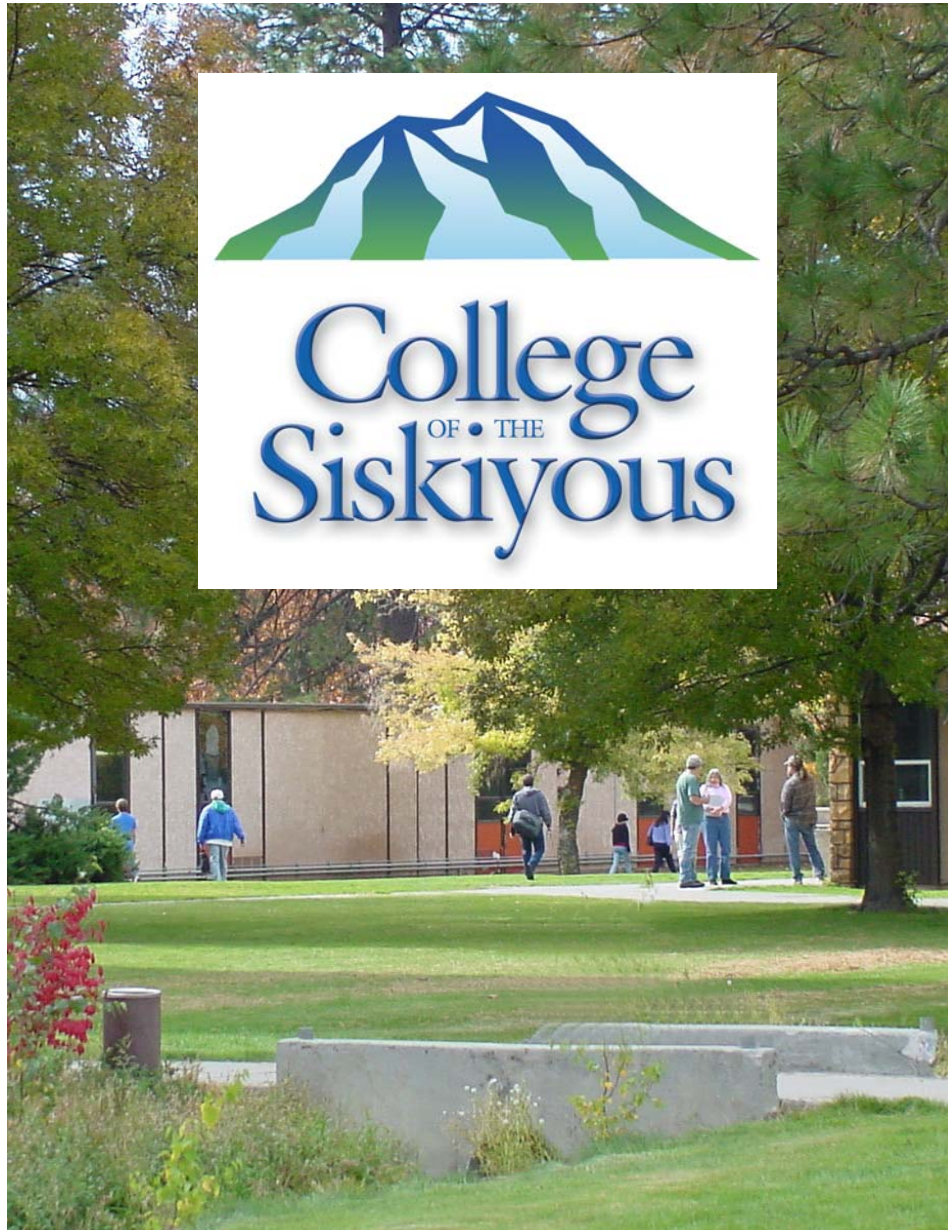


# ***The Community's College***



**2012—2014 Annual Report**

# Highlights - 2012 to 2014

*Our Mission: College of the Siskiyous promotes learning and provides academic excellence for today's global students through accessible, flexible, affordable, and innovative education leading to associate degrees, certificates, college transfer, career and technical education, workforce training, and basic skills preparation.*

## Dr. Robert A. Frost Interim President / Superintendent



Dr. Robert Frost has served as Interim President/ Superintendent from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

"I am very proud to have served the board, the college, and our community this year," Frost offered in a brief statement. "We have a great college with first-class teaching and learning resources." Earlier this

spring, Frost announced he has accepted the position of President of Centralia College in the State of Washington. He will begin his work there on July 1, 2014.

"I leave with great sadness, as there are a few projects unfinished, and I will miss many, many close friends. COS has a great team of talented people, and progress continues to be made on the key issues of improving communications, student completion, and classroom and lab upgrades. The student success areas at the college are very strong as we continue to update computer and lab technologies, library support, and learning support services, so the next president has a very solid foundation to support our goal of recruiting, and graduating more students," said Frost.

Frost was hired by COS in 2010 as Vice President of Student Learning. After completing his Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, Frost served as an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University. He began his career as a student ombudsman in Kansas, before the fluent Spanish speaker moved south to teach elementary school in Argentina. Frost has served in numerous faculty and administrative positions over a 23 year career and got his start in community colleges by working for St. Louis Community College.

## July 2012

- Warning sanction is lifted, accreditation is reaffirmed. The college will begin preparing for next self-study report and review in 2016.
- James Witherell-Vargas, is seated as the 2012/2013 Student Trustee.
- Construction on new Science Building is completed. Science faculty move into the new building.

## August 2012

- Jon Cox is hired as new Head Softball Coach.
- Science faculty are re-located to new Science Building. Science classes begin.
- COS Scholarship Program awards \$36,927 to students.

## September 2012

- College Foundation Scholarship Dinner and Coat of Many Colors Auction raises \$7,000 to support COS student scholarships.
- Twenty Siskiyou County children audition to perform in the COS Performing Arts Series performance of *The Nutcracker* with the Eugene Ballet Company.

## October 2012

- College Foundation hosts Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting event for new Science Building. David Pelham, former COS President (2002-2008) is keynote speaker.
- US Bank Foundation and the Sierra Pacific Foundation are co-sponsors of the COS Performing Arts Series.
- Theater Department presents its fall play, *The Grapes of Wrath*.



## November 2012

- Football team is Mid Empire League Conference Champion and wins Central Division Top of the State Bowl Game against Chabot College at Weed Campus Stadium. Many Eagle Football team members receive recognition.
- Christian Reyes, a student, is named Male Athlete of the Month—Honorable Mention, by the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) and California Community College Sports Information Association. Reyes was the NorCal leader in total rushing yards and yards per game for the season breaking the college's single season rushing record.

## December 2012

- Paramedic Program receives affirmation of accreditation.
- College Foundation hosts 16th annual Holiday Craft Fair in COS Gym.
- Charlie Roche, Head Football Coach, is named Coach of the Year for the Mid Empire Conference and for State Region II. (The 2012 season record was 10-1, the most single season wins in school history.)

## January 2013

- COS Drama Club presents "*Middle East Side Story*," written, directed and choreographed entirely by students.
- Auditions are held for spring musical *The Boys from Syracuse*.

## February 2013

- Jim Gilmore, Art Faculty, wins "West Coast Biennial" Grand Prize for his "Paoha," a framed 25-inch by 60-inch panoramic pigment photographic print from a black and white negative. This prestigious exhibition is open only to west coast artists.
- Women's Basketball team is Golden Valley Conference (GVC) Champions (25-6 season record) and host a first round playoff game as the Number 5 playoff seed.
- Tom Powers, Head Women's Basketball Coach, is GVC Coach of the Year.

## March 2013

- Women's Basketball team members, Anna Cameron, Shyanna Ashworth, Hailey Wales, and Carrie Watson are honored during halftime of the first round home playoff game against Cabot College. Cameron was named the GVC MVP, the NorCal Section Player of the Year and an All-State selection. Her teammates, Ashworth, Wales, and Watson all received first team GVC honors. Watson was also named Rookie of the Year.
- Jon Cox, New Head Softball Coach, begins rebuilding Softball Program.

## April 2013

## Science Building Opens for Start of Fall Semester Classes



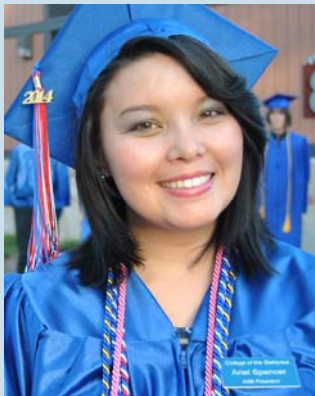
"The Science Building incorporates the sustainable values we have adopted at COS," said Mark Healy, retired Maintenance & Facilities Director. The 100% state-funded project was started over 10 years ago. This facility provides a flexible learning environment while minimizing the cost of ownership. The materials used in the building have less impact than traditional materials (the building is composed of about 30% recycled materials). Additionally, the roofing material is designed for the life of the building rather than replacing it every 20 years. That saves money and keeps materials out of the waste system.

"A team built this building. Instructors were on the front line in the decision-making process," said Healy. "They toured other science buildings in the state to get the best ideas. We had a huge number of meetings that were very productive."

The two-story building has life science classrooms, including those for microbiology, biology, anatomy and physiology on the first floor. Upstairs are classrooms and labs for the physical sciences (geology, chemistry, and physics). All the instructors' offices are adjacent to their classrooms and some have direct access to the prep rooms. This arrangement makes it easier for students to find their instructors and encourages more communication.

The building was built with flexibility for changes in technology that may not even be imagined yet. "It was designed with a robust technology infrastructure. The bandwidth is built into this building. Technology-wise, it's the best on campus," said Healy.

## COS Student Represents COS and California Community Colleges



In October 2013, a group of COS students traveled to Monterey, CA, to participate in the annual Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) General Assembly Conference. It is a seldom occasion when a COS student is recognized at the State level, however one particular COS student

has gone above and beyond her Associated Student Body (ASB) duties and has taken her skills and passion for student involvement to another level.

Ariel Spencer arrived from Chula Vista, CA, in the fall of 2011. During her time at COS, Ariel became involved in many activities. She participated as a member of the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, served as President of ASB, and was a Resident Advisor in the Lodges. Ariel regularly volunteered her time at campus events and in helping students. A communications major, Ariel will transfer in fall of 2014 to a four-year institution to continue her education.

“Since her first day on campus checking into the Lodges as a resident student, she has made a solid effort to make her COS experience enriched, along with the experiences of others around her. Ariel is a newly elected Region I senator on the SSSCC and is making a name for us here at COS,” said Les Courtemanche, Assistant Director of Student Life and ASB Advisor.

The SSSCC is a student council composed of 30 elected student leaders throughout the state of California that advocate for and represent the 2.4 million students in the California Community College system at the state level.

“I am proud that for the first time in the history of the SSSCC, COS now has an elected seat on the council. I will not only advocate for the needs of our students, but for the needs of the college as well. We as students have proven that we care about our education, and should stand united and equal with our educational rights despite our size, or where we come from. It is my goal and duty to represent not only COS, but all of the California Community Colleges, as equally and as fairly as we deserve. After all, students united, can never be divided,” said Ariel.

- Kerry Marsh, award-winning jazz composer, director, and arranger, conducts jazz workshops at COS.
- Les Courtemanche, Assistant Track and Field Coach, is named Assistant Coach of the Year by CCCAA.
- Athletic Department recognizes over 80 Scholar Athletes for 2012/2013.
- COS Spring Musical, *The Boys from Syracuse*, features two sets of identical twins in feature roles.

### May 2013

- Baseball team finishes in 2nd place for the Golden Valley Conference (GVC) with a 12-0 record.
- Track and Field—Javelin throwers take the top three spots at Northern California Finals in Sacramento.
- The 54th annual Commencement Ceremony is held with 123 graduates.
- Twenty-eight students receive their Associate Degree in Nursing.

### June 2013

- College recognizes 14 staff members for many years of service during annual staff appreciation day.
- Dr. Robert A. Frost, Vice President of Student Learning, is hired as Interim President / Superintendent of College of the Siskiyous.

### July 2013

- Damion Doyle is seated as 2013/2014 Student Trustee.
- COS Drama Club presents original musical, *Fading Paths*, in the Black Box Studio Theater to a sold out audience.
- Bill Hirt, Geology Faculty, has a paper accepted for the American Geological Society’s national conference in Denver, CO.

### August 2013

- Dennis Weathers, Art Faculty, is recognized for his service as a Siskiyou Artists Association (SAA) judge during the 56th Annual Art Show.
- Students audition for the fall drama production of *The Crucible*.
- College employees pose for impromptu “Eagle T-Shirt” photo—eager for the fall semester to begin.
- COS Scholarship Program awards \$33,407 to students.

### September 2013

- College Foundation Scholarship Committee raises \$7,000 for student scholarships.
- Twenty-two Siskiyou County children audition to perform in the COS Performing Arts Series performance of *The Nutcracker* with the Eugene Ballet Company.
- Weed Rotary supports College Foundation with donation to Scholarship Committee for support of scholarships.
- College OPTIONS in partnership with COS hosts College

## It's Not a Man's World Anymore!



"Welding is fun and it's challenging," said College of the Siskiyous Welding student Morgan Scott. "You're doing something that makes a difference and, it's not just for men. It's structured, it's a great job opportunity, and you can get great job benefits." Scott started training last fall in the COS Welding Program. A co-worker was actually the one who recommended she see what welding was all about and, by the end of her first semester at COS, she was hooked.

A 2013 graduate of Mt. Shasta High School, Scott is a full time student and single mother of a one-year old son. Entering the Welding Program at COS was not an easy decision. "I was pretty scared and unsure if I was making the right decision. My first semester, I was the only female in my welding classes and felt really uncomfortable at first. But the instructors are so wonderful it did not take long for me to decide I was meant to be a welder and could be successful at it."

As stated by the 'American Welder,' women possess certain characteristics that make up a good welder, including great hand-eye coordination and patience. A woman's professional role in the metal-trades is increasing as women discover alternative opportunities previously dominated by men. Today, it's estimated that only 5% of welders in the United States are women.

The annual wage for welding jobs can range anywhere from the low end of \$30,000 to the high side of \$90,000. A hiring boom is happening across the nation as the need for more skilled and certified welders has increased. The U.S. Department of Labor projects approximately a 15% increase in jobs in this field by 2020. "It's a tremendously-growing, understaffed profession right now," Dr. Robert Taylor, COS Director of Career and Technical Education said. "COS is working to enhance its program to meet the needs of the market and future."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau, the number of female welders in the United States has increased by over 2% over the past decade and the increase is expected to continue. That might not sound like a huge increase, but labor officials say it points to a trend of more women getting into the welding industry.

Job seekers of both genders can find a strong future as a professional welder, especially since the National Association of Manufactures estimate that an additional 14 million welders will be needed by 2020, but more and more women are entering the field as the job of a professional and certified welder emerges into one that requires not only physical strength but knowledge of the latest technology and new equipment.

"We just spent over \$50,000 this year updating our welding equipment, and we have additional funds in the pipeline for Welding, Fire, Computer Science, Nursing, Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical," said Taylor, the Dean of Career & Technical Education at COS. "We are investing heavily right now in new equipment and support for our CTE programs, so now is a great time to enroll at COS."

Scott hopes to obtain an Advanced Level Welding Certificate followed by receiving an associate of science degree. After COS, she plans to move to the Portland area where she feels she can best put her welding skills to use. "The teachers in the COS Welding program are very supportive. Arnold (Koonz) is one of my heroes. He is so patient, giving of his time, and is not judgmental. He encourages me to figure things out without worrying if I'm doing it right or wrong," she said.

Instructor Arnold Koonz said, "Female welders are just as good as men when it comes to welding. They have more hand to eye coordination and dexterity skills." Before becoming an instructor, Koonz was in the industry for more than twenty years and saw all kinds of people in the profession. Scott is one of three female welders in the spring 2014 program at COS. When asked what advice she would give to other females interested in welding Scott responded, "stick to it! In the beginning it will be rough. But once you get going it gets easier and it gets to be much more fun!"

## Quitting is Not an Option

Aletha Bonner-Dougherty moved to Siskiyou County in 2007. She enrolled at COS in the fall of 2009, but soon found out she had Tubular Carcinoma, a form of breast cancer, and withdrew from her classes because of fear. Aletha beat the cancer she was diagnosed with in 2009 only to find out in late 2013 she had developed a second form of cancer, Aggressive Ductal Carcinoma, which is the most aggressive type of breast cancer.

"No problem," she said. "I can beat this one too!" And she did, as a full-time COS spring 2014 semester student. "I did not want to miss a single day of school or fall really behind. So I took my books with me to the hospital while I was fighting the cancer and getting my chemo. The nurses had to take them away from me." Aletha said the first week of school was pretty hard. It had been many years since she had attended school and she felt very overwhelmed at first but was able to get through it. "Once I set a goal, I don't give up," she says.

"The services COS offers its students are many and I took advantage of them all," said Aletha. At COS students have access to free student support services such as tutoring, an academic success center featuring math, writing and reading lab, computer labs, a library, and more. "The best thing about COS and being a student is the education this college provides. It's really like you are getting a one on one education. You are not just a body or a number in a room with 50 or more students." Aletha said the instructors whose classes she took this spring are exceptional. "I want to be as smart as they are. Each of my instructors was so helpful and understanding. They are full of knowledge and I just loved to listen to them," she continued. "Everyone at COS wants you to succeed, from the gardener to the math teachers to the lady who works in snack shack. People really care!"

This summer Aletha will be moving to Clackamas, OR, but she still plans to continue taking classes and has already enrolled in 14 summer session units at COS. "Just because I am moving doesn't mean I'm quitting, quitting is not an option I choose," she says.



and Career Day for high school seniors. Approximately 350 seniors from Siskiyou County high schools attend the event.

- Shawn Abbott, Business and Economics Faculty, was selected to participate in an NSF project designed to strengthen economics instruction at the community college level.

### October 2013

- College Foundation receives \$20,000 donation to COS Scholarship Program.
- New Dean of Career and Technical Education is hired.
- Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department and Office of Emergency Services participates in "mock shooting drill" at the Weed Campus. More than 180 police officers, sheriffs deputies, firefighters and emergency first responders participated in the training.
- Theater Department presents its fall play, *The Crucible*.
- David Carico, part-time Faculty, receives a research grant from the Foundational Questions Institute in Decatur, GA.

### November 2013

- For the second consecutive year, the Football team is Mid-Empire Conference Champion and hosts Top of the State Bowl Game against Chabot College.
- Students in the Intermediate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) class create open source maps of the typhoon-impacted Philippines to assist rescue and aid workers.
- Alison Varty and Jenny Heath, COS Faculty, are featured speakers for the AAUW Women In Science event at COS.
- Many Eagle Football team members receive post-season honors. Fourteen are named to the All Mid Empire Conference first team, seven are on the honorable mention list, and for a second consecutive year, Head Coach Charlie Roche is named Coach of the Year.

### December 2013

- College Foundation hosts 17th annual Holiday Craft Fair.
- Ariel Spencer, ASB President, is elected to the Student Senate for California Community Colleges.
- College Foundation and the Siskiyou Arts Council partner as recipients of \$50,000 grant from the Hearst Foundation.
- Five Eagle Football team members receive All-State honors.

## January 2014

- College begins search for permanent President / Superintendent.
- Auditions are held for Spring Musical, *The Producers*.
- New Director of Research and Evaluation is hired.

## February 2014

- Anna Cameron, former COS student, is selected for California Community College Athletic Association Athlete Honor Roll.
- College Foundation opens Vintage Nest Shop.
- Women's Basketball is GVC Champion for third consecutive year.
- College expands partnership with Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) to continue offering of wilderness medicine classes at Weed Campus.
- Men's Basketball earns spot in the State Playoffs. A first since 2009.

## March 2014

- Students attend March in March in Sacramento, CA.
- Sponsored by College OPTIONS and COS, 8th Grade Day returns to COS.
- Faith Sponsler, 2011 graduate, features her work as an artist in the COS Art Gallery.
- Alex Henderson, member of the Track and Field team, sets new school record in the Javelin as well as best throw in the nation in all divisions including NCAA Division 1.
- Three Men's Basketball team members are named to the All-Golden Valley Conference basketball first team.
- Baseball Team and Sportsmen's Den host a one-day baseball clinic attended by 60 youth at the Weed Campus.

## April 2014

- Four candidates for the position of President / Superintendent are invited to COS to participate in public forums and private interviews.
- COS Spring Musical, *The Producers*, has record attendance.
- Intermediate Photography class presents EYExperience in the Student Art Gallery.
- COS Printmakers Collective presents COS INK and hosts art show sale and reception.
- Athletic Department recognizes 66 Scholar Athletes for 2013/2014.
- Vocational Nursing and Certified Nurse Assistant Programs receive continued approval for accreditation.

## May 2014

- The 55th annual Commencement Ceremony is held with 160 graduates.
- Javelin throwers take first, second, and fourth place at California Community Colleges State Championships.

## Dean of Career & Technical Education Has Years of Experience

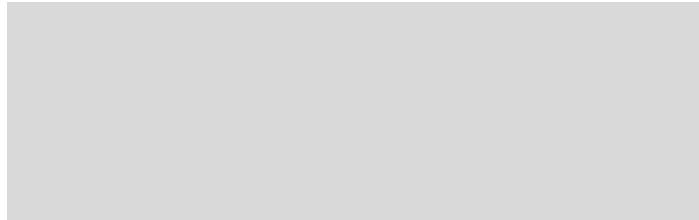


"In today's climate where finding well prepared and experienced educational administrators is increasingly difficult, COS was fortunate to be able to have a very talented pool of applicants for the position of Dean of Career & Technical Education," said Dr. Greg South, Vice President of Instruction.

Dr. Robert Taylor has over 25 years of experience in working at various levels of education; including administration, classroom instruction, and student services. He has been involved in accreditation, legislative affairs, program certification, and curriculum design and has also worked as a consultant with the State Department of Education. Prior to coming to COS, Taylor's most recent positions were serving as the Dean of Career and Technical Education at Ventura and Merced Colleges in California and as Director of Curriculum and Instructional Support Services at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon. Taylor has a doctoral degree in Philosophy from Colorado State University, as well as a master's degree in Occupational Education, and bachelor's degree in Industrial Education.

"Community colleges are in an ideal position to prepare learners for tomorrow's challenges," says Taylor. "COS must work closely with business and industry, students, and both the local and global community to deliver quality instruction. One of my goals as the Dean is to provide a learning environment where innovation, teamwork, and creativity are encouraged and nurtured, while at the same time working to develop collaborative arrangements with educational institutions, business leaders, and government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels," he continued.

Taylor has extensive involvement in community-based programs, including the United Way, Little League Baseball, Special Olympics, Chamber of Commerce, and Habitat for Humanity. "I am pleased COS hired someone with talent, expertise, and enthusiasm. One of the strengths of Taylor is in working closely with faculty," said South. "He also has a passion for student learning."



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Greg South, Ph.D.—Vice President of Academic Affairs

**2012-2014 Annual Report**  
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