

February 15,2013  
Sam Pennisi  
Community Comment

### College of the Redwoods Accreditation

All of Humboldt County, the entire North Coast region in fact, received good news on Wednesday; College of the Redwoods will remain accredited. CR's new President, board, and faculty and staff should be relieved and proud of the work that's been done to fix what's been broken. It appears there is more to do but this report indicates that the college is on the right track.

We all should remember how fortunate we are to have Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods at our doorsteps. HSU offers an excellent education for those seeking a bachelor's degree or master's degree. The university offers small classes, world class professors, and the opportunities that go with having a university close by. On campus talent and speakers and entertainment from around the country and the world are brought to our community. Professors are invited all over the world to present research papers on various topics important to current issues and science. Many are featured in journals and popular magazines like National Geographic.

Having HSU in Arcata offers a low cost opportunity for local people from Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties to seek an advanced degree. Many of our young people take advantage of this opportunity but so do many returning adults. They often want to increase their knowledge or get another degree to enhance their work options.

College of the Redwoods offers entry level opportunities into college for those on a limited budget or for those who want to see if college is for them. CR not only offers this first experience but many classes can be transferred directly to HSU or many other institutions and fulfill course requirements for four year degrees. Graduating from a two year program at CR can mean entry into many of California's UC campuses. In addition, there are many excellent technical programs for those interested in direct training.

The benefit to individuals is outstanding but let's not forget the benefits to the greater community. We should think of CR and HSU as companies

that hire many people in well paid jobs. Much of the money that is used in payroll and tuition and housing comes from out of the area. This has an even greater effect on the local economy. These colleges also help those local young people that want to stay here find good positions. This means more extended families and better communities.

I wish CR the best for their future. They have more work to do but seem to be on the right track. Let's give them all the support we can. After all, it's for everyone's best future.

This has been Sam pennisi for community comment.

~~Community Comment~~

~~January 18, 2013~~

~~Sam Pennisi~~