President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud
Skyline College Maintains Accreditation Status

The week of February 2, Skyline College received its expected action letter from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), signed by President Barbara A. Beno, on the action taken by the Commission at its January 2015 meeting. Based on our “Follow Up Report” submitted in October, 2014, which was required as a result of our last accreditation visit in fall of 2013, the Commission found that the College has addressed and resolved all the deficiencies in College policies, procedures and practices which had led to noncompliance with Standard III.A.1.b.

Congratulations and commendations are deserved by the Skyline College community for maintaining the accredited status of the College, which allows us to continue serving students and contribute to their success. Thank you to everyone for your hard work to ensure that we maintain our Accreditation and are in full compliance with the Commission’s requirements. However, lest we rest on our laurels, the next report required from the College will be a Midterm Report due in October 2016 where we will address additional recommendations that resulted from our last accreditation visit.

Much like painting the Golden Gate Bridge, the work of accreditation is an ongoing process.

The College of San Mateo and Cañada College also received favorable action letters on their continued accreditation status based on their respective Follow Up Reports and a Follow Up Visit each received. We congratulate them as well.

At this time, the ACCJC is also providing notification of all the January 7-9, 2015 actions taken on the accredited status of institutions by sending the “Commission Actions on Institutions” list to the U.S. Department of Education, the relevant state agency, and to programmatic accreditors. The actions list is also being posted on the accjc.org website for access by interested individuals and members of the public.

TRiO Hosts Spring 2015 Kickoff Celebration

The TRiO kickoff event is an opportunity for SSS scholars to bond with their peers, re-familiarize themselves with TRiO services, and to welcome and introduce new students to the rest of the TRiO family. This celebration, held every semester, also serves as a chance for the TRiO staff to reintroduce themselves and to offer some words of encouragement to the TRiO cohort. This spring the TRiO program was especially lucky to receive nuggets of knowledge from Skyline College colleagues Melanie Espinueva (Puente Counselor), as well as Interim Vice President of Student Services Carsbia Anderson.

The TRiO students, staff, faculty and guests were treated to a scrumptious pizza lunch and participated in team-building activities. In addition the SSS scholars received pertinent information on upcoming TRiO events which include, but are not limited to, National TRiO Day at Cañada College, campus visits to UC Davis, Stanford University and UC Berkeley, our TRiO day of service at the San Francisco Food Bank, as well as a visit to EA Sports for those students who may be considering careers in graphic design and computer/video game development. As is tradition, TRiO closed the event with a drawing sponsored by colleagues at the Skyline College Bookstore.

While TRiO is absolutely thrilled with the success of the current SSS scholars the program is always on the lookout for new TRiO students.

Article and photo submitted by Andrea Gabriel.

Article by Aaron McVean. Photo by Maryam Hadi.
Respiratory Care Students Visit the State Capital

On Monday, February 9, 2015, the California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC) held a Legislative Day on Capitol Hill in Sacramento, California. The CSRC is a non-profit state professional organization whose mission is to represent and support its Respiratory Care Practitioner members and health consumers through public and legislative advocacy, educational opportunities, and standards for excellence in the cardiopulmonary profession.

Skyline College Respiratory Care students accompanied by Dr. Ijaz Ahmed, Director of Respiratory Therapy and Allied Health, participated at this event. The purpose of the legislative day was to provide CSRC members and supporters an opportunity to meet with state elected officials and share the role of Respiratory Care Practitioners and the positive impact they have on the health of Californians. Students had the opportunity to practice their professional skills as they met with legislators and shared with them their passion and enthusiasm for the profession of respiratory care.

Lee Mun Wah Leads Diversity Training for Students at Skyline College

On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, Skyline College students, staff and faculty welcomed internationally renowned Chinese American documentary filmmaker, author, poet, Asian folktales, educator, community therapist and master diversity trainer Lee Mun Wah to our campus to screen his documentary, If These Halls Could Talk, and facilitate diversity and conflict resolution training specifically for Skyline College students. If These Halls Could Talk is a documentary that focuses on college students and their dialogue about race and racism as well as other diversity issues in higher education.

Skyline College professors, including Communication Studies Professors Jennifer Mair and Danielle Powell and English Professor and Professional Development Coordinator Nina Floro, joined the day’s event and brought their classes to participate in training.

Skyline College student Boris Shkurko said, “I felt enlightened by Mr. Lee’s willingness to dig deeper into biases that society is often unwilling to address.”

By using a combination of film, personal stories, experiential exercises, discussion and lecture, the program offered:
- a deeper understanding of how gender and race can enhance and stimulate a stronger sense of community and cooperation
- a deeper understanding of divergent communication styles, perspectives, and expectations
- ways to mediate gender and race issues cross-culturally
- strategies for beginning conversations about gender and race.

Lee Mun Wah believes that when we value others for their uniqueness and differences, then we enhance the possibilities for our children and ourselves. He is the Executive Director of Stirsry Seminars & Consulting, an agency that provides educational tools and workshops on issues pertaining to cross-cultural communication and awareness, mindful facilitation, and conflict mediation techniques. Lee Mun Wah’s films include award-winning The Color of Fear, Stolen Ground, and Walking Each Other Home. Other films include Last Chance for Eden and, most recently, If These Halls Could Talk.

Article and photo submitted by John Saenz.

SparkPoint at Skyline College Awards 25 Grove Scholars for Spring 2015

The Grove Scholarship Program celebrates its tenth successful semester, awarding 25 new and continuing Career and Technical Education (CTE) scholars in Spring 2015. Recipients...
were selected on a competitive basis among approximately 90 applications from diverse academic programs.

On January 30, 2015 the selected students met in the Career Services Center to complete the Grove Scholarship orientation. The orientation gave participants an overview of the expectations for the Grove Scholars Program which include: maintenance of a 75% completion rate, 2.0 GPA, enrollment in at least one CTE course, financial workshop attendance and participation in the Student Awards Ceremony. The orientation also highlighted SparkPoint Center services such as benefits access, personal financial classes available for college credit, the food pantry, and the Career Services Center. A celebratory lunch was served to congratulate recipients.

Grove Scholarships are funded by a generous $125,000 grant from the Grove Foundation, named after Andy Grove, a founder of Intel Group Corporation. Each scholarship is worth up to $2000 per semester, and includes individualized financial coaching, as well as access to an Individual Development Account where Grove Scholars receive up to $200 in matching funds for a total of $2,200 per semester and $4,400 of funding per school year.

Grove Scholarships, Article and photo submitted by Nick Kapp.

**Skyline College Welcomes New International Students!**

This spring, Skyline College is even more diverse! The International Student Program (ISP) welcomed 44 new international students from 17 countries for the Spring 2015 semester. This allows us to add some new names to our list of countries, including Ukraine, Egypt and Jordan. A large portion of the new students come from Asia and the rest from countries in Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

The New International Student Orientation was held January 13-15, and included a variety of activities and guidance from various offices and volunteers. During the three day orientation, new students had an opportunity to get to know each other through ice breaking activities and meals. Three Skyline College students, Brittney Sneed, Mark Devon Gustave and Yidi Feng, took a leading role in these activities, sharing their own personal experience and knowledge of student life at Skyline College with the new students. They also demonstrated the WebSmart system and answered general questions about the campus. Representatives from the Counseling Office and Assessment Center were there as well, taking the extra time and care to ensure these new students a smooth transition into their academic lives at Skyline College with placement tests and class registration.

Skyline College Welcomes New International Students, Article by Andrea Doffoney Anyanwu. Photo by Angelita Gajeton.

**Skyline College Hosts Bay Area Biotechnology Education Consortium (BABEC) Board Retreat**

On February 3, 2015, the Skyline Biotechnology Program hosted the annual BABEC board retreat. During this meeting, members of the BABEC board representing biotechnology educational outreach programs from around the Bay Area talked about how they can increase the biotechnology educational opportunities to both high schools and middle schools in the Bay Area. Skyline College was introduced to BABEC through the College’s work with Gene Connection, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Gene Connection provides lesson plans, equipment, materials and faculty professional development to local high schools at a very reasonable price ($300 per section). BABEC hopes to use the Gene Connection experience to support and provide a model for similar programs like the Program in Biotechnology Education (Probe) in Marin, the East Bay Biotechnology Educators Network EBBE net, and San Francisco Biotechnology Alliance for Science Education S-F Base.

BABEC and the Skyline College Biotechnology Manufacturing program are working together with other Bay Area community colleges to develop a biotechnology logistics program. This program would support the educational outreach to our local schools as well as provide our students with relevant work experience. We hope that a biotechnology logistics program will manufacture enzymes and DNA probes, maintain quality of reagents as well as equipment, and deliver a product on time as well as show chain of control.

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Skyline College Approved to Establish Middle College in Fall 2015

The South San Francisco Unified School District School Board voted unanimously at its last meeting to establish a middle college program on the Skyline College campus. This partnership is in keeping with the Skyline College 2012-2017 Strategic Plan to strengthen community connections.

The Skyline Middle College is a bold, creative and innovative educational opportunity undergirded by a wide array of bundled support services ranging from intrusive coaching, tutoring, career exploration, specialized college success classes, along with community service experiences. The goal of the Skyline Middle College is to provide students with pathways to accelerate their academic success and career goals while contributing to their community and civil society.

Starting fall 2015, 50 students in the 11th grade will form the entering cohort. The enrolled students will fit one of the following profiles:

- Highly motivated achievers
- Gifted but not thriving in high school learning environment
- Underachieving due to socioeconomic or other social factors that place them at risk of not graduating

The students will take a combination of core high school courses in English, United States history, government and economics, along with tuition-free college courses to earn their high school diploma plus, one or more of the following three options: (1) career technical education certificate; (2) units toward an Associate degree; (3) transferable units to a four-year institution of higher education.

Article and graphic submitted by Raymond Jones.

Reading Apprenticeship Initiative Off to a Successful Start

The Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning (CTTL) hosted a full-day Reading Apprenticeship training workshop on Tuesday, January 21, that was attended by nearly 40 Skyline College faculty, staff and guests. Cindy Hicks, a certified Reading Apprenticeship trainer with WestEd and an English faculty member at Chabot College, facilitated the workshop, which introduced faculty across disciplines to the benefits and practices of the Reading Apprenticeship approach. Sarah Sullivan, a practitioner of the Reading Apprenticeship approach, co-presented and assisted Cindy during the workshop. Faculty in areas such as history, earth science, art, math, physics, anthropology, English, biology, communication studies, and business attended the workshop and left enthusiastic about incorporating the strategies into their spring classes.

The Reading Apprenticeship Initiative at Skyline College is a collaboration between the CTTL and the College Success Initiatives (CSI) committee. It is partially funded through Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) funds. Reading Apprenticeship helps transfer-level students make the deep disciplinary connections that lead to sustained academic learning. Developmental students are supported to integrate and accelerate their literacy and disciplinary learning. Additionally, career-technical students learn how to understand technical, job-related materials that contribute to workplace confidence and competence. More information on Reading Apprenticeship is available at http://readingapprenticeship.org/

To help sustain and support Reading Apprenticeship practices at Skyline College, The CTTL has planned additional Reading Apprenticeship workshop opportunities during the spring semester on March 10 and April 10. In addition, the college will be sending a team to the 3-day Cross-Discipline Faculty Seminar in Oakland from June 15-17, 2015.

Article by Nina Floro and Jonathan Paver. Photo by Jonathan Paver.
The Learning Center Awarded Three-Year Renewal for Tutor Training Program

The College Reading & Learning Association's International Tutor Training Program Certification certifies post-secondary education tutor training programs in two-year and four-year colleges and universities. The Skyline College Learning Center recently received a three-year renewal and was recognized for the strength of its program.

This program is aligned with the CSU transferable LSKL 110 Tutor Training course offered each fall and spring for prospective tutors and students interested in teaching careers. Students who complete this course can apply to become peer tutors in the Learning Center and are also well-positioned to serve as supplemental instruction leaders. The LSKL 110 course and the CRLA certification are an important professional development opportunity for students that also provide them with experience as they transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Starting in fall 2015, students completing the LSKL 110 course will receive Level I CRLA certification upon completion of the course as part of the expanded curriculum and increase in units from 1.0 to 1.5 units. Future plans include exploring UC transfer possibilities.

Article by David Reed.

Events

Moments in Black History: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
Wednesday, February 25, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Building 1, Theater

ASTEP Poetry Spoken Word Event
Wednesday, February 25, 2015
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Building 4, Multicultural Center

The Brothers and Sisters Conference
Wednesday, February 26, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Building 6, Room 6202

Campus-Wide Forum on Capital Projects
Friday, February 27, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Building 6, Room 6202

Touch the Future, Be a Teacher
Saturday, February 28, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Building 3

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
Friday, March 6, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Building 6, Room 6202

8th Annual Rock The School Bells Hip Hop Conference
Saturday, March 7, 2015
All day event
Skyline College

The Incredible Art Faculty Exhibition
Through March 13, 2015
Building 1, Art Gallery

Middle School Outreach Program (MSOP) Student Conference
Friday, March 10, 2015
8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Building 6, Room 6202

Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science Conference
Saturday, March 11, 2015
8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Building 3, Gym

15th Annual President’s Breakfast
Thursday, March 19, 2015
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
South San Francisco Conference Center, South San Francisco, CA