



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

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COS Foundation to Dedicate Survivor Trees

Weed / COS – The community is invited to attend a very special event hosted by the College of the Siskiyous Foundation on September 11 beginning at 10 a.m. in the area behind the Theater Building next to the Student Center and McCloud Hall. The area of the three trees, known as the Living Memorial Trees, will be dedicated in honor and memory of those lost. The event will be held outside and physical distancing will be observed. Limited seating will be provided. Guests may bring their own seating and are encouraged to wear face coverings.



In early 2007, three American elm trees were planted at the College of Siskiyous on the Weed Campus. These seeds were grown from the seeds of a tree that survived the Oklahoma City Bombing on April 19, 1995. The seeds were entrusted to a Siskiyou County resident, Marie Mitchell, whose brother, Lt. Paul Mitchell (FDNY, died in the line of duty on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center, by a survivor of the Oklahoma City bombing who was part of a delegation who came to help out in the 9-11 aftermath. Early plans included establishing an area of remembrance and reflection with benches and a plaque installed in the area of which the trees were planted. However, due to changes in Senior Leadership at the College as well as changes in Foundation Board membership, the project was put on hold. In the spring of 2019, the College's Foundation Director, Dawnie Slabaugh, brought back to the Foundation Board, a request to continue and complete the project and requested volunteers from the Board of Directors to work on this commemorative project and provide recommendations for action.

At the December 2019 Foundation Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved a project proposal received from the Project Committee to sponsor the creation of a Living Memorial area at the Weed Campus for remembrance and reflection to include benches, an engraved bronze plaque, and

development of a brochure telling the story. Fund raising for this project began and several local donations were received. Two benches have been purchased and will be placed in the area of the Living Memorial Trees. However, additional support continues to be welcome as a third bench will also be purchased and installed next to two other Survivor Trees, also planted at the Weed Campus next to the Tactical Training Center (TTC) with a small plaque of recognition at the site. A dedication event is planned for Friday, September 11 at 10 a.m. at the Weed Campus.

The COS Foundation supports the mission and values of College of the Siskiyous by fostering community relationships and raising funds to enhance exceptional learning environments. Funds raised support projects not funded through state resources, scholarships (such as the Siskiyou Promise), and more. Most recently, three new flag poles were purchased and installed at the Weed Campus. Donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

To support this project and our fundraising efforts, please mail donations to COS Foundation, 800 College Avenue, Weed, CA 96094 and note the donation is for the "Living Memorial Tree Project." To learn more about the work of the Foundation visit www.siskiyous.edu/foundation/ or call the Foundation Office at (530) 938-5373. The Weed Campus can also be reached toll-free by calling (888) 397-4339.