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PRESS RELEASE

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Superintendent / President Says Goodbye to College and to the Community

Weed / COS – On June 30, 2017, Scotty Thomason will retire from his position as the 11th Superintendent / President of the College of the Siskiyous (COS) and Siskiyou Joint Community College District. Thomason announced his pending retirement in December 2016. As he prepares to leave College of the Siskiyous and Siskiyou County, I asked him to reflect on his time as President and as a member of the community. Here's what he had to share.

1) *What will you miss most about College of the Siskiyous and Siskiyou County?*

The people! The people at COS and in our service area are amazing! It has been a true blessing to work at the College and live in Siskiyou County and get to know so many special individuals.



2) *A lot has been accomplished these past three years at College of the Siskiyous under your leadership. What do you believe will be a lasting legacy?*

I hope the College will continue to provide excellent educational opportunities and is known as the “first choice” for continuing education for everyone in our area. COS offers outstanding programs and is in the process of expanding and adding even more programs. Our staff and faculty truly care about each and every student and takes pride in helping our students to achieve success. Expanding and adding programs to meet the needs of our community, local workforce, and our students is so important. I hope this growth continues. But more importantly, I hope COS continues to be this community's college of choice.

3) *If you could take these past three years and “do them over,” would you do anything differently?*

Honestly, nothing in particular comes to mind. I believe we have done an awesome job considering where we were when I assumed the Presidency in July 2014. It took time to heal the institution and our relationship with our community. It was a matter of getting everyone to work together and “buy into”

some of what needed to be accomplished and that is not something that can be rushed. Change is not always easily accepted, but change is what is needed in order to move forward. Just because something has always been done one way does not necessarily mean it is the best way. To provide the best education and services we can to our students means staying current with today's needs and wants. Change cannot be avoided. To be a better institution, we have to be willing to change and keep an open mind. The success of our students depends on us! The success of our College depends on the Community!

4) *What do you look forward to most in your coming retirement?*

Being able to spend more time with my family, and to travel and do some camping. My wife Sharie and I love living in and being a community member of Siskiyou County. It's been pretty hard as my retirement nears to think about not continuing to live in this area but we need to spend more time with our family in Eureka. They have been very patient with us these past three years. However, they deserve to have us spending most of our time in Eureka with them (and especially with our granddaughter). I am hoping that by spending a lot of time in the near future in Eureka and with family, we will be able to then find a way to split our time between living in Eureka and in the Weed area each year.

5) *What do you hope College of the Siskiyous and Siskiyou County will remember best about you?*

I hope to be remembered as a leader who brought the College and the community back together. That I helped heal relationships within COS, as well as, relationships between the College and our service area; and that as an administrator, I positioned COS to remain a strong successful institution that does an outstanding job!

6) *Is there anything else you would like to add?*

Sharie and I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to live and serve in this area. Having the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent / President of College of the Siskiyous has been the capstone of my career. I am eternally grateful for having had this opportunity. COS is an amazing school and the people at COS and in Siskiyou County are fantastic! We will miss you all very much. God Bless.