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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scotty Thomason is New COS Superintendent / President



Weed / COS – College of the Siskiyous is pleased to announce Scotty Thomason, is the 11th Superintendent / President for the Siskiyou Joint Community College District. Thomason previously served as the college’s Interim Vice President of Administrative Services. He began his duties at College of the Siskiyous on July 21. A welcome reception for the community to meet Thomason will be held during the fall semester.

Prior to coming to COS, Thomason worked as the Chief Business Officer at Ohlone College in Fremont, and as Vice President of Administrative Services at Reedley College and College of the Redwoods. He has developed and implemented budgets up to \$40 million and has been involved with General Obligation Bond campaigns resulting in \$19 million for West Hills Community College District and \$40 million for Redwoods Community College District.

Thomason holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno; and Lifetime Community College Supervisory and Student Worker Personnel credentials. He has over 34 years of experience in higher education within the State of California in the areas of business, instruction, and student services.

“I believe community colleges hold a specific role in the higher education system in the State of California as a primary point of access for students of all ages and backgrounds. Unlike the research institutions and other universities, community colleges provide a broader range of course offerings that can prepare students to transfer to a four-year institution or select a career-based technical track,” said Thomason.

Thomason brings to COS a strong belief and commitment to student success and has demonstrated this by seeking to increase the institutions commitment to being a student-centered institution with strong connections to the community and in providing post-secondary education that is needed and deserved. Creating strong connections and partnerships within the community he is serving is a top priority. "I look forward to working with the College Foundation in reaching out to the community and potential donors, and increase partnership efforts with the community and industry," said Thomason. The pursuit and success in these efforts is critical to assist in providing supplemental funding for College of the Siskiyous as funding from the State of California and the Federal Government is rapidly dissipating.

"Communication with students, faculty, and staff should be inclusive, transparent, and visionary. Input from the external constituents is important, but it is also essential to work collaboratively with those who interact daily with the students to forge a future that is supported internally and also meets the criteria for state and national standards," he continued.

The future for College of the Siskiyous will depend upon enrollment and the ability to keep pace with the demands of the market. "One of my goals is to get enrollment moving in a positive direction. I'm optimistic we can get our FTE (full time enrollment) back up. Growth can be accomplished through better outreach and recruitment from local high schools and better connecting with the community," said Thomason. At College of the Redwoods, Thomason served as the college liaison with the Academy of the Redwoods Early College High School and also has past experience at West Hills Community College working as the Vice President of Student Services.

Additionally, Thomason has been an active and visible member in the communities he has resided in by his participation in Rotary, Domestic Support Organizations, Youth Sports, and local Chambers of Commerce. He and his wife Sharie have a son, a daughter-in-law, and a four-year old granddaughter.

"The Trustees and I look forward to a transitional year of innovations and hard decisions that will mend this college and have the faculty and administration working together towards mutual goals that will strengthen and grow College of the Siskiyous," said Barry Ohlund, Trustee President. "I don't believe it can be done in one year, but I also don't want to underestimate the abilities of Scotty Thomason. I firmly believe President Thomason is the perfect fit for our college at precisely the right time and I think the whole campus is in full support of him as well," continued Ohlund.