



Siskiyou Joint Community College District  
800 College Avenue  
Weed, CA 96094  
Telephone: (530) 938-5555  
Toll-Free: (888) 397-4339

## PRESS RELEASE

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Public Relations Office:  
Dawnie Slabaugh, Director: (530) 938-5373  
Email: [slabaugh@siskiyous.edu](mailto:slabaugh@siskiyous.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **College Seeks Campus Community Input on the Financial State of the College**

Weed / COS – In the spirit of transparency and inclusiveness, all employees were asked to attend a special College meeting on the morning of February 11, 2020, to hear the latest information about the College’s financial situation. Approximately 105 employees attended. Faculty teaching classes at that time were excused.

The five members of the College’s Executive Team, comprised of President Schoonmaker, Vice President of Administrative Services Melby, Vice President of Human Resources Richmond, Vice President of Academic Affairs Perlas, and Vice President of Student Services Green, led the meeting. President Schoonmaker opened the meeting by sharing, “The College’s leadership has some important information to share with you about the current budget year, and what we are projecting for the next budget year. We are also here to ask for your help. We believe we are a community of caring souls, and intelligent professionals. While the saying goes that two heads are better than one, we extend that belief to say that 150 heads are better than just our five.”

Information shared during the meeting:

- At the beginning of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, the Board of Trustees approved a deficit budget with expenditures exceeding anticipated revenues by approximately \$309,000. Due to careful fiscal oversight, and a college-wide effort to be good stewards of public funds, the College now projects that they will end the year with a balanced budget.
- At the start of the budget building process for the College’s FY 2020-2021 budget, the College is projecting that expenses will exceed anticipated revenues by approximately \$1.7M. Effective cost-cutting measures have been taken over the past three years; however, local enrollments have remained steady while costs continue to increase.
- While the budget for next year will require some reductions, the vision for the College remains intact. The College has been building, and will continue to build, capacity to fulfill Siskiyous’ mission to transform students’ lives through education achievement and success. In 2018, the College identified six strategic program areas through which to generate enrollments and increase retention and completion. These six areas are:
  1. Transfer Programs to four-year Colleges and Universities
  2. Career-Technical and Professional Programs
  3. Distance Education Offerings, including programs available entirely online

4. Non-Credit Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) Certificates
5. International Student Opportunities and International Educational Partnerships, and
6. Instructional Service Agreements (ISAs)

Over the past three years, the College has made progress in all six of these strategic areas, but more is both needed and expected – and imminently possible. College employees were urged to continue working hard to generate the necessary enrollments and corresponding revenues to help the College grow its budget to a sustainable level.

A budget gap input form was shared with College employees with a request for everyone to offer input into ways to contain costs, create budget savings, and suggest potential revenues for the College. Input will be accepted until 5 p.m. on February 18, 2020.

The College plans to build a budget for the next fiscal/academic year that maximizes the capacity for enrollment and growth, while simultaneously considering ways to close projected budget gaps. After receiving and considering the College community's input, should the need for reductions in workforce be required, President Schoonmaker indicated the first reductions would be made within the administrative ranks of the College. Schoonmaker stated, "...before we ask anyone else to do more with less, or to lose a colleague within your constituency, we will reduce our administrative resources and our administrative assets – and raise our individual and collective administrative expectations first."

For information about College of the Siskiyous, visit [www.siskiyous.edu](http://www.siskiyous.edu) or contact the Public Relations Office by calling (530) 938-5373. The Weed Campus can also be reached by calling toll-free (888) 397-4339.