President’s Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud
An Evening with Dr. Cornel West

Skyline College was honored to host Dr. Cornel West at an exceptional event on the evening of September 11, 2014. Dr. West, a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual, Professor of Philosophy at the Union Theological Seminary and Professor Emeritus at Princeton, is known, in the words of Dr. Stanback Stroud, for his “passion to communicate to a vast variety of publics in order to keep alive the legacy... of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and to justice.” He did just that at Skyline College.

Dr. West's remarks were broad and emphatic – full of his characteristic enthusiasm and passion that spilled over into the audience and offered up inspiration along with contemplation. Speaking on issues of race and class, he referenced the great sociologist and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois, stating that the basic questions Du Bois raised about inequality and race were “not fundamentally ideological, not fundamentally religious, they were about integrity, and honesty, and virtue.”

Dr. West also touched on current events like the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and the Trayvon Martin case. He tied both of these incidents in to the broader, ongoing struggle for equality under the law no matter one's race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

Dr. West ended his remarks by focusing on the road ahead, and the constant vigilance required of all of us to stand up to injustice, confront our fears, and never lose hope. Hope, Dr. West concluded, is “the enactment of integrity, honesty, decency, and virtue individually and collectively, embodied in such a way that it becomes contagious enough to other folk that they want to become a part of it from generation to generation.”

Those in attendance were clearly moved by his speech, and during an engaging question and answer session immediately afterwards, they raised questions about gentrification, self-image, and being a young person in today’s world of commoditization and instantaneous communication. Dr. West’s answers were heartfelt and sincere – providing more food for thought as the evening drew to a close.

The faculty, staff and students of Skyline College are immensely grateful to Dr. West for so generously taking the time to visit the campus and speak with us. The dialogue he sparked, and his challenging words, help to bolster Skyline College's commitment to academic excellence and will linger in our hearts and minds for years to come.

Article by Connor Fitzpatrick. Photos by Raul Guerra.

Becalos Students Spend Labor Day in The Mission

On Monday, September 1, 2014, Labor Day, several faculty and staff members took a group of the visiting international students from Mexico in the Becalos program for a fun and informative outing to the Mission District in San Francisco. Professor Gary Fleener, from the Study Abroad program, walked the students to the Daly City BART Station and showed them how to navigate BART to San Francisco. John Saenz, who works with the Center for Student Life and Leadership Development, and his wife Alicia also came along to guide, as did Raul Guerra from the Global Learning Program and English Professor Lucia Lachmayr.
Students were shown the murals of Balmy Alley, the Mission Cultural Center, and several unique bookstores, as well as the murals of the Women’s Building, known as the “Maestrapeace” by many in the area. Students were even treated to watching an artist in the middle of creating a mural, who kindly stopped to answer questions from students. Four Skyline College Puente student volunteers, Antonio Quintana, Andressa Dos Santos, Daniel Del Castillo, and Yare Ozuna, helped guide the Becalos students on their tour throughout the Mission.

Article by Lucia Lachmayr. Photos by Raul Guerra.

SKYLINE COLLEGE DREAMER SHARES HIS UNACCOMPANIED JOURNEY

Darwin Valesquez, a student at Skyline College, gave a powerful speech this week for the Latino Community Foundation, describing his emigration experience as an unaccompanied child. Valesquez emigrated at age 12 from El Salvador, where he grew up in an impoverished community. He was born with cataracts, leaving him with limited vision. At his school in El Salvador, he learned only through listening and talking. However, after coming to the United States, he eventually learned to read and write through hard work and determination. He was a leader both in and out of the classroom.

Excited to continue his education after graduating from Washington High School, Darwin applied and was accepted to one of his dream schools. Unfortunately, upon finding out about his undocumented status, the college rescinded his acceptance. To Darwin, this felt like the end of his academic journey. However, he used this moment as motivation and decided to enroll at Skyline College, where he is now pursuing a degree in International Relations. Through programs like DACA and the SMCCD Office of Education Abroad, Darwin will become one of the first DREAMERS to study abroad in France this Fall.

The City of San Francisco’s Youth Commission named Darwin as one of their eight “Youth of Year,” an award given to those who display exceptional leadership and service to the community. Darwin also serves as an Outreach Ambassador for Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC), a role through which he provides hope, inspiration, and valuable information to the undocumented community. Eventually, Darwin plans to go to law school to study International Law.

Article and photo submitted by Lezra Chenportillo.

SKYLINE COLLEGE WAREHOUSING CERTIFICATES PRESENTED AT GOODWILL GRADUATION CEREMONY

Goodwill Industries celebrated their graduation on September 25, 2014 and presented Skyline College Warehousing Certificates at their San Francisco headquarters. Alpha Lewis, Warehousing Instructor, Soledad McCarthy, Program Services Coordinator, Lorraine Giordano, Executive Director of the Bay Area Workforce Funding Collaborative and Jeremy Evangelista, Office Assistant II presented the certificates to our fall 2014 cohort. Skyline College’s Business Division and Workforce Development partnership with Goodwill Industries awards certificates in Warehousing to students wishing to reenter the workforce. For many of the Goodwill students, this is their first time entering a college environment.

As a result of the class, Kenneth Aguilar has enrolled at Skyline College in the CIPHER (Center for Innovative Practices through Hip Hop Education and Research) Learning Community. Past Goodwill Warehousing students have enrolled full time into the Career Advancement Academy in both Automotive Entry Level Technician and Allied Health.

Career Advancement Academy (CAA) provides stackable certificates in Automotive Entry Level Technician, Early Childhood Education Foundations, Paralegal and Allied Health (EMT, Medical Office Administration, and Sterile Processing).

Article by Soledad McCarthy.
GENECONECTION RETURNS TO SKYLINE COLLEGE TO START ITS 25TH YEAR OF SERVICE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Saturday, September 6, Skyline College helped GeneConnection celebrate its 25th year of existence by hosting a faculty kickoff at the Skyline College meeting rooms in Building 6. The kickoff was doubly fitting because GeneConnection first started at Skyline College, and by hosting this event the Skyline College Biotechnology program is continuing to connect with local high school faculty and biotechnology companies that employ our students and graduates.

The 25th year celebration for GeneConnection was sponsored by Bay Area Biotechnology Education Consortium (BABEC), California Community Colleges Doing What Matters and North Valley Biotechnology center. In the picture, Johanna Anton (left) and Kim Hansen (right) are next to a plaque depicting an Assembly resolution of recognition for GeneConnection from our assembly member Kevin Mullin who is chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Biotechnology.

The GeneConnection provides logistics, materials and support for an innovative biotechnology laboratory program for high school students in San Mateo County. This program engages over 11,000 students annually. Over 50 faculty from Bay Area high schools attended the event, which included a talk from Genentech Senior Scientist Dr. Ingrid Wertz as well as talks and discussions about Next Generation Science Standards and how to introduce the concept of cell signaling to students in a fun and educational manner.

With the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Gene Connection has worked to correlate all of their mobile labs with NGSS. Aligning to the standards, GeneConnection lets the faculty do what they do best: introducing students to rigorous biotechnology labs, without having faculty worry about the logistics of setup, procurement of consumables and if the materials that the students are using are going to cover and match the standards.

The Science, Math and Technology Division and the Biotechnology Department hope to continue to support Biotechnology Laboratory education throughout the County and to continue to offer professional development to local teachers and to collaborate with local high schools.

SPARKPOINT AT SKYLINE COLLEGE RECOGNIZED THREE TIMES FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN CALIFORNIA

In ceremonies held at the United Way of the Bay Area’s Annual Regional SparkPoint Retreat, SparkPoint at Skyline College received a Certificate of Recognition from the State of California Senate stating, “SparkPoint at Skyline College has allowed many low-income families to be able to move from poverty to financial stability allowing for positive outcomes such as a livable income, good credit scores, the building of one’s savings, and reducing debt to below 40% of monthly income; therefore, be it resolved by Senator Ellen Corbett, that SparkPoint at Skyline College is commended on their long and distinguished record of community assistance and positive influence in the State of California.” Senator Ellen Corbett, District 10.

More great news from the retreat is that SparkPoint at Skyline College won a $5000 prize in the 2014 SparkPoint Challenge (among the eleven regional SparkPoint Centers located throughout the Bay Area) for serving the highest percentage of clients to achieve at least one long-term goal leading to financial self-sufficiency.

Finally, to expand the model upon which SparkPoint services are based, the Lumina Foundation’s Achieving the Dream (ATD) has been tasked with coordinating the expansion of the model (Working Families Success Network – formerly Centers for Working Families) in additional states across the nation. SparkPoint at Skyline College was selected by ATD and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office as the coordinating college in California which includes Cabrillo College, Cañada College and Porterville College. This three-year grant award ($300,000) begins July 2014 and ends June 2017.

Article and photo submitted by Dr. William Watson.
Skyline College Wins Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Award

Skyline College is the winner of The California Community Colleges Board of Governors Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Award in the Faculty/Student Initiatives category. The Award was presented for “The Green Gorillas: Student-led Waste Diversion Project,” created under the leadership of Dr. Carina Anttila-Suarez, Professor of Biology. The students won $2500 in funding to implement the Green Gorillas project at the Be the Light of Change Sustainability contest last year, where their team presented the project.

The Skyline View reported that, “…The aim of this project was to enhance the efficiency in garbage disposal at Skyline College. An eight-week study would be conducted to see how Skyline College disposes of its waste and how we could make the process better. Also teams of students, aptly named Green Gorillas, would be trained to help others properly dispose of their waste.”

In another category, Proposition 39 – Self-Generation, Cañada College was named winner for their Solar PV Installation.

Congratulations to Skyline College – faculty, staff, students and especially the Green Gorillas – but great kudos and thanks go to Vice Chancellor José Nuñez and his Facilities, Operations, Maintenance team who work so hard to support and often lead our efforts in sustainability.

Article by Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud.

Skyline College Present on the Green at SMCCD Foundation Golf Tournament

On August 25, 2014, Skyline College was present at the San Mateo Community College Foundation Golf Tournament. In collaboration with Outreach, the Cosmetology Department, and the Marketing Communications and Public Relations office, Skyline College was able to host a relaxing, kick-back themed hole for the donors that participated in the Golf Tournament. The main attraction was our Skyline College Prize Wheel, where everyone was a winner. The prizes consisted of five-minute massages, Skyline College golf balls, Skyline College Tees, and Skyline College wine glasses and a bottle of wine.

The event was a great success with over one hundred donors participating at our table. This was a way to say thank you for all the donations given to the San Mateo Community College School District.

Article by Florentino Ubungen. Photo by Darrel Lee.
SKYLINE COLLEGE BOARD REPORT
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE STUDENTS AWARDED $1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

The San Bruno Chamber of Commerce held its 1st Annual Excellence in Business and Community Awards Dinner on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at the San Bruno Senior Center. The event was attended by approximately 200 Chamber of Commerce members representing businesses from throughout San Bruno, including a table full of Skyline College attendees.

Skyline College was voted by the membership of the San Bruno Chamber of Commerce as a finalist in the non-profit category along with the San Bruno Lions Club and the Rotary Club of San Bruno. Each finalist was then asked to encourage their constituents to vote and the night of the awards, the winner would be announced. The College rocked the vote and won the honor of Nonprofit of the Year! Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud, President of the College, accepted the award on behalf of the college.

The following winners were announced during the dinner in their respective categories:

• Rookie of the Year: Carroll’s Meats & Deli
• Children’s Services: Happy Hall School
• Best Restaurant: Don Pico’s Restaurant
• Individual and Home Based Business: Karin Cunningham, Josie McHale, Robert Riechel (these 3 tied with equal votes)
• Small Business: Chapel of the Highlands
• Medium Size Business: Mollie Stone’s Market
• Large Size Business: Recology San Bruno
• Non-Profit: Skyline College
• San Bruno Volunteer of the Year: Pam Riechel

Thank you to the faculty, staff and community members who voted for the college to win this exciting award!

Article and photo by Cherie Colin.

STUDENT LIFE AND SALSA (SKYLINE ADVOCATES FOR LATINO STUDENTS IN ACADEMIA) LATINO HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

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Skyline College Administration of Justice students Alazan Flores and Erik Risslen were awarded $1,000 scholarships at the 2014 PAL fundraiser banquet held at the South San Francisco Elks Club on Monday, July 28. These exemplary students were recognized by the Daly City Police Department’s Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) Organization for their educational and community achievements while pursuing their vocational aspirations in the fields of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

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The Daly City PAL, a partnership involving community leaders and the Daly City Police Department, is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to supporting, inspiring, and helping young people to become healthy, social, and caring individuals through athletics since 1957. Professor Steve Aurilio of the Skyline College Administration of Justice Program, and member of the Daly City PAL board, founded the Daly City PAL Educational Foundation (PAL-Ed) in 2007 as an auxiliary component of the PAL organization to help provide financial assistance to career-minded students who are interested in the justice field. To date, the Daly City PAL-Ed Foundation has awarded scholarships to nine Skyline College Administration of Justice students.

To be considered for the scholarship award, students must be interested in a Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice career and enrolled in the Skyline College Administration of Justice
Program or a Police Academy; have a qualifying GPA; have a personal history consistent with a career in law enforcement or criminal justice; and have performed some type of voluntary community service.

After undergoing interviews with DC PAL-Ed board members, the two awardees were selected on the basis of their achievements which met or exceeded the requirements. Both recipients have career aspirations of becoming police officers in our local area. Skyline College joins DC-PAL in congratulating Alazan Flores and Erik Risslen for being the DC PAL-Ed awardees for 2014!

Article by Steve Aurilio. Photo submitted by Chris Parker, DC PAL.

**Students Organize Successful Charity Event:**
**Together We Thrive**

On August 2, 2014, Skyline College hosted Together We Thrive (TWT). Families in the community came to campus for an exchange of needed goods. Skyline College students Nicole Garza and Irene Yim conceived the idea because Skyline College is in one of the richest counties in the country but approximately 18% of the population is living below the poverty line and an additional unknown percentage is below the housing wage. Nicole and Irene raised over $1,500 to purchase school supplies and backpacks for kids in the local community. About 80 children showed up in the Student and Community Center to receive their backpacks filled with school supplies. The accompanying clothes drive was successful and everyone is looking forward to next year’s TWT event.

The ECE/EDU students that participated really enjoyed coming together to participate in an event that benefited young children and spoke about organizing a club in order to network and be a part of more events benefiting children and families.

At the event, activity tables were hosted by Gaylord Garcia (Respiratory Therapy Program), Kristina Brower (Early Childhood Education), Mary DeAngles (Karate Club), Sherri Bookstaff (Biology Department), and John Carpio (Photography Club).

Nicole and Irene reached out to the community and received cash donations to purchase school supplies from the following:
- San Francisco Plumbing
- Ideal Carpentry
- Lakewood Apartments
- Nicks Seafood Restaurant
- SF Department of Building Inspections
- Target
- Outback
- Home Depot
- Skyline College Cosmetology
- Genentech

Article by Christine Case and Kristina Brower. Photo by John Carpio.

**California Science Teacher Association Award Winner Credits Biology Professor with Recent Success**

Carina Anttila-Suarez in a biology classroom

All professors wonder if they are making a difference in the lives of their students. Dr. Carina Anttila-Suarez loves being a Biology Professor at Skyline College but wonders if her teaching impacts the future of the students in her classroom. Carina was recently rewarded with the answer to this question when her former student Laurie Gillis won the Future Science Teacher Award for 2014 from the California Science Teacher Association (CSTA).
Laurie contacted her former professor to let her know that her award application essay was based on the effect Carina’s teaching had in her life.

“I wrote about my experience in your classes in my application essay. It turns out I received the award and they quoted my essay on the website(!). They didn’t include your name (unfortunately), but this little excerpt is about the significant impact you made on me and I just wanted to tell you what an amazing and inspiring professor you were for me. There were a lot of little moments in your classes that have stayed with me and made such a positive impact on my life/career. I can’t thank you enough for those experiences.”

Carina celebrates Laurie’s accomplishment and works hard as a Skyline College faculty member to give her students a similar experience!

Article and photo submitted by Carina Anttila-Suarez.

**EVENTS**

**NEW ART EXHIBIT OPENING AT SKYLINE COLLEGE ART GALLERY**

Bay Area photographer Bill Scull presents a look into the lives of the people of Cuba and Ghana in this exhibition of photographs.

**September 2 - October 3**
**Skyline College Art Gallery**
Admission is free.