President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud

Civil Rights Activist Dolores Huerta speaks at Skyline College
Photo Credit: Raul Guerra.
President’s Breakfast Draws More Than 400 Community Members

Skyline College hosted the 15th Annual President’s Breakfast on Thursday, March 19 at the South San Francisco Convention Center, drawing a crowd of over 400 people for an early morning breakfast fundraiser. Attendees gathered from all across northern San Mateo County, including representatives from national, state and local government; the San Mateo Community College Board of Trustees; our sister colleges and fellow educators; and the local business community.

The President’s Breakfast is the primary fundraiser for the President’s Innovation Fund (PIF) which enables Skyline College to provide programs that expand students’ world view, ultimately making them more informed, engaged and responsible members of our community. Over the last 15 years, the PIF has made possible more than $308,000 in grants supporting 133 programs. Donations to the fund have enabled Skyline College faculty and staff to develop many of the dynamic programs and services that continue to benefit students and our community today.

After a live student performance of selections from Skyline College’s spring musical Grease, Skyline College President Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud took the podium to announce the President’s Innovation Fund Grant recipients for 2014-15. Speaking of the winners, past and present, Dr. Stroud stated, “The inspiration of the Skyline College faculty and staff to dream out loud and develop innovative programs that support student success never ceases to amaze me. Your dreams have become part of this institution.”

This year’s guest speaker, Skyline College alumnus and President’s Council member Damien Guzman, spoke about his own journey from struggling high school student to successful corporate attorney in Silicon Valley, and how his story of struggle, and overcoming his obstacles, was not a unique one.

“For some of us, education is not a straight line through which one progresses from grade school to grad school, perhaps on a path cleared by family tradition or financial support. Rather, for some of us, the path is full of obstacles and pitfalls where one wrong step often results in significant setbacks,” Guzman said. “This is where the President’s Innovation Fund truly shines.”

Guzman concluded by stating, “The programs made possible by the President’s Innovation Fund are immensely helpful. They work because they allow Skyline College to put into practice new ideas to engage students in the process of learning, enabling students to apply their newfound knowledge to the real world.”

Guzman’s remarks were followed by a video created by Bryan Kingston that featured interviews with students who had been affected by a PIF-funded program—specifically ASTEP, CIPHER, Hermanos, Kababayan and the Honors Transfer Program but with stories common to many other programs in the history of the PIF. The students each described how one of these programs had transformed their college experience, and changed their lives, demonstrating the clear effectiveness of programs started through the President’s Innovation Fund.

The event concluded with moving remarks from SMCCD Vice Chancellor of Auxiliary Services and Enterprise Operations Tom Bauer, who through a deeply personal story of love and loss, stressed how a single action, at the right time and at the right place, can have a lasting and profound impact on an individual.

The contributions made at the President’s Breakfast touch lives on a personal level, helping to transform educational experiences and create pathways to success for individual Skyline College students.

This year’s Breakfast successfully continued that mission.

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photos by Raul Guerra.
Skyline College Welcomes Civil Rights Activist Dolores Huerta to Campus

Huerta has battled inequality for over 50 years, taking especially strong stands for unions, workers, immigrants, women, and the LGBTQ community. Her work has garnered her numerous awards including the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Huerta spoke to Skyline College students and staff on a variety of topics, but she opened by highlighting the theme of the speaker series: raising consciousness. Huerta stressed that “knowledge itself doesn't really cut it. We have to combine knowledge with action and that's the way that we can really make a difference in this world.”

Huerta cited examples like climate change where scientific knowledge is routinely ignored and political leaders are slow to enact impactful change. The overtly partisan political landscape in Washington, D.C., Huerta argued, is driven by a wealthy few, including major corporations that are free to pour virtually unlimited amounts of money into political causes; often these funds are directed towards attacking unions, immigrants, or minorities. She went on to describe the plight of labor unions, specifically a move in the U.S. to destroy labor unions and all they stand for.

Shifting focus, Huerta described the U.S. as a nation of immigrants, but also as a nation that often forgets to give credit to the minorities that established its foundation. She stressed the need for comprehensive K-12 ethnic studies education that highlights the contributions of people of color in order to paint a truer picture of American history.

Huerta also placed special emphasis on women's collective struggle for equality, quoting Coretta Scott King by saying "We will never have peace in the world unless women take power." She called on women to take charge of their lives, do away with stereotypes of what a woman should be, and to take credit for their work, ideas and accomplishments even in the face of backlash.

While the barriers to meaningful, democratic change and social equality are high, there are ways to overcome them and raise our voices for progress. One of the key ways to do so, according to Huerta, is to vote.

“Things will not change unless we make it happen,” Huerta stated. “We have the power, but we've got to get out there and we've got to do the work.”

She then led the audience in a call and response, calling out “Who's got the power?” while the audience responded, “We've got the power!”

“What kind of power?”

Then alternately, “People power!” and “Voting power!”

The call and response proved an inspiring reminder of Huerta's history as a leader of the worker’s rights movement, where she originated and championed the United Farmworkers' motto “Si se puede!” or “Yes we can!” – a motto coopted by President Obama during his 2008 presidential campaign.

With an eye towards educating the next generation, Huerta brought her community organizing to Skyline College, and inspired the students and staff in attendance with a vision for making change by exercising our rights and getting out there to do the work or moving the world in the right direction.

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photo by Raul Guerra.
SKYLINE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT
MARCH 25, 2015

SKYLINE COLLEGE RECEIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO OFFER BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAM IN RESPIRATORY CARE

On Monday, March 16, 2015, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors gave final approval to Skyline College and 11 other community colleges to participate in a landmark pilot program that allows them to offer bachelor’s degrees in fields such as respiratory therapy, dental hygiene and aerospace manufacturing technology.

“This is an appropriate expansion of our mission designed to meet the needs of an economy that is requiring more workers with four-year degrees,” said Geoffrey L. Baum, president of the Board of Governors. “We have consulted closely with the leadership of the California State University system throughout this process and are pleased to approve these innovative pilot programs that will provide students with affordable degree options in fields that have demonstrated job growth.”

Initial approval was granted in January, pending additional evaluation of the proposals by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and further consultation with California State University and the University of California.

Skyline College’s new baccalaureate degree program in respiratory care will be one of just three 4-year degree programs in this field offered in the state of California (Modesto Junior College was also selected to create a program as part of this pilot project, and one other currently exists at a private college in Southern California.) The first cohort of 25 students is expected to begin in the fall of 2016.

“This is a great opportunity to provide further education for the profession of Respiratory Care, and Skyline College is well poised to meet this need,” said Dean of Math, Science and Technology Raymond Hernandez. “This is yet another way in which Skyline Shines.”

Article by Jennifer Owen-Blackmon. Photo by Maryam Hadi.

DR. JOY DEGRUY SPEAKS AT SKYLINE COLLEGE

On Thursday, March 12, Skyline College welcomed internationally renowned researcher, educator and author of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, Dr. Joy DeGruy.

With over twenty years of practical experience as a professional in the field of social work, she is known for giving practical insight into various cultural and ethnic groups that form the basis of contemporary American society.

During her address to a packed crowd of Skyline College students and staff, DeGruy discussed the topic of the legacy of slavery, the taboo around the word, and the deeply rooted effects of slavery and its surrounding institutions that still deeply impact the African American community to this day. She argued that slavery led to deep-seeded and ongoing multi-generational trauma, but that the discussion of slavery and this trauma is something that is shied away from and in many cases discouraged. Throughout her lecture she underscored the idea of “cognitive dissonance,” the anxiety that results from simultaneously holding contradictory or otherwise incompatible attitudes and beliefs.

Drawing on an examination of the institution of chattel slavery, and pulling from words from a variety of scholars, DeGruy painted a picture of over 300 years of American slavery and illustrated the ways the resulting trauma has continued to affect African Americans and has directly contributed to a cycle of post-traumatic stress syndrome, dubbed “slave syndrome” by DeGruy, that has very real consequences that spread inexorably from one generation to the next.
DeGruy concluded her remarks by stressing that to begin to solve this problem, and to begin to heal, all of us need to break the taboo on the discussion of slavery and speak about it, learn about it, and more deeply explore the truth. She summarized with a call to action for the crowd: “Tell your stories. Our children don’t know who they are because we stopped telling our stories. It doesn’t matter if it’s a good story, or a bad story, or if we lost everything, because what we have in the end is each other.”

With this message in mind, the students and staff who attended the event will find it hard not to go forth and speak more knowledgeably about their own stories, and to try, at the very least, to better understand those stories within the undeniable and ongoing legacy of slavery.

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photos by Maryam Hadi.

**Skyline College hosts Second Annual Brothers and Sisters Conference**

Skyline College concluded its African American Heritage Month events with the second annual Brothers and Sisters Conference. The conference serves as a transitional and welcoming opportunity for African American high school students as they graduate and move on to college. The conference also strengthens Skyline College’s existing outreach efforts to increase the number of African American students on campus.

This year’s theme was “It’s Your Time to Shine,” focusing on college success and how to navigate through the college system. The students experienced an engaging keynote speaker, participated in workshops, went on a campus tour showcasing our premiere CAA/CTE programs (Automotive, Cosmetology, and Respiratory Therapy), and lastly heard inspirational stories and important information from our student panel.

The schools that participated this year were: Lowell High School, Jefferson High School, Oceana High School, Westmoor High School, El Camino High School, South City High School and Capuchino High School.

Article by Kwame Thomas. Photo by Maryam Hadi.

**Students from Chinese High School Visit Skyline College**

Skyline College may receive more students from an elite Chinese high school in the coming years. Principal Xiuying Zhang and selected students from Hebei No. 42 High School, Hebei Province, China visited our campus on March 1. Hebei No. 42 High School is one of the most prestigious and most international high schools in China, sending many of its graduates to colleges and universities overseas, including Skyline College.

The visit was part of the 2015 Skyline College Executive Speaker Series hosted by the Skyline College Asian Studies Center in conjunction with the International Student Program (ISP) and organized by Asian Studies Professor Dr. Hui Pate.

Principal Zhang and her students were greeted by Wissem Bennani, ISP Manager, upon their arrival, and they started off with a campus tour guided by Roma Feng, ISP Student Assistant, and Xing Wei or “Star” – a current Skyline College international student and alumna of Hebei No. 42 High School.

Following the campus tour, Principal Zhang gave a presentation about intercultural communication, stressing the importance of cultural exchange and encouraging students to study abroad. She also focused on the Chinese educational system and her first-hand experience working with inbound foreign students and outbound Chinese students. After the presentation, students from Skyline College and Hebei No. 42 High School had an opportunity to network and socialize.

One student stated, “It was a job watching her share those experiences and insights with all of us.” Another student commented, “I think that we really need to have more communication between China and America in order to shrink the distance between us, and also to eliminate the misunderstandings caused by our different cultural perspectives.”

Article by Hui Pate and Chikako Walker. Photo by Hui Pate.
8th Annual Rock The School Bells: Knowledge Rules Everything Around Me

On Saturday, March 7, the Center for Innovative Practices through Hip Hop Education and Research (CIPHER) hosted their 8th Annual Rock The School Bells Hip Hop Conference with over 400 participants from various middle schools, high schools, college/universities, and non-profit organizations. Youth participants were able to choose from a choice of 20 workshops such as:

- Hip Hop Healing
- Hip Hop Profiling: Exploring Stereotypes and Identity
- A Better Tomorrow: Addressing Police Brutality through Hip Hop
- Knowledge through the Word: A Spoken Word, Emcee, and Poetry Workshop
- A Story of Independence: Building a Hip Hop Legacy
- Raptivism: Making Your Own Freedom Song

In addition, we were able to host our 2nd installment of workshops for educators, administrators, graduate students, and other professionals who work directly with youth and students. Participants learned about the different ways in which Hip Hop pedagogies can be utilized in various educational spaces through workshops such as Hip Hop, Chess, and Life Strategies and Verses from the Abstract: Student Engagement through Youth Voice, Restorative Justice, and other Hip Hop Practices.

Interim VPSS Carsbia Anderson provided the welcome address and Jasiri X was the conference’s featured keynote speaker. Jasiri is the founding member of the anti-violence community organization 1Hood Media, where he leads a team of educators and artists in teaching young people media literacy and media creation. He is a new millennium civil rights activist working closely with his mentor Harry Belafonte to address ills of today’s society.

Participants were able to meet with representatives from different Skyline College programs and services such as the Career Advancement Academy; Youth Entrepreneurship Program; SparkPoint; Financial Aid; Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Program; and the Digital Arts Program.

Rock The School Bells was a successful event filled with workshops, music, education, art, and positive energy. This event could not have been possible without the support of the President’s Innovation Fund; Career Advancement Academy; Skyline College Bookstore; Rockstar; Youth Entrepreneurship Program; Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Program; and the many vendors who donated to the event. A special recognition goes to all of the volunteers – students, staff, faculty, and administrators – who donated their time and efforts to make this event a huge success.

Here are some testimonials from the event:

“RTSB continues to improve each year, exposing more and more youth to the power of Hip Hop, knowledge, and community. The conference brings together youth, artists, and educators in a true sense of community.”

“There is no event on the planet like RTSB. If you are an educator, and administrator or a kid in search of inspiration-- this is the place.”

“Rock The School Bells (RTSB) and its staff are pioneering a way to make Hip Hop accessible and taught with dignity and pride. RTSB should serve as a model for other educators planning to throw Hip Hop events for the youth. This event and movement are only going to get bigger.”

Proceeds from Rock The School Bells will go towards educational scholarships for high school and college students.

Article by Nate Nevado. Photos by Berlin Tomas and Shane Menez.
SKYLINE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT

MARCH 25, 2015

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.

Lee Mun Wah Leads Diversity Training for Students at Skyline College

On Tuesday, February 10, Skyline College students, staff and faculty welcomed internationally renowned Chinese American documentary filmmaker, author, poet, Asian folkteller, 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 Stirfry 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.

Article by Andrea Doffoney Anyanwu. Photo by Angelita Gajeton.

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.
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 and photo by David Reed.

Events

**The American Institute of Building Design 2015**
March 25 - March 27, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Skyline College, Pacific Heights, ESTM Lab

**CITD Business and Industry Leaders Advisory Forum**
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Skyline College, Room TBD

**“Meet Your Major” Fair**
Tuesday, April 14, 2015
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Building 6, Fireside Dining Room

**Paralegal Career Night**
Thursday, April 16, 2015
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Building 6, Second Floor

**Asian Studies Center International Trade Program presents Frank F. Rexach**
Thursday, April 23, 2015
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Building 4, Multicultural Center

**Skyline College Spring Musical “Grease”**
Friday, April 24, 2015
7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 25, 2015
7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 26, 2015
2:00 p.m.
Theater, Building 1