



**Victoria P. Morrow, President**

December 12, 2008

### **President's Report to the Board of Trustees**

Last Wednesday I presented my monthly report to the Board of Trustees. It is available at <http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skynotes/index.html>.

### **Budget update from Chancellor Galatolo and Vice Chancellor Joel draws a crowd**

Yesterday, an Open Forum was held in the Main Theater and there were well over 100 attendees. Ron Galatolo reviewed the context of the current state budget crisis and how it differs from the situation in 2002-03 because of the ongoing structural deficit, the polarized situation in the state legislature and the size of the deficit. In addition there is the larger national and international fiscal situation. The district is grappling not only with the expected mid-year budget cuts, but severe reductions next year and the loss to the county investment pool due to the collapse of Lehman Brothers; loss district \$25 million in bond funds and operating funds for our district. He estimated that our current year reductions, once the legislature and the governor decide on the budget, will be in the \$3-5 million range, and next year in the \$6-8 million range. The chancellor responded to questions, including discussion of the likely move of the district to basic aid status, and then turned to the action of the Board of Trustees Wednesday night to adopt retirement incentive packages for all employee groups. This is part of the district's managed hiring approach to the budget crisis, an approach which is designed to avoid layoffs and to employ them only as a very last resort. Harry Joel described the content of email messages he will be sending out today to all employee groups providing them with the link to the details for the various incentive packages. He explained that managed hiring involves not only the retirement incentives but also the defunding of positions to save money, accompanied by a process to secure an alternative position within the district for the employees in those defunded positions. Vice Chancellor Joel then responded to questions.

### **Cast your vote on inscriptions for new Building 4**

Here is the link for casting your vote. The deadline is December 17.



### **DSPS raises \$2000 for student scholarships**

Yesterday, our Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) staff held their holiday luncheon. Over 80 students and staff attended. Also for the first time some of the DSPS students entertained the group playing the piano and trumpet. Barbara Daley sang with Jude Navari accompanying her on the piano. Students sold \$2,000 worth of tickets for the drawing. All this money will be given out in the form of scholarships Spring Semester. Faculty and staff who won prizes were Sherry Hancock, Eugene Garcia and Rick Hough of the Math Department. Special thanks to Sheila Claxton and Chris Weidman for all the support they gave for the event.

### **Annual Auto lunch includes support for the Children's Center**

On Wednesday the Automotive Technology department held its annual lunch and tool raffle. The many students in the program provide a stupendous potluck which they share with members of the college. It is always a lively and fun event, and the food is always delicious and memorable. This year it included a \$525 donation for the Skyline Children's Development Center. Funds were raised from the Auto department and the Auto Club. District Trustee Dave Mandelkern and Student Trustee Virginia Medrano Rosales joined us for the event. In this photo, Paul Spakowski presents the for the Children's Development Center to Kristina Brower.



*Photo by Shelly Hausman*

### **Rock the School Bells Hip-Hop Conference marks its second year**

During the week of November 17-22, the Kababayan Program, ASTEP, Puente, and the Hermanos Program, hosted the second annual Rock The School Bells Hip-Hop Conference funded by the President's Innovation Fund. The week was comprised of film screenings, poetry slams, and live student performances. The conference was aimed to educate and empower the community about the history of hip-hop and how hip-hop has positively impacted students' personal development and self-esteem. The different workshops such as the Women in Hip-Hop, Hip-Hop Hieroglyphics, and The Growth of the Culture, provided thought-provoking insights about the different elements of hip-hop. It challenged them to view the world from different lenses and how they can use hip-hop as a tool to promote change in their communities. Over 100 students from different high schools, colleges, and youth organizations participated in the conference. The workshops were led by hip-hop pioneers and educators from all over the country. In the evening concert, about 400 people enjoyed a night filled with live performances from local artists as well as hip-hop legends. Special thanks for all the faculty and administration who help organized and supported the conference: Nate Nevado, Marisa Mariano, Melanie Espinueva, Liza Erpelo, Murrell Green, Nohel Corral, Luis Escobar, Daniel Tostado, Fabian Morales, Alma Garcia, Lucia Lachmayr, Felix Perez, Jocelyn Vila, Mike Celeste, Sandy Irber, Shelly Hausman, Alan Ceccarelli, Rick Wallace, and Lori Adrian. Most importantly, big thanks to all the students in all the learning communities who committed their time and hard work to put on, yet again, a hugely successful event at Skyline College.



Photos by Leo Docuyanano

**Black Student Union gives back**

The Black Student Union was caught showing their holiday spirit by donating time and effort to the San Francisco Food Bank (SFFB). SFFB is an organization that collects donated food items, repacks and shelves the food items, and then distributes the food to numerous community service agencies including senior citizen homes, homeless shelters, and youth programs. The Black Student Union was honored to give back to the community and represented Skyline College proudly as shown on the sweatshirt of Black Student Union Publicity Representative, Damonisha Powell. Also pictured are Skyline College Black Student Union officers Keisha Coleman, Vice President, and Leslie Freeman, President.



**EOPS Gift Giving Tree brings holiday joy to 74 children**

EOPS held its annual Gift Giving Tree Celebration on Wednesday, December 10 in 6202. Over 74 children were adopted by the campus community, and over 70 parents and children attended the event. Children, parents and students in attendance had the opportunity of having their picture taken with Santa. This year's event took on a campus-wide flavor thanks to the volunteers that got involved. Thanks go to Chris Weidman of DSPS, who played Santa, and his two elves Rosie Heimberg a DSPS student and Marcella Escobar Mora from the Cashiers Department. A special thank you also goes out to Joseph Valdez, a Puente student, for helping with the collection, organizing and accounting of the gifts; and appreciation is expressed to the Hermanos Club for helping move the gifts from Building 2 to Building 6, and the Polynesian student crew that helped out a fellow student transport all of her children's gifts to the car. Each year the

Skyline community supports this event and this year was no exception, and given the present economic times this year your generous support is most appreciated! Here are some of the happy kids who benefitted from the event.



*Photo by Pablo Gonzalez*

#### **Solo exhibit coming to the Gallery Theater in January**

Skyline will host a solo exhibit of paintings and drawings by San Francisco based artist Stephen Namara January 24 - February 28 in our Gallery Theater. As Paul Bridenbaugh says on the Art Gallery website, "The works of Stephen Namara are grounded in classical form, and yet are illuminated by an acutely contemporary reflection of the world in which we find ourselves. His drawings capture the fluidity of the subject and the mystery of its subtext, leaving the paper to reveal traces of the process. His paintings are brought forth in deep colors, rich in texture and evoking a depth and humanity which are sensuously realized." Here is one example, an untitled piece done with dry pigment on paper.



You can read more about him and see more examples of his work on our website at [http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skygallery/exhibits/past\\_exhibits/namara/namara.html](http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/skygallery/exhibits/past_exhibits/namara/namara.html). There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, January 24 from 5-7 pm.

**College Council update:** The College Council held its last meeting of the semester on December 10.

- Budget update:** Vicki Morrow provided an update on the discussions of the College Budget Committee (CBC) about the current year budget and projections for next year, and reminded the members about the Chancellor's Open Forum at the college on Thursday, December 11. She reviewed the college's scenarios for budget reductions if the state imposes a mid-year reduction this year, and the CBC's work to meet a 5% reduction scenario. Meeting the projected state level reductions for next year will require the retirement incentives the

board is scheduled to consider on December 10, and managed hiring, which would involve the defunding of some positions and relocation of the affected employees into vacant positions. The CBC also reviewed the very large positive effect on the college's budget of our FTES growth and our high load (WSCH/FTE) and the important role of faculty in that success, along with staff all over the college. Although the college will likely face a large reduction next year, it is much smaller than it would have been without that success.

2. **District Shared Governance Council (DSGC) update:** Ray Hernandez and Adolfo Leiva reported on a proposed change to the Rules and Regulations to add a section defining the district and its name, and establishing policy concerning the use of that name. This policy was recently recommended to all college districts by the Community College League of California after an employee of a California community college expressed a personal political opinion in such a way that it appeared to be the view of the college. The proposal will go back to the DSGC in February.
  3. **Tech Plan update:** Regina Stroud gave an update on the Technology Plan. The plan that has been in progress for the recent two academic year. It has been reformatted and distributed to the constituent groups. Governance leaders have been asked to review the draft with their constituents and be prepared to make a recommendation on adoption of the plan at the January 28, 2009 college council meeting. Over the recent two years, various components of the plan have been shared with faculty, staff and students. All of the feedback received through the advisory committee representatives has been incorporated latest draft. The Co-chairs of the Technology Advisory Committee are available for presentation to the various governance groups. Nick Kapp presented to the Academic Senate on December 5, 2008. Upcoming presentations are scheduled for the classified senate and student association on January 15, 2009 and January 26, 2009 respectively. Representatives on the college council will be asked to make a recommendation for adoption in at the January 28, 2009 College Council meeting.
  4. **Google Mail:** The Council discussed a variety of strategies to assist students to be informed about the new Google Mail which is being used to communicate such information as Waitlist status and other vital facts.
  5. **Next meeting:** January 28, 2009
- College Council minutes 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, with a discussion of the various reduction scenarios for both 2008-09 and 2009-10. The complexities of the timing of state-level information and college implementation of strategies for reducing expenditures were noted. There was a shared concern by faculty, staff and administrators alike to ensure that we focus on the service to students that may be affected by any reduction strategies.
2. **Review and discussion of CCSSE survey data:** The committee discussed an overview of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) survey implemented in spring 2008. CCSSE is a nationally recognized student engagement survey that is specifically designed to assess the extent to which students are involved in good educational practices. It provides useful data in an absolute sense and also relative to other community colleges of similar size. The survey was administered in weeks 7 and 8 of spring 2008 in approximately 50 course sections. The general sample included 683 students, and an additional targeted sample of 305 Basic Skills students also surveyed. Some initial observations:
  - a. The Skyline survey population was significantly more full-time than the overall Skyline population (57% in the sample, 29% in the population), and thus was also younger (56% under the age of 22 in the sample, 40% in the population).
  - b. Skyline's student population is much more ethnically diverse than its Medium College Cohort Group. Specifically, Skyline has 45% Asian / Pacific Islander students while the Comparison Group has 5%. Conversely, the comparison group is 64% White, while Skyline's group is 23% White. Given a separate body of research on cultural differences in student engagement, this may be a critical point when considering benchmark comparisons.
  - c. 92% of the respondents would recommend Skyline to a friend or family member.
  - d. 23% rated their entire educational experience at Skyline as Excellent, and 58% as Good (16% Fair, 3% Poor).
  - e. 27% of the respondents were currently taking classes at other institutions (12% CC, 8% 4-year, 7% other)
3. **Next Steps:** In February, we will further explore the CCSSE Survey Data and Analyses, continue to consider the implications of the budget on college planning, and possibly engage in a discussion of the paradigm shift that a district change to Basic Aid funding versus. FTES funding would engender.

#### **Welcome to Robert Miller, interim Public Information Officer**

Please welcome Robert Nagler Miller our Interim Public Information Officer who will be at Skyline during Shelly Hausman's upcoming maternity leave. Robert most recently served as Director of Public Relations at Marymount College in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Previously, he was Communications Manager at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. A native New Yorker, Robert is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wesleyan University and holds a master's degree

from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. He looks forward to meeting and working with everyone at Skyline.

### Coming Up ...

#### Friday, December 12

- Final Examinations (Day and Evening)
- Women's Basketball at Merritt College, 3 pm
- Annual Hermanos and Hermanas "Noche de Familia," 6 pm, Cafeteria
- Men's Basketball at Skyline, 8 pm

#### Saturday, December 13

- Final Examinations (Day and Evening)
- Women's Basketball at Merritt, TBA
- Wrestling at Victor Valley College, 9 am
- Men's Basketball at Skyline, 7 pm

#### Sunday, December 14

- Women's Basketball at Merritt, TBA
- Men's Basketball at Skyline, 12 pm

#### Monday, December 15

- Final Examinations (Day and Evening) this week

#### Tuesday, December 16

- The Solo and Ensemble Voice Class Recital, 12:30 pm, Gallery Theatre

#### Wednesday, December 17

- Women's Basketball at Skyline, 5 pm

#### Thursday, December 18

- Day and Evening Classes End

#### Friday, December 19

- Men's Basketball at West Valley, 4 pm
- Women's Basketball at Skyline, 7 pm

You can see the event calendar at [www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/calendar.html](http://www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/calendar.html)

To add events to the calendar, visit [www.smccd.net/accounts/skypio/events.html](http://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 suggestions specific to the **budget**, here is the link:



And for ideas about Skyline's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration next year, here is the link:



**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/>.