President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud

Bécalos students at Google
Photo Credit: Salvador Martinez and Pyceta Stroud
Skyline College to Develop Bachelor’s Degree in Respiratory Therapy

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors gave initial approval to 15 colleges, including Skyline College, to develop bachelor’s degree programs in fields such as respiratory therapy, dental hygiene, automotive technology and aerospace manufacturing technology as part of a pilot program approved by the Legislature and Gov. Jerry Brown.

Skyline College received initial approval to develop a Bachelors of Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapy. The program will undergo additional review by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office as well as further consultation with the California State University and University of California before final approval is considered by the Board of Governors at its March meeting.

“These colleges are embarking on a new mission for the California Community Colleges that will expand opportunities in public higher education,” said California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. “Students will have a range of programs from which to choose to earn high quality, affordable and in-demand degrees. California employers win too, as they will have improved access to highly qualified candidates in these fields.”

In its current form, Skyline College’s Respiratory Therapy program is an advanced practice two-year program that prepares students to administer respiratory care and life support to patients with breathing disorder and cardiopulmonary abnormalities through classroom instruction and clinical practice.

Why it is important for Skyline College to offer this new program:

- Demand for respiratory therapists is significant and growing. Increasingly, respiratory therapists are taking on tasks formerly conducted by physicians, requiring a greater level of critical thinking and analytical skill and expertise than ever before
- The American Association for Respiratory Care and CA Society for Respiratory Care have recommended the baccalaureate degree as the minimum standard for licensing in CA, to meet evolving health care demands
- There is only one other accredited Baccalaureate-degree granting program in Respiratory Care in California, at a private college in Southern California. (vs. 53 accredited programs on the East Coast and Midwest).
- The 4-year program offers a greater ability for students to advance to management/leadership roles within the profession, advanced care-giving roles, and higher education

Program Timeline

Pending final approval of the Respiratory Therapy Bachelor’s Degree program, Skyline College will spend the remainder of this year, and early 2016 collaborating with other pilot groups to develop coursework at the state level. The first new classes would begin in Fall 2016, with the first graduates matriculating in Spring 2018.

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photo by Bryan Kingston.

New Semester Begins with “State of the College” Address

Skyline College President Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud welcomed faculty and staff back to a new semester at a brief welcome ceremony on Wednesday, January 21. Faculty and staff gathered together for coffee and pastries before settling down in the theater to listen to remarks by Dr. Stroud.

Giving an address on the state of the college, Dr. Stroud highlighted her goals for the college in the coming months along with some major recent milestones.

Touching on changes to campus facilities, Dr. Stroud noted that seven computer labs were upgraded over the winter holiday which translates to access to more efficient and effective technologies for our students. Additionally, thanks to the passage of a recent bond measure, Building One, including the theater, will be completely rebuilt creating a more open and inviting entrance to the campus. And a new sustainability
SKYLINE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT
JANUARY 28, 2015

building will be added at the overlook where Pacific Heights currently stands. These are hard-won improvements that will help bolster Skyline College’s offerings for all its students.

Dr. Stroud also noted a few things she’d like to concentrate on in the new semester. The current placement test system suffers from self-imposed rules that often prevent students from retaking tests. This can mean students get locked into a course track that they might have been able to test out of had they been allowed to retake a placement test after completing the first course on their track – this can add semesters to a student’s educational track.

Education plans are another top priority. The plans, currently in development, are intended as helpful roadmaps for students who have an educational goal in mind, like earning an Associate Degree in Mathematics, but might need some help planning the steps they need to take to get there. By mapping out which classes students should take, during which semesters, education plans can create a framework from which a student can develop their own unique pathway to graduation.

Additionally, Dr. Stroud stressed the need to award degrees automatically to students who have completed the requisite coursework. Instead of requiring students to “opt-in” to a degree once they’ve completed their courses, students will automatically get awarded a degree once they complete the requisites unless they actively “opt-out” for other reasons. This will help prevent students from missing out on degrees they’ve earned through their own hard work.

Finally, Dr. Stroud congratulated the Skyline College family on its landmark preliminary approval for the development of a Bachelor’s Degree in Respiratory Therapy. As one of just 15 programs selected across the State, this is a huge achievement that will allow Skyline College to help fill a serious workforce gap in California.

Dr. Stroud concluded by echoing President Obama’s State of the Union address from the night before, stating “The state of the College is strong!”

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photo by Maryam Hadi.

CLOSINGS AND GRATITUDE - BÉCALOS PROGRAM

The Bécalos Program Closing Reception and Ceremony took place on Tuesday, December 16, 2014. Each Bécalos student was individually recognized for their efforts this semester and the event featured an address by Skyline College President, Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud, and a heartfelt thank you from Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Sarah Perkins. The event also featured student musical performances, a video of memorable events and student addresses. Several students were personally recognized for their endeavors in business as well as other notable achievements, including perfect attendance. The event was a success, and we are proud to have shared the gathering with many key members of our Skyline College community.

As the Bécalos Program came to a close, our visiting students from Mexico also had the exciting privilege to take part in guided tours of the Google campus in Mountain View on Monday, December 8 and Monday, December 15, 2014. The students personally witnessed typical working days at the dynamic campus. They had the opportunity to view and interact with Google technology and ask questions regarding Google employment, benefits, and the history of the world-renowned company.

The Global Learning Programs and Services Division (GLPS) would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Skyline College community who assisted in any and all capacities with the Bécalos Program. For the past five months, members of our college and the surrounding community have worked tirelessly and diligently to ensure the program’s success during its inaugural year. As the program has come to a close, we are indebted to Skyline College President Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud, Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Sarah Perkins and Vice President of Administrative Services Eloisa Briones for their unwavering support. We would also like to thank the Classified Senate, Auxiliary Services, faculty and staff members who hosted and assisted with the student job shadow program, and all faculty, staff, and student volunteers who have so eagerly
Welcome Carsbia Anderson as Interim Vice President of Student Services

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Carsbia Anderson to Skyline College as the Interim Vice President of Student Services.

Mr. Anderson comes to us with 39 years of experience at Monterey Peninsula College. He has served as a Counseling faculty member and Director of EOPS/CARE. As the Dean of Student Services he was responsible for EOPS/CARE, DSPS, Child Development Center, Health Services, TRiO, Athletics, Financial Aid, Tutorial Services, Student Activities and Student Discipline.

He went on to serve as the Vice President of Student Services. Mr. Anderson has served as the lead for the Student Success Initiative, Student Equity, Student Services Program Review and a successful Self-Study Accreditation. Mr. Anderson has also served on the statewide CSSO Executive Board and as the CSSO representative on the CCC/CSU SB1440 Implementation Oversight Committee, as well as other statewide task forces/groups.

Finally, Mr. Anderson is a founding editorial board chair of the iJournal, an electronic newsletter that publishes articles on student services issues in the California Community Colleges.

Please do extend a warm Skyline College welcome to him. His office is on the third floor of Building 4 in the President’s suite of offices. Do feel free to come by to welcome him to Skyline College.

Many thanks to the faculty and staff who provided input and advice to me during the appointment process – Nate Nevado, Michelle Haggar, Angelica Garcia, John Mosby, Sarah Perkins, Golda Margate, Aaron McVean and Eloisa Briones.

Article by Regina Stanback Stroud. Photo by Maryam Hadi.
Welcome Will Minnich as Interim Dean of Enrollment

We also extend a warm welcome to Mr. Will Minnich who will serve as the Interim Dean of Enrollment services during the spring semester while we undergo a full search process.

Mr. Minnich comes with great recommendations from Dr. John Mosby. He has dedicated years of service to Skyline College serving on the Skyline College Accounting Advisory Committee and on the President’s Council where he voluntarily worked to raise money to support the faculty and staff’s ability to “dream out loud” with the President’s Innovation Fund.

Will Minnich joined DeVry University in May 2008. As Center Dean, he was responsible for opening and managing the Daly City campus. Prior to joining DeVry University, Will worked with several institutions of higher education—including managing retention and admission coaching services at eight locations for the University of Redlands. Mr. Minnich shares our passion for serving students. He and Dr. Mosby, along with the Admissions and Records staff, have worked together to ensure a smooth transition.

In advance of the session, please feel free to review the resource information and data that have been collected during this process over the last few months.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact Aaron McVean, Dean of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) at (650) 738-4454 or mcveana@smccd.edu.

Article by Regina Stanback Stroud. Photo by Will Minnich.

SMCCD Strategy Session/Public Forum Scheduled for February 12

Please join us for the San Mateo Community College District’s next strategy session/public forum at Skyline College:

Thursday, February 12, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Building 6, Rooms 6202-6206, Skyline College

This session, rescheduled from December, will focus on a discussion of the draft Goals of the District’s Strategic Plan and the process that was used in their development.

Given the innovative programs, services and big ideas we have at Skyline College, participants will be asked to help identify any gaps that exist between the District’s draft goals, what the College is currently doing, and what we dream of doing in the future. Your participation is welcome and encouraged!

In advance of the session, please feel free to review the resource information and data that have been collected during this process over the last few months.

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Article by Aaron McVean.

Outreach Hosts Skyline College Program Fair at Jefferson High School

On Wednesday, December 10, 2014, the Outreach Department hosted the first annual Skyline College Program Fair at Jefferson High School in Daly City. Sparkpoint, Financial Aid, Automotive, Massage Therapy, and the African-American Success Through Excellence and Persistence (ASTEP) were just some of the programs from Skyline College that attended.

The students of Jefferson High School showed a vast amount of interest in the various programs that Skyline College had to offer. Over 200 students attended the event, which led to over 1,000 impressions made by the various Skyline College programs in attendance. The Outreach department also held a free drawing for the students who attended. The prizes included Skyline College sweaters and t-shirts, and the grand prize was a tablet donated by the Skyline College Bookstore. The event was an overall success that benefited the students and staff of Jefferson High School.

Article and photos submitted by Florentino Ubungen.
Reflections on the Fall 2014 Umoja X Conference

As we enter into the year 2015, some are under the impression that we exist within a “post-race” society. The 10th annual Umoja X Conference took place from Thursday, November 20, 2014 through Saturday, November 22, 2014 and served as a momentous force for somber reflections on the past, ethnic celebration, and progressive thought. The Umoja Conference reminded us that race and race matters are especially relevant now, more than ever before. The San Diego Community College District hosted this special event, but noteworthy colleges like San Diego Mesa College and universities such as the University of California, Davis and San Diego State University also sponsored the event. In addition, several Historical Black Colleges and Universities came to support Umoja X, even extending the opportunity for on-site admittance to qualifying students.

A central highlight of this conference was the opening lecture led by the keynote speaker, highly revered and world-renowned educator Dr. Joy DeGruy, author of Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome, who spoke on how fear created by ignorance can be the catalyst for so much destruction. Dr. DeGruy’s presentation exposed evidence of racism and racial injustices being hidden in plain sight, even down to our present day. Though this evidence was startling, DeGruy emphasized the urgency of exposing the pain in order to truly begin the healing process in our society. She also encouraged elders in the community to make sure that the youth, especially young African American males who are an endangered demographic in America, know how much they are loved and that they are a source of pride. It is vital that they receive these acknowledgments, so that they can feel empowered to progress academically, ultimately ensuring their holistic success and healing.

The remainder of the conference included various workshops led by educators and students that addressed different layers of De Gruy’s presentation. Participants were encouraged to reflect on the ways they use words and social media to make meaning, whether that meaning is a source of damage to those in the African American community, or a source of liberation to the community. All present were reinvigorated to apply the topics and mindsets discussed as they returned to their perspective colleges and universities; we were motivated to pass on the knowledge and love received in all aspects of our lives, not just academically.

Article and photo submitted by Chanel Daniels.

TRiO’s Arash Daneshzadeh Speaks on School-to-Prison Pipeline at Claremont Colleges

On Saturday, December 13, 2014, Arash Daneshzadeh, Interim Director of Skyline College’s TRiO SS Program, was keynote speaker at a conference on Race, Gender and Equity at the Claremont Colleges. This two-day program was hosted by Pitzer College. Over 175 students participated in Arash’s workshop on community cultural wealth, presentation on hip hop and critical pedagogy and brown bag seminars highlighting his career investment with historically marginalized communities of color, particularly in the wake of public scrutiny over police brutality.

Arash’s keynote presentation was conceptually grounded in his doctoral research on issues germane to the school-to-prison pandemic—such as restorative justice, black male identity theory, cultural mistrust, and zero tolerance policies. This event was sponsored by the governance bodies representing the Associated Students and Black Student Union of the Five Claremont College Consortium.

Student leadership at both Pitzer College and Pomona College will continue to utilize Arash’s seminal work on integrating cultural wealth and restorative justice into the judiciary practices on their own campuses.

Article and photo submitted by Arash Daneshzadeh.
HOSPITALITY SUMMIT Underscores Regional Importance of Hospitality & Tourism

On Saturday, December 5, 2014 the hospitality SUMMIT was held at the Marriott SFO Waterfront Hotel. Dr. Stanback Stroud, President of Skyline College welcomed close to 130 participants and was joined by Anne LeClair, President and CEO of San Mateo/Silicon Valley CVB, who spoke about the importance the hospitality and tourism industry plays on our local and regional economy and the many exciting career opportunities that exist here.

Andrea Vizenor, Deputy Sector Navigator, facilitated the event which provided engaging and interactive training for participants from three major industry leaders.

The morning session was led by Lynn Carpenter, VP of Marketing for Visit California, where she shared the array of marketing strategies used to position California as a top choice destination among business travelers and tourists throughout the world. She spoke about the importance of international tourism and the many opportunities that exist in growing international markets.

Second to take the stage was Clif Clark, General Manager with Marriott. He discussed major plans within the company to take the brand to the next level. Topics included: major room design modifications, loyalty guest program changes, strategies to attract the millennial travelers, and the utilization of smartphone key access to guest rooms. Alexandra Valentin, a trainer from The Ritz Carlton Leadership Series led, the afternoon session where she taught attendees the necessary skills needed to deliver “Memorable Customer Service,” showcasing strategies utilized by the luxury brand.

Among the attendees were community college and CSU faculty, high school teachers in culinary and hospitality and community college and CSU students. Over 30 Skyline College students were in attendance. Professor Nathan Jones accompanied a group of the African-American Success Through Excellence and Persistence (ASTEP) students who are interested in the Hospitality and Tourism Program as well as students from Professor Dupre's Counseling 100 classes.

This event provided an exciting opportunity for educators to gain skills they can utilize to advance programs and ensure they have relevant knowledge necessary in the industry to integrate into course content. Students equipped themselves with a variety of skills and knowledge that will be valuable as they progress through their educational programs, prepare for work-based learning experiences and enter the workforce.

It was also a fabulous opportunity to promote Skyline College's new Hospitality and Tourism Management Program.

Article by Elizabeth Tablan. Photos by Nicole Ruggiero.

PATIENT NAVIGATION Symposium Introduces Students to Volunteer Opportunities Around Bay Area

On Wednesday, December 3, 2014, the Career Services Center and Patient Navigator Program hosted a panel of 10 Volunteer Coordinators and Patient Navigator volunteers to share what it means to be a Patient Navigator in their unique healthcare environments.

Patient Navigator students—about to embark on a cooperative externship course—had the chance to ask questions and mingle with the volunteer coordinators and volunteers to learn what it is like to do Patient Navigation in an array of healthcare environments. Not only did students get a chance to rub shoulders with possible internship site leaders, they got to hear about the
real difference patient navigators make in the field. From making phone calls to help patients follow up with appointments to guiding undocumented patients through the process of receiving a liver transplant, it was evident that patient navigators are already making a difference in the lives and health outcomes of patients.

As an Emergency Department Resident from Highland Hospital stated, “When a patient comes to the ER who’s suicidal because he’s tired of being homeless, I don’t have a treatment for homelessness. That’s when (the patient navigators) can help patients work through those problems that we can’t solve in the ED.”

The panel represented a diverse range of Bay Area healthcare providers including:
- Bay Area Regional Help Desk Consortium in San Francisco
- Highland Hospital in Oakland
- San Francisco General Hospital
- Asian Americans for Community Involvement in San Jose
- California Pacific Medical Center
- St. Luke’s Hospital in San Francisco
- El Concilio of San Mateo County

The event was kicked off by signature events, courtesy of the Project Connect Associated Student Initiative that serves historically marginalized communities from first-generation, low-income backgrounds. TRiO SSS students enjoyed a comprehensive tour of the campus led by admission representatives and student liaisons. Additionally, Kenneth Monteiro, Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies, delivered a keynote address underscoring the correlation between social justice and historical relays of power discussed in Ethnic Studies courses.

The event was a pivotal opportunity for students to learn about other additional resources beyond the classroom during breakout sessions. The SFSU Study Abroad office, scholarship liaisons, Liberal Arts and Creative Arts Departments, and the Colleges of Health, Business, Engineering and Teacher Education all hosted workshops. Jasari X, community organizer and hip hop artist, facilitated a special spoken word presentation and interactive dialectic on the school-to-prison pipeline.

The Bay Area Transfer Day program closed with a session led by current undergraduates at San Francisco State who shared their personal experiences and provided a glimpse into navigating the nuanced milieu of higher education as a first-generation student.

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The Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at Skyline College joined forces with the Language Arts Division to develop hospitality-specific language development training. As part of the Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Initiative, Andrea Vizenor, Deputy Sector Navigator, worked with hotel industry leaders to identify specific training needs within their companies to advance the sector’s workforce in San Mateo County. Through
a series of collaborative sessions, it was evident that a need existed to increase the English language skills of incumbent workers in major hotels such as the Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott and Best Western.

Industry leaders were excited to join a session led by Vizenor to outline the essential skills and competencies that would be important to include in this type of training. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Professor Serena Chu-Mraz also joined the session and provided great insight and interest in the project.

As a result, Hospitality ADVANCE, a 12-module training program for Hotel and Hospitality incumbent workers was created. It is a dynamic training program that integrates English language development competencies with a set of essential hotel operations skills and competencies.

Professor Chu-Mraz and the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program team partnered to develop the curriculum and training materials. The program also imbeds skills essential to prepare trainees to take the exam needed to earn the Certified Guest Service Professional, industry-recognized credential offered through the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

Through the interest and added funding provided by the Allies Grant project awarded to the SMWIB, Professor Chu-Mraz was able to pilot the training program at the Best Western El Rancho Inn and Executive Suites in Millbrae for nine of their employees and two adult school students interested in pursuing a career in hotels. Upon completion of the training, 11 individuals earned a certificate of completion and a celebration was held to recognize everyone's efforts.

The leadership of the Best Western El Rancho Inn and Executive Suites are very impressed with the increased confidence of their team, outcomes of this project, increased communication skills and the added cohesiveness of their team members this experience provided.

Professor Chu-Mraz's enthusiasm, commitment and talent invested in this project and its delivery have been invaluable to its success.

Hospitality ADVANCE will also provide valuable training that will be able to be offered at Adult Schools as a bridge component to the new Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at Skyline College.

Article and photo submitted by Elizabeth Tablan.