



**Victoria P. Morrow, President**

September 11, 2009

### **A few first thoughts about the Debriefing Forum on the shooting incident**

About 230 people came together for Tuesday's Debriefing Forum on the shooting incident last week. We spent about an hour and a half together, with an overview from me, an update on what the police knew from Chief Telford of the San Bruno Police Department, and an update from our District Chief of Public Safety, Mike Celeste. Most of the session was spent in questions and answers on a whole range of subjects related to the incident. Linda Bertellotti kept detailed notes for us, and we have already had our first "Crisis Action Team" debriefing to review what happened and to plan for future training and other changes to improve safety at Skyline.

Here are the recurring themes I heard expressed there and in countless other conversations with faculty, staff and students over the past week:

- Overall the incident was described as handled very well by the administration, the police and the faculty, staff and students. Even those who had complaints and advice usually concurred with this generalization.
- Everyone described this incident as a case of Skyline being part of the world, and has having nothing to do with Skyline itself.
- There was new appreciation for the security cameras and interest in more of them, and in more security staff.
- The provision of expanded counseling services was greatly appreciated.
- The numerous emails and text messages and website messages were valuable tools.
- There was interest in emergency response drills which include more of the staff and which include the students.
- There were problems with:
  - Confusion about whether to evacuate or lock down (Buildings 2 and 5) due to conflicting instructions.
  - The delay in moving to lockdown.
  - Getting information about what was happening: the delay in delivery of the text messages to many people; the limited reach of the public address system; the fact that many people were getting information from the web and phone calls to them before they were getting it from us.
  - The protracted period of delay before people in some areas could leave and the lack of access to belongings (keys, wallets, laptops).
  - Transportation challenges for those whose vehicles were sequestered within the crime scene and for the disabled students.
  - The appearance of racial profiling in relation to some students and staff.

We have been involved in a great deal of debriefing during the past week, particularly my Cabinet—myself, Regina Stanback Stroud, Lori Adrian, Eloisa Briones, Rob Johnstone and Sandy Irber--and our college and district chiefs of Public Safety, Brian Tupper and Mike Celeste, along with Chief Telford. We are addressing an extensive array of elements of our emergency response to this instance and our emergency response plan overall. This unwelcome event has been an extremely illuminating live test of

our procedures and has allowed us to identify numerous ways to strengthen it. We will be working on this in the coming days and months and I will keep you posted.

I received a message from Denisse Gonzalez, President of the Associated Students of Skyline College, part of which I would like to share with you because of what it says about the culture of our college:

*I'd like to thank you for hosting the debriefing forum. In the many conversations that I've had with other students there is a shared reassurance on the safety of our campus. It was very healthy for us to have discussed the details of this traumatic event. There is a strong sense of community, and fighting spirit among Trojans that does not allow us to be robbed of our sense of security. I was asked to relay a message of support to you and all the key members at this college that make our campus a great place to study.*

Those key members of the college include countless faculty and staff who spent that long day with students, helping them to stay safe, ensuring they had rides home and assisting them to make sense of what was going on. I have heard many accounts of how you all did that, with good judgment and good humor and calmness. Skyline people stepped up to do what needed to be done, often at great inconvenience to themselves, exhibiting the professionalism and caring attitude for which we are known. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

If you were unable to attend the forum but would like to view the videotape of it, you can do so by going to our district's iTunesU website at <http://www.smccd.edu/itunesu/>, enter the site, scroll down to Skyline College, Select Skyline Events, and then you will see the Public Safety Forum.

#### **This cannot be happening...**

We had a bomb threat on Wednesday about the same time as the shooting incident of the prior Wednesday. Vague, anonymous bomb threats are not uncommon at colleges, and the police are usually notified, and they have a protocol for their response, depending on the credibility of the threat. In a heightened sense of caution due to the recent event here, our Public Safety Department in unison with San Bruno Police Department conducted a sweep of the campus to ensure that there was, in fact, no bomb on campus. Nothing was found. Some of you saw them going about their search process, and may have been unsettled by it, so I wanted to let you know what was going on.

#### **NCMPR awards**

Skyline's communication materials will once again be recognized by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The organization's Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communications for community college professionals. The creative effort/concept must have originated from a community college. The nominated projects must have been published, broadcast, displayed and used between September 2008 and August 2009. Skyline will receive either gold, silver, or bronze awards in 3 categories:

- Promotions, college Promotional Video (for our President's Breakfast video)
- Printed Publications (for our new Viewbook)
- Electronic media (for our Web Site).

We are competing in District 6 of NCMPR which includes five western states and all of the western Pacific islands. The awards will be announced on September 25. Congratulations to Sandy Irber, Shelly Hausman (currently on leave), and Caroline Ocampo!

**“Technopia” exhibit is an eye-opener!**

It was an exquisite treat to visit our Gallery Thursday evening for the opening reception for this new exhibit. The works are fascinating and beautiful and thought provoking. Here are some shots of the reception and a lecture by artist Robert Geshliger taken by student Sophie Mas.



**It's time for a "topping off" ceremony for new Building 4**

The ceremony will be held September 24 starting at 11:30 am and includes an opportunity for everyone to sign the topmost beam before it is then installed on the building. Please join us there if you can.



*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

*"The wisest mind has something yet to learn."*  
- George Santanyana

*You are cordially invited to join us for a*  
**Topping Off\* Ceremony** *for our new*  
**Multicultural, Cosmetology & Administration Building (Bldg. 4)**

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**Date:** Thursday, September 24

**Time:** 10:30 am – 11:30 am    **Beam Signing**

11:30 am	<b>Topping Off Program</b> (TBD-other speaker title) (TBD-other speaker title)	<b>Dr. Victoria P. Morrow - President, Skyline College</b> (TBD-other speaker) (TBD-other speaker)
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**Location:** North side of campus (head east past the soccer field)

**Parking:** Park in Lots 5, 6 or 7, and walk south to the ceremony/construction site

\* "Topping Off" is a tradition undertaken when the major structural steel of a construction project is complete. It is celebrated by asking friends who have had a significant role in the project to sign the "last steel beam," which is then placed in the building.

**Design/Build Contractor:** Hensel Phelps Construction Co.  
**Program/Construction Manager:** Swinerton Management & Consulting



**Skyline**  
COLLEGE  
40 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

### Spotlighting skyline cosmetology student, Lawrence Lim

Evening Cosmetology students Lawrence Lim was recently featured in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual “Fashion on the Square” (sponsored by thirty-eight businesses such as The Gap; Gymboree; Old Navy; JC Penny; Sears; Models, Inc.; Continental Airlines; The Examiner and others) at the Intercontinental Hotel in San Francisco on July 25-26. Lim participated on the team called “Hair & Make-up – Red Carpet Ready.” Lim enrolled in the Skyline cosmetology program to further enhance his skills in cosmetology, as well as to learn new techniques to apply to his already successful make-up artistry career. He has been seen on ABC Channel 7; View from the Bay; and Fashion on the Square 2008. Lim can be seen on Pursebuzz.com where he won an online makeup contest in March of 2008. In October 2008, Lim won 1<sup>st</sup> place in make-up for the Nino Faggiano student team competition in Santa Cruz. Special congratulations go out to this extremely talented student. Here is a shot of one of his entries.



### Drugs and Alcohol workshop next Wednesday

A poster for a "Drugs &amp; Alcohol Seminar" held on September 16, 2009. The poster features the word "DRUGS" in a large, stylized, black font at the top, with a small graphic of colorful pills to its right. Below this, a green marijuana leaf is positioned to the left of the words "Drugs &amp; Alcohol" in a colorful, sans-serif font. Underneath, the word "Seminar" is written in a smaller, red font. The date "September 16, 2009" and time "11:00 am—1:00 pm" are listed in a simple black font. The location "Bldg 6, room 6204" and the speakers "Speakers from Haight Ashbury Clinic" and "Women's Recovery Association" are also included. At the bottom, the word "ALCOHOL" is written in a large, stylized, black font, with a small graphic of various bottles and pills to its right. At the very bottom, contact information for Psychological Services is provided: "For more information contact Psychological Services 738-4459 or 738-4351. Participation Certificates available." The entire poster is set against a white background with a thin vertical line on the left side.

### Coming up...

#### Friday, September 11

- Last day to DROP semester length classes without appearing on record
- Last day to reverse student body fee

#### Friday, September 11-October 03

- Technopia Art Exhibit, Skyline Gallery

#### Tuesday, September 15

- Women's soccer vs. West Valley, Skyline, 2pm

#### Wednesday, September 16

- Drugs and Alcohol Workshop, 11 am, Room 6204

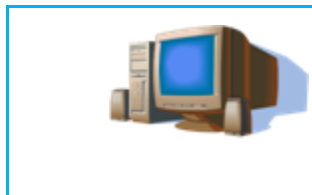
### Do you have a suggestion?

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>



Here is the **Website Redesign Project e-Suggestion Box**, for feedback on the new website,



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/facstaff/PresidentsOffice/skyshines/>

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President

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