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PRESS RELEASE

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Local Student has a Passion for Learning

By Dawnie Slabaugh, Director of Public Relations

“Sirong Du is an extraordinary young woman,” says Wenli Chang, one of the Math instructors at College of the Siskiyous (COS). “As her Calculus instructor, I have seen many examples of her talent and have long been impressed by her diligence and work ethic. The class starts early in the morning at 7:20 am; she always attends on time, and with her homework done. She is a student that can complete multiple tasks with favorable results despite deadline pressure; she also was one of a few of the students in the class asking questions with her critical thinking and open mind. She also had the best performance in the Calculus classes with her outstanding achievement. Her above average performance, is a direct result of hard work and strong focus.”



Sirong is not a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) major student, instead she is majoring in Art, with a minor emphasis in Science and Math. Born and raised in Beijing, China, she came to the United States as a foreign exchange student when she was 15 years old, spending the next two years living with a host family in North Carolina. After her exchange program ended, she moved to Mt. Shasta to live with her mom and stepfather who had recently moved to the area, and attended Mt. Shasta High School for her senior year. Sirong considered attending a four-year college after graduation, but decided to stay at home and attend COS in order to be able to spend more time with her family.

Since graduating from Mt. Shasta High School in June 2017, Sirong has been a full time College of the Siskiyous student taking classes in all subject areas, averaging 18-19 units per semester. An avid learner, Sirong enjoys all subjects (and excels in them all), but has really found her passion to be the creation of Art, especially Photography and Ceramics. According to Photography instructor, Jim Gilmore, “Sirong always creates links between the art classes she both takes and has taken, including

the History of Art, to make compelling imagery in various media. In Photography, Sirong has excelled in creating images both ethereal and evocative, personalizing the image-making process to an unusually high degree."

Sirong also has a deep interest in becoming a designer and once she declared her major as Art, has been taking as many art classes as possible. One of her favorite instructors is Sean Kenny, Ceramics instructor, who has also come to know Sirong and her passion for learning and the expression of art. "Sirong is an outstanding student. As an artist, her learning curve has been as steep as any student I have seen. Conceptually strong, aesthetically strong, and technically strong!"

In her free time, Sirong enjoys spending time with her family, reading, watching movies, and taking pictures. She also enjoys her time in classes at the College and interacting with the faculty and her classmates. "College of the Siskiyous is a really diverse, open-minded school, with students of all ages. The people are friendly and the support shown to students is great," said Sirong.

This coming spring Sirong will begin her final semester at COS... maybe. She hasn't decided whether she wants to transfer, where she will transfer to, or if she will stay at COS for another year. But whatever she decides to do, she will do it with passion, enthusiasm, and an open mind. Sirong has an astute capacity to breakdown ideas and sort through the many lenses in which one might examine a predicament in a professional way. She will have continued success in her future pursuits whether they be academic or personal.

COS offers a great education in a great location, where students are our number one priority! Students interested in taking classes should register as soon as possible. Winter Intersession is from January 2 – 26, 2019. Spring semester classes will begin January 28, 2019. For class registration information, call the Enrollment Services Office at (530) 938-5500. The Weed Campus can also be reached by calling (530) 938-5555 or toll-free, (888) 397-4339. Register in person at the Weed or Yreka campus or register online (anytime) at www.siskiyous.edu. Registration fees are due when registering for classes.