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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Life Changing Events Have Helped to Set Student on Path to New Destiny



Weed / COS – Often in our lives we hear stories about ‘random’ people and may think to ourselves “wow... I don’t know them, but what a great story!” At COS, I am fortunate that I get to hear lots of great stories and meet lots of great people. However, this is a story about a student who I did not personally know when I first heard his story shared during one of our all campus staff meetings. In fact, I only very recently realized the story I had heard way back in April was actually the story of someone who I had actually gotten to know over the summer. I asked him if it would be alright to share his story...here it is.

Dawnie Slabaugh,  
Director Public Relations & College Foundation

For many years, Joe Weatherton owned and operated a successful heating and air conditioning business in Vilonia, Arkansas. However, that all changed on November 11, 2011 when he was injured by a 30 foot section of twisted oak tree. He was hurt while helping his friends recover from a devastating tornado. Joe was unable to keep up with the physical demands of running a HVAC business, so he moved to Siskiyou County to try a more supervisory role as a plumbing technician. After a few years plumbing Joe’s doctor ordered that he stop the manual labor he was accustomed to doing. Not knowing where to start or what to do, Joe contacted the Department of Rehabilitation, who referred him to Siskiyou County Human Services Department where he also became acquainted with CalWORKs and other support services. To receive his CalWORKs assistance for himself and to support his family, Joe needed to take classes at College of the Siskiyous.

Joe’s dad worked for the United States Department of Defense as a network administrator for the Air Force. Because he grew up around computers and always had an interest in them, Joe decided on Computer Science as his major and next career. During his time as a student at College of the Siskiyous, he was diligent and focused on his classes. In summer 2017, Joe was given the opportunity to

work in the Information Technology (IT) Department of Siskiyou County Human Services where he quickly proved himself valuable and was given a high level of responsibility in a short time. The following semester, he requested CalWORKs Work Study placement within the College's own IT Department. He is currently working with the COS Tech Services department, and is a valuable asset to the college. Joe would love to work at COS as long as they will have him. Joe has a GPA of 3.42 is slated to graduate December 2018 with an associate of Computer Science degree. After December he will have the education and experience necessary to thrive in the fast changing world of computers and he credits this to the educational and personal support he's received while at College of the Siskiyous.

Joe is married with three children. His wife worked part-time at Taco Bell and stayed home with the kids while Joe attended college. She is now working full time at Siskiyou County Human Services and they no longer receive assistance from CalWORKs.

Joe has overcome many challenges such as his life changing injury, living with brittle bone disease (which 2 of his children also have), commuting over an hour each day to and from Fort Jones for classes, living on minimal income, parenting three young children and being a husband while going to school full time. Throughout it all, Joe has continued to stay strong; set and achieve his goals; and found his new destiny!

Registration for the 2019 Winter Intersession and Spring Semester at College of the Siskiyous is open. The College offers many services to 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 provides transfer classes to four-year colleges, associate degrees, vocational certificate programs, job skills classes, and courses for personal enrichment and recreation. For more information about attending COS or to schedule an appointment with an advisor or counselor, call the Counseling and Advising Office at (530) 938-5353 or email your request to [counselingservices@siskiyous.edu](mailto:counselingservices@siskiyous.edu). . Winter Intersession classes will begin January 2, 2019.