

November 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support in maintaining Skyline College's Child Development Center (CDC) and creating an exploratory committee focused on transforming it into a revenue generating site that can help to off-set other college expenses.

During these difficult times, we will be making several difficult decisions that affect, administrators, faculty, staff and most importantly students.

With these challenging financial times, many more students will consider either returning to, or continuing to, attend Skyline College in an effort to acquire new skills that will lead towards increased self-sufficiency and competitiveness in the changing job market. Many of these students are parents facing life-struggles who may require quality childcare that is affordable and that accommodates their school schedules.

I urge you to consider extinguishing all cost-saving options before either eliminating or contracting out the CDC. Eliminating the CDC would affect many parents' dreams of obtaining a college education by adding one additional barrier to the many challenges they currently overcome. Contracting the CDC also has drawbacks in that Skyline College would not be able to guarantee that Skyline College students' children would have priority admission. This would also add the extra hardship of adding commute time to parent's already busy schedules.

Instead, I recommend that an exploratory committee be formed to address the revenue generating possibilities that the CDC would offer. Two possible ideas include:

- **Having the CDC move to Loma Chica** – Facilities is scheduled to move to its remodeled site, so if the CDC could move into Loma Chica, this may expand the number of classrooms from two to up to six. By increasing the space available, this may potentially lead to increased revenue from both subsidized and full paying families. This option would also permit for childcare for children under the age of two.
- **Seeking additional grant opportunities** - Existing or new positions could be added or modified so that they may have a percentage of time dedicated to pursuing grants. This could be done at the College or could be taken on by the SMCCCD Foundation who already pursues grant opportunities within the district.

These are two suggestions that an exploratory committee could consider and after speaking with the CDC classified staff and parents, I understand that there may be additional options worth exploring.

Personally, I am a classified staff member who's daughter, Sara, attends the CDC. I am proud that my child attends the CDC and I have seen her physical, social and emotional development during the last year. I whole-heartedly recommend these services to any and all Skyline College students who are in need of childcare. Please feel free to contact me should you have additional questions.

Thank you,

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