President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud

Smokey Mountain Performers in the Skyline College Theater.
Success Summit - A Success!

The Skyline College President’s Council welcomed attendees to the inaugural year of the Success Summit on Saturday in the Fireside Dining Room of the Student and Community Center. Over 120 attendees convened to consider the challenges of the region. An overview of current trends in the areas of Transportation, Communication, and Jobs was presented by a panel of experts, followed by a moderated question and answer session. Attendees took the opportunity to add their voice and expert perspective to the conversation. The goal of the conference was to develop creative solutions for shaping forward movement and successful outcomes that will be tracked and reported on at subsequent events.

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud welcomed the group to Skyline College and was followed by Ms. Jessica Evans, President’s Council Chair and President/CEO of Downtown San Mateo Association. Summit Co-Chairs Michele Enriquez-Da Silva and Greg Cochran took the stage to provide an overview of the conference and to welcome San Mateo County Supervisor, Don Horsley. Supervisor Horsley acknowledged elected officials and other VIP guests.

Attendees were addressed by two keynote speakers – Marlena Jackson, founder of NexGeneGirls and scientist at one of the world’s leading biotechnology organizations gave the morning address inspiring girls to go into science. Angela Batinovich, businesswoman and CEO of the San Francisco Bulls Hockey Organization talked to the group about her journey as a businesswoman.

Attendees participated in three separate sessions and followed a color coded rotation to ultimately attend a session on all three topics. The transportation session addressed the issue of “The Last Mile” – Efficiently reaching our destination after getting off public transportation. Moderators Jon Rubin, CEO of the Peninsula Coalition and Adrienne Tissier, San Mateo County Supervisor, led the discussion as the attendees broke into groups and responded to the question, “How can we successfully traverse the peninsula, including an east/west direction and along the Pacific coast, expanding access to San Mateo destinations such as learning institutions, employers, areas of commerce and recreation?”

The attendees in the Communications session addressed the question of “How can we successfully create a cross-generational and diverse sense of place/community amidst the array of communication platforms available today?” Moderator, Lloyd La Cuesta, Journalism Professor, SJSU and retired South Bay Bureau Chief, KTVU led the discussion.

Moderator Anne LeClair, President/CEO of the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau led the discussion in the “Jobs”: Connecting the Needs session. Attendees responded to “How can we successfully create a vibrant and fluid workforce that meets the current and future needs of north county employers?”

At the end of the sessions, using clicker technology, attendees voted on which of the issues they would like to see the President’s Council carry toward resolution. The group chose the Transportation session which will be a focus of the President’s Council who is in the great position to be able to seed initiatives that will begin to address the issues.

Many thanks to our sponsors.
SKYLINE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT
OCTOBER 23, 2013

SKYLINE COLLEGE TRiO SSS Students Visit the Sonoma State Seawolves

Last Spring the TRiO SSS Project contributed to Skyline College’s graduation and transfer rate with a total of 73 students who either received a certificate and/or associate degree and/or transferred to a four-year college. Forty three of these students transferred to a four-year institution of higher education (IHE). Feedback from the students indicated that campus visits were a significant contributing factor to the project’s transfer rate. Each year the TRiO SSS Project provides opportunities for its students to search for high quality academic education by visiting different IHE campuses throughout California.

Why visit? The TRiO SSS staff believes campus visits gives first-generation students many of whom have never an opportunity to get a real-time experience of an IHE campus is like.

The first TRiO SSS campus visit for this academic year was to Sonoma State University which is considered one of the Best 368 Colleges in the country, one of 25 of the “most connected” and “wired” (Forbes) as well as being among the top “green” campuses (Princeton Review), and recognized as having one of the best 25 liberal arts and science education program in the nation.

TRiO SSS students had the chance to experience a campus tour, visit the residence halls, dine in a residence hall dining room, and meet with an admission transfer officer— all of which was designed to give them a sense of what it would like to attend Sonoma State University and be a Seawolf. The impact of this campus visit was expressed by a student who reflected, “I really like Sonoma, definitely my #1 choice for a possible transfer.”

Article by Raymond Jones.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLAR REVERSE TRADE MISSION HELD AT SKYLINE COLLEGE

September 5, 2013 the Bay Area Center for International Trade and Development (CITD) co-hosted a one day in-bound trade mission at Skyline College. This was the first stop for the South African delegates on their ‘Reverse Trade Mission to the U.S.’ This trade mission was sponsored and funded by the U.S Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). This opportunity brought together delegates representing top private sponsors and developers in Sub-Saharan Africa with solar power experts and suppliers from the United States in order to discuss project opportunities and the various U.S. private and public financing resources for trade development in the Southern African region.

After the opening comments by the President of Skyline College, Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud, presentations were made by representatives from the Export-Import Bank of the United States, USTDA, and SAFE-BIDCO. Additional presentations were made by Skyline College’s Energy Systems Technology Management program in support of the CITD’s international contract education projects. Among those in attendance from Skyline College were Richard Soyombo, CITD Executive Director, CITD staff and representatives from Skyline College’s Energy Systems Technology Management program.

For additional information please contact: Ms. Allison Mello at melloa@smccd.edu.

Article by Elizabeth Tablan, photo by Raul Guerra.
SKYLINE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT
OCTOBER 23, 2013

CENTER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES TRAINING IN AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Skyline College Center for Workforce Development (CWD) has entered into a contract with the California Corporate College through Covered California to provide training in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Covered California is a new health insurance marketplace where individuals and families shopping for insurance can compare and choose health coverage that best fits their needs and budget. The marketplace is designed so people who qualify can easily get financial assistance to make coverage more affordable.

The CWD is providing Covered California trainings to two groups – Certified Enrollment Counselors and Insurance Brokers. The trainings will allow participants to gain knowledge about Covered California, the Affordable Care Act, and the programs and assistance it provides so that they can help their clients better understand the health insurance options available to them. The CWD may train as many as 600 counselors and brokers during the fall semester.

Fully understanding Covered California is important because the program can provide a number of ways to help individuals and families without health insurance make coverage a reality. The trainings will continue throughout the fall semester on the following dates:

- October 21-23
- November 4-6
- November 18-20
- December 2-4

Article By Connor Fitzpatrick, Photos By Jeremy Evangelista.

SKYLINE COLLEGE STUDENTS SHINE AT SACNAS ONCE AGAIN

At the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Convention on October 3-5, eight Skyline College students presented their original scientific research alongside students from University of Texas, Princeton University, Yale University, University of California, University of Vermont, Stanford University, and many other universities. The conference was held in San Antonio, Texas and sponsored by the University of Texas.

Papers were selected for the conference in a competitive judging from abstracts submitted in July. Skyline College students started their research last spring with Christine Case in BIOL 230 or BIOL 690. The students spent the summer in the lab to continue and complete their research. Stephen Fredricks worked with the students to register and prepare them for presenting at a national conference. Stephen reported that the students were knowledgeable and professional, and represented Skyline College well.

All of these students now have their first publication. The following are their research topics:

- Allelopathy and Biotoxicity of Cape Ivy Delairea odorata. Alyssa Koszis.
- Growth and Lipid Production of the Microalga Spirogyra for Biofuel Production. Beatriz Millare.
- The Effects of Cape Ivy on Soil Microbial Populations. Keefah Khalil.

Article By Dr. Christine Case.
Transfer Conference

On Saturday, September 28, 2013 Skyline College Transfer Center hosted the 2nd Annual Transfer Conference for Skyline College students. The staff in the Transfer Center worked diligently to publicize the event and as a result, the event was overwhelmingly attended. Over 100 students, 80% of attendees registered for the event and committed their time on a Saturday morning to participate in workshops throughout the day covering topics including Top 10 Tips to Transfer, Exploring and Choosing Majors, Workshops on Financial Aid and Career Paths.

The day started with a warm welcome and introduction by Dr. Joi Blake, Vice President of Student Services. The event was supported by the Career Center, Virginia Padron and Lavinia Zanassi who presented "Keep Calm and Career On", a workshop covering "...how to counteract the common misperceptions and bloopers students make while considering their major area of study". Kent Gomez, General Counselor, conducted a workshop on Transfer Resources. Many students in Kent’s workshops were eager to learn more regarding the cost to transfer and ways they could increase their chances of being accepted to their college or university of choice. Jessica Lopez, TRiO counselor, presented students with "Transfer Tips 101." Jenny Yang from the Financial Aid Division presented students with information on ways they can finance their education through grants, scholarships and financial aid.

Among these highly attended workshops, the Transfer Center hosted a College Panel and a Student Panel. The College Panel featured College Representative Doris Fendt from San Francisco State University and representing CSUs, Priscilla De Souza from Menlo College representing Private Colleges, and Jacqueline Escobar, Articulation Officer from Skyline College, representing UCs. Additionally, during lunch several colleges and universities, including UC Berkeley, SFSU, UC Santa Cruz, and USF along with student resources such as the Student Health Center and the Opportunity Fund tabled so students could ask individual questions. The student Panel, which featured five former Skyline College transfer students, gave students an opportunity to hear first-hand the process former students experienced as they planned their transfer path. In addition to all the great workshops, students had the opportunity to participate in a raffle to win Skyline College gear, College and University gear from SFSU, Menlo College, and a Samsung GALAXY Tab netbook donated by the Skyline College Bookstore.

Overall the workshop was successful and the feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive.

Article by Michele Haggar.

Veterans Resource Center Advisory Committee Meets

The newly formed Skyline College Veterans Resource Center (VRC) Advisory Committee met for the first time on Thursday, September 29, 2013, to discuss the resources available to Skyline College’s military veteran population, which consists of approximately 123 student veterans. The committee is comprised of Skyline College faculty, staff, student veterans, and community partners that are involved with veterans at both our campus and the community.

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The mission of the VRC Advisory Committee is to provide advice and support for services and programs designed to facilitate the smooth transition of military veterans and to promote overall veteran student success. Additionally, the committee will assist in opening up a dialogue between veterans and non-veterans. The committee has already identified a few programs and services to implement and improve at Skyline College. Among these programs/services identified are establishing a veterans-focused orientation and a peer support/mentorship program for veterans.

The formation of this committee comes at a crucial time since military downsizing and the high monthly housing allowance of the bay area attracts many veterans to migrate to the bay area to use their educational benefits at institutions of higher learning. All veterans, regardless of branch of service and occupation, come from a very structured environment and can face many difficulties transitioning back into society. Skyline College can provide them not only an opportunity to advance their education, but also arm them with the tools necessary to transition back to society and become integral members of our community.

Article by Gustavo Andrade, Photo by Jazmena Bannag.
Smokey Mountain Performers Raise Funds and Awareness at Skyline College

Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig, which translates to “Children of Mother Earth,” is a group of young Filipino performers born and raised on Smokey Mountain, the third largest untreated garbage dump in the world in Tondo, Manila, Philippines. The group debuted in 1994, and the current troupe is touring California this month to showcase the riches of the Filipino cultural heritage through the dances and rituals of the indigenous peoples and the folk dances from various parts of the Philippines. In addition, the group brings their message of environmental awareness and sustainability. One of their stops included a visit with the Kababayan Learning Community students at Skyline College for a dance workshop with members of Barangay Dance Company, Kababayan’s sister troupe under the artistic direction of Bonifacio Valera, as well as two fundraising shows at the Main Theater on October 12th, 2013.

On the afternoon of October 9th, the group’s van was broken into and all of their bags containing their personal belongings (cellphones, laptops, passports, etc.) were stolen. Despite this tragedy, the members of the troupe indicated that maybe whoever took their belongings needed money more than they did: these were just material things they lost, not their life or health, and they would rather focus on their upcoming performances.

The community responded with an outpouring of donations, including monetary contributions, new clothing and supplies, and even replacements for their lost technology. Several members of faculty and administration at Skyline College as well as the district office helped gather donations, and some of the students made generous contributions as well. One student, Remigio Miguel, even donated several rebuilt laptops, a digital camera, and $100 cash, then took the group of 15 out to lunch at Moonstar Restaurant.

This show would not have been possible without the help and support of several important people. Thank you to Liza Erpelo, Kababayan Learning Community coordinator; Dr. Reina Bautista, Filipino instructor; Melanie Espinueva, Kababayan Learning Community counselor; Lady Flor “Parts” Partosa, Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA); Janice Sapigao, English instructor; students in the English 103 AK class; Alan Ceccarelli, Theater Events Manager, and his crew; and Donna Bestock, Dean of Social Sciences/Creative Arts for helping to coordinate and run the show.

A special thanks goes out to Mary Gutierrez, Dean of Language Arts/Learning Resources; Eloisa Briones, Vice President of Administrative Services; Tom Bauer, Vice Chancellor, Auxiliary Services and Enterprise Operations; and Kevin Chak and Marta Cuellar, Skyline College Bookstore, for collecting contributions on campus as well as throughout the district, including a generous donation of brand-new backpacks and Skyline College sweatshirts for the entire troupe from the bookstore.

Article by Liza Erpelo, Photos by Jonathan Tioseco.