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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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College of the Siskiyous Trustees Grant the College President Authority Amidst COVID-19

Weed / COS – The College of the Siskiyous Board of Trustees approved an emergency resolution Thursday, March 19, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The resolution provides College President / Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Schoonmaker with "authorization needed to take any and all necessary actions to prepare and respond effectively to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and declare emergency conditions at College of the Siskiyous."

Passage of this resolution allows Dr. Schoonmaker and/or his designee to take any and all actions necessary, including to unilaterally implement or to execute by executive order, to ensure the continuation of public education, and the health and safety of the students and staff at District sites. These actions may include the temporary suspension of regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees and the suspension of local rules and regulations that impede the continuity of educational services. This resolution went into effect immediately upon its adoption and will remain in effect until repealed by formal Board action.

Late Thursday evening, March 19, 2020, in response to Governor Newsom's statewide order that same evening for all Californians to "stay at home," Dr. Schoonmaker announced the College is open operationally with modified operations to allow for social distancing, but access to the Weed and Yreka Campuses is now restricted to essential personnel and students who live on campus. These actions are in compliance with the Governor's orders, which allow "going to work in an essential business or government function" including educational institutions, for the purposes of facilitating distance education. Classes had already been cancelled March 17 – 20, to allow faculty uninterrupted time to transition from face to face classes to temporary remote instruction formats in order to expand the delivery of instruction in case of periods of closure or class suspensions. The week of March 23-27 is Spring Break. Most classes will resume via remote instruction March 30 and will continue in this mode of instruction until the end of the semester.

For information about College of the Siskiyous contact the Public Relations Office by calling (530) 938-5373 or send an email to pio@siskiyous.edu.