

February 2021

Recognizing our PACE Community College Risk Management Partners: Sharla Andresen, Director of Risk Management, Central Oregon Community College

Oregon community colleges have a long-standing tradition of collaboration. This month we want to introduce you to and recognize the collaborative spirit, participation and contribution made by Sharla Andresen, Director of Risk Management at Central Oregon Community College (COCC).

The summer of 2021 will mark Sharla's 30th anniversary at COCC. For the past 12 years and counting, one of the many hats she wears is that of Risk Management. Additionally, she is currently in her second term as a PACE Board of Trustee, and in her second year as the Board Chair.

I had the opportunity to virtually meet with Sharla recently and discuss risk management issues on the horizon. Below is a brief summary of our conversation.

What are the near-term challenges facing COCC?

Sharla: The pandemic and the seemingly ever-changing landscape of requirements and recommendations. Making both staff and students comfortable in coming back to a more "normal" campus environment is the ultimate goal. All the while, acknowledging that people will be tentative and concerned about their own safety and re-opening stages.

What strategies are you planning or implementing to address those challenges?

Sharla: We want to make people aware of all the work that we are doing to a make the campus environment safe for a return to a more normal teaching and learning experience. We are pushing information to dispel any rumors and keeping the college community informed. We have established and routinely update a web-based clearing house of information and resources, so those interested have a single location to obtain the latest details.

You can see COCC's Covid-19 Health and Safety Information at [COCC's COVID-19 Health and Safety Information - Central Oregon Community College](#)

As a longtime colleague, I want to personally thank Sharla for her dedication to the community college mission, her ongoing collaboration and sharing of resources with peers, and her leadership service to the PACE Board of Trustees.