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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COS Board of Trustees Meeting – March 7, 2017

Weed / COS – In his staff report, COS President Scotty Thomason shared with the Trustees he recently attended the Annual CEO Symposium in Solvang, CA. This event provides an opportunity to network with other California Community College leadership as well as receive updates from the State Chancellor's Office. Eloy Oakley, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges attended the symposium and shared his perspective on what is happening relative to the CCC system. He firmly believes community colleges need to be the driving force behind change, rather than on the receiving end of being told what to do.

In her staff report, Nancy Funk – Vice President of Administrative Services, reported the budget development process for 2017/2018 is in full swing with many department budget managers having already met with their Vice President's to review their requests. State revenues are still lagging a bit behind which will result in the 2017/2018 budget cycle being very conservative. It is hoped, better news will be shared as income tax payments start coming in at the State level. Corporate taxes are due March 15. Tax receipts from the date will provide a good indication of how the State economy is doing.

There have been no significant changes from what the Governor proposed in January. The Governor has proposed using higher revenue projections for the State budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/2018 and discussions within the State Legislature regarding the budget will be ongoing until May 14 when the Governor will present the May revision to his proposal for the State budget for next year. Information from the Governor's May proposal is then used to finalize the Districts tentative budget for 2017/2018. The final State budget is expected to be completed by June 15. The District budget will be prepared using 100 less FTES than in FY 2015-2016.

In his written staff report, Dr. Todd Scott – Vice President of Instruction, provided an update on the Academic Success Center (ASC). In 2016, COS was awarded a Basic Skills Student Outcomes Transformation Grant. Early this year, Lorinda Meyer was hired as grant manager, and the plan to remodel the Academic Success Centers on both the Weed and Yreka campuses has begun. Over the next several months, students and the community will begin to see a variety of changes occurring as the remodel progresses. Concurrently, a series of student success related workshops are being developed

with the intention to serve all COS students. The anticipated outcome will be the Learning Resource Center, including the Library, Lobby area and Academic Success Center (ASC) on the Weed Campus will be transformed into a place for students to meet, study alone or in groups, attend personal development and student success workshops, and receive support as needed (including tutoring, coaching, and other forms of guidance). The Yreka Campus expects to see renovations as well which will make the ASC in Yreka more student-friendly as well.

The spring semester also began with success in rejuvenating the Agriculture Program. Dr. Scott announced Mark Klever is currently teaching Applied Agriculture and Food Skills Lab (AG 9061). This course is filling a real need and desire in the community. From high school students to adults in varying stages of life, this course brings together multi-generations to enjoy the common love and interest for agriculture and shares with students the knowledge, information, and relevant skills for specific take-home application. Topics addressed in this class include Agriculture Policy, Agriculture Organizations, Soil, Composting, Seed Cultivation, Organics, Irrigation, Fruit Production, Animal Production and Market Development. Through the experience of this course, students receive a broad understanding of the many different segments of agriculture in Siskiyou County. In the laboratory portion of this course, tours have been set up to visit commercial kitchens and farming and ranching operations in the Shasta, Scott, and Butte Valleys. From bees to broccoli, honey to hops, pasture to plate, farm to fork, students get firsthand familiarity with owner/operator's interaction to learn the specifics of many diverse operations we have in our communities. From large scale vertically integrated organic to backyard homesteads, intimate personal experiences prove to be a wonderful medium to create an environment of shared knowledge. This unique element has been the proven key to pass on the information from the lecture component to the physical presentation of how these concepts are being applied.

For the future, to narrow the scope and focus to a different community target found from an implemented needs assessment, Chancellor's Office approved curriculum was entered into CurricUNET last September. This pre-approved curriculum was shared from North Far North consortium members of Yuba/Woodland Community College and was entered for approval from the Curriculum Committee. Courses included: Intro to Ag Business, Intro to Animal Science, Computers in Ag, Ag Accounting, Ag Economics, Ag Leadership, and Careers in Ag Education. With anticipation that this local approval process is completed soon, new courses may be offered fall of 2017 for AA transfer degree option. With this added component to the existing Agricultural Program, students will have a fantastic opportunity to continue their post-secondary education in the community allowing students to gain knowledge and skills that may qualify them to go back into the local workforce or go on to complete a Bachelor's Degree at a CSU or UC campus.

COS has been given another opportunity through a USDA grant to help beginning as well as socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in financial accounting, record keeping and financial goal planning. A series of workshops will be delivered this summer to help assist the Farm Service Agency in the financial education of current and potential USDA loan recipients to gain financial accounting skills. These future workshops have been well received and proven to fill another real need in this agricultural region of northern California and southern Oregon.

In February 2016, the College submitted a request to the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative to request a Partnership Resource Team (PRT) visit COS to help explore issues related to program review and the collection and reporting of data, especially student learning outcomes. The request was approved and two PRT site visits were held in November and December. The PRT recommended resource improvement in several areas. With the assistance of faculty and staff, an Institution Innovation and Effectiveness plan was developed.

The Siskiyou Promise application for the 2017/2018 school year is now available to all Siskiyou and Modoc County high school seniors planning to graduate in June. Correspondence has been sent to all high school counselors to let them know that the application is now available and to offer any assistance that is needed. Current Siskiyou Promise students were also recently send a spring check-in letter which outlines the steps to necessary to complete in order for the student to be eligible to receive a second year Promise award.

COS has been awarded \$200,000 to be used for improving effectiveness with program review, student learning outcomes, and the collection of institutional effectiveness data. The Partnership Resource Team will be visiting the campus in May to check progress in implementing the plan. Trustees approved acceptance of the Institution Innovation and Effectiveness Plan and expenditures.

**Other Board Action:**

- Approved the monthly Personnel List discussed in Closed Session.
- Approved the monthly Consent Agenda.
- Approved revisions to Board Policies: Chapter 3 – General Institution and Chapter 4 - Academic Affairs, as a first reading.
- Approved revisions to Board Policy, Chapter 3 – General Institution; Chapter 5 – Student Services; and Chapter 7 – Human Resources, as a second and final reading.
- Approved appointment of Board members to serve as committee who will recommend self-evaluation process.
- Approved 2017/2018 student housing and food service rates.

The next regular COS Board of Trustees meeting will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at the Weed Campus in the Board Room. Closed session is expected to begin at 5 p.m. The public open session is expected to begin at 6 p.m.