President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud

Al-Hambra Tribal Dance Troupe performing at the Empty Bowls fundraiser.
Rock the School Bells and CIPHER present the 3rd Annual Hip Hop Think Tank in NYC

On the weekend of November 9-10, faculty members of Rock The School Bells (RTSB) and Center for Innovative Practices through Hip Hop Education and Research (CIPHER) of Skyline College were in attendance for the 3rd Annual Hip Hop Think Tank at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, NY. The RSTB and CIPHER team were comprised of counselors, professors, and staff members from Skyline College, American River College, Sacramento City College, and CSU-Sacramento.

The theme of this year's Hip Hop Think Tank was titled: Legacy Building! Cultivating A Global Cipher from the Streets to the Classrooms. Nate Nevado and Nathan Jones presented on Rock The School Bells, the College's work with CIPHER, and Hip Hop pedagogies utilized in classrooms. Through the presentation, the team was able to meet amazing and dynamic individuals who are doing similar work within the field of Hip Hop education. Some workshops and presentations to note include: “Therapeutic and Educational Implications of Beatmaking in the School and Community Settings"(Oakland, CA), "Digital Linoleum: Empowering Youth through Hip Hop Digital Publishing” (Stanford University), and "Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity (Oakland, CA).”

With this additional knowledge and best practices, the team plans on developing a West Coast Hip Hop Educational Think Tank to continue the dialogue in integrating Hip Hop pedagogies in higher institutions. An educational workshop strand for educators, teachers, and counselors for the upcoming Rock The School Bells Hip Hop Conference on March 1, 2014.

In his presentation titled, “Youth Culture and Educational Engagement: Bridging the Divide to Close the Gap”, Dr. Pedro Noguera posed the question, “How are institutions of higher education contributing and shaping the field of Hip Hop education?” Through the generous funding of the President's Innovation Fund and the support from Skyline College's faculty and administration, Skyline College can begin to contribute to this field of cultural relevancy through Hip Hop. Education.

For more information on Rock The School Bells and/or CIPHER, please contact Nate Nevado at nevadon@smccd.edu or check our websites at www.rocktheschoolbells.com and www.skylinecollege.edu/cipher.

Article submitted by Nate Nevado.
Photos taken by Melanie Espinueva, Nathan Jones, & Nate Nevado

Life After Transfer: Honors Program Alums Share Their Knowledge

Skyline College pride was busting out on Thursday November 7th when the Honors Program held an Alumni panel presentation specifically designed to inform and inspire current Skyline College students. Six Skyline College Honors Alums sat on the panel, generously sharing useful information and strategies for success based on their own experiences as transfer students.

The six panelists have all graduated from four year universities and are pursuing their dreams: Frances Bright graduated from UCB with a BA in Anthropology and MA in Folklore and Archeology; Derrick Hau from UCB in Molecular & Cell Biology; Raydan al Hubashi from UCSC in Politics; Jonathan Madison from Howard University in Political Science; Melba Madrigal from Cornell in Labor and Industrial Relations; and Leo Szeto from UCLA in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.
Frances is currently teaching a special course for transfer students at Berkeley. Derrick is working for a software company and enrolled in a MA program in biotechnology. Raydan is on his way to teach in China. Jonathan worked for three years in Congress and is currently enrolled in law school. Melba is working in finances for a software firm and developing a website for community college transfer students. Leo is working for Disney as an Imagineer and he will be moving to China to design roller coasters for the upcoming Shanghai Disneyland.

The Skyline College students in the audience received the Alumni panelists’ remarks with great enthusiasm. The evening was full of interaction, connection and useful information. A mentor contact list was created on the spot, and one of the panelists, Derrick Hau, started a Facebook group for alums and current honors students.

The panel presentation was video taped by Ira Lau of Skyline College’s Media Center and is available on the HTP web access site as well as through the HTP website, so students who could not attend on 11/7 can benefit from the presentation. Life After Transfer was designed by a focus group of current honors students and organized by Katharine Harer, former HTP Coordinator, and Priscilla Schwartz, Skyline College Honors Alum Extraordinaire.

Article by Katharine Harer, Photos by Raul Guerra.

**Transfer Awareness Month A Success!**

Recently, the Transfer Center hosted Transfer Awareness Month, a time when a host of workshops and events are available to students interested in learning more about transferring and what it would take to get the process started.

The month was kicked off with a very well attended CSU Drop-In Application Assistance Workshop. More than 30 students visited the Transfer Center during the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm for assistance with their online application and many students were able to successfully submit applications to preferred colleges and universities. And for those students who missed the workshop, the Transfer Center also hosted an informational CSU Application Workshop. This workshop offered students information about the process and how to start the application, where to go for information, and what type of information they would need to complete the workshop. With more than 18 students attending, this was a very well attended workshop that students found to be very informative and helpful to them starting the process to transfer.

Along with workshops, the Transfer Center worked hard to provide Skyline College students access to college representatives from UC Davis, SFSU, UC Santa Barbara and Columbia University. At least 40 or more students met with these representatives, which gave them an opportunity to meet one-on-one regarding questions about applying and information about various programs and majors. For students interested in attending San Francisco State University, college representative Paul Mendez and Doris Fendt were on hand. They met with over 20 students during their various college visits answering questions about transferring to SFSU and discussing with students the Transfer Articulation Bridge Program. The TAB program offers Skyline College students an opportunity to enroll in one course at SFSU while still earning units at Skyline College. The course prepares students by providing an overview of the various resources available to students at SFSU and how to make sure they are transfer ready! Both Paul and Doris expressed how impressed they were with Skyline College’s students; they illustrated strong interest in transferring and were asking many critical questions.

Finally, in addition to college representative one-on-one conferencing, the Transfer Center and Skyline College hosted the annual Transfer Day on Monday, October 21. Over 40 college and university representatives were in attendance. Representatives met with Skyline College students and assisted them by providing access to important information regarding transfer to the colleges or universities of their choice. Many representatives, similar to Doris and Paul, also expressed how impressed they were by the
students’ excitement and critical thinking skills. With over 200 students in attendance for the event, many asked very good questions that showed their earnest interest in moving forward with their academic goals. And finally, the Transfer Center ended Transfer Awareness Month by meeting with the Transfer Initiative Advisory Committee. This committee is setting the groundwork to make the Transfer Center a constant part of Skyline College Community. During the meeting the committee revisited the group’s discussion from the previous meeting and narrowed its focus by spending more time defining Transfer Culture and by conducting a group activity designed to prioritize tasks and goals for the following meeting.

Overall, Transfer Awareness Month was very successful. Many dialogues regarding transfer were robust and all of our activities and events were overwhelmingly attended. We look forward to the coming months as planning months for the rest of the semester as we continue to host college representatives and workshops or events geared toward making transfer happen for our awesome Skyline College student community.

High school students and counselors ended their day with tours of our Automotive, Cosmetology, Wellness, Child Development Center, Energy, Sterile Processing and Surgical Tech Departments. For more information about Career Advancement Academy or Workforce Development contact, Soledad McCarthy at mccarthyso@smccd.edu.

CTE Day At Skyline College

On Thursday, November 12th, The Center for Workforce Development along with Outreach hosted a Career Technical Day Event. The event brought over 75 high school students and 16 high school counselors from 7 different schools to campus. Students were excited to listen to the teachings of Dr. Tricia Rose. They enjoyed lunch hosted by Enrollment Services as they heard both faculty and students speak about Paralegal, CIPHER, Rock the School Bells, Youth Entrepreneurship Program, Career Advancement Academy and Retail, Hospitality and Tourism.

The Skyline College Bookstore along with Cosmetology, Respiratory Therapy, Retail, Hospitality & Tourism, Youth Entrepreneurship Programs, CIPHER, Energy and Career Advancement Academy donated items to the high school students.

Article by Michele Haggar. Photos by Michelle Haggar & Raul Guerra.

Article by Soledad McCarthy. Photo by Sam Veu.

Kappa Beta Delta Business Honor Society Initiation

Donald Carlson, Dean of Business, Education and Professional Programs welcomed 22 new members Skyline College Alpha Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Beta Delta Honor Society on November 6. Kappa Beta Delta is the Associate Degree Honor Society for Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Skyline College is the only community college in California to achieve business accreditation status. New initiates include: Flavious Abellana, Thein Aung, Omar Bakir, Kimberly Ann Bryant, MK Bryant, Christopher Chang, Miki Heitzman, Tetiana Kaut, Todd Kirk, Ruobing Lei, Jia Chuan Lu, Ben Mayer, Maura O’Flynn, Melanie Parazo, Wilfredo Pasamba, Edwin Qiu, Alexander Reyes, Julie Sabangan, Marissa Wong, Hoi Ying Wong, Nara Xavier da Costa, and Naoko Yumoto. Membership is open to all Business majors who have completed a minimum of 15 units completed at Skyline College, completed 3 courses in the major, and maintained a minimum of 3.4 GPA.

Article by Linda Whitten. Photo by Hellen Zhang.
Empty Bowls Fundraiser A Success!

The Ceramics Club held its third Empty Bowls Fundraiser on November 6, 2013, in the Skyline College Dining Room. The event was well attended, with 145 tickets sold! Attendees chose from a collection of ceramic bowls, each of which were hand-made by Skyline College and Capuchino High School ceramics students. Student volunteers filled the bowls with a variety of delicious soups prepared by Pacific Dining, and attendees enjoyed drinks that were donated by Pepsi.

Diners were entertained during their meal by a rich array of performers, starting off with Professor Zachary Bruno’s students the Skyline College Jazz Quintet; with Nathaniel Welch on drums, Matt Henderson on guitar, Steve Mayeda on bass, and Andrew Fenn on saxophone. Several of Professor Jude Navari’s Intermediate Voice students, Kevin Valera, Isabela Florez, Angel Yaeger, Preston Sturtevant, and Jamie Weinstock sang captivating music from the Great American Song Book. For the performance finale, there was a rhythmic improvisational dance by the Al-Hambra Tribal Dance Troupe whose members include Academic Senate President Leigh Anne Shaw, Mallory Nomura-Saul, Louisa Ip, and Tasha Hudick. The night was ended with drawings for ceramic artwork donated by the Ceramics Club members, raising more funds for the night.

The event was a great success, raising $2,504 for SparkPoint at Skyline College. Adolfo Leiva shared highlights during the dinner about the great work that the center does. SparkPoint provides critical services to our students and community members such as financial counseling, a food pantry, tax services, and more.

A big thanks to the Skyline College Organization and Club Council for providing funds for advertising, and for the soup.

Article by Tiffany Schmierer. Photos by Lea Naqishbendi and Tiffany Schmierer.

Sustainability Ambassador Network Explores Green Campus Initiatives

The Sustainability Ambassador Network (SAN) met on Wednesday, November 20th to explore solutions to campus sustainability issues around transportation, waste diversion, water efficiency, and green learning environments. Twenty Skyline College students, administrators, faculty and staff gathered to identify goals and develop action plans for the 2013-2014 academic year. Some of SAN’s upcoming initiatives include improving access and incentives for alternative modes of transportation, reducing material waste, energy use, and water use in campus buildings, and expanding a successful composting pilot program that was implemented at Skyline College last year.

For more information, please contact Richard Hsu, hsur@smccd.edu.

Article by Richard Hsu. Photo by Aaron Wilcher.
Dr. Tricia Rose Brings Hip Hop Wars to Skyline College

On Thursday, November 14, Dr. Tricia Rose, author of Black Noise and The Hip Hop Wars, provided an engaging guest lecture on her book, The Hip Hop Wars. She discussed the impact of corporate consolidation of black popular culture and the importance of popular culture of our youth and community. She provided a historical perspective of why Hip Hop exists. In the midst of the social and economic inequities that occurred in New York in the 1970s, Hip Hop was born to create spaces of creativity and affirmation. Through her guest lecture and Q&A session, she was able to convey the message that Hip Hop can be utilized as a tool to engage in critical thought and guided conversations about race, politics, and culture.

Over 350 people were in attendance, which consisted of our Skyline College campus community but most importantly, middle school and high school students from our local feeder schools. A special thanks to Soledad McCarthy, Alina Varona, Florentino Ubungen, and Jeremy Evangelista for working with the local schools in bringing their students to Dr. Tricia Rose’s guest lecture as part of CTE Day.

Dr. Rose’s guest lecture is the first of a series of guest lectures presented by the newly developed Center for Innovative Practices through Hip Hop Education and Research also known as the CIPHER. CIPHER aims to serve students, faculty, and the community in a variety of ways. Some of the goals include:

- Providing youth and students direct linkages to many excellent programs such as the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), Career Advancement Academies (CAA), Urban Music Academy, Sparkpoint, Rock The School Bells, and Urban Youth Society

- Providing educational and professional development opportunities such as learning about current Hip Hop pedagogies and best practices

- Providing the campus community with educational and cultural events such as guest lecture series, film screenings, and live performances

This event was funded by the President’s Innovation Fund and was generously co-sponsored by the Center of Transformational Teaching and Learning (CTTL), Honors Transfer Program, ASTEP, Kababayan Learning Community, Puente, First Year Experience (FYE), Associated Students of Skyline College (ASSC), Urban Youth Society, Black Student Union, Rock The School Bells, and the Center for Student Life and Leadership Development.

For those who did not get a chance to see her guest lecture, you can view it on Ustream at http://www.ustream.tv/record-ed/40770909.

For more information on CIPHER, contact Nate Nevado at nevadon@smccd.edu or visit our website at www.skylinecollege.edu/cipher.

Article submitted by Nate Nevado. Photos by Raul Guerra.

Coming Up!

San Bruno Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation and Award Luncheon
January 7, 2014

X-Treme Saturday
January 11, 2014

Build It Green Conference
January 16-17, 2014