



Skyline
COLLEGE
Academy

Skyline Shines

October 28, 2011

Vol. 2, No. 10

In this issue:

- [ECE Pathways](#)
- [Faculty in the Learning Center](#)
- [Governance](#)
 - [College Budget Committee](#)
 - [College Governance Council](#)
- [Guidelines for Submission](#)
- [Plan Ahead – Pay Ahead](#)
- [Transfer Day](#)
- [Personal Statement Workshop](#)
- [Visually Impaired Students](#)
- [Unsubscribe](#)

Navigating Skyline College with Visual Impairments

The College Governance Council held discussions on the concerns about challenges present in the college for visually impaired students. DSP&S faculty and staff met with students who shared different views from their perspective. Students with visual impairment have varying levels of visual ability. Some have no sight while others may be able to see varying levels of light.

As you read this, keep in mind that some one of the tools a visually impaired student might be would be trailing the wall or knowing landmarks. When items are moved or placed in the halls, the changes can be challenging for a visually impaired student. Some students who have no sight and cannot see shadows found the Learning Center, cafeteria and hallways to be challenging and reported that their try to avoid those areas. Students who can see shadows found it not as challenging, but also avoided many of these same areas. Here are a few of the issues the students identified for the colleges consideration.

Learning Center - One student reported that “the Learning Center is like a “land mine” because the chairs are all over the place and you can’t navigate the outer walls and one could get hurt with the chairs.

The reported wanting a means to independently log into the system. Currently a person helps them but if the person is not there, they cannot help themselves.

Cafeteria - The students we spoke with tend to go around the cafeteria and not through it because the tables and chairs are always being moved. People tend to set up tables in the

cafeteria along the walls and we have run into them or accidentally knocked the items off the table.

Hallways The hallways should have signs reminding faculty to either open their doors completely or close them completely. A partially open office door is a potential hazard for visually impaired students whose canes may indicate no obstruction but the edge of the door actually is there. Students with vision impairments reported walking into the edge of doors that have been left partially open. Some students tend to sit on the floors in the hallways. The college should ensure there is seating in the halls to avoid floor seating which creates an obstacle and trip hazard. Please avoid leaving random chairs in the hall.

Please notify DSP&S if you or your office will be moving items around on the campus. Many items are used as landmarks for independent mobility and navigation on campus.

One student with vision impairments reported that “Course Compass/Math Lab does not work with any of the assistive technology. When we take a test or use this program DSPS has to read, mark and help submit the answers.”

Students report that “Security [public safety] has been great coming to help us when we get stuck on campus.”

Visually impaired students asked that the college be more considerate when setting up a design for a room or moving items on campus because we use various items as landmarks and without them we can feel disoriented.

Input from DSPS based on experience in working with our students with vision impairments.

Another option that would be really helpful is to have faculty educate their classes about the need to move out of the way in hallways if they see a student walking with a sighted cane.

Course Compass/MathLab is becoming a College-wide problem especially for many DSPS students who use text-to-speech programs such as Kurzweil 3000, screen readers (i.e., JAWS) or screen magnifiers (ZoomText) as an accommodation for their disabilities. The publisher, Pearson, has been made aware on several occasions that their product is not accessible to Assistive Technology but has not made any changes. However, it is up to instructors to work with DSPS staff in order to provide students with disabilities with equal access to the materials in a timely fashion that is compatible with their Assistive Technology.

Having classes over in Pacific Heights is difficult for students with vision impairments. Crossing the road can be very dangerous as drivers don't realize that the students can't see them.

Students have arranged with public safety to have a member of the Security team escort him/her to and from classes. Another student arranged with the Professor to help with safe

navigation to and from classes at Pacific Heights. One option, if possible, is to relocate classes that students with vision impairments take so that these are on the main campus rather than in Pacific Heights, thereby avoiding the need for daily assistance with safe road crossings.

Information provided by Linda Allen

Pass it on to Students - Plan Ahead – Pay Ahead REMINDER



Effective with registration for Spring 2012, the District will be implementing board policy that requires students to pay all fees at the time of registration. Students who do not pay their fees by January 4, 2012 will be dropped from their classes.

In order to make sure that students are able to pay their fees and not be dropped from their classes, they have the opportunity to sign up for an inexpensive payment plan which will allow them to stretch out their payments between their registration date and April 5, 2012. Students can sign up for the payment plan by logging into WebSMART at <https://websmart.smccd.edu/>

Detailed information about the new policy and payment plan is located on the Skyline College website at the following link:

<http://www.skylinecollege.edu/general/admissions/planAhead.html>

Original article submitted by Christianne Marra

California State Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fiona Ma and Skyline College's James I. Wong



California State Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Fiona Ma, Assemblywoman, 12th District, and former San Francisco District Supervisor, joined the Wong Family for an informal afternoon luncheon, including Skyline College's James I. Wong, Professor of History and Geography. The luncheon at his mother's apartment in San Francisco included several hours of reminiscences about growing up Chinese American, as well as discussion about the state of affairs in San Francisco, California, China, and the United States. The Assemblywoman also expressed to James of her earnest desire to speak on the campus of Skyline College in the future.

Shown in Photo: Speaker Pro Tem Fiona Ma, in brown jacket, next to the Wong Family Matriarch (in cap). Also included in the photo are the 6 siblings and 2 in-laws of the extended Wong Family. James is pictured in the white shirt next to his mother.

Article submitted by James I. Wong

Transfer Day - A Huge Success!



On Monday, October 24, 2011 the Skyline College Transfer Center hosted Transfer Day - with huge success! Thirty colleges were represented at the event, making this the biggest Transfer Day the college has hosted! Hundreds of students met with representatives from the California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), Private Colleges & Universities, and Out-of-State Colleges to discuss their transfer options, get updated admissions information, discussion program impactions, and more! Here is what the representatives had to say about the event: "The best of any fair yet!"; "Keep up the great event planning! Very well done!"; "Excellent! With budget cuts limiting college representative travel, we were fortunate to have so many representatives interested in visiting our college.

This year, our event was co-sponsored by DeVry University who generously provided a delicious lunch for the college representatives.

Thank you to all the people who helped make this event such a huge success:

- A special thank you to Devry University, for co-sponsoring the event
- Transfer Center staff & students - Dina Valedelomar, Transfer Center Career Resources Counseling Aide, Jacquie Escobar, Transfer Center Director; Nadia Tariq, Career Resources Counseling Aide; Counselors Suzanne Collins and Lou Ferguson; Student Assistants Rae De la Rosa, Yee Chan, and Saba Nazir; and students James and Alex.
- Skyline College faculty & staff - Thank you to the Skyline College community for encouraging your students to attend Transfer Day, for bringing your classes to the event, for giving extra credit to students who attended the event - THANK YOU!

List of participating colleges:

| CSUs | Private College Universities | Out-of-State Colleges & Universities |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| East Bay | Academy of Art University | Arizona State University |
| Humboldt | Art Institute | Binghamton University |
| CSU Monterey Bay | Calif. Integral Studies | Oklahoma City University |
| CSU Northridge | DeVry | University of British Columbia |
| San Francisco State | FIDM | University of Nevada Reno |
| San Jose State | Golden Gate University | |
| | Holy Names University | |
| UCs | Menlo College | |
| UC Berkeley | National University | |
| UC Davis | NDNU | |
| | Palo Alto University | |
| UC MeUC San Diego | Stanford University | |
| UC Santa Cruz | USF | |
| | William Jessup University | |

Article submitted by Katharine Harer.

ECE Career Pathways to Your Future



On Thursday evening, October 20, 70 participants from Early Childhood Education heard from a panel of professionals about Careers and College pathways. Using Early Childhood Education as a foundation, students can plan a range of careers working with and in support of children and families.

The group was welcomed by Business Dean *Don Carlson*, and Skyline College student data was presented by County Office of Education/EQuIP Director & SMCCD alumni *Jeanie McLoughlin*. Several panelists from Skyline College told their stories of inspiration: Professor *Steve Aurilio* from Juvenile Justice, *Liz Llamas* of Counseling & Family Therapy, and *Elaine Francisco* of Special Education described their work and how it connects to ECE. *Dr. Rene Dahl* of San Francisco State described the Bachelor program in Child & Adolescent Development, and alumni *Jennifer In* and *Teresa Campbell* described their experiences as CAD students.



Skyline College Transfer Director *Jacque Escobar* outlined transfer requirements, and the

requirements and services here at Skyline were noted by ECE Program Services Coordinators *Cece Rebele & Sue Eftekhari* [Canada College], Chair *Kate Williams Browne*, and Child Development Center Director *Tina Watts*.

Stay tuned for the next ECE event, Saturday 4th of February. Entitled “Orientation to the ECE Field,” this morning session is for those interested in the Teaching Profession in early care and education.

Submitted by Kate Williams Browne, Chair/Program Coordinator, ECE Department
Photos by: KW Browne

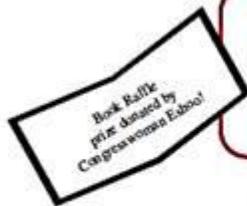


California Women Lead
ENGAGE • EMPOWER • ELECT

California Women Lead in the Morning Breakfast with Delaine Eastin

Join the California Women Lead San Mateo County Chapter and the former Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin for a conversation on the power of women in policymaking.

Delaine Eastin has been in various levels of elected office, from the City Council in Union City to the State Assembly to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. She has been a stalwart advocate of children and has been dedicated to making education a priority.



November 2, 2011
7:30-9:00 a.m.
Poplar Creek Grill
1700 Coyote Point Drive
San Mateo
\$25 Members/\$35 Non-members

Please register by October 25th!

California Women Lead is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women interested in or who hold elected and appointed office. The Commission on the Status of Women initiated the development of the San Mateo County Chapter in 2008.



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

CA Women Lead San Mateo County Chapter Breakfast with Delaine Eastin
Register online at www.cawomenlead.org OR send check and this form to:
California Women Lead, 1201 K Street, Suite 1850, Sacramento, CA 95814

Name _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Email _____

CAWL Member—\$25 Non-member—\$35

For further information, contact 650-363-4460

Skyline Students Chosen for Leadership Conference



A select group of Skyline College students honed leadership skills for the future during a special conference for engineering and computer science majors.

The Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Student Leadership Conference offers extensive professional and leadership development through direct interaction with industry mentors and speakers. The hand-picked MESA students, engineering or computer science majors, are from 25 universities and community colleges across the state, including Skyline.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) sponsored the event with a \$60,000 grant that allowed 152 students to attend. More than 18 PG&E employees volunteered their time to work closely with the students during the conference October 6-8 at the Oakland Convention Center.

PG&E has supported MESA since 1979 and will be recognized for the extensive assistance in helping educationally disadvantaged MESA students graduate in math-based fields. Joel Dickson, director of pipeline safety and partnerships at PG&E, encouraged students to continue on their educational paths.

Other sponsors include San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Gas Company, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District and Vanir Construction Management, Inc.

Student attendees represent the following campuses: CSU Chico, CSU East Bay, CSU Fresno, CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Sacramento, San Diego State University, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, Sonoma State University, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, American River College (Sacramento), Butte College (Oroville), Cañada College (Redwood City), City College of San Francisco,

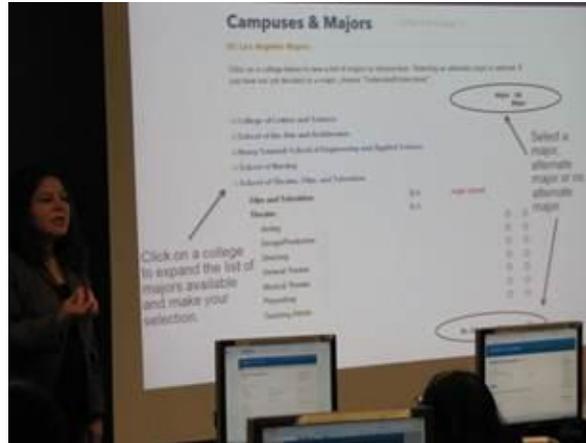
Cosumnes River College (Sacramento), Los Medanos College (Pittsburg), Mission College (Santa Clara), Napa Valley College, Sacramento City College, San Diego City College, San Joaquin Delta College, Skyline College (San Bruno), Southwestern College, Yuba College (Marysville).

For more information about MESA visit <http://mesa.ucop.edu/home.html>. This contribution was written by MESA Statewide Office Communications Coordinator Danielle McNamara.

Pictured are Joel Dickson of PG&E on the left with Skyline College MESA Director Stephen Fredricks (Center right) and Skyline College MESA students (left to right) Salim Hanhan & Phillip Cho (rear), Johnny Turney (Center), Elaine Talle and Rachel Pangani (Front).

Photo Credit: MESA photographer Jesus Barot.

TRiO Partners with Transfer Center for UC Application and Personal Statement Workshop



The months of October and November are crucial for students transferring to a UC or CSU as admission applications to these institutions are being accepted. In an effort to promote transfer and to assist students with the transfer process, the TRiO program, in collaboration with Jacqueline Escobar, Director of the Transfer Center hosted a UC Application and Personal Statement Workshop on Tuesday, October 18, 2011.



During the workshop, approximately twenty TRiO students received important updates regarding admissions to the UC system as well as step by step instructions on how to complete the application. In addition, Jacquie reviewed the UC personal statement prompts and provided a number of strategies for writing a strong and convincing personal statement. Throughout the workshop, TRiO students were engaged and asked questions that helped clarify the admissions process to the UC system.

The workshop was well-received among TRiO students, who now have a better understanding on how to apply to the UCs. Special thanks to Jacqueline Escobar for facilitating such a successful workshop.

Article submitted by Jessica Lopez

Shared Governance: College Governance Council

The College Governance Council met on September 26, 2011. The committee addressed the following issues:

- Accreditation Update – The Steering Committee will hold its first meeting on 11/2/11. The group will review the functions of the committee, establish the timeline, identify writing team members, determine how to celebrate key milestones. It was stressed that this is a collaborative college-wide effort.
- Access for Visually Impaired Students – The DSP&S staff met with a group of visually impaired students to follow up on the concerns regarding access raised at the previous college council meeting. A list of ideas was shared and will be made available to appropriate offices, committees and departments.
- Modifications of Served in Building 6 – The coffee stand will be changed to a new location due to code requirements. Tom Bauer has met with Amory and is scheduled to provide information to ASSC at their next meeting. The new location will have a coffee shop “feel” and will be located next to the server where the cafeteria food is prepared.
- Evaluation of Governance Process – The committee discussed how we might go about evaluating the shared governance process. There was a discussion as to whether we should agree to a common definition of governance before evaluating the process. Ideas included:
 - Have people weigh in on interpretations of shared governance
 - Bring in back up materials
 - Survey instruments - committee structure/participation
 - Measure level of satisfaction
 - Survey – Is your voice heard and do you get response?
 - Survey - Do you participate?
 - Review compendium for participants to compare against perceptions
 - Look at consistency of who is on the committee
 - Look at participation of evening and weekend faculty, students and staff
 - Ask for committee evaluation feedback (self-evaluation by committee members)
 - Consider how the information is communicated, distributed, presented
 - What are the preferred methods of delivery
- SEED/Equity Update – David Ulate reported that the committee is well on its way in identifying the overall research question to be addressed as the college uses a comprehensive diversity framework. Arising out the district strategic plan, the college has connected a number of initiatives to address the framework. The work is the culmination of work done through the Equal Opportunity Committee, the Museum of Tolerance Alumni, the Student Success Committee, Campus Change Network, Foundations of Excellence and the First Year Experience effort. A facilitator has brought the tools developed by California Tomorrow to support the equity work in the domains identified by the committee. The group will lead a campus dialogue and research effort related to the draft research question “How do our practices and processes in connection, entry, progress and completion impact student success at Skyline College. The domains of interest are (1) community connections, (2) curricular and pedagogical approaches to equity, (3) resources to succeed, (4) student support services

and processes. (5) communication and dissemination of information and (6) hiring diversity

The next agenda items will include a review of the Governance Thematic Model

Faculty Engaging Students in The Learning Center



As the semester progresses, the Learning Center has been an instructional support hub for faculty, staff, and students with the purpose of facilitating student success at Skyline College. This semester, The Learning Center has been a popular location for faculty to host their office hour, meet with students, and be an accessible resource on campus. Three faculty members in particular have consistently been meeting with groups of students from their courses in The Learning Center, including Luciana Castro (Language Arts Division), Vanson Nguyen (Math, Science Technology Division), and David Hasson (Math, Science, Technology Division).

In speaking with Luciana, Vanson, and David about their unique use of the Center to encourage and promote student learning, they had the following to say:

Luciana Castro:

I think the students feel a bit more intimate and ready to go in The Learning Center. My students are there for vocabulary enhancement and conversation, what we do not have time to go over in class. I am enjoying the experience quite a bit and I feel they are too. Their performance in class has been better than other students who do not come to The Learning Center. It is a treat to be able to do this now!

Vanson Nguyen:

For many students, academic resources have not been accessible to them. There are several reasons why students haven't used them: they didn't know about them or couldn't afford them. When these same students get to Skyline College, it's hard for them to grasp the idea of free resources that help them succeed. They've never used them before, so why should they use them now?

The Learning Center is a great resource for students. Tutoring and computers are easily accessible for students and the services are FREE! I want my students to use the many resources on campus and that starts with The Learning Center. Whether or not my students have used resources before, it's important to know that there's always help. As a result, I hold my office hours in The Learning Center and have students sit at the tables, working together.

By utilizing The Learning Center, I have seen students' learning improve and, as a result, their grades increase. With the extra opportunities to understand the material, I see first-hand the newfound confidence my students gain. It's not just the tutoring that helps; when they work with other classmates, the learning process becomes a fun. My goal is to get students to incorporate working in The Learning Center as part of their daily lives by creating a socially rewarding environment. I believe the more time these students spend on campus and accessing resources, the more their perception of themselves in college positively changes.



David Hasson:

Each and every time I perform an On Course assessment of my developmental math students, I find that the majority of them have accepted personal responsibility and discovered self-motivation. But when it comes to employing interdependence and adopting lifelong learning, they are more often than not severely lacking. Their education up till then has essentially taught them to stick to themselves, do the work, and get out of the classroom as quickly as possible. This is where working in study groups at The Learning Center becomes necessary.

As opposed to a computer lab or other areas where silence and isolation are required, everyone is talking to teach other in The Learning Center, whether working with a computer or a textbook, on an essay or a math problem. The Learning Center isn't just about getting my students a quick fix with their homework. It's about giving them a new home to connect across subjects and with each other. It's about showing them what interdependence and lifelong learning are all about.

A special thank you goes out to Luciana, Vanson, and David for their reflections and

everyone else for supporting The Learning Center as an academic resource for students on campus. For more information on The Learning Center, please contact Nohel Corral, Learning Center and TRiO Director, at 650-738-4161 or visit us in Building 5, room 5100.

Article and photos submitted by Nohel Corral.

Coming Up...

Coming Up...

October 28, 2011

- 2:00 p.m., Women's Soccer vs. LPC @ Skyline
- 4:00 p.m., Men's Soccer vs. Ohlone @ Fremont
- 6:30 p.m., Volleyball vs. San Jose City College @ San Jose

October 29, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Skyline College ESL Registration Day – Building 5, Learning Center; for more information, please call 650-738-7089 or email skyeli@smccd.edu

October 31, 2011

- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Celebrate Halloween on the Main Quad with Games and Prizes, sponsored by Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) and Associated Students of Skyline College (ASSC)
- 12:00 p.m., Halloween Costume Contest on the Main Quad sponsored by GSA and ASSC

November 1, 2011

- 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Día de los Muertos Reception featuring live music and refreshments – Art Gallery, Building 1
- 2:00 p.m., Men's Soccer vs. Foothill @ Skyline
- 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Dance Auditions for Skyline College's Spring 2012 Musical "Cabaret" – Dance Studio (Room 3201), Building 3; email Jude Navari (navarij@smccd.edu) for audition materials

November 2, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Holiday Job Fair hosted by the Skyline College Career Center – Building 6, Dining Hall
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., FAFSA Workshop – Building 2, Room 2117B
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Empty Bowls Project Fundraiser hosted by Skyline College Ceramics Club – Dining Hall, Building 6; tickets \$10; please contact Tiffany Schmierer at schmierert@smccd.edu for more information

- 6:30 p.m., Volleyball vs. CCSF @ Skyline
- 7:00 p.m., Wrestling vs. Santa Rosa @ Santa Rosa

November 3, 2011

- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Acting & Singing Auditions for Skyline College’s Spring 2012 Musical “Cabaret” – Choir Room (Room 1111), Building 1; email Jude Navari (navarij@smccd.edu) for audition materials

Future Events – Mark Your Calendar!

November 10, 2011

- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., *A Reading with R. Zamora Linmark and Marianne Villanueva* – Hosting Gallery (4240, Multicultural Center), Building 4

November 11, 2011

- Holiday – Veterans’ Day

November 17, 2011

- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., SparkPoint Center Open House – Room 1219B, Building 1

November 19, 2011

- 7:30 p.m., Third Annual Performing Arts Showcase at Skyline College – Building 1, Theater (tickets available at the door for \$10 or purchase online for \$5 by November 16 at <http://www.SkylineCollege.edu/bookstore/PAS>)

November 22, 2011

- 12:30 – 3:45 p.m., Skyline Students Speak: Thanksgiving Feast and Idea Fest - Room 6202, Building 6 (for more information contact Jennifer Mair at mairj@smccd.edu)

November 23, 2011

- Evening Courses Only – Declared Recess

November 24, 2011

- Holiday – Thanksgiving

November 25 - 27, 2011

- Declared Recess

For the latest information on events and activities happening at Skyline College, please view our calendar at the following link:

http://www.skylinecollege.edu/current/calendarsandevents/news_events.html

If you would like to include your college event or activity on the calendar, please submit the information (event, date, time and location) to Christianne Marra in the Public Information Office via email at marrac@smccd.edu.

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Guidelines Skyline Shines Submissions

Many of you submit material to be included in Skyline Shines. Thanks so much for taking time to help me keep the college informed. Here are a few guidelines that will facilitate the publication of Skyline Shines each week.

Send submission to skylineshines@smccd.edu

- Place your submission in a word document with your pictures pasted in the document.
- Use medium sized pictures that are equal to ¼ or ½ of a page.
- Use Times New Roman 12pt. font that is justified to the left for the body of the article.
- Don't forget to add a headline/title using 18 pt. bold font that is justified to the center
- Use the following commonly accepted abbreviations: a.m. or p.m. (i.e. "The event will be held from 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m." "The workshop is scheduled to run from 9:30 a.m. – Noon.")
- Spell out numbers of one or two words. Use figures for numbers that require more than two words to spell out. (i.e. "Almost eight years ago I began taking ceramics courses." And "I counted 176 records on the shelf.")
- If a sentence begins with a number, spell out the number or rewrite the sentence.
- Use the month, day, a comma and the year to indicate the date (i.e. "March 4, 2011" not "March 4th, 2011 or March 2nd, 2011")
- Add the word College when you refer to the name Skyline (i.e. Skyline College instead of Skyline)

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If you would like to include your college event or activity on the calendar, please submit the information (event, date, time and location) to Christianne Marra in the

Public Information Office via email at marrac@smccd.edu.

Do you have a suggestion?

One way to submit it is through our general **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/general/surveys/index.html>



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

· The California Community College 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/facstaff/PresidentsOffice/skyshines/>

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If you are receiving this newsletter and would like to discontinue receiving it, please notify us at skyline shines@smccd.edu and we will remove you from the distribution list.