

The Campus Connection February 2022

Office of the President

Submitted by Dr. Char Perlas, Interim Superintendent/President

February Celebrations: Black History Month and Lunar New Year!

The month of February is dedicated to Black History Month but, acknowledgement of influential Black leaders and role models should be ongoing. Black History Month came about in 1976 when the President at that time, Gerald R. Ford, urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Since then each American president has issued Black History Month proclamations and the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year (Source: blackhistorymonth.gov).



To learn more about Black History month and/or to view a number of influential Black History documentaries, visit https://watch.historyvault.com/topics/black-history.

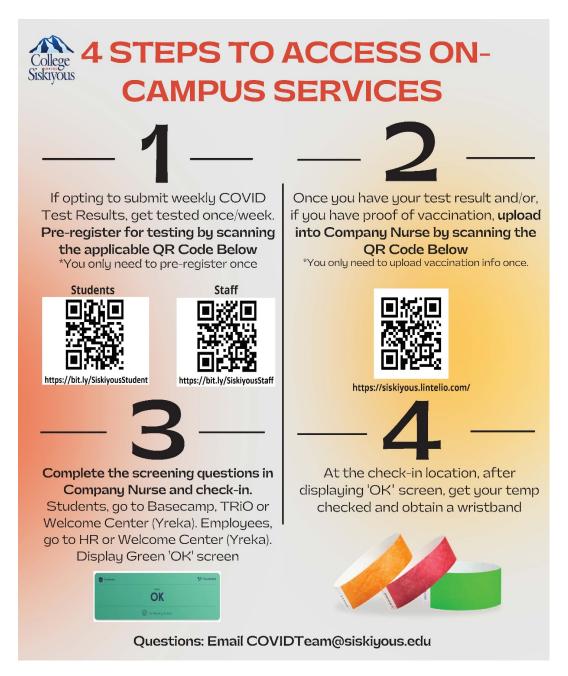


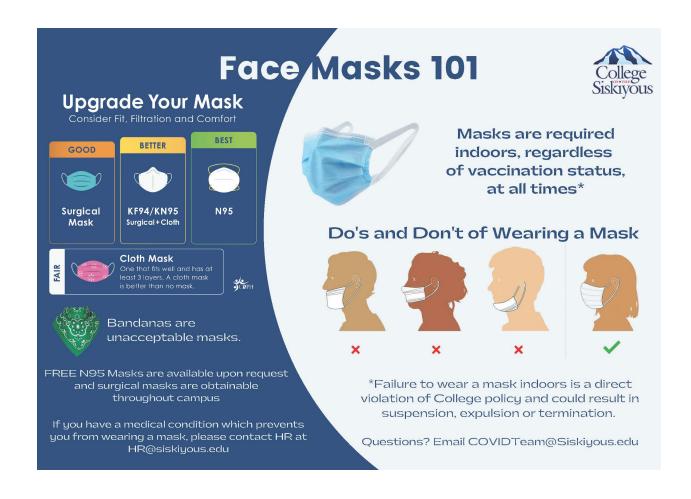
Happy Lunar New Year... Year of the Tiger - Chinese or Lunar New Year spans for 16 days starting on Feb. 1st. The Lunar New Year Holiday comes to a climax with the Yuan Xiao (元宵 节 / yuán xiāo jié), or Lantern Festival, celebrated on February 15th, 2022. The Lantern Festival began over 2000 years ago and celebrates family reunions and society. Some also call this the 'true' Chinese Valentine's Day (Source: ChineseNewYear.net).

The Lunar Calendar is represented by 12 zodiac animals: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. In addition to the animals, five elements of earth, water, fire, wood and metal are also mapped onto the traditional lunar calendar. 2022 is the year of the tiger. People born in years of the Tiger are vigorous and ambitious, daring and courageous, enthusiastic and generous, self-confident with a sense of justice and a commitment to help others for the greater good (*Source: history.com*). As mentioned in the 02-01-22 All-College email, the description of the tiger reminds me of Chief Mike Wilson, former faculty and coordinator of our Fire Technology Program. Please see Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mark Klever's tribute in his section of the Campus Connection.

Reminders: How to Access On-Campus Courses and Services and Mask Policy

Please see flyers below for guidance on accessing on-campus services and the College's indoor mask policy. Although the State mask mandate is expiring, the College continues to abide by the California Department of Public Health's guidance for schools as well as CDC's recommendation for Institutions of Higher Education.





Athletics: We Want You at Our Games! Check the <u>Athletics webpage</u> for current schedule, scores, and photos from the events.

During the February 12 home game vs Shasta College, four sophomore basketball players were recognized.



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.

2022 Spring Semester Finish Line Scholarships for Students: The goal of the Finish Line Scholars Program is to support students to ensure they stay on track with their education and complete a degree, certificate, or transfer to a four year college or university. The program is intended to help eliminate regional educational gaps through distribution of emergency financial aid to students facing unexpected hardships and scholarships to students who are well on their way toward a finish line goal of transferring to a college or university or completing a certificate or degree. Spring 2022 scholarships are available at this time. To apply, students must fill out and submit application found online and provide copy of their spring semester enrollment. More information online at: https://www.siskiyous.edu/foundation/finishline_scholarship.htm.

Come Join Our Team: We are 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.

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

- February 15: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, 4pm -Zoom
- February 21: Campus Closed Washington Day Holiday
- February 21: Baseball vs. Simpson University JV, 2pm Baseball Field
- March 9: Vaccine Clinic, 9:30am to 1:30pm Gym (Additional Clinic – April 6)
- March 12: Baseball vs. Shasta College, 12pm (DH) Baseball Field
- March 15: COS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, 4pm Zoom
- March 18: Baseball vs. Redwoods, 2pm Baseball Field
- March 19: Baseball vs. Redwoods, 12pm (DH) Baseball Field



Students in Jayne Turk's COMS class pose for photos sitting on Yoga balls purchased with Foundation Mini Grant funds.

- March 19: Softball vs. Shasta College, 12pm (DH)

 Softball Field
- March 25: Softball vs. Lassen College, 12pm (DH) Softball Field
- March 25: Baseball vs. Butte College, 2pm Baseball Field
- March 26: Softball vs. Redwoods, 12pm (DH) Softball Field
- March 26: Baseball vs. Butte College, 12pm (DH) Baseball Field
- March 28-April 1: Spring Break

Administrative Services

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

It is with a mixture of sadness for the College and happiness for Kent Gross that we have learned our Director of Fiscal Services has decided to retire after 19 years with the District on April 29, 2022. Kent's knowledge, patience and kindness will be sorely missed by everyone.

"Kent, after many years of hard work you deserve an amazing retirement and remember you will always be part of the COS family. Thank you and congratulations!"

Bookstore: The Bookstore has installed the Verba Compare LTI in Canvas for the Spring 2022 semester. Verba Compare provides a link in Canvas for students to find their appropriate textbook requirement at the Bookstore's Online Store. Vital Source eBooks are also available through the Bookstore. Students may use Book Voucher funding to order eBook Subscriptions. Basecamp HQ has been providing textbook assistance to students by issuing Book Vouchers from CARES' Act funding.

The Bookstore has been partnering with the Library to provide the Zero Textbook Costs (ZTC) Course List ZTC Class List to help students find courses with a zero textbook cost options and links to the public or library resources for those materials. In addition, the Bookstore is providing print versions of the Open Education Resource (OER) materials. The Bookstore is selling these printer versions of OERs for a reasonable price to students who prefer a print version.

In partnership with the Athletic Department, the Bookstore has been selling retired football jerseys on the Bookstore's Online Store. So far, we have sold 78 jerseys with the majority of the revenue going back to the Athletic Department. It has been great to see so many alumni ordering their old jerseys. We plan to add retired jerseys from other sports in the near future.

Facilities: New sanitation stations have been installed at building entrances. These stations are shelves which hold masks and hand sanitizer. Please direct anyone who enters a classroom, hallway or office without a mask back to the building entrance to locate a mask shelf. Facilities is asking for student and staff support in using only one mask for the day if possible.

Please remember, the process for all maintenance and custodial requests is through the use of SchoolDude. Contact the Facilities Office if there are problems logging into SchoolDude - https://login.myschoolbuilding.com/msb

Attention College Clubs! Contact the Facilities Office to learn about the campus recycling program if you are interested in coordinating this program. Submit request to the Facilities Office to be part of the lottery. Your club separates the glass from the plastic (Facilities will supply gloves and bags) and then

the club transports the bags to the recycling center. Return the weight slip to the Facilities Office and the club gets to keep the funds!

Update on campus projects:

- The Fire Tower Prop Project is complete. Stripping and cement sealing will take place once the weather reaches warmer temperatures.
- The Soccer Field Score Board installation is complete. The Maintenance crew will continue to landscape and develop the area to save cost on contractors.
- The Theater Project Re-Scope application has been submitted to the State Chancellors Office.
- New flooring in the Kitchen and Café is complete.

Fiscal Services: Mid-February starts the processes for putting together the 2022-2023 district budget. Administrative Services and Fiscal Services is developing the 2022-2023 Budget Timeline for review and approval, and will be sending out the position control and staffing reports to Budget Managers and establishing the 2022-2023 budget development module in self-service to allow the Budget Managers to develop their 2022-2023 budgets. As always, thank you all for your assistance in building the budget each year. All of your work and analysis helps to create a solid working budget for the District.

Reminder: 2021 W-2 forms for those employees who have elected to receive their W-2 information electronically are available through your mySiskiyous account. If you have not elected to receive your W-2 electronically, it was mailed out via USPS on January 31, 2022.

Food Services: In January, the flooring contractor and Maintenance staff worked really hard to put the finishing touches on the new kitchen floor. The students who arrived in early January were unable to eat on campus and were provided gift certificates to local eateries, such as the Hi Lo Café, Ellie's Espresso & Bakery, McDonalds, Grocery Outlet, The Spot, and others. On January 21 the kitchen reopened welcoming students back for the semester and the NOLS conference as well. The amazing staff in Food Services covered for their co-workers as illness kept a several employees away from work. Human Resources is still searching for employees to fill vacancies in Food Services as the national news about food costs and employee shortages continues to have a direct impact on the local job market.

Human Resources: Human Resources has been busy with the Superintendent/President search and would like to thank the continued commitment of time by the Board of Trustees, Search Committee, Beverly Muelrath, Dawnie Slabaugh, Amy Howell, and Weblinks for their work on the job announcement and website. A link to this information is located on the front page of the College's website or in Human Resources, Job Announcements.

Student Housing: Lodge staff provide support for students isolated with COVID. At one time, in January, nine students were either isolated or on quarantine. Staff use text messages and phone calls to connect with the students and provide any services needed during this isolation period. This includes working with Technology Services to keep the Wi-Fi operational and working on upgrades to support students who depend on the internet to attend class while they are isolated.

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 by the end of February.

The department has 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

The spring semester is here and things are busy in Student Services. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all in Student Services. The individuals I have the pleasure to work with on a daily basis are dedicated, passionate, and a genuine joy to work with. I am so grateful for each of them. It can be a stressful time of the year preparing for a new semester but each of them does so to the best of their ability and with a smile on their face. I see them and want them to know how much they are genuinely appreciated. Thank you!

At Convocation, we had the opportunity to hear some valuable feedback from COS employees in regards to enrollment management and areas we are excelling, areas we can improve upon and strategies to do so. We are actively reviewing those suggestions and are trying to address them. We also had the pleasure to hear from a panel of students who attend COS. They shared with us their successes, frustrations, challenges, wants, and needs. Much of what they shared was raw and perhaps even difficult to hear. I am grateful for their courage and willingness to share. Their feedback is invaluable. Thank you!

The College received notice in early January that we are one of 45 institutions of higher education that will be receiving a Californians For All Grant. This grant is going to provide us with tremendous opportunities to partner with our K-12 partners. Students will have internship opportunities and we will be able to provide valuable services to our local schools. I want to personally acknowledge and thank Emily Anderson-Moser for her hard work on the grant. Please stay tuned as more exciting information is forthcoming over the next few months.

As I sat in my office recently, I looked out my window and saw some students sitting on the grass. The weather has been unusually warm and students are going to take advantage of that. I was happily reminded of why we are here. It is for our students. It is for their success. I am grateful I work in a job and at a place that we get to make such a meaningful impact and be a part of our students' journeys. I am thankful and blessed to be at COS.

Basecamp HQ: Staff spent the month of January preparing for the spring semester by expanding the Food Pantry and adding many new items at the request of our students. In addition to the expanded selection in the Food Pantry, HQ was able to purchase basic needs items such as bed sheets, pillows, kitchen items, bath and dish towels and other items. These new items have been a big hit amongst the students and we hope to continue providing these services thanks to Basic Needs Funding received from the State.

Now that more in person classes are being held on campus, and because Basecamp is a COVID check-in location, additional sanitization times have been added to the daily schedule. Sanitizing is taking place

multiple times a day and after large groups of students are in the space. It is our priority to keep our staff and students safe when they are in Basecamp and these added measures will help!

It's been wonderful to see so many students back on campus and in Basecamp. During the first week of the semester, Basecamp HQ processed over 40 gas vouchers, 37 Grocery Outlet gift cards, 57 book vouchers (totaling over \$9,000) and 100 CARES Act applications. Thanks to CARES Act (COVID relief) funding, Basecamp is able to provide assistance to all students this semester, including our international students who are typically not eligible to receive book vouchers or other forms of assistance. If you come across a student who needs book vouchers, gas vouchers, a Grocery Outlet gift card or any other assistance please be sure to send them our way!

Academic Affairs

Submitted by Mark Klever, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

Captain "Chief" Mike Wilson

Mike began working as an adjunct instructor in the Fire Program teaching the six core classes in January 2012. He transitioned into a full-time Faculty position on August 13, 2015 as the Fire Science Program Coordinator.

Mike has made over a decade of contributions to the College of the Siskiyous Fire Program and to the College as a whole. Mike was not only passionate about his profession that he loves so much, he truly enjoyed passing on to others his knowledge. Mike's contributions were felt across the state in the



fire service. He was part of the original USAR teams (Urban Search and Rescue) in California, as well as a paramedic who helped many a student find their way into his beloved career. Anyone who knew Capt. "Chief" Wilson could see the passion he had from his wonderful sense of humor to his great smile, it was contagious to anyone around him. Even a student this last fall expressed:

As a kid that didn't really like school a lot and getting up early. This class with Mike Wilson is one class that I've enjoyed in years for me to get up early and drive 30 miles to be here at 7:25 is really me loving this class and instructor.

For everyone in the COS family, Mike would want everyone to know how much he loved his job and the ability to instruct and connect with the Fire students. The contributions of the legacy Mike Wilson will leave behind cannot only be seen throughout the North State of California but can also be seen in the individuals he touched in the fire service. He will be greatly missed by many. Mike was a dedicated mentor to everyone he came in contact with, from students to fellow faculty.

For me personally, Mike Wilson was a dear friend of mine. Yes, of course, he was a full-time faculty member and we interacted in our different capacities here, but it went well beyond that. Every day I carry what is called a "challenge coin" that Mike gave me one as an honorary member of select group of individuals who have completed our Fire Academy. Below is a background of what the challenge coin represents.

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons in Europe. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

The Fire Service has adopted the challenge coin idea and it is given for "above and beyond" the call, given as an "achievement of a task of great importance". The challenge is when someone "drops" places a coin down you should back it up with your coin to equal the challenge. If you do not have a coin to place you lose the challenge.

So why do it at College of the Siskiyous?

Upon completing the Fire Academy (given as an achievement) they are handed via a handshake the coin. The coin has our logo, college name, and three identifying words of the Fire Service. Honor, Commitment, and Pride. Some of the same identifying words College of the Siskiyous stands for.

The key factors of the coins are: It brings attention to those three identifying words, the College of the Siskiyous, and the traditions we all strive to be as human-beings.





The cost is small but the rewards are great. Think of how many times someone sees and talks about College of the Siskiyous. This program, and the direction of oneself to stand up for what is good.

This is a very small token given to a student at graduation to say a "job well done". The coin should be controlled at all times. They are not given lightly, and it's an honor to be given a coin. Anyone who is worthy to be given/awarded a coin should carry it proudly.

No matter where the Firefighters finally end-up, Department, State, or County, the challenge coins always brings attention back to where the student graduated from.

Mike loved graduations and celebrating the achievements of our fire students. This coin is something that I will now carry in remembrance of Mike. Being a part of something that this coin represents is truly an honor. Mike, too, could be described with his honor, commitment, and pride.

As I look back over the time I knew Mike, every significant holiday he would text me. He always made a point to make me feel valued not only on a professional level but also on a personal level. And we always had fun doing it. His fun personality and sense of humor was never ending. I am smiling just thinking about him. I miss you, Mike!

As we are still processing not having Mike with us, so many have stepped up to assist us as we navigate through this tough time. The list is too long to name everyone. You know who you are, and I say "thank you so much" for your assistance and kind words.

Please stay tuned as we are working on a gathering to celebrate Mike Wilson's life. Not only did he serve us as our colleague and faculty member, but he was also a loving husband, father of six and grandfather of many that loved him so much. In our community and beyond, the Wilson legacy will live on in the hearts of many.

Please take a moment and reflect on a memory you may have had of Mike. He will smile down upon us when you do.

I love you like a brother Chief Wilson! Rest in Peace my brother.

Liberal Arts and Sciences

Submitted by Val Roberts, Interim Dean - LAS

This is my first semester as LAS Dean in which the majority of the faculty in the LAS area are teaching face to face, and I love it! It's SO good to have more faculty and students around campus! Many of the classes have lower enrollment than any of us are used to, but we're committed to building back and showing students that we hear their requests for more in-person classes. Wishing everyone – on campus and remote – a really good semester!

Jude Baldwin and I are very excited to welcome James Wilcox as our new Library Technician II. He comes to College of the Siskiyous from the Siskiyou County Library, where he worked for five years. James started February 7,



and we are thrilled. Thank you, Jude, for your stellar efforts while handling it alone. You are exceptional. And welcome, James!! We look forward to working with you.

The Academic Success Center (ASC) has extended their hours this semester: Open Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (wow!), and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. We continue to offer both in-person and zoom tutoring. A huge shout out to our Tutors, Instructional Support Specialist, Expert Instructional Aides, and Emkay Sikora (our Tutoring Coordinator) for going above and beyond to make tutoring accessible to students regardless of location and outside of traditional work hours. The result of these efforts was a whopping 583 hours of tutoring provided during the fall 2021 semester. For comparison, that was an increase of 373 hours from fall 2019 (pre-pandemic) and an increase of 128 hours from last fall!! Students have had an increased need, and our Team has responded. Outstanding!

Upward Bound (UB) / TRiO

Submitted by Stephanie Wroten, Director

Office Operations:

- Student Support Services (SSS) Annual Performance Report Report submission is officially open with a due date of February 11.
- UB 2021 Grant Competition Emily Anderson-Moser and Steph Wroten submitted proposal on January 31.

Services:

- UB Saturday School and visitation dates are set for spring
- SSS recruitment is ongoing. Please use the following links if you are working with a student that may
 qualify for the program.
 - o Click here for a counseling appointment with Dr. Sunny Greene.
 - o Click here for TRiO assistance or resources with Christina Wiglesworth.
 - Click here to apply to TRiO@Siskiyous.
 - o Text (530) 938-5516 for inquiries about the program
- UB and SSS Canvas courses are on schedule to be launched for the spring term
- FAFSA completion workshops to be scheduled during early spring
- TRiO's lending library is open for the spring semester. Students can request textbooks, calculators, and recorder pens by using the link below.
 - TRiO Lending Library

Collaborations:

- Equity Spring Break College Tour to Washington DC/New York City advertising has begun.
- Equity Planning for "Adventure Outings" (student activities) to be held this spring has begun.

Distance Learning

Submitted by Maria Fernandez, Interim Distance Education & Instructional Design Coordinator

A new Professional Development portal in Canvas, created by the Interim DE and Instructional Design Coordinator Maria Elena Fernandez, now serves COS faculty and staff. The portal provides a central location within Canvas for faculty and staff to access professional development and training opportunities designed to support online teaching and learning.

The **Course Design Academy Prep Series** supports a small cohort of faculty in their journey to align their course with the CVC-OEI course design standards. Faculty can also apply to serve as peer online course reviewers or faculty mentors for the CDA Prep participants.

The **Accessibility Series** provides facilitated and self-paced learning opportunities for creating or improving courses that engage all students. Faculty can choose a facilitated Student Access Champion pathway to learn more about accessibility and UDL, or enroll in self-paced, local micro-courses addressing Word, PDF, Power Point, and Video accessibility.

The **Design and Development pathway** is designed for instructors who already meet our local online teaching requirements and have an interest in converting an on-campus course to, or developing a new course in, an online format (asynchronous or hybrid).

The **COS Online Teaching Requirement Series** offers training required to teach courses online (asynchronous, hybrid, or synchronous). Faculty can request enrollment in the self-paced Canvas LMS Certification course. Coming in mid-spring is a 4 week, facilitated Online Teaching, Learning, and Design course covering the essentials of course design, digital pedagogy, equity, and UDL within the online learning environment.

The **Library Flex Series** created by Jude Baldwin also resides in the portal and introduces faculty to a variety of topics to help instructors and their students get the most from our library resources. Faculty can enroll in self-paced, local micro-courses.

More training opportunities will continue to be added to the portal as they are developed and as training needs arise.

Career and Technical Education Department

Submitted by Christina Van Alfen, Interim Dean - CTE

This month has been a bitter-sweet month for the CTE Department. On February 2, the final walkthrough of the new Fire Tower was completed. This has been a multi-year project that was spearheaded by Chief Mike Wilson. The next day, we learned of his passing. We are heartbroken that Mike was unable to be there to see the completed tower. This training prop will be a constant reminder of his contributions to our campus community.

We are also fortunate to announce the additional of our new Administration of Justice faculty member, Leigh Moore, to the CTE Department. Leigh is a College of the Siskiyous (COS) alumni, crediting much of her professional success to the welcoming environment which COS offers. After completing her Associate of Science Degree at COS, and subsequently her bachelor's degree, Leigh was hired as a peace officer in Siskiyou County, in 1998, where she served until her retirement in September of 2019. During her career in law enforcement and corrections, Leigh was given the opportunity to serve on various boards, including the Community Services Council. She engaged in specialized investigative assignments, and she was recognized for her exemplary performance over the course of her career, including as a Peace Officer of the Year.



Leigh was honored to work for the Karuk Tribe, in the Judicial Branch for the past two years. Leigh has continued her education, by completing post-graduate research, focusing on evidence-based interventions, and the importance of providing culturally informed services to communities. In her free time, Leigh is an avid vegetable gardener. She is acquiring skills in rural living by assisting her husband of almost 20 years and her 15-year-old son, in managing 20 acres of manzanita, pine trees, and the most rock anyone has ever seen!

Please join us in welcoming Leigh (back!) to the College.

No other reports submitted.