



Victoria P. Morrow, President

November 14, 2008

Budget update

As you know from my *Skyline Shines* messages on October 24 and October 31, our district and our state are facing a severe budget situation. Kathy Blackwood provided us a terrific briefing in an open forum style College Budget Committee (CBC) meeting on October 30, and that is available on our iTunesU website if you would like to see it at <http://www.smccd.edu/itunesu/>.

However, the situation has worsened even since that briefing, and she and the chancellor have been providing email updates to the district as a whole. I will continue to keep you posted here in *Skyline Shines*, and I will also begin to send you periodic separate messages similar to those I publish periodically in relation to our construction planning. As well, the CBC decided today to create a Sharepoint site that any of us can access to see all of our work and the latest information on this topic. As soon as that is online, we will let you know.

At its meeting yesterday, the CBC reviewed the latest estimates of current year budget reductions, reviewed effective structures and processes for receiving input from all college constituencies as well as communicating information college-wide, and worked on identifying the college's best strategies for dealing with the cuts. Our usual summary of that meeting is provided further down in this edition of *Skyline Shines*, but I would like to highlight a few things here at the top.

We are working on two issues: mid-year budget cuts are certain and are being discussed by the governor and the legislature, and there are likely additional cuts for the next year's budget. Our CBC members from the District Committee on Budget and Finance reported on the conversations taking place between the district and the employee bargaining units about possible retirement incentives and utilization once again of the managed hiring approach which the district employed half a dozen years ago when faced with sharp cuts to community college funding.

Your representatives on the CBC are collecting ideas for both district wide and college specific approaches to the budget problem. The district wide ideas will be forwarded to the District Committee on Budget and Finance (through Kathy Blackwood) and the college specific ones will be discussed by the CBC at its meeting next week. The committee decided to hold weekly meetings for the rest of the semester to ensure that Skyline gets a solid jump on this problem. If you have suggestions to generate revenue or reduce expenditures, please forward them to your CBC representative or to Eloisa Briones right away.

I would like to repeat here part of Ron Galatolo's November 6 district wide message:

In short order, we will need to "collectively" work together to proactively address this issue head-on and I'm confident that – as in the past – we will uncompromisingly embark on a systematic and disciplined process that will yield the necessary reductions while preserving the academic and operational integrity of our three colleges and the district office. We've been through this difficult circumstance before and, with your unwavering support, I know we'll be successful again.

I share his confidence that together we can weather this. Our district has shown its strength and innovativeness in the past and we are well positioned to do so again. Some of the solutions to our problem will be forged in the district as a

whole, and some will need to be forged at each college. I am grateful for the large and seasoned College Budget Committee we enjoy here at Skyline, and, as always, it will serve the college as the central source of fiscal advice to me about our best approaches. In addition, the three colleges will be comparing notes on what we are doing in order to leverage our efforts to best effect.

President's Report to the Board of Trustees

The report I gave to the Board this Wednesday is available at <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skynotes/index.html>.

Student Art Show under way and ceramics sale coming soon

The current student art exhibition in our Gallery Theater features photographs, ceramics, and sculptures by Skyline Art Students and is hosted by the Skyline Photography Club. The show runs from November 10-26, with a reception next Wednesday, November 19 from 5:30-7:30. Gallery hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 7:30 pm. I have visited it already and was impressed by the quality of the works displayed. Also, the Annual Ceramics Sale will be held in the Gallery from December 9-11, and the hours will be 8:30 am - 9:30 pm.



Paradox of Affluence Week marked by seminars at Skyline

There is a fascinating series of seminars being offered by our faculty, starting this Friday and through next week in recognition of Paradox of Affluence week. Phi Theta Kappa and the National Collegiate Honors Council Honors Study Topic for this year is "The Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges and Consequences." Our Phi Theta Kappa chapter has assembled an exciting array of speakers to stimulate conversations about the Paradox of Affluence.

Affluence: Myth or Reality

Dr. Masao Suzuki

Friday, November 14, 11-12 pm
Room 1306

Stem Cells & The Possibilities

Dr. Nick Kapp

Tuesday, November 18, 1-2 pm
Room 1306

The American Psyche, American Wealth and the Case for Reparations: an Afrocentric Perspective

Dr. Tony Jackson

Wednesday, November 19, 12:15-1:00 pm
Room 1306

The Human Condition

Dr. Johannes Masare

Friday, November 21, 11-12 pm
Room 1306

Transfer Study highlighting Skyline is published

The state's Research and Planning Group/Center for Student Success for the community colleges has just released a study entitled "A Qualitative Study of Two-to-Four-Year Transfer Practices in California Community Colleges." The study provides an analysis of seven case studies, one of them focused on Skyline, for colleges with consistently higher than expected transfer rates. Each case study is based on a site visit conducted in Spring 2008 by Center for Student Success researchers to document and investigate the full spectrum of factors, inventions, strategies and practices that each college is implementing to support transfer. The full Skyline report is available at http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skypro/student_learning_outcomes/student_outcomes.htm, as is a cross-case analysis of all seven colleges. This is a significant recognition for the college.

High School Day brings over 100 students to Skyline

Last Thursday, November 6, Skyline College hosted the first San Mateo Unified High School District (SMUHSD) High School Day. Over 100 high school students who came primarily from Burlingame and Capuchino High Schools participated in the event. The students were treated to an all-day college experience that consisted of attending college classes, a diverse student panel, and a comprehensive campus tour that highlighted Skyline College programs and services. Many thanks to the instructors who opened their classes to the high school students, giving them the opportunity to experience a college classroom. The high school students appreciated the student panel and their perspectives on college life. The diverse student panel was comprised of students from clubs and programs such as ASTEP/BSU, Puente/LASO, Kababayan, Hermanos, Automotive, Gay Straight Alliance, MESA, TRIO, EOPS, DSPS, and the Polynesian Club. The day concluded with lunch, Skyline giveaways, and a surprise Polynesian Club performance. Many thanks to Daniel Tostado, Kenny Gonzalez, Marisa Mariano, Carlos Romero, Rommel Conclara, and Stephanie Nale for their help in the event. A very big thank you to Nate Nevado and Jocelyn Vila with the gracious help of Kristen Abel and Vivian Paw for coordinating this successful event! Thank you all again to those who took their time to show these high school students that Skyline College definitely shines!

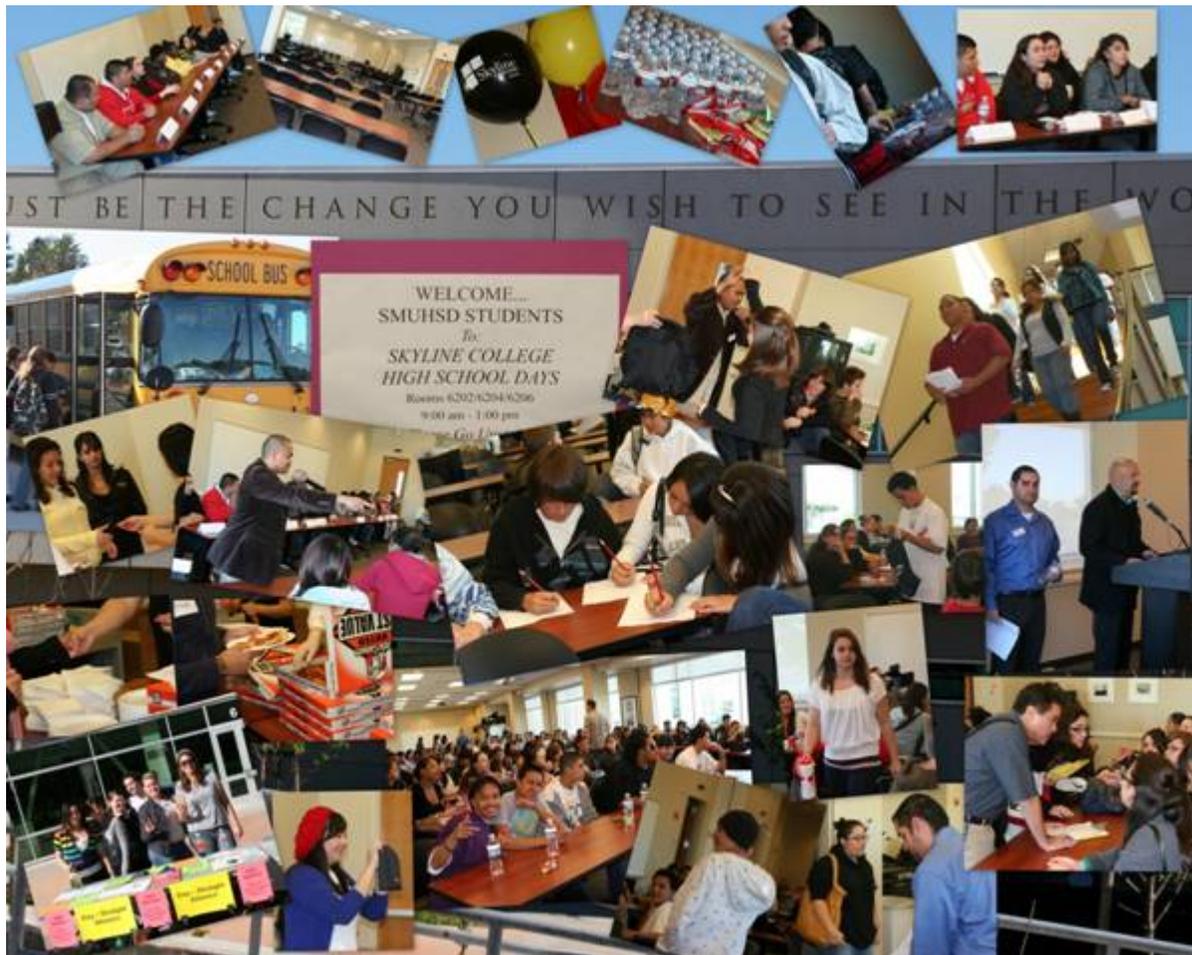


Photo collage by Vivian Paw

Holiday Job Fair draws a crowd of employers and of students

The Career Center hosted the Holiday Job Fair 2008 on Wednesday, November 12th, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Student Center Dining Room. The Holiday Job Fair provided local industry representatives, Skyline students and faculty an opportunity to share information and become more familiar with existing employment and training opportunities

in our community. The fair attracted thirty five Bay Area companies and over 60 employment representatives. In addition to gaining information, students were recruited for available part-time and full-time employment. Special thanks to Career Center Coordinator Virginia Padron for providing the overall leadership for this event, supported by Goldie Lee, Jackie Escobar, Andy Davis, Gunilla Harshman, Kristen Abel, Vivian Paw, Loretta Davis, Jocelyn Vila, Adolfo Leiva, and many student helpers. Thanks also to two members of our President's Council—Laura Baughman and Cherie Napier.



Photo by Rakefet Avramovitz

College Budget Committee (CBC) update

The College Budget Committee met on Thursday November 13, 2008.

- 1. State budget update:** Eloisa Briones has been forwarding all budget updates from the state to the CBC. Important to note are the Governor's recent proposal to address the \$11 billion state budget deficit for the current year and \$13 billion shortfall projected for 2009-10. One of the Governor's proposed solutions for the current year is a mid-year reduction of \$4.5 billion, which will impact community colleges by \$332 million. The Legislative Analyst's Office released its analysis of the Governor's proposal and also made recommendations on how to address the budget shortfall. The State Chancellor's Office officially notified the community colleges that the full-time faculty obligation for fall 2009 will remain unchanged from fall 2008 because inadequate funds had been provided to the system to support the increase in the obligation.
- 2. District Committee on Budget and Finance report:** Linda Whitten and Anyta Archer reported on discussions at the District Committee on Budget and Finance (DCBF) about strategies that the district used to address the budget fiscal crisis six or seven years ago, e.g. retirement incentives and managed hiring. DCBF members were requested to go back to the colleges and solicit suggestions and ideas to increase revenue and reduce expenditures district-wide and at the colleges. The DCBF will receive and evaluate recommendations for district-wide budget cuts.
- 3. Addressing the current year budget deficit:** Eloisa Briones presented the CBC with estimates of the state budget deficit and corresponding share for the district. Using the 2008-09 site allocations according to the resource allocation model, the share of each site was calculated. Skyline's share of the current year budget reductions ranged from \$555,000 to \$1,482,000 assuming a state budget deficit ranging from \$3 to 8 billion. The state's current year deficit continues to grow so Skyline's share will as well. The Committee discussed the process that CBC will use to come up with the reductions and agreed that the suggestions received for generating revenue and reducing expenditures at the college level will be used to build multiple scenarios similar to those used by the Committee during budget development in past years. The CBC agreed that a holistic approach will be taken, using the college mission, vision, goals and strategies as well as the Chancellor's message to the district as guiding principles in this budget process.
- 4. Budget strategies and suggestions:** The Committee shared various strategies and suggestions for the district, college and even the state in terms of lobbying the legislature. CBC members will solicit suggestions to generate revenue and reduce expenditures at the district and college level. A Share Point website will be developed where the budget news and reports will be posted for all Skyline employees to access any time. Eloisa was asked to estimate Skyline's share of the reductions should the state budget rise to \$11 to 12 billion this year.
- 5. CBC tasks and Timelines:** The Committee reviewed the DCBF and CBC meeting calendars and agreed that additional meetings be scheduled so budget information from the DCBF is immediately shared with the CBC, as well as information and strategies at the other colleges. CBC will begin reviewing scenarios that will be built as

suggestions for budget reductions are received. Even if the amount of the reduction is unknown at this time, the CBC will begin its work by identifying budget line items that can be reduced and ways that revenues can be generated or increased.

6. Next meeting: Thursday, November 20 in Room 6203

Minutes of prior meetings are archived at <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skynotes/index.html>.

Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) update

1. **Budget update:** Eloisa Briones, Director of Business Services, provided an update on the budget situation, noting that the information from the state is constantly changing. Certainly it is not a positive outlook, and there is an extreme likelihood of a significant mid-year cut being imposed on the community colleges. Participants shared their concern about the programs and services that help our students succeed.
2. **Review and discussion of new ARCC Data:** The group reviewed and discussed the recently released draft of the ARCC (Accountability Report for Community Colleges) data for 2007-08. Overall, Skyline's numbers remained fairly consistent and strong. The peer groupings and benchmarks will be released in January, at which time IPC will again review the data.
3. **Review and discussion of new CPEC Transfer Data:** The group reviewed the recently released CSU/UC Transfer data from the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), which showed that Skyline had 367 transfers to CSU and 73 to UC in 2007-08. These figures were very similar to 2006-08 (net loss of 7 to UC and a net gain of 5 to CSU).
4. **Introduction to the Transfer Leadership Center's Case Study on Skyline:** The group discussed highlights from the recently released case study on Skyline College's approach to transfer. This report is one in a series of seven case studies of California community colleges with higher-than-expected transfer rates. Each case study is based on a site visit conducted in Spring 2008 by two Center for Student Success researchers to document and investigate the full spectrum of factors, inventions, strategies and practices that each college is implementing to support transfer. The full Skyline report is available at http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skypro/student_learning_outcomes/student_outcomes.htm, as is a cross-case analysis of all seven colleges. IPC noted that this recognition is significant, and also wanted to capitalize on other opportunities for statewide recognition (SLOs, Learning Communities, etc.)
5. **Review and discussion of District Research Council's project list:** The group reviewed the list of projects from the DRC. These projects will be conducted collaboratively by the research staff from the three colleges and the district. They include more immediate projects which can be completed in the current year, and also a series of longer term efforts.
6. **Next steps:** Further review the TLC Case Study for additional discussion in December. The other main December topic will be a review of the CCSSE (Community College Survey of Student Engagement) data and report.

Minutes of prior meetings are archived at <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skynotes/index.html>.

Coming Up ...

Friday, November 14

- Affluence: Myth or Reality? - The Paradox of Affluence, 11 am, Room 1306
- Men's Soccer, 1 p.m.
- Women's Soccer at Skyline, 3 pm
- Women's Basketball at Skyline, 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 15

- Men's Basketball at San Jose City College, 3 pm

Monday, November 17

- Fall Student Art Show, through Nov. 26, Gallery Theatre
- Last Day to Withdraw from Semester Length Class
- Free Film Screening: "Beyond Beats & Rhythm," 12 pm, Main Theatre
- Wrestling at Skyline, 7 pm

Tuesday, November 18

- Stem Cells and The Possibilities- The Paradox of Affluence Week, 1 pm, Room 1306

Wednesday, November 19

- Greenify Skyline, 9 am, Quad
- The American Psyche, American Wealth and the Case for Reparations; an Afrocentric Perspective, 12:15 pm, Room 1306

- Reception for the Fall Student Art Show Artists, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Gallery Theatre
- Women's Basketball at Skyline, 5:30 pm
- Men's Basketball at Merced College, 6 pm
- Rock the School Bells: Film Screening of "Planet B-Boy," 12 p.m., Main Theatre
- Women's Volleyball at City College, SF, 6:30 pm

Friday, November 21

- The Human Condition - The Paradox of Affluence Week, 11 am, Room 1306
- Men's Basketball at Skyline, 5 pm

You can see the event calendar at www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/calendar.html

To add events to the calendar, visit www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/events.html

Do you have a suggestion?

One way to submit it is through our e-Suggestion Box, via the hyperlink in the box below, or via the same box on the front page of our website at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/>.



For state level information on community colleges, see these websites:

- The Chancellor's Office in Sacramento: <http://www.cccco.edu/>
- The Community College League of California: <http://www.ccleague.org/>
- The Research and Planning Group: <http://www.rpgroup.org/>

Skyline Shines is archived at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/skynotes/>.