



College of the Siskiyou

The Campus Connection

January 2022

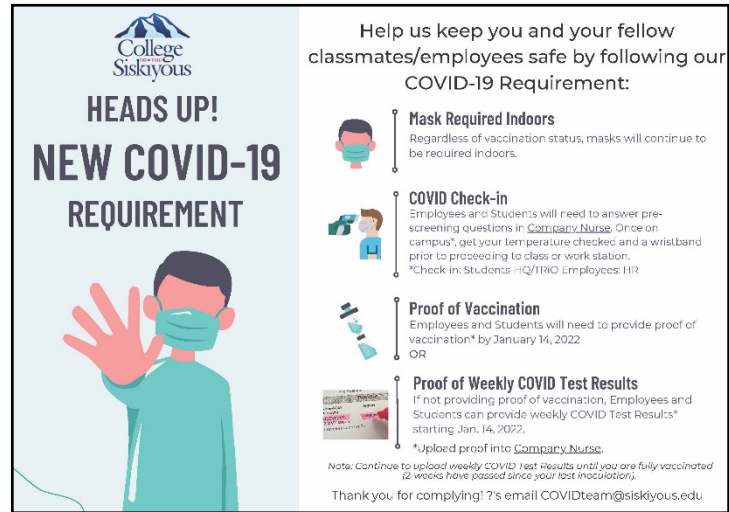
Office of the President

Submitted by Dr. Char Perlas, Interim Superintendent/President

COVID Prevention and Mitigation Efforts

Unfortunately, the onset of the COVID variant, Omicron, has proven to be another challenge. This variant has resulted in a surge of COVID cases and an unprecedented demand for COVID testing. The College remains steadfast in continuing COVID prevention and mitigation efforts. The following are highlights of our efforts:

- **COVID Requirement & Company Nurse:** On December 15, Board Policy and Administrative procedures were approved by the Board to require employees and students to submit either proof of vaccination or commence submittal of weekly COVID test results. Both proof of vaccination and weekly COVID test results can be uploaded in the new Company Nurse platform. Company Nurse can be accessed here: <https://siskiyous.lintelio.com/>. See flyer below and the College's [COVID-19 webpage](#) for more detailed information.
- **COVID Manager:** Please join me in welcoming our newly hired COVID Manager, Jeanette Matheson. Jeanette has made Siskiyou County home for the last 18 years. With her husband Mike, they have raised two boys, Andrew and Kyle. She has been a K-12 substitute teacher for 15 years. After her youngest son graduated from high school, she worked as a temporary employee in the COS financial aid office and ASC. In her free time, she enjoys camping, being at the beach, and quilting. We are ecstatic that Jeanette has joined our team!
- **COVID Team:** Our current COVID Team consists of three Contract Tracers/Compliance Trackers and two COVID Testers/Mask Monitors. Our COVID Team has been hard at work sending COVID Requirement reminders, answering Company Nurse and COVID Testing questions, completing training related to COVID testing and privacy, and surveying the campus for needed protocol signage, masks and sanitizers. In efforts to enhance our prevention and mitigation efforts, we are actively looking for two additional COVID Testers/Mask Monitors to join the COVID Team. If interested, email Jeanette Matheson at jmatheson@siskiyous.edu.



- **COVID Testing Challenges:** The recent surge in COVID-19 testing has resulted in technological challenges with the College’s on-campus COVID testing. Due to the instability of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID testing software platform, the College was not able to offer the originally scheduled on-campus COVID Antigen Testing. We will continue to work with Siskiyou County Public Health in scheduling alternate Antigen Testing opportunities. In the meantime, individuals can schedule an appointment or visit an off-campus COVID testing location: <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/publichealth/page/covid-19-testing-locations>
- **COVID-19 Webpage and Mitigation/Prevention Plan:** The College’s [COVID-19 webpage](#) has up-to-date information on the College’s COVID Requirement, Company Nurse, Campus Check-in Procedures and Masking Policy. We are in the process of updating the COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Plan and anticipate that it will be posted prior to the start of spring semester (January 31, 2022).

Athletics: Athletics had 166 full-time students participating in the fall of 2021 semester.

72 - Students Earned the Scholar Athlete Award – Earned a 3.00 or higher GPA and passed 12 or more units.

12 – Students made the Dean’s List – Earned a 3.50-3.74 GPA and passed 12 or more units.

24 – Students made the President’s List – Earned a 3.75 – 4.00 GAP and passed 12 or more units.

Student athlete overall GPA for the fall 2021 semester was 2.72.

HOME EVENTS scheduled for January and February

BASKETBALL			Women’s	Men’s
Saturday	January 15 th	Redwoods*	1PM	3PM
Saturday	January 22 nd	Lassen*	1PM	3PM
Wednesday	February 2 nd	Butte*	5PM	7PM
Wednesday	February 9 th	FRC*	5PM	7PM
Saturday	February 12 th	Shasta*	1PM	3PM

Masks are **required** for all spectators in the gym

BASEBALL			Time
Monday	February 21 st	Simpson JV	2PM

We Want You at Our Games! Masks are required at all indoor contests. Check the [Athletics webpage](#) for current schedule, scores, and photos from the events.

Public Relations & College Foundation:

- **2022-2023 Foundation Scholarship Applications Now Available:** Scholarship applications for academic year 2022/2023 are now available for Siskiyou County high school seniors (graduating spring 2022) and current COS students who plan to attend COS during the 2022-2023 year. Scholarships range from \$250 to \$5,000. The application is due March 15 and can be found online at www.siskiyous.edu/foundation/scholarships.htm.
- **New Foundation Board Officers:** On January 11, the Auxiliary Foundation Board elected the following individuals to serve as 2022 Foundation Board Officers:
 - **President:** Madeleine Ayres, Etna – Ms. Ayres is a proud Siskiyous alum. She joined the Foundation Board of Directors in July 2019. She comes from a long line of teachers and chose that profession after attending College of the Siskiyous, Dominican College and Chapman College, earning a teaching credential in English and Music. She lives in Scott Valley, where she is now, happily retired.
 - **Vice President:** Dennis Sbarbaro, Weed - Mr. Sbarbaro joined the Foundation Board of Directors in October 2010. This is Mr. Sbarbaro's second term as the Vice President of the COS Foundation Board of Directors. He also serves as a member of the Investment Due Diligence Committee. Mr. Sbarbaro is a retired bank officer with years of experience teaching financial and banking classes.
 - **Immediate Past President:** Bruce Deutsch, Dunsmuir - Retired, U.S. Navy Commander and high school social studies teacher. Mr. Deutsch joined the Foundation Board of Directors in 2016. An active member of the Dunsmuir community, Mr. Deutsch has served as member of the Dunsmuir City Council since June 2015 and served as Mayor of the City of Dunsmuir in 2018 and is the former Executive Director of Siskiyou Media Council. He previously served two terms as the Foundation Vice President (2018 and 2019), two terms as the Foundation Board President (2020 and 2021) and is Chair of the Foundation Alumni Enrichment Committee.



Check out our new ads at Mt. Shasta Ski Park! Featuring Noncredit, Adult Education, and CTE opportunities at College of the Siskiyous.

Stay Connected: Now that the weather has changed, it's important to make sure you are signed up for the college's communication system, "COS Connect" powered by Everbridge. This is a free system used to notify students and staff of emergency situations, campus closures, or general information. To sign up click on the [COS Connect button](#) located at the bottom of the COS homepage and follow the directions to get sign up or call the Public Relations Office for assistance.

Come Join Our Team: The Foundation is looking for new volunteers to join the Eagle's Nest team. Volunteers work three to four hour shifts per week, or more. Volunteers work as cashiers, screen items as they come in, price merchandise, repair items, research antiques, etc. There is never a dull

moment at the Eagles Nest. If you know of anyone who may be interested in volunteering have them call (530) 938-4663 or stop by the Eagle's Nest.

January/February Activities & Events: Event dates, times, and locations based on information available at the time of publication and are subject to change.

- January 21: Social Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (SJEDI) Presents Connectedness as a Student Strategy, 10am to 12pm – Zoom ([RSVP by January 14](#))
- January 22: Basketball vs. Lassen, 1pm (Women) and 3pm (Men) - Gym
- January 27: Winter Session Ends
- January 28: Convocation Day, 8:30am – Zoom or In-Person ([Agenda](#))
- January 31: Spring Semester Begins
- February 2: Basketball vs. Butte, 5pm (Women) and 7pm (Men) – Gym
- February 9: Vaccine Clinic, 9:30am to 1:30pm – Gym (Add'l Clinics –Mar. 9, Apr. 6)
- February 9-10: Auditions for Spring Play: Almost, Maine!, 3:30pm - Theater
- February 9: Basketball vs. Feather River College, 5pm (Women) and 7pm (Men) – Gym
- February 11: Campus Closed – Lincoln Day Holiday
- February 12: Basketball vs. Shasta College, 1pm (Women) and 3pm (Men) – Gym
- February 15: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, 6pm - Zoom
- February 21: Campus Closed – Washington Day Holiday
- February 21: Baseball vs. Simpson University JV, 2pm – Baseball Field

Administrative Services

Submitted by Darlene Melby, Vice President of Administrative Services & Human Resources

Facilities:

- The Fire Tower Prop Project is 98% complete and will be available for the spring semester training.
- The new soccer scoreboard will be installed before the end of the month. This scoreboard also holds advertisement space on the reverse side for future sponsorship.
- The kitchen water heater replacement project is complete.
- The new seamless kitchen floors are being installed now with a scheduled completion date of January 19th. Re-installation of the kitchen equipment will be finished by our own maintenance staff.
- The 1000 bulb LED retrofit project has been completed through available incentives which supports our sustainability strategic plan and is part of the non- instructional program review objectives for Maintenance and Facilities. This project was completed in house by Randy Shaffer and Josh Simas. Great work!



The facilities department was awarded a mini grant for cold weather gear from the College Foundation. Thank you from all of us!

Fiscal Services: We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and want to welcome you to 2022.

The 2021 1098-T's for students, W-2's for employees and 1099's for Vendors/Contractors will be prepared and completed by January 31, 2022. Student 1098-T forms will be available through mySiskious as well as 2021 W-2 forms for those employees who have elected to receive their W-2 information electronically. If you have not elected to receive your W-2 electronically, it will be sent to you through the USPS. As in the past, 1099 forms will be mailed out as well.



With the beginning of a new calendar year, it is a good time to review your federal and state payroll withholdings and determine if a change to your payroll withholdings for the 2022 calendar year might be needed. Forms to change your withholdings are available on your mySiskiyous employee page under the "Pay" tab.

As we are at the mid-point of the 21-22 fiscal year, it is a good time to review your 21-22 budgets to make any necessary adjustments for the second half of the year. If you need any assistance, contact Desiree Kaae.

- **2022-23 Budget** - It is hard to believe it is soon time to start the next budget cycle. Within the next few weeks, the College will be starting the processes for putting together the 2022-23 district budget. Administrative Services and Fiscal Services will be developing the 2022-23 Budget Timeline for review and approval, sending out the position control and staffing reports to Budget Managers and establishing the 2022-23 budget development module in self-service to allow the Budget Managers to develop their 2022-23 budgets. As always, thank you all for your assistance in building the budget each year. All of your work and analysis helps us create a solid working budget for the District.

Human Resources: In December, the Board of Trustees selected Community College Search Services to assist the District with the Superintendent/President search. Dr. Will Lewallen will be working with Human Resources on logistics, meeting with the college search committee and the Board of Trustees at different periods of time during the process which is expected to last up to six months.

The Health Benefits Committee met in December to discuss CVT, our current plan designs, impact of COVID on insurance rates along with the district being located in a rural area. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, it was recommend that the College take our census out to market for additional proposals to be considered.

Technology Services: The College is currently upgrading the wireless network in the Lodges to increase coverage and improve performance. It is expected that this upgrade will be completed before the start of the fall term. The Department has also completed the initial draft of its Operational Plan for FY22-23.

The plan will be reviewed by the Technology Advisory Committee in March and it is expected that it will be published in April.

Student Services

Submitted by Patrick Walton, Vice President of Student Services

Our winter and spring 2022 semesters are upon us. Student Services is busy and excited to serve our students. We are happy to announce that Michael Kellogg has joined our team as a Student Services Specialist in Admissions & Records. Michael has been with us for a couple years now in various capacities but we are ecstatic that he is now a permanent staff member.

There has been a tremendous amount of interest from our local schools to partner together to provide classes and programs for our K-12 students. We will pursue as many of these opportunities that are feasible. This year we will continue pushing forward on big projects such as mandatory orientation, Summer Bridge, increasing student life activities, and a variety of other initiatives. The time is now to be big, bold, and innovative. Our students and community are counting on us!

I am looking forward to this New Year. There are challenges that face us but I am optimistic, hopeful, and confident in the team at COS and that we can continue on with the great progress that has already been made. I know that there is uncertainty and constant change due to COVID-19 but I also know that we, as a team, can overcome any of these obstacles and continue to provide high quality services and education to our COS students.

I'll leave you with this old but very relevant proverb. "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together!" Patrick Walton, Vice President of Student Services

Basecamp HQ: In December, Basecamp held a Christmas Party with a great turn out! Students who had never been in Basecamp came in and enjoyed pizza and games.

In an effort to represent all of our International students who come to College of the Siskiyous, we have started the process of ordering additional flags to display in Basecamp. We also ordered the updated pride flag to ensure that all students are represented. Basecamp is also planning some big changes to our space before the start of the spring semester. We have ordered new cabinets for storage and the floor is being redone! We are excited to make these changes and make our space feel more welcoming. We are also excited to have students back for spring, as well as our Ambassadors.

EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs: The EOPS Program is able to award its students at the end of every semester with a \$450 grant if they complete all of the requirements for the semester. We are happy to announce that 90% of the students from the fall semester were eligible and will be receiving their grants!

EOPS orientations for the spring semester have started and will continue until the start of the semester. Once students attend the orientation, they are eligible for up to a \$400 book voucher, a gas voucher and a semester starter kit. The students had also requested planners, so they will receive those with their starter kits as well!

Something new that we are able to offer our students this semester is a College of the Siskiyous EOPS hoodie! The students have been very excited to receive these and be able to represent COS and the EOPS program!

We have plenty of room in the program for spring, so please encourage students to apply! Visit the EOPS website <https://www.siskiyous.edu/eopscare/> to apply.

The CARE Program was also able to award its students with grants for the fall semester!



The CalWORKs department has been receiving Welfare-to-Work plans from the County for new students! Once the plans are received, the students are contacted to complete a one-on-one orientation where they will complete the paperwork necessary and receive their book voucher, backpack filled with supplies and gas vouchers. We are excited to have some new additions to the COS CalWORKs program!

Financial Aid: Financial Aid is gearing up for the Spring Semester. New students who are attending for the first time this spring are encouraged to apply for their aid. Remember, students need to do the 2021-2022 FAFSA to be paid for Spring 2022, and the FAFSA defaults to 2022-2023. Students who want to submit appeals can do so in January to get a head start on getting them processed as soon as possible when their courses start.

On January 10th, we participated in a workshop with the Fire Academy to assist in completing the FAFSA and other financial aid paperwork. Great thanks to the TRIO team for organizing and Counseling and Advising for their efforts!

Happy New Year and have a great semester to all students and staff! ~Chris Nordin

Academic Affairs

Submitted by Mark Klever, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

About three and a half years ago, I was having a conversation with someone that had worked at the College nearly 30 years. I was expressing some concern about something and she said "I've never seen it this bad". Lately, it has been an ongoing joke that we continue to say, "We've never seen it this bad" as we chuckle. But it's not a joke anymore and unfortunately it is real. I've been at this college now five years and we are facing some of the most challenging times this community college has ever faced.

The start of a New Year is supposed to be a time to start over afresh. A new beginning with unbroken promises. Sadly, the first two weeks of January have been the two most discouraging weeks I have faced working at College of the Siskiyous. I am normally an extremely optimistic, "glass is half full", type of guy. I tend to always try to look on the bright side of everything. Unfortunately, there comes a time

when you have to be real. Reality sets in when recognize we have some extreme issues that need to resolved today before we can even tackle the big issues coming when hold harmless ends in a few years.

To be open, I now struggle writing for Campus Connection each month. I want to write about all the great things that we are doing but if that is all I talk about, the perception portrays that life is going well. But that is not the truth. The truth is that we are struggling on a day-to-day basis. COVID alone has rocked our world. Enrollments have plummeted. Fear is at an all-time high which has created more stress in the workplace more than ever before. Students are uncertain of what the future holds and the prediction of what type of classes they are going to take is nearly unpredictable right now. Staff that come to work on a daily basis are exhausted and worn out. Due to incentivized retirements and sudden resignations, the workload at times is unbearable. Add that on to the stress of the worry about children, family members, and friends potentially getting sick makes it a very unpleasant environment to live let alone with the normal stress that comes with just living life. Then take faculty with all the same concerns and on top of all of that, "How are we going to teach our students in a safe environment to keep ourselves and others from getting sick?" And finally, us Administrators trying to make decisions for the best of everyone. On a good year, it is nearly impossible to make everybody happy. Under these conditions it is impossible.

Where and when does it end? I can't even answer that for COVID let alone all the other challenges that we are facing today. If I just had the answer for COVID that would help a bunch. Realistically though, that is only one serious item on our list of other serious items making it extremely long. There is too much.

I appreciate the positive approach that Campus Connection tries to take each month. We share about the accomplishments that we have achieved and celebrate with our students. I do enjoy that but right now we can't ignore that every day we face brings new issues. Are we going to effectively replace the increasing number of employees that are leaving this College? Are we going to find qualified Faculty to fill critical roles in some of our disciplines? What is it going to take to start our enrollment to grow in a positive trajectory? What things can we do today as an investment to help save us in the future? I want to begin some conversations that go beyond the superficial discussions we engage in at this college. We continue to do great things. My concern is that they are overshadowed by the numerous problems that none of us want to truly face or talk about. It is not pleasant and shows vulnerability. To be bold, I hate it. But I care. I care for this community and what this College was built upon. I value our students and people employed here. If I did not care or lacked hope, I would no longer be working here myself. But I am not giving up.

We have faced many obstacles over the last year. I would hope we would be further along than we are to get around those obstacles. We have made some strides. I am proud of the work of the Faculty Prioritization Task Force. It is a wonderfully positive step in a good direction. Now is the time to put into motion some of the work that that group accomplished. Stay tuned in the beginning of the spring semester. It is just the beginning but it is a start. What's next? How do we prioritize other issues we face? Who has the answers? Where do we begin?

As we approach another pivotal semester, please try to consider what we are facing. Open your eyes and pay attention to what is going on around us. I am confident it is the most difficult time College of the Siskiyous has ever faced. Being afraid won't help us. Wishing upon something magical to solve our problems won't work. Running or hiding will accomplish nothing. The best thing that we can do is

recognize what we face, acknowledge it and come together as an institution to address it, make plans to resolve it and implement the plan. It's pretty clear what will happen if we don't.

Here's to a New Year! Let's make it better than the last.

Mark

Noncredit

Submitted by Suzie Clark, Director

Earn an industry certificate by June 2022! COS Continuing Education is offering a series of five IT classes in spring 22 that will result in a Google IT Support Professional Certificate Program. All classes are offered online and cover Technical Support Fundamentals, Networking, Operating Systems, System Administration and IT Infrastructure, and Security. Each class is approximately 10 to 15 hours per week so it's possible to earn this certification while working full-time. We are very excited to be able to offer this industry certification to our region.

Hospitality Program Launching in Winter 22 - There have been requests for a Hospitality/Culinary program at COS and we are finally able to offer it. Starting January 4, HOSP 0502-Food Safety and Sanitation (CRN 1057) will be our first offering. The class will be held on the Weed Campus in ESTC 107 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The class will run January 4 – 27, 2022.

Career and Technical Education Department

Submitted by Christina Van Alfen, Interim CTE Dean

On January 3, Law Enforcement Academy Class 008 began with 24 Cadets. The following week, on January 11, Fire Fighter I Academy started with 35 students. Join us in welcoming them to our campus!

During the week of January 3, the COS Fire Program offered the Vehicle Extrication course. This course provides the knowledge and skills to prepare a firefighter to safely and effectively extricate victim(s) from a common passenger vehicle.

The following week, the Fire Program offered the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Operations course, which trains fire fighters to rescue a downed fire fighter in an immediately dangerous to life and health environment. Students train using evolutions and scenarios based off tragedies suffered by fellow fire fighters from departments across the country.

For the remainder of January, the CTE Department will be preparing for the upcoming term. We will also be identifying ways to increase the visibility for career and technical education during CTE Month in February.

No other reports submitted.

