



Siskiyou Joint Community College District  
800 College Avenue  
Weed, CA 96094  
Telephone: (530) 938-5555  
Toll-Free: (888) 397-4339

## PRESS RELEASE

Public Relations Office:  
Dawnie Slabaugh: (530) 938-5373  
Email: [slabaugh@siskiyous.edu](mailto:slabaugh@siskiyous.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Release 107**  
**Date: April 20, 2018**

### **COS: Nearly 60 Years of Educational Opportunity in Siskiyou County**

By Zachary J. Zweigle, Ed.D.,  
Dean of Instruction  
College of the Siskiyous

Weed / COS - Just after the turn-of-the-century in 1901, the first Junior College was established in Joliet, Illinois. The 'Junior College,' also referred to by some as the 'City College,' but probably best known today as the 'Community College,' is a uniquely American concept and embodies our democratic values.

The tradition of higher education in the U.S. dates back to 1636 with Harvard University; however, access to advanced studies prior to the twentieth century was generally limited to the elite in society. This access was further complicated by the nation's movement west, as those original Ivy League institutions were all found on the eastern seaboard. With passage of Morrill Acts in the late nineteenth century, land-grant colleges began to dot the western landscape all the way to the Pacific. While these land-grant colleges represented a national commitment to education, rural communities remained isolated.

The twentieth century heralded a new era for higher education, seeing the ultimate growth of nearly 1,200 community colleges nationwide. These institutions were designed to provide open-enrollment access to education beyond high school in those communities they serve. In many cases they offered the preparation and bridged the learning gap between post-secondary and baccalaureate



studies. While the first junior college sprang up in Illinois, the movement quickly spread west, and the second junior college opened in Fresno, California in 1910.

By 1957, following a special election, College of the Siskiyous was founded to serve the communities and students of Siskiyou County. Shortly after, a permanent campus was established in Weed, California and the first classes were offered in the fall of 1959. Today, COS is part of the California Community College System of 72 districts statewide. Next fall will represent the 59<sup>th</sup> academic year that COS has provided educational opportunities for residents of the far north, thus fulfilling a tradition established 117 years ago.

COS is a comprehensive community college, meaning students can complete coursework in the traditional liberal arts and sciences, health fields such as nursing, or career and technical programs like welding, paramedic, police academy, and fire technology. Students can participate in an array of programs both in the performing arts including music and theatre, as well as 12 different sports programs for both women and men.

COS offers courses designed for transfer to four-year colleges, associate degrees, vocational certificate programs, job skills classes, and courses for personal enrichment and recreation. Community members can enroll in our non-credit and community education courses. The College provides many services for students including advising and counseling, two residential lodges, tutoring, financial aid, and an onsite Campus Gift and Book Shop where students may also purchase their books and supplies. COS has two permanent locations, one in Weed and the other in Yreka.

Come find your place at College of the Siskiyous. Registration for the 2018/2019 academic year, including summer, fall, winter, and spring, begins May 1, 2018. Students who plan to register should contact the COS Counseling and Advising Department at (530) 938-5353 to schedule an appointment with staff who will help you successfully navigate your academic and career goals.

For more information about College of the Siskiyous visit our website at [www.siskiyous.edu](http://www.siskiyous.edu) or call (530) 938-5555 or toll-free (888) 397-4339. Are you new to COS? Call (530) 938-5847 to schedule a tour of the Weed Campus. Students registering for classes may do so at the Weed or Yreka Campuses or online by visiting [www.siskiyous.edu](http://www.siskiyous.edu) and clicking on the “mySiskiyous” logo. Payment of class fees is encouraged when registering. Do not wait... register today.