President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud
SKYLINE COLLEGE HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL SUCCESS SUMMIT

The Skyline College President’s Council convened its second annual Success Summit on Sept. 26 in the College’s Student and Community Center. The Summit was formed to create an avenue for solution-oriented discussion to meet the challenges of San Mateo County’s North Peninsula region. Event organizers challenge the roughly 120 participants from the local business, government, nonprofit, and college communities to “imagine a better future… close the gap between what is and what can be.” At the end of each summit, participants vote to select one initiative to tackle during the coming year.

This year’s Success Summit began with a progress update on last year’s selected initiative, “The Last Mile,” which sought to identify and create sustainable opportunities for the Skyline College community, including students, faculty and staff, to conveniently and economically travel to the campus. The challenge is a steep one; given Skyline College’s location and limited public transit options, travel time to campus can be 45 minutes, or upwards of an hour and 15 minutes.

Over the past year, the President’s Council has partnered with the City of San Bruno to identify areas where the city’s Climate Action Plan overlaps with the College’s needs, including reducing the number of single-occupancy cars traveling to campus. Other key partners include Commute.org and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority.

The Council has also collected data to accurately assess how faculty, staff and students commute to campus. Unsurprisingly, the surveys found that commute starting points vary widely and that travel time (74%), convenience (56%), cost (48%) and reliability (26%) are the primary considerations students take into account when they commute to campus.

The Council is currently looking into funding shuttles traveling to and from the San Bruno BART Station and expanding carpool opportunities and flex peak time bus routes in order to create an affordable, timely and public transit-based solution to the issue of the Last Mile. Additional progress will be shared at next year’s event.

Following this update, this year’s Keynote Speaker, Christy Dinges, Vice President of People for the social selling and fashion company Stella & Dot, delivered opening remarks on her company’s success in empowering women and her personal mission to “find your best self, help others do that too, and unlock their dreams.” Her remarks reflected the youth and energy of the Stella & Dot brand and she underscored the need to consistently innovate to stay relevant and successful.

Attendees then selected two of three separate breakout sessions that each explored a separate topic relating to the local community. “What’s in it for us? Collectively Addressing the Socioeconomic Divide” aimed to address a vision for next steps to collaboratively meet community needs and address socioeconomic inequality, especially on Skyline College’s campus. The session was moderated by Nicole Pollack, Director, San Mateo County Workforce and Economic Development.

The second session, “City Manager Roundtable: Innovations for our Cities”, was moderated by State Assemblymember Kevin Mullen and hosted city managers from San Bruno, Daly City, Colma, Pacifica and South San Francisco. Each presented new programs in their city, followed by a question and answer period.

Finally, “Hidden Gems, Hidden Opportunities: What’s unique, what’s possible?” sought to address ways to promote, enhance and add to the resources and amenities of the San Mateo North County. The session was moderated by Anne LeClair, President and CEO of the San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau.
At the end of the sessions, participants came together to vote electronically on which issue they would take on in the coming year. Winning by a narrow margin was “Hidden Gems, Hidden Opportunities,” followed closely by “What’s in it for us?” As a result, the President’s Council will partner with community leaders to increase connection and collaboration and create a plan to spread the word about resources available in the North County over the coming year.

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photos by Maryam Hadi.

**SKYLINE COLLEGE HOSTS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EVENT FOR MULTI-STATE MEETING ON NEW WORKFORCE LEGISLATION**

Over 250 state and local leaders from a wide range of workforce development systems gathered at Skyline College on October 10, 2014 to discuss the Department of Labor’s new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) signed by President Obama in July this year. This Town Hall meeting was second in a series of nation-wide meetings organized by the Department of Labor (DOL) to solicit input on the WIOA implementation.

The signing came after the bill’s passage in Congress with strong bipartisan majorities in both houses. The new law marks the first major update to federal job training programs in more than 15 years and outlines plans to improve coordination in workforce programs for adult and youth training and education programs at the federal, state and local levels. The law was previously called the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), itself an update to previous federal workforce investment policy. That law was enacted under President Clinton in 1998.

The Town Hall meeting was organized by the Department of Labor (DOL) Region 6, headquartered in San Francisco, in partnership with Skyline College’s Center for Workforce Development (CWD). The DOL Region 6 encompasses a large area including Alaska, Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, American Samoa, Saipan-CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, and Territory of Guam.

In the opening plenary, Skyline College Vice President of Administration Eloisa Briones highlighted the community college connection to the new WIOA by mentioning President Obama’s visit to the Los Angeles Trade Technical College soon after signing the WIOA. She also mentioned Skyline College’s long history of collaborating with the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the DOL on various workforce training projects. The WIB is a local agency that received federal dollars to guide workforce policy and investment at the local level with other industry and education partners.

Virginia Hamilton, Regional Administrator and Bryan Rogers, Regional Director of the DOL Region 6, facilitated morning and evening group discussions. Participants identified and prioritized various aspects of WIOA implementation strategies.


Under direction of Dr. Raj Lathigara (Director of the CWD), Rita Gulli, Aaron Wilcher, Soledad McCarthy, Jeremy Evangelista, and Alina Varona from the CWD helped organize this event.

Article by Rajesh Lathigara. Photos by Claudia Paz and Maryam Hadi.
DREAMERS to Doctors Delivers on Inspiration

In celebration of Latino Heritage Month the Career Services Center – in collaboration with the Associated Students of Skyline College (ASSC), the Center for Student Life, Latin American Student Organization (LASO), E4FC, and the Pre-Health Dreamers – hosted a presentation about paths into the medical field by a unique group of undocumented students that represent the first wave of DREAMERS admitted into medical school. Presenter Denisse Rojas shared a powerful and very moving story about her own journey through college at UC Berkeley – including the financial barriers, family separations, and sometimes hostile academic culture she faced based on her immigration DREAMERS to Doctors status. She also discussed the significant gains that have been made for DREAMERS through policies like the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, the CA Dream Act, and more recently the passage of SB 1159, which requires 40 licensing boards under the California Department of Consumer Affairs to grant professional licenses to applicants regardless of their immigration status by 2016. Several students who stayed to speak with Denisse following the presentation commented to her that seeing her overcome so many obstacles gave them inspiration not to let their own barriers get in the way of their dreams!

Article by Lezra Chenportillo. Photos by Claudia Paz.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) COURSES UNITE STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE THROUGH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses at Skyline College are excellent examples of the global community of learners we strive to empower and transform. Take a peek and you will find people who come from across the globe who are part of Skyline College’s diverse community.

In Meegan Rivera’s ESOL 400 class, 19 countries are represented in a class of 29 students. Students who have emigrated from the Czech Republic, Algeria, Iraq, Peru, and Burma are taking courses to advance their futures. Meegan states, “Our classroom teems with discussion. Everyone has a lot to learn from each other, and we do it all in English!”

This kind of diversity is normal across ESOL classes of every level and skill at Skyline College. Most ESOL classes average about 14 countries represented in a class. Julie Carey has 17 countries in her class this semester. Julie says, “What makes teaching students from so many different countries—I can’t recall ever having fewer than 12 countries represented in my classroom-- incredible is that, though students come from all corners of the globe to study here at Skyline College, they share one common goal, belief, dream—the American Dream. It is a dream that I am so often cynical of and take for granted. But their capacity for believing in our educational system and the opportunities that system provides makes teaching at Skyline College the most rewarding and fulfilling work I have ever done.”

This diversity is a point of pride in the ESOL department and enriches Skyline College’s community of learners.

Article and photo submitted by Meegan Rivera.
Skyline College Hosts Eighth Annual Asian Culture Week

The Skyline College Asian Studies Center, Kinesiology, Athletics and Dance Department, in collaboration with the China Dance School/Theater of San Francisco, hosted the eighth Annual Asian Culture Week, supported by the President’s Innovation Fund, to promote cultural exchange and international education.

This exciting event consisted of an Asian Food Festival, an Asian Film Festival, and the Asian Culture Showcase. The Asian Culture Week turned out to be a very successful and memorable week for our faculty, students and the community. The featured event, Asian Culture Showcase by the China Dance School/Theater of San Francisco welcomed special guests of Skyline College: Vice President of Administrative Services Eloisa Briones, Dean of Social Science/Creative Arts Donna Bestock, Interim Dean of Business Christine Roumbanis, and Dean of Science and Mathematics Ray Hernandez. Vice President Eloisa Briones made a wonderful welcome speech in both Chinese and English which enlightened the event!

Jarod Ruffo’s company creates content for the VR world. Here’s what he had to say about BAEC, “I really like it here - I’ve got room to explore my creativity and the staff is really helpful. I needed to find assistance in areas I’m not good at in order for my company to get off the ground and they’ve introduced me to lawyers and financial people.”

Jarod’s company not only benefits from BAEC but has helped to improve the services we’re able to provide to the community. Jarod was instrumental in asking Autodesk to provide the BAEC with free licenses for software that will assist students in learning 3D technology; in addition, he will be teaching the latest in 3D Technology at the BAEC.

Article and photo submitted by Hui Pate.

New Tenants at the Bay Area Entrepreneur Center

The Bay Area Entrepreneur Center (BAEC) on San Mateo Avenue now has nine tenants renting office space and receiving assistance with their small businesses. Jarod Ruffo with 5th Estate Virtual Vineyard, Inc. is a BAEC tenant focusing on virtual reality. Have you ever wanted to explore the solar system but know it would take too long to get there? How about hanging out in a Tuscan villa or flying a helicopter? If any of these are of interest to you, drop by the BAEC and take a tour in virtual reality.

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Article and photo submitted by Catherine Fraser.

Skyline College Hosts Roger Ebbage of Lane Community College on Campus Sustainability

Roger Ebbage, Director of Energy and Water Programs at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, made a site visit to Skyline College on September 18 and 19, 2014 for discussions about best practices and partnership opportunities. Ebbage met with faculty and administrators from the Center for Workforce Development (CWD), the Energy Systems Technology Management (ESTM) program, Skyline College and district facilities staff, and representatives from the state Chancellor’s office for alternative energy and construction industries. Using the college campus as a
The Rosa Lee Timm Show Kicks Off Disability Awareness Month

Skyline College welcomed Rosa Lee Timm to campus on October 1 to help kick off Disability Awareness Month and celebrate Deaf Culture Awareness Week. Rosa Lee Timm is a deaf artist whose performance features a unique blend of American Sign Language (ASL), music, video, and lots of humor. Rosa Lee also encouraged some fun audience participation – she welcomed an ASL instructor, student, and deaf community member on stage to demonstrate how expressive ASL can be. Rosa Lee also shared her personal experiences as the fourth generation deaf person in her family and what it was like for her to dream of being a performer. She wowed the audience with her beautiful signing to popular music and brought them laughter during her humorous skits. The Rosa Lee Timm show was co-sponsored by the Language Arts Division and Associated Students of Skyline College.

Article by Melissa Matthews. Photo by Maryam Ali.

Professor Kate Browne appointed to the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing

On Tuesday, September 9, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges (CCC) approved Kathryn (Kate) Williams Browne of Skyline College as their appointee to the Commission on Teacher Credential.

“learning laboratory” was a major theme of the meetings. The program Ebbage helped found and develop in 1992, the Northwest Water and Energy Education Institute (NWEII), is a nationally-recognized leader in the practice. It offers two-year degree programs that train technicians and auditors on financial analysis and conservation strategies for reducing energy and water use in large-scale commercial buildings. Using the campus facilities is cost-effective and makes practical sense, according to Ebbage.

In recent years, Lane Community College leveraged the energy and water degree programs to create campus-wide sustainability programming for putting theory into practice in campus facilities. Dedicated staff oversee curriculum development, recycling programs, and energy use reduction programs across campus facilities and instructional departments in a collaborative, cross-campus format. A new building in downtown Eugene showcases sustainability with facilities that were designed specifically for training the energy and water technicians. Ebbage and his faculty colleagues continue to take students to observe old campus facilities—boilers, chillers, air handlers, and building shells. “They offer real-world scenarios for students to trouble-shoot and measure,” he said.

The ESTM department at Skyline College currently focuses on energy and water management for residential construction, but California regulators and utilities are investing primarily in workforce education and training for larger-scale buildings, making Lane Community College’s programs attractive models. Proposition 39 and long-range planning by California’s regulators and PG&E projects have earmarked investment in training for reducing energy consumption in large-scale buildings. Faculty also discussed integrating curriculum in the Environmental Science and Technology (ENVS) department and the Geology (GEOL) departments into a cross-campus sustainability programs focused on water and energy conservation.

The CWD and Science, Math, and Technology (SMT) Division collaborate on sustainability campus programming. Skyline College hosts a Fellow from the Climate Corps Bay Area Program (CCBA) each year. Planning and project implementation is done across campus in a committee format, the Sustainability Ambassador Network (SAN), comprised of faculty, students, and staff.

Ebbage’s visit was made possible through a collaboration between the Science, Math, and Technology Division and the Center for Workforce Development.

Article and photos submitted by Aaron Wilcher.
In the 2013 legislative session, the Commission successfully sponsored legislation to allow the CCC to appoint a representative ex-officio member to the Commission. The CCC appointee fills the seat previously held by a representative of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) which was vacated when CPEC was defunded in the Governor’s 2009 budget.

Ms. Browne is the Program Coordinator of the ECE Department and is a tenured Professor at Skyline College. She has been teaching in the California Community Colleges since 1990, teaching Early Childhood and Child Development courses at Cañada, Foothill and De Anza Colleges. Her educational background includes a B.A. in Psychology from Stanford University, an M.A. in Early Childhood Education from University of Michigan, an Elementary Certification from Michigan, a Multiple Subjects Credential from California, and a California Community College Credential. As the Coordinator of the San Mateo Region of the CA ECE Mentor Program, Ms. Browne has expanded the number of mentors five-fold and has worked with centers throughout the region to bring experienced teachers into the Mentor Program. She helps mentors connect with student teachers from Skyline and Cañada Colleges, San Francisco State University, and local ROP/Tech Prep programs. Additionally, Kate is the author (with Ann Gordon) of several early care and education textbooks.

Article and photo submitted by Kate Browne.

**Third Annual Transfer Conference a Success**

The Transfer Center, in collaboration with other departments, clubs, programs and colleges, hosted its Third Annual Transfer Conference on Saturday, September 20. Over 130 students registered for the event and over 100 students attended.

The main purpose of this event is to provide students a connection to resources they don't know about and to help raise awareness of what they need to know and where to find the information they need to make clear and educated choices about their transfer path.

The day started out with a warm and inspirational welcome provided by Dr. Joi Blake, Vice President of Student Services. Following the welcome and short ice breaker, students attended workshops on Transfer Tips, Applying to Impacted and Selective majors, Career, Financial Aid for Transfer Students and a student panel which consisted of five former Skyline College transfer students who attended private, UC and CSU campuses.

A Fall 2014 Transfer Conference resource fair was hosted during the lunch hour which included university representatives from San Francisco State University (SFSU), UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, University of San Francisco, the University of Arizona and other private university representatives as well as on-campus clubs and resource tables.

Overall, the day ran seamlessly and students were energized by the information and resources they were connected with. Skyline College students continue to show their engagement and commitment to their transfer goals. One student commented that “this conference was really insightful… keep doing this.”

Article by Suzanne Poma and Michele Haggar. Photo by Jose A. Garcia.

**Skyline College Students Attend Puente Transfer Motivational Conference at UC Davis**

On an overcast Saturday morning, 30 Puente students gathered before 7:00 a.m. at Skyline College to take a bus to UC Davis for the annual Puente Transfer Motivational Conference, this year held on September 20. Blas Guerrero, a Director in Admissions and Timo Rico, the Director of Outreach, welcomed students to the event. The keynote speaker, author Alex Espinoza, spoke of his tale of personal and academic transformation that began during his days as a Puente student.
Afterwards, students were able to take campus tours where they saw many of the campus amenities as well as the beautiful artwork that adorns the sprawling campus. They also attended a variety of workshops including learning how to succeed as an AB-540 student, empowering oneself as a learner, how best to pay for college, and showcase of different majors at UC Davis. During lunch they were able to check out other colleges as well as programs at UC Davis in a special college fair set up specifically for them.

As we returned to Skyline College at 5:30 that evening, the consensus was that the students not only enjoyed the trip, but made some excellent contacts and felt excited about transferring. This conference was indeed impactful in motivating them to transfer and highlighted UC Davis as a school to consider.

Article and photo submitted by Lucia Lachmayr.

Events

Disability Awareness Month

Events:

Learning Differences Demystified
October 21 and 22, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Building 6
&
Colors of the Wind
with JL Powers & George Mendoza
Wednesday, October 29, 2014
12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.
Building 6, Room 6204

The Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning (CTTL) Presents:

Cultural Competency -
A Cross Race/Gender Conversation
with Lee Mun Wah
November 26, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Building 6, Room 6202

The Center for Innovative Practices in Hip Hop Education and Research (CIPHER) Presents:

Ensemble Mik Nawooj
Saturday, November 15, 2014
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Building 1, Theater