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DEEP SPRINGS, CA, January 10, 2013: Deep Springs College Blocked From Admitting Women

A local judge has ruled that Deep Springs will not be permitted to admit women to the class of 2013. Deep Springs College is involved in ongoing litigation to secure transition to coeducation, a decision approved by the Trustees of Deep Springs College in the fall of 2011. On January 8, 2013, Judge Dean Stout of California's Inyo County Superior Court issued an initial ruling against the college on two preliminary questions presented by its petition. The ruling blocks Deep Springs from admitting women to the college in 2013.

In a letter to the college community, Deep Springs President David Neidorf wrote: *"I know that many of us will lose heart for a few moments after hearing this news. But do know that this is the first of what will surely be many months, even years, of varying legal actions and approaches. The Trustees' decision to pursue coeducation for the college isn't going away. In the meantime, however, we will have to find our feet, and proceed with making the next terms in the valley as good, or better, than was the best of the last 95 years."*

While Deep Springs cannot move ahead to implement coeducation this year, the college remains confident about the final outcome of the ongoing litigation. Deep Springs and its Trustees remain committed to a coeducational future for the college. In the words of Trustee Chair Dave Hitz, *"I am disappointed that Deep Springs won't be accepting women this summer, but the legal process can be slow. We knew when we began that it might take a long time to get a final ruling. Meanwhile, the board's decision is clear. We believe Deep Springs can best fulfill its mission by educating women and men together."*

Since its founding in 1917, Deep Springs College has quietly pursued a unique educational mission in a beautiful, isolated valley in Eastern California. The college has a student body of about 26, along with 20 faculty, staff, other community members. With exceptions for emergencies and religious observance, students remain on the campus (40 miles from town) during academic terms. Students work every afternoon on the college's ranch, farm, kitchen and office operations. They also help administer the college as a self-governing student body.

Deep Springs does not grant baccalaureate degrees, and its graduates routinely transfer to complete their undergraduate degrees at selective institutions of higher education such as The University of Chicago, Brown, Harvard, Yale, and Stanford. Despite its small size, its alumni include many public servants, including a former Member of Congress, U. S. Ambassadors, members of the National Academy of Sciences, two winners of MacArthur "Genius" Grants, and nationally known writers and artists.

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