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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Beginning Computer Skills Class to be Offered in Mt. Shasta**

Weed / COS - The College of the Siskiyous Continuing Education Program and the Women's Business Center at JEDI are partnering to offer a tuition-free course for adults seeking confidence in computer skills. "In today's technologically oriented business environment, strong computer skills are essential whether you are looking for a job or starting a business. Virtually all businesses utilize computer and mobile phones for marketing, communication, sales, accounting, scheduling, and more," states Joy Taylor, Director of Women's Business Center at JEDI.

The goal of the class is to help people acquire the necessary basic computer skills or strengthen existing skills. The computer lab will provide individualized instruction in a self-paced environment. Coursework will be specific to participants' area of study. "The course aligns with purpose of College of the Siskiyous Adult Education," said Kim Freeze, Director of the Continuing Education Program at College of the Siskiyous. "Noncredit classes are the perfect way for someone who is a lifelong learner to stay up to date in current trends and activities. These classes are free, non-stressful, and offer the student the opportunity to be a student without the added pressure of worrying about passing or failing a class. They are also fun," she continued.

**Beginning Computer Skills (CSCI 0501 / #7357)** will be taught by Segal Shaw. Shaw is a web designer and software engineer with over twelve years of experience creating, designing, and maintaining websites. She is passionate about teaching people to stay current in their use of technology and computer skills. "Computer skills are a necessity and many of us were never offered the opportunity to acquire these skills. I like sharing my knowledge and support people as they become more comfortable and effective while working with computers. Computers can be powerful tools in our lives and I want to empower all to use and enjoy them," commented Shaw.

Students who take this class will gain effective and time-saving tips and tricks to get computer-based tasks accomplished faster, better and safer. To begin, the class will answer the most basic questions... such as "a computer...what's that?" Topics to be addressed in the curriculum include: apps and files, saving your work, keyboard shortcuts, settings, introduction to word processing and spreadsheets programs, information safety/security, and an Introduction to Internet concepts/services such as web searching, social media and other useful online services.

According to Shaw, “the class is for anyone who is uncomfortable using computers whom would benefit from a gently-paced course. The course will provide basic knowledge and progress at a pace and direction suitable for the individual learner.”

Beginning Computer Skills will meet in Mt. Shasta at the Jefferson Economic Development Computer Lab on Tuesdays from 4 to 5:50 p.m. beginning August 28 and continuing to meet weekly until December 11. Students who would like to take this class can register at the Weed or Yreka campuses or online at [www.siskiyous.edu](http://www.siskiyous.edu).

For information about the COS Continuing Education Program or this class contact Kim Freeze, Director of Continuing Education by calling (530) 841-5834 or email [kfreeze@siskiyous.edu](mailto:kfreeze@siskiyous.edu). The Weed Campus can also be reached by calling toll-free (888) 397-4339. A full schedule of fall semester noncredit class offerings is available online at [www.siskiyous.edu/continuinged/](http://www.siskiyous.edu/continuinged/).

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#### **About the Jefferson Economic Development Institute (JEDI):**

JEDI, a nonprofit organization committed to building the regional economy through entrepreneurship, has a mission is to increase the economic wellbeing of people and communities through business development and local wealth creation. JEDI has worked with thousands of people who have started businesses that support families and build community. Serving the north state since 1996, JEDI is an SBA Women’s Business Center serving Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Humboldt County entrepreneurs. Based in Mt. Shasta, JEDI serves small business owners by phone, in person, onsite and online. Events are funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the US Small Business Administration. JEDI and the Women’s Business Center are non-discriminatory and available to individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.