

## COLLEGE OF THE SISKIYOU

### THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

*June 9, 2015*

#### PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The State's improving revenue is going to have a dramatic impact on our fiscal situation next year. We are being cautioned by the State Chancellor and others to keep in mind that this significant increase in funding is not something that we should expect to continue beyond FY 2015-2016. We need to be very careful in how we handle this "windfall" and as we proceed with our financial planning for next year and the years after that. My hope is that we will be able to make some significant improvements for COS by addressing things that we fallen behind in over the past years of severe austerity. I believe that we can use this unexpected improvement in our revenues carefully and by working together take steps to put us in a strong position to persevere over less favorable State and National financial situations in the near future.

The California Legislature is following its normal processes in finalizing their FY 2015-2016 State Budget. They are relying on the Legislative Analyst Office projections on revenues which are around \$3 billion more than what the Governor is utilizing. In previous years, the Governor has persevered. I believe that the Governor's actions are a large factor in why the State is in a very positive position at this time. There is a lot of pressure by various groups outside of higher education to have the Legislature provide them increased funding. We will know in the next couple of weeks, how this all turns out. We are still expecting the state budget to be completed by June 30, and will keep you informed as things progress.

The recent awarding of the \$6 million Career Pathways Grant to COS is going to have a very positive impact on COS and our community. It will also lead to some necessary adjustments to how we are using some of our facilities. This will connect with our recent work on updating our Facilities Master Plan.

The Classification Study/Salary Survey that the Ewing Company is accomplishing for us is close to completion. Ewing Company has run into some problems and is running pretty late in completing their task. We are working with them to get this completed. We expect to receive their finished product in the near future.

We have completed job searches for the Fire Faculty, Athletic Department Assistant, DSPS Program Assistant, and the President's Assistant positions. These "hires" will be part of the Personnel Actions at the Board meeting next week. The three classified positions were filled with current COS employees, so we will be announcing three more positions to fill the vacancies created by these moves.

Initial interviews are being scheduled for the Vice President of Student Services position. The Vice President of Instruction search committee will be meeting Tuesday morning and decide which candidates to invite for an interview. We are planning on having public forums for the finalists for each of these positions.

We have received applications for the Director of Nursing and Nursing Faculty position searches. I expect that the committees will be getting to the interview phase shortly. The Director of Admissions and Records and Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation positions should be announced any day now.

We grew about 8% in our FTES in FY 2014-2015 and have finally grown back to our funding cap. We are finalizing these numbers and expect to be able to "carry forward" into FY 2015-2016 a good amount of FTES that we generate this summer. This will assist us with next year's funding and hopefully allow us to capture Growth Funds if they are available – as the Governor has proposed in his May Revise of the state budget.

Our Summer Session began Monday of this week. Enrollment is close to what it was last summer. Fall enrollment continues and is a little below last year at this time. We only dis-enrolled 5 students from summer classes due to non-payment of fees. In our first dis-enrollment for fall semester classes we only dropped 15 students. Obviously, we have made very strong progress in this area.

We had an action packed Classified Staff Day May 27<sup>th</sup>. A lot of activity, energy, learning, fun, and an overall good time was had by all. We have a great classified staff and this is always a fun day and an opportunity to show them our appreciation.

We also had a visit during Classified Staff Day from State Assemblymen Brian Dahle and a new California Community College Board of Governors Member Arnaldo Avalos. COS Board of Trustee Member Bob Rice, County Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Nancy Funk, Greg South, and I had a very good discussion with them about COS and what is going on here.

#### Enrollment Services:

Through the generosity of Disabled Students Programs and Services, staff members from both Weed and Yreka Enrollment Services and DSPS were able to attend a two day workshop titled "How to Communicate with Tact and Professionalism" in Redding on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was very informative and we came back with a lot of tips on communication; such as asking clarifying questions, direct questions versus indirect questions and how to be a great listener.

Communication is a vital component of what we do here at College of the Siskiyous. This conference was an excellent opportunity to grow and develop professionally. It was also nice to reaffirm what we are doing well and how with practice we can develop even better communication skills. We learned about many forms of communication including face to face, email, letters and even voice mail.

This workshop was interactive and a joy to attend. We feel that we will be able to communicate better with our students, staff, the public and each other. We would recommend this workshop to everyone.

Kudos to Meghan and Jan for holding down the fort while the staff was learning to be better communicators!

#### Financial Aid:

It was another busy month in the Enrollment Services/Financial Aid area! As we mentioned previously, we will be using Higher One to disburse financial aid beginning this summer. We have currently sent out 586 Higher One "My Eagle Cards" to students who are possibly eligible for financial aid and enrolled in summer class(es). So far 198 students have activated their "My Eagle Cards" and selected a disbursement method in order to receive their summer aid. Students can choose the Higher One My Account, their personal bank account or a paper check. This new process will allow students more timely access to their financial aid funds. A new Higher One ATM is now located in the Student Center.

Crystal from the Yreka Campus, Monique, our Cashier and our Enrollment Services/Financial Aid Staff all met to discuss best ways to answer the questions students have on this new process and how to find the information on the Higher One Support website. Staff have all been doing an excellent job in assisting our students with their questions!

We expect to award almost 100 students summer Pell. On June 11<sup>th</sup> we will disburse the summer Pell payments using the Higher One process. We ran our first automated awarding process for 2015-16, awarding over 200 students. We sent emails to all of these students directing them to view their financial aid awards by logging onto their Navigator. We also sent 71 emails to students who completed their Financial Aid files but are not eligible for a Pell grant. The email included information about other programs these students might qualify for, such as Direct Loans and Federal Work Study.

We partnered with the Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) and emailed out a survey in mid-May soliciting feedback from our students regarding their experiences with the financial aid processes at College of the Siskiyous. Doug Haugen sent 1,451 emails to all students who completed a 2014-15 FAFSA for our school. Another email was sent to these same students a week later to encourage participation in the survey. TICAS emailed the results of the survey which contained responses from 102 students. The comments were mostly positive, but a majority mentioned lack of communication from the Financial Aid Office. We were aware that communication has been an issue and had already put processes in place to improve our communication with financial aid applicants. Bart Scott will sort through the information provided by TICAS so that we can determine how we can better serve our students. We would like to send the survey out again next year at this time and compare results; we are hopeful our increased communications will improve the feedback in this area. With the help of Anne-Marie Kuhlemann and Ben Harris, our Financial Aid Navigator pages and our Financial Aid web pages have been updated with current information. It's been quite the endeavor and there is more work to be done, but I really appreciate the patience they both have had with this fine-tuning process. Our Financial Aid webpage looks great and students can now access the information that they need in order to be successful financial aid students!

## **FOUNDATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### **Public Relations**

The College has been receiving a lot of press in the local media lately – both positive and negative. Last month, I met with Sean McDonald, Publisher of the Siskiyou Daily News and Mt. Shasta Area News, to discuss recent published stories as well as how the COS can better strengthen its relationship with the papers. We had a great discussion and I look forward to seeing more stories about the college and our offerings promoted in a more positive manner. Mr. McDonald and I are planning to meet on a quarterly basis to keep in touch and discuss any issues that may come up.

In May I attended a Senior Services Fair at the Yreka Community Center to promote COS and class offerings of interest to adults. Many of the attendees were interested in personal enrichment type classes such as piano, guitar, and gardening. Others were interested in talking to about their “experience as a former COS student.” Many positive stories were shared with me throughout the morning, making the event an enjoyable one to be at.

**Visit us at the Fair** - COS will have a booth at the Siskiyou Golden Fair, August 12-16. We need volunteers to staff the booth. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jan Keen at the COS Student Life Office (938-5374 or [keen@siskiyous.edu](mailto:keen@siskiyous.edu)) or Dawnie Slabaugh (938-5373 or [slabaugh@siskiyous.edu](mailto:slabaugh@siskiyous.edu)). This is a great recruitment /marketing opportunity for the College. Thousands of people attend the Siskiyou Golden Fair each year to see what Siskiyou County has to offer, spend time with their family, and support agriculture and the arts.

### **June Events**

- Summer Session Begins – June 1
- Campuses Closed on Fridays – Beginning June 5 / Ending July 31
- Upward Bound Program Begins – June 14

### **Foundation**

**Sign Up To Play!!** – The COS Foundation and Athletic Department will host the “*Swing into Action*” Golf Tournament on Saturday, July 11 at the Lake Shastina Golf Resort. Tournament registration is open. Cost to participate is \$75 per player or \$300 for a team of four. Funds raised will support the purchase of new uniforms for Men’s and Women’s Soccer (beginning fall 2015). Contact Dawnie if you would like to play in the tournament or download the registration form: <http://www.siskiyous.edu/ia/foundation/documents/golfbrochure.pdf>

**COS Extension Program:** Registration is open for kids who want to attend Camp Broadway at COS. This camp will take place at the COS Weed Campus beginning July 6 and ending August 3. Camp Broadway (XSU 0302 / #5077) will meet Monday thru Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost to participate is \$65 per student for the full four-week camp. Each participant will receive over 80 hours of instruction, a script, music, and practice cd. Participants will learn all aspects of putting on a show including acting, singing, dancing, costume design, set building, sound, lights, auditions technique and more! This summer's production will be *Peter Pan Jr.* Emmy award winning Broadway performer, Wendy James is the Camp Director. James most recently was the director of the recent smash COS hit musical, *Rent* as well as the spring 2014 production of *The Producers*. At the end of Camp Broadway, three public performances will be held for the community, July 31 at 7PM and August 1 at 2PM and 7PM.

**Scholarship Dinner** – Save the Date... The 2015 Scholarship Fundraising Dinner will be held Saturday, September 19 at the Weed Sons' of Italy Memorial Hall. More information about this event will be provided as we get closer to the event.

**Eagle's Nest and Vintage Nest Shops** - Last month the Foundation made the decision to close the Vintage Nest and relocate all merchandise and fixtures across the street to the Eagle's Nest. Customers can now enjoy two shops in one location... Stop by the Eagle's Nest and check out the "Vintage Nest Section." *Same great items, same great price, now located in the same great store!!*

### **Grants**

The Grants Office received great news recently from the California Department of Education – COS was funded for a \$6 million California Career Pathways Trust Grant! The grant will be a collaborative effort between COS, Siskiyou Union High School District, Yreka High School, and the Siskiyou County Office of Education. It will create pathways between secondary and postsecondary education and target the following K-14 career pathway sectors: Manufacturing and Product Development; Marketing, Sales and Service; Health Science and Medical Technology; and Public Service.

In addition, grants were received from the Shasta Regional Community Foundation and United Way to support the Community Construction Project established by the CTE Office

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

### **Upward Bound**

2015 has been a year to remember for Siskiyous Upward Bound. Our participants are sailing to new heights while continuing to strive for their academic successes. As of the end of the spring semester, current participants have completed 105 units of COS coursework, achieved great successes within FFA, athletics, various leadership entities and can tell a tale or two about studying abroad. How can we top that? Our students are so great! A couple of outspoken students had a couple of ideas; so we ran with it.

We will excitingly expand our horizons even further this summer; new heights and challenging coursework are ahead. On Monday, we launched a hybrid component to the program with a group of seventeen; students will complete COS summer courses while participating in program events. On June 26th our group will travel to Southern California to tour UCLA, USC, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Fullerton, UC Riverside and CSU Northridge. Between visiting these great campuses, we will take a peek of the Endeavor Space Shuttle at the California Science Center, learn interesting facts at the Natural History Museum and experience great eats at Roscoe's Chicken 'n Waffles Restaurant. On our down time we will soak in some Los Angeles sun at Santa Monica Pier and splash around Raging Waters. All in all this will be a well-rounded and-deserved summer for participants. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram for updates as our summer unfolds.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Having been to our Spring ACBO conference, our annual JPA meeting for our workers' compensation and property and liability insurance, and the Governor's May revise out, it has been a busy month. The tentative budget has been developed and we anxiously await the actual State budget within the next couple of weeks so that we can finalize the budget for September and truly work on the new fiscal year that is right around the corner. The items of interest regarding the budget are included in the budget narrative so please take a look at them in the Board packets for this month.

The Business Office is losing one of their members to Athletics. Monique will be transferring over the beginning of July. We are happy for her and them but we will miss her in the Business Office. That office will begin the wrap up of this fiscal year and starting a new one as we get this budget approved Tuesday night.

Maintenance has been busy working on upgrades, maintenance of our grounds, athletic fields and lodges. The grounds look amazing in case you hadn't noticed. Great job everyone.

The campus has been abuzz with Vanguard group and the NOLS group on our campus over the last couple of weeks and NOLS will be around for a few more. It was fun to hear the music playing on various parts of campus. Technology has kept maintenance busy as well. Work is underway to upgrade the DLC 3 and DLC 8 classrooms with new presentation and videoconferencing technologies. If you happen to find yourself in the construction zone, you'll see floors pulled up, old pieces of equipment set aside to make way for the new, and wires and cables everywhere. Watch your step and check back in the fall to see all the changes that will again make these spaces into state-of-the-art classrooms.

The Vintage nest will be closing and moving the inventory over to the Eagle's Nest by the end of June. Angel was trying to get it done before that even. This will be a help to the Foundation (cost effective) and to Angel in being able to manage and staff one store instead of two. Be sure to go by and check out all that is available there.

## **ACADEMIC SENATE**

This concludes and begins another year of exceptional instruction taking place in our classrooms and online! Some items worthy of celebration:

**Program review:** Program reviews have been completed for most of COS's instructional programs. While there is still some unfinished business, notably in areas lacking full-time faculty, this major under-taking was once again completed. Closing the loop by evaluating our process has also been completed. Faculty were more positive about the process this year, although our ongoing struggles with the technical side cause frustration. Looking forward, the Program Review committee has been actively collecting assessment data for next year's program review and is already planning for improvements to the process. Additionally, two Flex day presentations are planned to help faculty prior to start of Fall classes.

**The Curriculum Committee** was also busy and productive again this year, and has several members donating their time to attend the summer curriculum institute in July. Curriculum Committee completed its three year update cycle and is working to update the entire General Education structure.

**Accreditation self-study** also reflects the hard work of most of our faculty.

**Committee work:** Faculty members filled over 100 committee positions this year, with many of those committees meeting weekly.

**Summer hiring committees** are meeting and interviewing.

I am looking forward to working closely with the Faculty Association and Administration to refill some of the more than 20 positions we lost since I started here, to bring back professional development for our Part-time faculty, and institute negotiated flex days to accomplish program review and curriculum updates. I am hopeful the Board will continue to comply with its goals under the Education Code regarding the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty to be employed by it and for making progress toward the standard of 75% of total faculty work load hours taught by full-time faculty. <http://www.siskiyous.edu/policies/hr/bp7210.pdf>

I will be on campus for most of the summer and I am looking forward to working with all of you.