

# President's Report to the Board of Trustees

**Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud  
April 25, 2012**

## **ASSC Members head to ASACC Conference in Washington, DC**



*Right to Left: Commissioner of Publicity Mark Lipkin, Commissioner of Activities Juliana Franco, Senator Nina Turner, ASSC Senator Christian Etienne, and ASSC Senator Dean Kevin Santos*

On March 17-20 Associated Students of Skyline College sent four student representatives to the national lobby conference hosted by the American Student Association for Community Colleges in Washington, D.C.

Students attended sessions to educate themselves about growing cuts to Pell Grants, increasing interest rates on student loans, and the consequences community colleges are facing with growing budget problems in the United States. Students were able to meet with leaders in lobbying efforts as well as other political leaders including Ralph Nader and Senator Nina Turner. As students gained information and skills, they prepped to apply it on Monday as they met with the representatives from California to encourage them to support the students that attend Skyline College.

During meetings with aides from Senator Barbara Boxer's office and Congressman Sam Farr's office, the Student Representatives advocated for their fellow students by discussing current issues and trends as well as sharing personal stories and fears that access to education is slipping away from all except for the

financially elite. They ended their day with a lobbying meeting with Congresswoman Jackie Speier herself.

Students spent their weekend learning how to help students help themselves. They have returned with a renewed focus to keep the fight going here and hope to start initiatives to make their voices heard at the state and federal levels.

*(Article and photo provided by Meena Naik.)*

## **Skyline College International Students Program Welcomes Rotarians from Brazil**



Dr. Joi Blake, Vice President of Student Services, on behalf of Dr. Regina Stanback-Stroud, in partnership with the International Students Program and the Marketing and Public Relations Department welcomed a group of 5 Rotarians from Brazil. The group was hosted by the Pacifica Rotary Club who toured with the group around the Bay Area. The Brazilian Rotarians consisted of educators who were curious to learn about the educational system in the United States, as well as, Skyline College's International Students Program.

Dr. Joi Blake, Dr. John Mosby and Richard Soyombo provided a wealth of knowledge on the nuances of the United States educational system and how community colleges in our country provide a "safety net" for students so that all students, regardless of their ethnicity, gender or background, may reach their higher educational goals. Unfortunately, it was learned that this is not the case in Brazil, where socio-economic status dictates the ability to access higher education.

The group was particularly interested in the vast programs and certificates offered at Skyline College and were given the opportunity to tour the Cosmetology facility. Jaye Akin-Taylor, Project Director of the International Students Program provided the group with packages of information on the application process of International Students admission into Skyline College. A new and exciting partnership between the Pacifica Rotarians, the Brazilian Rotarians and Skyline College is currently in the works.

*(Article provided by Richard Soyombo and Jaye Akin-Taylor. Photo provided by Cherie Napier.)*

## Solar and Building Science Learning Center Grand Opening



*Pictured here: Model home instructional lab and Bruce Greenstein, Building Science Instructor and Coordinator*

Skyline College celebrated the grand opening of the new Solar and Building Science Learning Center. The Center is made possible by support from the San Mateo Community College District, the Department of Labor, and generous donations from industry partners such as SDI Insulation and Impact Energy. Located in Pacific Heights Room 120, the Center will house the solar technology program and new educational programs in energy efficiency. The Center includes classroom space, lab space for solar installation, and a model home instructional lab. This innovative lab, one of just a handful in the Bay Area, features all basic elements of a home including lighting, insulation, HVAC system, appliances, attic space and crawl space. The lab will be used to teach new construction techniques for retrofitting a home to be more energy efficient, and serve as a tool for energy efficiency assessments. The Center will not just be used for Skyline College Environmental Technology programs, but can also be used for community education and as a resource for other academic programs, colleges, schools and the PG&E Pacific Energy Center. Special thanks go to Bruce Greenstein, Julie Einboden, Aaron Wilcher, Rita Gulli, Peter Waring, Omer Thompson, SMCCD Facilities and Swinerton, and a number of other students, staff and faculty for their efforts to build this Learning Center and establish Skyline College as a premier location for Environmental Technology education.

*(Article provided by Anjana Richards. Photos provided by Christianne Marra.)*

## Skyline College Environmental Technology Faculty Train Union Tradespeople on Energy Efficiency Measures



On March 8, 2012 the Environmental Technology program at Skyline College and San Mateo County Building Trades Council celebrated the graduation of an energy efficiency and business management course. Students included HVAC technicians from Sheet Metal Local 104, electricians from IBEW Local 617, and the Northern California Carpenters. A handful of union business development representatives, training directors, and contractors also participated in the program.

The classes offered training en route to an industry-recognized certification from the Building Performance Institute (BPI). The credential signifies that a worker is trained in standards and best practices for conducting energy assessments for retrofits in single-family homes. Industry refers to the products and services as “whole-house home performance.”

The class also sought to train students in how to create and execute business plans for the home performance products and services. Policymakers in California have created new programs to encourage this work, and many traditional construction firms are testing out the industry as a potential source for profit. In 2008, the California Public Utilities Commission adopted an "Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan" that creates new codes and incentives to encourage this work through 2020.

Faculty members in Environmental Technology and staff from Green and Sustainable programs at Skyline College worked for most of 2011 on developing the class with the County of San Mateo's Workforce Investment Board as part of a \$2.5 million Department of Labor grant program called Home Energy retrofit Occupations (HERO). For more information, contact Aaron Wilcher, Faculty Program Coordinator, Environmental Technology via email at [wilchera@smccd.edu](mailto:wilchera@smccd.edu).

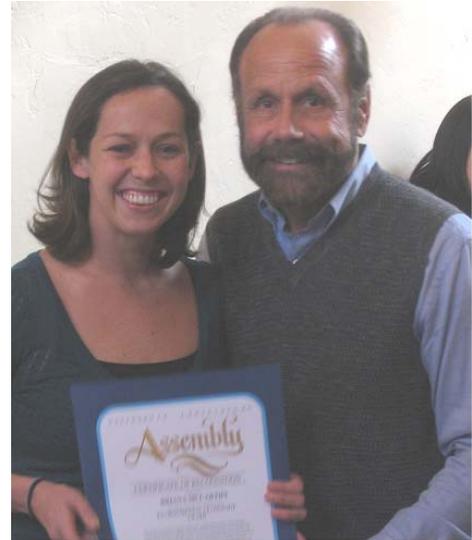
*(Article provided by Aaron Wilcher.)*

## **Briana McCarthy Awarded the Environmental Leadership Award by Assemblymember Jerry Hill**

On Saturday, March 10, 2012, Skyline College Adjunct Faculty member Briana McCarthy was honored with the Environmental Leadership Award by Assemblymember Jerry Hill. Assemblymember Hill started the Environmental Leadership Award in order to provide a showcase for businesses, individuals and others in the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District who embrace environmentally-friendly practices. In establishing the award he stated that “it is our responsibility to see that future generations enjoy the opportunities that we have and that includes keeping our community and our planet clean and sustainable.”

Currently Briana is teaching ENVS 680SD, Environmental Service Learning, which is funded by the Skyline College President’s Innovation Fund and part of the Sustainable Campus Initiative.

Also, she is heading up the Faculty Learning Community on Sustainability, which meets once a month.



*Left to Right: Briana McCarthy,  
Assemblymember Jerry Hill*

*(Article provided by Lindsey Virdeh and Marc Hershman.)*

## **Skyline View, Students and Professor Honored at Annual State Convention of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges**



Seven Skyline College journalism students and their instructor attended the Journalism Association of Community Colleges State Convention in Burbank on March 22-25, 2012. The Skyline View took home general excellence for online journalism, with individual students winning several other awards. Former staffer Dean Kevin Santos won third place for profile feature in the mail-in categories. In the on-the-spot competitions, entertainment editor Diane Thao received honorable mention for editorial cartoon, and Blair Hardee, editor in chief, took home honorable mention in both news story and broadcast news writing. She and social media editor Terence Chin both received scholarships from the organization. Adviser Nancy Kaplan-Biegel was presented with the journalism educator of the year award in the two-year division from the California Journalism Education Coalition.

The convention brought together more than 550 students and faculty from community college journalism programs around the state and beyond. In addition to participating in contests, the students attended a variety of workshops given by industry professionals, heard from the Pulitzer prize winning LA Times reporters who broke the Bell salary scandal, visited media outlets such as CBS, and received hands-on training in such areas as creating podcasts, speaking in front of a teleprompter and participating in a media “tweetup” using Twitter.

*(Article and photo provided by Nancy Kaplan-Biegel.)*

# Skyline College Wins Silver Medallion Award from NCMPR



The Skyline College Office of Development, Marketing and Public Relations was recently awarded a 2011 District 6 Silver Medallion for original photography by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. The award-winning photograph (at left) was taken by Christianne Marra, Communications Manager, during 2011 Commencement ceremonies at Skyline College.

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) represents marketing and public relations at community and technical colleges around the country. NCMPR's primary focus is providing support to the professional growth of individuals

working in these areas. District 6 of NCMPR is comprised of community and technical colleges in the following locations: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Territory of Guam.



*(Article provided by Christianne Marra. Photo provided by Liz Gaudet.)*

# SparkPoint at Skyline College Receives Superior Partnership Recognition Award



SparkPoint at Skyline College was recently recognized for Superior Partnership for “*outstanding contribution to our partnership in serving our customers and our community*” by Jorge A. Tapia, San Francisco / San Mateo Cluster Manager ARU 504, and Emilia Bartolomeu, Deputy Division Chief, Region 2. SparkPoint at Skyline College was launched in January of 2010. Core partners in both planning and implementation for SparkPoint include United Way of the Bay Area, Jewish Vocational Service and the California Employment Development Department (EDD). EDD offers benefits for unemployed Californians including unemployment insurance, disability insurance, paid family leave, and employment seeking services.

EDD, which provides co-located services on-site at the SparkPoint Center five days per week, represents an important part of the Skyline College Career Center's expansion to include employment services integrated with SparkPoint services and resources.

*(Article and Photo provided by William Watson.)*

## 32<sup>nd</sup> EYH Conference Draws 900 Girls

The Expanding Your Horizons conference provides an opportunity for 6th through 12th grade young women to learn about career opportunities in math, science and technology. On Saturday, March 17, over 950 girls participated in 46 workshops filled with fun, hands-on activities from a wide array of disciplines, presented by experts who volunteer their time. The keynote speaker was Dorian Daley, Oracle Senior Vice-President and General Counsel. Several workshops were led by teams of Skyline College students representing Phi Theta Kappa, SACNAS, MESA, AMSA, Respiratory Therapy, and Heart Wrenchers. These students developed their hands-on labs with Chris Case, Nick Kapp, Nancy Ruis, Carmen Velez, Sandra Hsu, Ray Hernandez, and Julia Johnson. Skyline alumnae Dr. Anna Dneprov, Ashley Good, Rachel Sage, and Charity Walden returned to present workshops.



*Take a look at these girls (from top left) as they eat alginate noodles, pet a slug, get crime scene evidence, write a secret code, look through the microscope, isolate DNA, and fill the gym.*

One participant's mother wrote: "My daughter just came back from EYH and absolutely loved it! I want to thank you so much for providing her with this wonderful opportunity to make learning about math & science fun." The girls said EYH was "Cool," "Awesome," and "Fantastic." The girls had fun and felt that they learned. The workshops "opened my mind to new careers." One girl wrote that it was "a wonderful experience that I will never forget."

The program was funded by Bank of America Foundation, Rambus, Soroptimist of North San Mateo County, and Wells Fargo. The program was planned by AJ Bates, Don Biederman, Shari Bookstaff, Pat Carter, Christine Case, Stephen Fredricks, Jon Freedman, Mousa Ghanma, Ray Hernandez, Kylin Johnson, Nick Kapp, Julie Mooney, Vanson Nguyen, Pat Tyler, and Carmen Velez.

*(Article provided by Christine Case. Photo provided by Andrea Caesar.)*

## ASTEP Represents Skyline College at UMOJA

Skyline College ASTEP & ASTEP/Math Academy students attended the UMOJA (state-wide African American Learning Community) Northern Regional Symposium at Diablo Valley College (DVC) on March 23, 2012. Skyline College students, joined by students from DVC, Sierra College, Chabot, Los Medanos, American River College & Los Rios College, were leaders in morning small group discussions, asking “If I were your teacher....?” After lunch they were inspired by a presentation from Darrick Smith, of Learning Works in Oakland, who spoke about the need for them to realize their potential obstacles but not be constrained by them. During the entire day, Skyline College students were active and highly visible contributors to this motivating event.



*Bottom Row: Nicole Sarne, DeShawn Davis, Chanel Piper  
Top row: D’Eboni Butler, Leah Navarre-Johnson, Professor  
Phyllis Taylor, Carlos Machado*

*(Article provided by Phyllis Taylor. Photo provided by Teresa Aldredge.)*

## Skyline College Visits Westmoor High School To Strengthen The Automotive Career Advancement Academy



*Pictured to the left: Skyline College Auto Instructor Julia Johnson and Westmoor Auto Teacher Dave Dyssegard are joined by ROP Administrator Adele Berg, Skyline College Green and Sustainable Workforce Development Programs Director Anjana Richards, Westmoor Principal Allan Reyes.*

San Mateo County Office of Education Regional Occupational Program (ROP), Westmoor High School, and Skyline College are partnering to identify opportunities to improve college going rates among high school students interested in Automotive Technology (auto) careers. SparkPoint at Skyline College Director William Watson joined the team as

they met to outline strategies that:

- increase students’ knowledge about auto technology careers,
- improve students’ opportunities to pursue auto careers,

- align curriculum, and
- target available resources to support students and their families while pursuing higher education.

The Auto Technology Career Advancement Academy at Skyline College features linked courses that include automotive technology, career development, and math and English that are contextualized to the auto career pathway.

With funding by the Bay Area Workforce Funding Collaborative, the Auto Career Advancement Academy has proven to be a great success. Additionally, in partnership with SparkPoint at Skyline College, CAA students receive a range of supportive services which include personalized financial coaching and access to resources that support success and retention.

## Oceana High School Students Visit Skyline College Library



About 90 Oceana High School students visited Skyline College on Friday, March 2. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade students came to the library to learn how to do online research using our library’s article databases. They accessed academic journal articles for their “Junior Exhibition” projects on issues related to the current status of education in the United States. Librarian Eric Brenner led hands-on research workshops for the students in the library classroom.

The students also received tours of our college from Campus Ambassadors Jose Milan and Tiffany Ong, with assistance from Nicholas Sisco and Bianca Parras.

Eric Brenner and Oceana High School English teacher Stephanie Sotomayor coordinated the students’ field trip, which is an annual event that the Oceana junior class has been doing for several years. Thanks also to Jocelyn Vila, Financial Aid Program Services Coordinator, for coordinating the Campus Ambassador tours.



*(Article provided by Eric Brenner.  
Photo provided by Sandra Kirkpatrick.)*

## Skyline College Health Fair 2012

On Thursday, March 21, 2012, Skyline College held its Annual Health Fair sponsored by the Health Center in the Dining Hall. As always, the turnout was quite large with over 400 students and staff participating in the event. Participants were able to get their blood pressure checked, test their blood sugar with our own medical doctor, Dr. Nichols, and register for the upcoming Skyline College Blood Drive on April 25 with the American Red Cross.

Participants were able to receive hand and arm massages, as well as manicures, from our Cosmetology department and Massage Therapy program and acupuncture from the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Many thanks to the following agencies and departments for participating in the event:

- SparkPoint at Skyline College
- American Red Cross
- Youth & Family Enrichment Services (YEES)
- Children's Health Initiative
- World Wide Chiropractic
- San Francisco City Clinic
- Planned Parenthood
- Health Plan of San Mateo
- Relay for Life – American Cancer Society
- Breathe California
- College of San Mateo Nursing Program



A special thanks to the Skyline College Health Center staff for making this event a successful one: Donna Elliott, Jane Ernstthal, and Terri Sofarelli.

*(Article provided by Dr. John Mosby. Photo provided by Renee Abu-Zhaghibra.)*

## **Skyline College-Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) Graduates Second Cohort with Young Community Developers**



*Front Row, Left to Right - Pcyeta Jackson, Yep Coordinator and Michael Neuendorff, YEP Faculty Member along with graduates – Photo by CITD*

On March 15<sup>th</sup> the Skyline College Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) graduated its second cohort for the 4-week Entrepreneurship Training with Young Community Developers (YCD), a community based organization located in the Bayview-Hunters Point area of San Francisco. YEP is offering this entrepreneurship training as a part of YCD's pre-existing job readiness training program.

This class is part of an ongoing collaboration with Young Community Developers. Local residents partake in the specially created 4-week Entrepreneurship Training Program jointly developed between the Skyline College Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), industry and community partners to focus on the primary stake-holders – the young adults. Not only is the objective to introduce entrepreneurship, but also to help remove economic barriers for young adults throughout the Bay Area.

The 4-week Training Program includes in-class sessions, which go over various entrepreneurial topics, and features an interactive public speaking seminar. YEP will start a new training class with YCD in April.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Program is funded through grants from the offices of the Chancellor for California Community Colleges and the President's Innovation Fund. It is locally hosted by Skyline College.

## Skyline College Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center Completes 123% More Tax Returns This Tax Season!



*Thanks to a great VITA team including those pictured to the left: Adolfo Leiva, SparkPoint Program Services Coordinator; John Miller, Skyline College Accounting Faculty & Instructor for Accounting 665; Linda Whitten, Accounting Department Coordinator; Kelly Batson (in front), Regional Director, [Earn It Keep Save It Program](#); Julie Lamson, SparkPoint Program Services Coordinator; Louise Carroll, Executive Director of [Tax-Aid](#); David Hall, Instructional Aid & Site Coordinator; Dr. Raymond Jones, SparkPoint Coordinator for Service Integration. Thanks to the students who do an outstanding job and thanks also to additional volunteers including Ena Yasuhara from the United Way of the Bay Area and Skyline College's own Ellen Lee.*

SparkPoint and the Business Division at Skyline College partner with the United Way of the Bay Area's [Earn It Keep Save It Program](#) annually to provide free IRS Certified Tax Preparation for qualified members of our community. Earn It Keep It Save It features more than 212 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout the Bay Area where trained volunteer tax preparers help households making less than \$50,000 per year claim their maximum benefit and refund. Last year over 60,000 tax returns were processed. Eligible taxpayers claim the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) which can amount to as much as \$5,751 per family.

Because of the unique advantages of hosting a SparkPoint Center at a college campus, our site takes advantage of our instructional programs to provide excellent learning opportunities for our students. Accounting students may prepare for certification by completing Accounting 665. The course includes a lab requirement where IRS certified students assist tax filers under the supervision of their instructor, John Miller. The community benefits from a high quality tax preparation service and students acquire both certification and experience for their resumes. The wonderful service is supported by several individuals and organizations who committed to increasing the number of tax returns completed during this year's tax season. This year's VITA Center out did themselves and more than doubled the number of returns completed in the previous year by completing 207 returns.

*(Photo and article provided by William Watson.)*

## Hip Hop Culture is Alive at Rock The School Bells!



On Saturday, March 24, 2012, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock The School Bells Hip Hop Conference took place at Skyline College. Over 200 attendees, ranging from middle school students to teachers, from all over the Bay Area, participated in an all-day event that included various workshops that used hip hop as a tool to promote critical thinking, creativity, and social activism. It also provided our attendees an opportunity to interact and network with hip hop artists, scholars, community leaders, and mentors from a variety of hip hop educational programs.

The event was kick started by a powerful and riveting performance by Oakland's Young, Gifted, and Black followed by a captivating welcome address by our Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Joi Blake. In addition to the many workshops, attendees got to participate in numerous panels such as *Hip Hop Entrepreneurship*, *Women in Hip Hop*, and *Global Hip Hop*. This year's highlight presentation was provided by the world-renowned, *dead prez*, titled "*It's Still Bigger Than Hip Hop: Strategies for Activism, Health, and Community Power in the Information Age.*" Attendees were challenged to take what they've learned about hip hop and translating it into social activism that promote positive change in their own communities. The conference concluded with an "open mic session" called "*Hip Hop and Beyond Reflection*" where students shared their ideas and strategies on how we can use hip hop to empower themselves and their communities.

Adam Freas, one of the workshop facilitators and professor at Sacramento City College stated, "Our academic system has gotten so far into the quantifiable aspects of education, there is little qualitative recognition. Although Hip-Hop can successfully navigate in both waters, I think the beauty is the culture's ability to promote an organic approach to achievement that allows belief to become a reality. Especially by those populations who have always felt alienated and underrepresented within society. Hip-Hop has always been the voice of the people and as much as the corporate perceptions of Hip-Hop to try to devalue its worth, here comes RTSB to save the day!"



The evening also included a scholarship ceremony for students who were awarded the Rock The School Bells Creative Arts Scholarship for their academic achievement and love for the creative arts. The evening ended with a jam-packed concert with over 400 people in attendance. Monies raised from the concert are used for future Rock The School Bells scholarships.

This event would not be possible without the help and hard work contributed by the Rock The School Bells Advisory Board which includes Nate Nevado and Melanie Espinueva,

faculty volunteers, Chris Gibson, Vanson Nguyen, Tony Jackson, and Nathan Jones; the Urban Youth Society Hip Hop Club, and Alan Ceccarelli and the Theater Club.

We would also like to graciously thank William Watson and Adolfo Leiva. Through a grant managed by SparkPoint at Skyline College, this event was funded in part by the Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges. Special thanks also goes to Richard Soyombo and his staff at the Center of Workforce Development, Vitamin Water, SOCC, and Kevin Chak of the Skyline College Bookstore for their gracious donations.

Rock The School Bells was a President's Innovation Fund recipient from 2007-2009.

## **“Achieving Success – Let’s get started!” Outreach event for Graduating High School Seniors**



On Monday, April 9, Skyline College hosted an event for graduating seniors in the Jefferson Union High School District who are also concurrent enrollment students at the college. This outreach event was an informative afternoon as students learned about college programs and services such as counseling, financial aid, admissions and records, First Year Experience (FYE) and SparkPoint. Counselors and students found the event helpful for



students as they begin the transition from high school to college. The lunch was provided by SparkPoint and gifts were donated by the bookstore.

*(Article provided by Dr. John Mosby. Photo provided by Jorge Murillo and Cherie Napier.)*

## EOP&S/CARE/CalWORKs: We're over and above!

The foundation of our programs is built upon providing our students with above and beyond services as well as support. In the spirit of our Transfer Initiative and collaboration, we (Skyline College and College of San Mateo EOP&S staff and students) took a bus tour to Southern California during Spring break and visited University of California Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Riverside; California State University, Long Beach, Fullerton, Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. Special thanks go out to the following individuals who made this a reality: Dr. Joi Blake, Rick Wallace and members of our EOP&S family at the College of San Mateo: Ruth Turner, EOP&S Counselor/Coordinator; Tami Hom and John Vehikite, Program Services Coordinators.



On an anonymous evaluation, a Skyline student commented, "...thanks to this trip, I am so inspired and motivated to work even harder..." and another stated, "This is one of the greatest experiences I have had in my life..I have gained valuable knowledge about transferring ... EOPS, I thank you for this and sincerely appreciate the opportunities and privileges you have provided."



*(Article provided by Jeffrey Acidera. Photos provided by Jacky Ip, Skyline College student, and Tami Hom.)*

## Skyline College TRiO Students Discover UC Davis

On Friday, March 16, 2012 the TRiO program, in partnership with the Transfer Center, arranged for fifty Skyline College students to participate in Discover UC Davis, an annual event designed to inform students about the admissions process to UC Davis, hear from transfer student panelists and university representatives, and tour the campus.



During the event, students attended various workshops to learn about Studying Abroad, Undergraduate Research, Financial Aid & Scholarships, and Pre-Health and Pre-Law Advising.

Students were also engaged with a panel of transfer students whose experiences mirrored those of our students. The panelists spoke about the transfer process and their personal experiences at UC Davis. The event concluded with a campus tour where students learned more about UC Davis' student demographics, its history, and interesting facts.

Discover UC Davis was a major success, which served to promote the goal of transferring to a UC among TRiO and Skyline College students alike. We want to thank the Transfer Center for organizing this event.

*(Article and photos provided by Jessica Lopez.)*