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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **College of the Siskiyous Superintendent / President Announces Retirement**

Weed / COS –Scotty Thomason, Superintendent / President of the Siskiyou Joint Community College District, recently announced his retirement from College of the Siskiyous (COS) effective June 30, 2017. Thomason has served as Superintendent/President since July 2014.

“The Board knew of Scotty Thomason’s abilities before he became President and recognized that he would be the guiding light and future direction for our community college,” commented Barry Ohlund, member of the COS Board of Trustees. “We knew he had the experience of working in the education system and that he knew how to make the necessary changes to make our college grow and become much stronger. The Trustees and I will miss President Thomason and his wife, Sharie,” continued Ohlund. “He came to the college at precisely the right time, and he has worked hard to get us on track and where we need to be. He is also leaving us with some huge shoes to fill!”



Prior to becoming Superintendent/President at COS, Thomason served two years as the Interim Vice President of Administrative Services. Before that, Thomason was the Vice President of Administrative Services at Reedley College and at College of the Redwoods. He is also a former Chief Business Officer for Ohlone College.

Thomason brought to COS a strong belief and commitment to student success. Under his leadership enrollment has increased; new programs are in development; college processes and procedures have been streamlined; and, the College is recognized as a student-centered institution with strong connections to the community. “I have not only been the President of the College these past two years, I have also served as member of the College Foundation Board of Directors. The Foundation is crucial to the College as members of the Foundation are a direct connection to the community and potential donors,” said Thomason. “The pursuit and success in raising funds and creating partnerships within the community is critical as funding from the State of California and the Federal Government is rapidly dissipating. Of the many projects and programs the COS Foundation has supported over the years, none have had quite the impact on our community and our students as the new Siskiyou Promise

Scholarship Program. This new activity is directly supporting our local students by paying for required tuition for recent high school graduates who attend COS following their high school graduation.”

The future for College of the Siskiyous will depend upon student enrollment and the ability to keep pace with the demands of the market. “One of the goals I set when I became President was to increase enrollment. For several years, the College had been on a decline, but due to the many efforts of everyone on campus, enrollment is once again growing. The growth is being accomplished through outreach and recruitment at our local high schools and being better connected with the community, as well as our Instructional Service Agreements.” said Thomason. “We also have a number of new programs and opportunities just getting underway.”

Additionally, Thomason has been an active and visible member of the community. He is a member of the Weed Rotary Club, served on the Siskiyou Community Services Council, the Board of Siskiyou Economic Development Commission, the Coordinating Council of the North Far North Career and Technical Education (CTE) efforts, and the Crystal Geyser Advisory Board and also participated in the updating of the City of Weed Master Plan and the Resilience Weed efforts. Following his retirement in June, Thomason and his wife, Sharie, will be moving to Eureka, CA, where they have a son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter.

To assist in the search and selection of a new President, the College has hired PPL Incorporated, a firm used by several community colleges to drive advertising and promotion of senior level administrative positions. The District will be seeking a visionary leader with an understanding of and demonstrated commitment to community college philosophy, and who showcases an inclusive and open leadership style that will continue the tradition of outstanding service to the residents of Siskiyou County and beyond.

The search announcement for the new Superintendent / President will be published in January. The position will be open until filled with an initial review date of applications on March 10, 2017. It is hoped the successful candidate will begin their duties as the 12<sup>th</sup> Superintendent / President for the College of the Siskiyous on July 1, 2017.