The Learning Commons Newsletter

The COMMONGOOD

Learning Commons Newsletter • Academic Support & Learning Technologies Division

The Learning Center Overview

Meet Our Featured Student Assistant

Being able to work at a public library really opened my eyes to the wonderful services libraries can provide. One of the greatest services is that it’s free!

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Embedded Library Services

In Fall 2018, the Skyline College Library began embedding library services in Canvas course shells for hybrid and online classes.

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Academic Skills Workshops
Workshops are free to Skyline College students and prepares them for academic success. Workshop topics include study skills, Microsoft Office basics, the writing process, language practice groups and mathematical skills and concepts, among others.

Peer Mentoring
Peer Mentoring is designed to help students maximize their educational experience and have a fulfilling and successful education at Skyline College in a one-on-one and group setting. Peer Mentors assist students through the obstacles that arise during the semester, creating positive and effective habits that lead to academic, professional and personal success.

Proctoring Services
Proctoring services allow faculty or staff to schedule individual make-up exams for current Skyline College students. Students* who are interested in proctoring services for their make-up exams must contact their instructor. Faculty or staff can request proctoring services by filling out a request form.

Supplemental Instruction
This service is designed to help students succeed in difficult courses through group learning sessions. Sessions are facilitated by student leaders who have completed the targeted course and received comprehensive training. Students engage in collaborative learning, compare and clarify lecture notes, review textbook readings and discuss key course concepts. Student leaders do not lecture or replicate the work of faculty.

Tutoring Support
All tutoring at the Learning Center is done through the Learning Center Labs in a variety of subjects: Writing and Reading, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Math and Science, Social Science & Business tutoring, and World Languages support.

Contact Information
Building 5, 1st Floor
Phone: (650) 738-4144
Web: skylinecollege.edu/learningcenter

Lights on Despite Campus Blackouts
Despite campus blackouts, both students and student staff members in The Learning Center refused to let the darkness cloud their thoughts. Peer Mentors and Tutors resorted to using smartphone lights to continue working with their tutees. Student Assistants opened window blinds to allow additional light into the center for students working in the general study area. Supplemental Instruction Leaders continued their group sessions, collectively using the lights from their smartphones and laptops as well.

This example is one of many instances that highlights the Skyline College community's dedication to working together to advance educational goals and overcome any challenges that impede them. Although all students, staff and faculty members were evacuated from campus for safety reasons, the blackout did not dim Learning Center inhabitants from continuing to persevere.

Article by Joshua Lindo, Instructional Aide II

Meet Our Featured Student Assistant
The Learning Commons is more than a place for students to receive educational resources. It is a place where students can develop work skills and contribute to the educational success of their peers. The Learning Commons wants to highlight Marissa Vazquez’s journey to become a future Librarian. Being able to work at a public library really opened Marissa’s eyes to the wonderful services libraries can provide. One of the greatest services is it’s free!

She wasn’t a good student until she started working in a library. Working in one gave her a sense of purpose, as well as finally seeing a possible career path. Seeing the programs and resources being utilized by people in need and witnessing how those services impacted their lives was something she wanted to get behind. Marissa realized she needed to change and do well in school.

Marissa uses her experience working in Redwood City Public and Skyline College libraries to remind herself that there are people counting on her. Although she has not pinpointed a specific focus in a library, she knows she will continue to work in one. With the encouragement from her colleagues, as well as learning from them, Marissa knows one day she can create her own programs and further help our community.

Article by Marissa Vazquez, Library Student Assistant, and Sherri Wyatt, Instructional Aide II
In Fall 2018, the Library piloted the Human Library project to celebrate the diversity of the Skyline College community. Human Library is an international movement that began in Denmark to build a positive framework for conversations to challenge stereotypes and prejudices through one-on-one conversations. For more information, check out our website bit.ly/2RU1DTo-SkylineHumanLibrary.

Article by Pia Walawalkar, Librarian

### A SPACE FOR THE POETIC VOICE

The Learning Commons Poetry Corner continues to be a successful monthly event hosted in the Library. Each event is tied to a theme and designed to elicit participation from students and faculty, readers and listeners alike. Participating students and faculty read from contemporary poets as well as their own works. The Poetry Corner is a democratic, brave space where students can share their creativity, express their ideas and voice their concerns about the political and environmental climate and racial and gender issues through the creative medium of poetry. For more information, visit guides.skylinecollege.edu/poetry/poetrycorner.

Article by Pia Walawalkar, Librarian

### PEER MENTORING IS AVAILABLE

The Peer Mentoring Program at Skyline College is designed to help all students achieve their short and long term goals. Our eight peer mentors are trained to facilitate academic and personal tracks for their fellow students through building practical skills and knowledge of college resources; fostering social engagement and a sense of belonging; increasing student engagement in academics; and developing education, leadership, career, and learning goals. The goal is to increase student retention and mentee achievement by leveraging the skills of experienced Skyline College students or peer mentors.

Article by Raymon Gutierrez, Retention Specialist

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In Fall 2018, the Skyline College Library began embedding library services in Canvas course shells for hybrid and online classes. To meet the needs of growing numbers of Skyline College Distance Education students, library services are being offered to students where they are: online - in addition to our physical on-campus location in Building 5.

The Skyline College Library dedicated a librarian to the BS Respiratory Care program, who coordinated with faculty to provide instructional support and delivery of library services via synchronous Zoom class sessions, Canvas discussion threads, tutorials, and dedicated support time for hybrid class meetings. Moving library research and writing support into synchronous and asynchronous distance delivery enabled students who would not otherwise utilize the physical Library to become familiar with our online resources as well as their direct application to course objectives.

Maintaining a continuous presence within Canvas and integrating library services into the curriculum of distance education courses in ways that directly support student learning outcomes is an exciting and effective way to support student success.

For further information on embedded library services, please contact Ame Maloney, MLIS and Adjunct Librarian at maloneya@smccd.edu or visit our Online Learning webpage is: skylinecollege.edu/onlineeducation.

Article by Ame Maloney, Program Services Coordinator - ZTC
MEET OUR FEATURED STAFF

Each semester, we spotlight a few members of our team who are dedicated in making the Learning Commons a student-focused environment.

FEATUED
Marina Sobolevskaya
Adjunct Librarian
Originally from Saint Petersburg, Russia, I immigrated to the United States in 1993 and lived in Orlando, Florida. In March 2017, I accepted the Librarian - Russian language position at San Francisco Public Library and moved to San Francisco. I hold a degree in Russian literature and bibliography from the State Institute of Culture in Saint Petersburg, Russia; a Masters in Library/Information Science from the University of South Florida; and Masters of Science in Health Care Informatics from the University of Central Florida. I love sightseeing, attending live music performances, and taking long hikes with my dog. My favorite dish is the vegetarian Borsch.

Raymon Gutierrez
Retention Specialist
I enjoy practicing the martial art of Jiu-Jitsu because it allows me to disconnect from the world and practice being in the moment. Also, I enjoy sushi, super carnitas burritos, or a nice avocado bacon burger with grilled onions.

Joshua M. Lindo
Instructional Aide II
My favorite food is anything with noodles (pasta, ramen, pho, etc.). In my spare time, I enjoy exploring new (at least new to me) cafes in San Francisco, playing video games, and occasionally doing Japanese archery.

Gavin Townsley
Program Services Coordinator, Supplemental Instruction
In my spare time I like to run, hike, rock climb, read, write, and play video games. I don’t have a favorite food, but I love making great vegan dishes.

Fiona Potter
Adjunct Librarian
My favorite food is tofu. In my spare time I enjoy jogging, reading, and baking sourdough bread.

Jason DeCastro
Adjunct Librarian
I enjoy Brazilian food (which goes way beyond just churrasco!) and a good slice of NY pizza. When I’m not at work I enjoy traveling and watching movies and sports.

Hong Gou
Instructional Aide II/Adjunct Instructor
My favorite cuisines are Japanese and Mexican. For my free time, I take landscape photographs. I want to travel the world someday!

Bryan Swartout
Instructional Aide II
My favorite food is hot pot; and on my free time (but what free time?) I hike, cook and ski.

For a detailed list of all the Learning Commons staff, please visit skylinecollege.edu/asltdivision/learningcommons.php.