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Los Rios' Deputy Chancellor Jon Sharpe to Retire

SACRAMENTO – Jon Sharpe, the Los Rios Community College District's deputy chancellor who led the implementation of the District's groundbreaking "Educating a Region" effort to serve students through local education centers, has announced his retirement after 35 years in public education in California and Wisconsin.

Sharpe, 59, has worked for Los Rios for 12 years, joining the District in June 2002 as vice chancellor for finance and administration. He was promoted to deputy chancellor in 2004, where he has served in a chief financial and chief operating officer capacity, overseeing financial affairs, facilities, District police and human resources. He served as Los Rios' interim chancellor from August 2012-January 2013, between former Chancellor Brice Harris' retirement and the appointment of current Chancellor Brian King.

In a message earlier this week to the Los Rios community, King said he was announcing Sharpe's retirement "with very mixed feelings."

"Though Jon's retirement is certainly well-earned, he will be greatly missed at Los Rios," King wrote. "He has provided exceptional vision and leadership and is widely recognized for his excellence across the state."

Los Rios Board President Robert Jones, a four-decade veteran of California higher education, said he would "rank Mr. Sharpe among the most talented and professional educational administrators I have ever had the pleasure of working with. ... His contributions to the District were enormous and will be lasting."

In particular, Jones praised Sharpe for his "exemplary" stewardship of taxpayer dollars as he guided the District's investment of bond revenues in the building and maintenance of Los Rios' colleges and education centers.

The Los Rios District is the second-largest community college district in California, with about 77,000 students attending four colleges: American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City. It is also one of the nation's most respected, in part because of its innovative, successful "Educating a

Region” approach that focuses on using community colleges to educate and train a regional workforce to create jobs and bolster the local economy. Sharpe has played a key role in implementing that vision, as the person responsible for the District’s facilities and financial affairs.

“Jon is, without question, the driving force behind much of the success of Los Rios in the past decade,” said Harris, the former Los Rios chancellor who now serves as chancellor of the California Community College system. “His leadership on finance, facilities, human resources and strategic direction made him an invaluable resource not only for Los Rios, but for the state system of California community colleges. His service and expertise will be greatly missed.”

Before joining Los Rios in 2002, Sharpe served as executive vice chancellor of administration and finance at State Center Community College District in Fresno. Before that, he worked for public school districts in Clovis, Ca., and Cedarburg, Wis. A Wisconsin native, Sharpe received a bachelor’s degree in marketing and a master’s degree in school business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Los Rios will conduct a national search this spring for Sharpe’s replacement, with the goal of filling the position by July 1, when Sharpe’s retirement takes effect.

ABOUT LOS RIOS

The Los Rios Community College District is one of the nation’s most respected learning institutions and the second-largest community college district in California, serving the greater Sacramento region. Los Rios includes: American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges; six major education and outreach centers; and specialized workforce and economic development programs, for regional businesses, governments and organizations. Los Rios colleges offer AA/AS degrees, certificates and transfer-education opportunities in more than 70 career fields. The District’s 2,400-square mile service area includes all of Sacramento and El Dorado counties and parts of Yolo, Placer and Solano counties. About 77,000 students are enrolled in the four Los Rios colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.

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