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PRESS RELEASE

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Siskiyou JCCD Announces Finalists for Superintendent/President Position and Open Forums

Weed / COS – Following a national search, the Siskiyou Joint Community College District (SJCCD) and College of the Siskiyous announces three finalists have been chosen as candidates for the position of Superintendent/President. The Human Resources Department recruited a pool of 21 candidates for the position. After screening the applications received, 19 met the minimum qualifications. The 14-member search committee comprised of district employees, community members, and students invited six semi-finalists for interviews which were held over a two-day period earlier this month. From the interviews, the search committee narrowed the list of final candidates to three. Final candidates who will participate in the May 11, 2022 public forums for the position of Superintendent/President include:

- Leslie Minor, Ph.D. - Vice President of Instruction - Taft College (9:00am to 10:00am)
- Mark Klever - Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs – College of the Siskiyous (10:15am to 11:15am)
- Char Perlas, Ph.D. – Interim Superintendent/President – College of the Siskiyous (11:30am to 12:30pm)

The community is invited to attend the public forums and meet the final candidates for the position of Superintendent / President of the College of the Siskiyous. The public forums are one of the final steps in a lengthy selection process, and are open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The public forums take place Wednesday, May 11, 2022 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The public forums will be held at the Weed Campus in the Kenneth W. Ford Theater and will also be live-streamed via the college's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CollegeoftheSiskiyous/>). During the public forums, candidates will have the opportunity to share their visions for the College and answer questions from audience members.

Employees, students, and community members are encouraged to submit questions for the finalists prior to the public forums. Questions can be submitted to this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/stu0cWbtSa>. Submissions will be reviewed for equal employment opportunity appropriateness. Related or similar questions will be grouped together and asked as one question. Due to time constraints, we cannot guarantee that all questions will be presented to the candidates. **The deadline to submit questions is 5:00 pm on May 6, 2022.**

About the Finalists:

Dr. Leslie Minor has worked in higher education for the past three decades. She is originally from Washington State, where she completed a B.A. in Psychology at the University of Washington,

Seattle; followed by M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Social Ecology completed at the University of California, Irvine. Her interdisciplinary graduate degrees included course work in psychology, sociology, environmental analysis, and social demography.

Dr. Minor taught psychology and sociology at Central Oregon Community College (COCC) in Bend, OR, for 18 years. During this time, she also taught courses for the University of Oregon and Oregon State University as part of her teaching assignment. She is a co-author of a textbook in Business Human Relations, now in 7th edition. During her teaching career at COCC, she was able to take a two-year leave of absence to re-locate in Singapore as a Visiting Senior Teaching Fellow at the National University of Singapore, where she taught sociology and supervised graduate studies in sociology.

Dr. Minor's path in higher education administration began at COCC, first as Dept. Chair of Social Sciences, then as an Instructional Dean overseeing programs in Social Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy Technology, Veterinary Technology, Kinesiology/Exercise Science, Addiction Studies, Early Childhood Education, Visual and Performing Arts, Business, Outdoor Leadership, and more.

Dr. Minor moved back to California nine years ago to work as an Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Interim Associate Dean of Student Success at Long Beach City College. From there, she worked as a Dean of Social Sciences, Interim Dean of Math and Science, and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Solano College. She also continued to pursue interests in international educational processes over her career, which led to her participation in a Fulbright summer seminar in Germany, a Fulbright Community College Administrators program in Russia, and a community college cultural exchange program in China. She has presented results of her social science research work on subjective well-being, values, and ethnic identity development at conferences in the U.S., Singapore, Viet Nam, Finland, Denmark, and South Africa.

Three years ago, Dr. Minor moved to Taft, CA, in the southwest Central Valley, to join Taft College as the Vice President of Instruction. During her time at Taft College, she has been working with faculty, staff, and administration on issues related to dual enrollment, creating a strategic enrollment management plan, building new certificate programs and transfer courses, updating processes and procedures, instituting faculty professional development opportunities, and creating a baccalaureate program in dental hygiene to submit for state approval. She also currently serves as the regional representative to the CIO Executive Board for the California Community Colleges.

Dr. Minor has been active in community organizations serving on advisory boards including J Bar J Youth Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Rotary, and Long Beach Farms. She looks forward to finding time for outdoor activities including hiking, kayaking, bicycling, photography, and rock climbing. She has also created some fused glass art works and hopes to install a home glass kiln someday. She is the proud parent of three grown sons living in California and in Florida, and loves spending time with her family.

Mark Klever is currently serving as the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs at College of the Siskiyous. Prior to him obtaining his current position, Mr. Klever served as Dean of Career and Technical Education and the Yreka Campus. Most importantly, he has been a recognized leader in Siskiyou County.

Mr. Klever was raised in Paso Robles, CA growing up on a farm with an appreciation for hard work, agriculture, family, and community. He earned his bachelor's degree in Agri-Business Management from California Polytechnic State University. He started his college experience as a student athlete as a member of California Polytechnic State University's baseball team. Being a student athlete has

provided invaluable life experiences in addition to his perspective of being a student with competing priorities which are most of our students at community colleges.

Once he had obtained his bachelor's degree, Mr. Klever spent the next 20 years working in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences giving students the Cal Poly motto, "Learn by Doing," experiences on the 6,000-acre college farm. Hundreds of students gained "hands on" skills which helped them flourish in their future careers. During that time in San Luis Obispo, he met his wife of nearly 24 years. While working full-time and raising a family, he also achieved his master's degree in Agriculture from California Polytechnic State University.

After leaving Cal Poly in 2010, Mr. Klever moved his family to Siskiyou County to become President/General Manager of a 22,000 organic farming and ranching operation. That drastic change was important in opening a new chapter of his life to become a part of a corporate operation in a fast-paced environment in a frontier county. The knowledge and experience gained was crucial to learn the private business aspects of running an operation of that magnitude. The Klever family is in the 12th year of living in Siskiyou County. Mr. Klever and his family are active and recognizable in this community and the Northern California region.

Since 2011, Mr. Klever has been involved and is passionate about making positive differences in people's lives. He begins at home where he has had an opportunity to foster over 30 children from his community along with his current eight children. He has served as a Yreka Little League baseball coach, mentor, church elder, pastor and volunteer in Sunday school; director and chairman of boards of many non-profit organizations; as well as staying actively involved in the government decision-making processes with city, county and state elected officials. He is well known by industry and business owners as an influential person in Siskiyou County.

During his five-plus years at COS, Mr. Klever has been committed to advocating for students and employees of College of the Siskiyous as well as building and maintaining relationships from Happy Camp to Tulelake and from Hornbrook to Dunsmuir. As a leader on campus and in the community, he has a strong desire to use his education, experience, abilities, strong community relationships to bring College of the Siskiyous back to its community and serve as the next visionary leader this institution needs today.

Dr. Char Perlas is a Filipina-American and first in her family to graduate with a college degree. As a product of the California Community College system, her efforts have focused on creating the optimal learning environment for disproportionately impacted students. She holds a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Leadership in Higher Education from Capella University, a Master of Public Administration from CSU East Bay, a Master of Science in Counseling from CSU Sacramento and a Bachelor of Art in Psychology from Fresno State University.

With 23 years of professional experience in the California Community College system, Dr. Perlas has served in many roles... as tenured faculty, program manager, accreditation lead and administrator. Dr. Perlas joined College of the Siskiyous (Siskiyous) in July of 2019 as the Vice President of Academic Affairs where she contributed to equity efforts through her leadership with the Enrollment Management, Guided Pathways and Social Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (SJEDI) committees. Dr. Perlas has been serving as the Acting-Interim Superintendent/President for the past 14 months. During this time, she has provided leadership in the development of the ACCJC Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER), Integrated Planning Guide and the revision of the Strategic Enrollment Management plan

all while, simultaneously, managing a global pandemic. Dr. Perlas' previous positions have contributed to her recent accomplishments as well as keen knowledge of Title 5, California Ed. Code, ACCJC requirements and Student Centered Funding Formula. Previous positions include: Interim Vice President of Student Services at Cañada College, Dean of Science and Math at Chabot College, Dean of Workforce Development, Applied Sciences and Math at College of Alameda and the following positions at Mission College: Director/Faculty Counselor of MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement), Division Chair of Student Services, Department Chair of Counseling, and Student Learning Outcomes Coordinator.

Since moving to Siskiyou County, Dr. Perlas has been successful in establishing relationships with local organizations. She is an active member of the Weed Rotary, College of the Siskiyous Foundation Board of Directors, North State Together, and is the incoming President of the American Association of University Women-Siskiyou Branch (AAUW). Dr. Perlas is also very much involved with Fairchild Medical and Dignity Health Medical Centers in implementing efforts to save the College's nursing program. In attempts to secure supplemental resources and work experience opportunities for students, she continues to maintain her strong connections with out-of-county industry partners, such as Google, LinkedIn, Intel, Cisco and Adobe. Furthermore, Dr. Perlas has strong relationships with the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) and currently serves as co-chair of the Telecommunications Technology Advisory Committee (TTAC).

Dr. Perlas looks forward to continuing her efforts as the Superintendent/President of College of the Siskiyous. She acknowledges the continued dedication of the College's staff and faculty and strives to continue improving the College climate to provide students with the optimal learning environment.

For information about the search process or the public forums, contact the College of the Siskiyous Human Resources Department by calling (530) 938-5317 or email bmuelrath@siskiyous.edu. The College may also be reached by calling toll-free (888) 397-4339.