FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015

PRESIDENT MOJOCK ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT PLANS

Leesburg, FL. – During the Lake-Sumter State College District Board of Trustee meeting held on January 20th, Dr. Charles Mojock announced his intention to retire effective December 31, 2015. In a letter to Mr. Tim Morris, Chairman of the Board, President Mojock shared that he counted his selection as LSCC President over a decade ago among other personal significant milestones like his wedding and birth of his children. “The college and larger community have always been so welcoming and supportive of Cathy (wife) and me and for that we are so grateful,” said President Mojock. “It has truly been an honor and capstone of my 40 year career in education to serve as your President!”

In his letter, President Mojock, noted that he wanted to provide the Board of Trustees with ample notice so that they will have sufficient time to organize and prepare for the search process and a smooth transition to a new President in 2016. “Dr. Mojock will surely be missed,” said Mr. Tim Morris. “His dedication to the students, College family and community at large is unwavering. His focus has always been the students and through his leadership, he has pursued countless ways to consistently put the student’s best interest first. He is an admirable leader, educator and colleague,” added Mr. Morris.

During his 12 ½ years leading the College in achieving its mission, President Mojock’s accomplishments include building a strong faculty and leadership team, forging corporate and community partnerships, successful accreditation visits, implementation of new programs, receiving numerous national awards and building and remodeling a number of college facilities. It was under his leadership, that Lake-Sumter State College joined the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium and DirectConnect to UCF. He was influential in working with Florida Hospital Waterman, Leesburg Regional Medical Center, The Villages Regional Hospital and South Lake Hospital to double their financial commitment to support the expansion of the Nursing Program – one of the first in the state to be funded by local hospitals.

His work with Duke Energy and CEMEX resulted in the commitment for multi-year financial support to help establish the A.S. in Engineering Technology with a specialization in Protective Relay and Substation Technology. The program is slated to launch in Fall 2015. President Mojock engaged SECO, Progress Energy and the cities of Leesburg, Bushnell, and Mount Dora to establish the Electrical Distribution Technology program to train utility linemen. Throughout his tenure at LSSC he also launched Associate of Science degree programs in Health Information Technology, Computer Information Technology and Environmental Science.

Media Contact:
Sasheika Tomlinson, Director of Marketing & College Relations
352-365-3526 • TomlinsS@lssc.edu
His dedication to expanding the workforce training in Sumter County is evident by his work in securing $1M in state funding to create the Sumter County Partnership for Workforce Innovation and Education. Through this partnership multiple public and private sector partners have come together to provide a more skilled workforce to benefit economic development. Members include local government, school districts, universities, law enforcement, hospitals, a veterans’ organization and the Regional Workforce Board.

In 2011, 2013 and 2015, Lake-Sumter State College was named among the Top 10% of Community Colleges in the Nation by the prestigious Aspen Institute. President Mojock was the recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction and recognized with the Lake County Community Service Award. He has served as Board Chair for the Florida College System Council of Presidents and as a Board Member for The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Under his leadership, enrollment grew at a rapid pace from 1,825 FTE in 2002 to a peak at 3,261 in 2012, an increase of about 79%. Online learning grew exponentially from fall 2010 to Fall 2014, a significant 196% increase in the number of students taking online classes. In fact, it was under President Mojock’s direction that LSSC began offering online courses. Today, students can earn an A.A. and selected A.S. degrees fully online.

College affordability is a prime concern for President Mojock. As a result, in 2014 the Foundation awarded 773 scholarships totaling $643,400. In 2013, LSSC received the largest grant in its history. The Title III Grant provided $2.9M to strengthen the academic quality of mathematics programming and expand the College’s service to low income students. This historical achievement resulted in the creation of a Math Emporium on the South Lake and Leesburg Campuses.

President Mojock undoubtedly has witnessed the growth of the college at all levels but none more significant than the transition from a community college to a state college. Undergoing a name change, successful accreditation and rebranding in 2012-2013, set the stage in January 2013 for Lake-Sumter State College to welcome its first students into the College’s first bachelor’s program, Organizational Management.

Growth is also evident in the addition of the Science-Math Building on the Leesburg Campus and the Cooper Memorial Library on the South Lake Campus. The creation of state of the art Learning Center facilities and the renovation of the Liberal Arts Building, Williams-Johnson Building and Student Services Building and acquisition of the M and Facilities Buildings are among his many successful facilities projects.

During his time as President he launched the Annual Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni Event recognizing outstanding faculty, staff and graduates. He initiated the Faculty Rank and Promotion Plan and Service Excellence Initiative to enhance the corporate culture and workplace experience for faculty and staff. For two years, LSSC was listed as a “Best Places to Work” in Lake and Sumter Counties.

As President Mojock looks to the next 12 months to conclude his time at LSSC, he remains passionately committed to fulfilling the strategic priorities. Establishing the Health Sciences Collegiate Academy and securing the rest of the funding for the Science Lab Facility on the South Lake Campus, launching the new Engineering Technology degree with a specialization in Protective Relay and Substation Technology in Sumter County and Nursing program accreditation and preparation for future expansion are just a few of his priority projects. “With the outstanding team we have, I know we will succeed” said Mojock.

The board is expected to release a Request for Proposal to find a suitable search firm to conduct the presidential search.

###