



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release 134
Date: May 24, 2018



COS Graduate Encourages Students to Be Involved

Weed / COS – Each month at College of the Siskiyous a student success story is shared with the campus during the All Campus Staff meeting. In May, the featured student was Tyla Edwards. Here is her story.

Tyla and her two siblings lived with their grandmother from a very young age because their mother wasn't present in their lives. Their grandmother passed away when Tyla was four years old and their uncle took the kids in, and they lived with him for 12 years. During this time, their uncle was abusive to the children and eventually they were removed from the home when Tyla's brother turned 18 and informed the police of the abuse after leaving the home. Tyla and her sister were placed into a new home, where they had the love and support they needed to blossom into outgoing and happy people. At the age of 18, Tyla moved out and soon started attending College of the Siskiyous. Tyla continued to be very involved in her sister's life to ensure she was okay and cared for.

After Tyla's first year at College of the Siskiyous, her personal life settled down some and she was able to focus more on school. Spring of 2018 marks her final semester at COS and she recently graduated with a 3.52 GPA. She is a Psychology major and will be transferring to Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology. Upon completion of her Bachelor's degree, she will pursue a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Tyla chose OIT because it is a small campus and has the program she intends to pursue. Tyla's main concern regarding transferring to a new college is being farther away from her sister and brother.

Growing up, Tyla always made school and her siblings a priority. Tyla's experiences helped her to develop into a mature and independent person. Those experiences also impacted her career decision. Tyla is currently part of EOPS, SSS, and the Foster Youth Success Program. She is a student employee in the Counseling and Student Support Programs office, and is a member of the Psychology Club.

The Foster Youth Success Program at COS provided Tyla with the opportunity to share her story with other students and look forward to the next phase in her life. She enjoyed the interactions with support staff as well as the activities held for students. Tyla's advice for other students who attend COS. Become involved, join clubs, and attend the special events. "There are so many opportunities at COS. I wish I would have been more involved and plan to be when I go to OIT," said Tyla. She credits the Psychology Club and Dr. Andrea Craddock for helping her realize the importance and benefits of student involvement.

"We admire Tyla for choosing growth from her past experiences," said Valerie Roberts, Associate Dean of Student Services. "We congratulate Tyla on graduating, for all her accomplishments thus far, and for overcoming significant personal obstacles to pursue her goals. We also wish her well at OIT and in her future endeavors. No doubt her success will continue."

Tyla lives with her boyfriend and his family. She recognizes them as a big part of her continued success and in helping to build her confidence. Congratulations Tyla! College of the Siskiyous wishes you all the best!