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PRESS RELEASE

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College of the Siskiyous Welcomes New Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Weed / COS – College of the Siskiyous is pleased to welcome Dr. Burton Peretti as the new Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Peretti began his new position at COS on August 27. Dr. Peretti is a California native and a graduate of Pomona College and UC Berkley. Most recently he served for five years as the Dean of Liberal Arts at the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). For the past year Dr. Peretti has been engaged in consultancy, resume research and writing.

Dr. Peretti holds both a Ph.D. and Master of Arts degree in History from the University of California, Berkeley as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies from Pomona College. After receiving his doctoral degree in History, Dr. Peretti taught full-time at the college level for seventeen years (including three years at a community college), and has worked for twelve years as an administrator. Early in his career, Dr. Peretti taught full-time at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee as an assistant professor of humanities (1995-1998). He then moved on to Western Connecticut State University in Danbury to become a professor of History (1998-2013) and served as Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and External Programs (2010-2012).

From 2013 to 2018, Dr. Peretti served as the Dean of Liberal Arts at the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). At NOVA, he was responsible for the second-largest division at the largest campus of one of the largest community colleges in the nation. NOVA is also one of America's most respected community colleges, a leader in ensuring student readiness, persistence, and achievement of certificates and degrees; in online learning; and in responding to the needs of transfer institutions and the regional job market.

"We are very excited that Dr. Peretti has joined our COS family," shared Dr. Char Perlas, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "His five years of experience as a Dean of Liberal Arts coupled with his experience as both a Humanities and History faculty member will prove to be an asset to the Office of Instruction. Furthermore, Dr. Peretti has written several books including *The Creation of Jazz*, *Nightclub City: Politics and Amusement in Manhattan*, and *Lift Every Voice: The History of African American Music* which are directly applicable to the Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences."

Dr. Peretti is a passionate advocate for students and for college as a catalyst in changing lives. His nationally-recognized publications and research reflect a dedication to scholarship which is shared enthusiastically to students and colleagues. As an administrator, Dr. Peretti has gained significant experience in assessment, program review, curriculum development, and faculty hiring and

development. Dr. Peretti recognizes relationships within the local community are vital to the success of the college and its' students. He is looking forward to collaborating with the local high schools; working with the college and community to address student food and housing insecurities; and with the college foundation on enhancing charitable giving to the college. Dr. Peretti is also excited about getting to know the many employees at COS as well as students and new opportunities in working together to creatively enhance the student experience. Welcome Dr. Peretti.