



Victoria P. Morrow, President
February 11, 2010

Skyline Shines is arriving on Thursday this week because the college will be closed this Friday through Monday, February 15, for the presidents' holidays.

What is the latest on plans for the 2010-11 budget for the college?

Based on the board discussion in their study session meeting last night, I can report to you that the budget recommendation which I present formally to the board at its February 24 meeting will be the same one the CBC recommended and which I concurred in, with one change. The board indicated that they were willing for some non-general fund money to be used to provide the subsidy to the Children's Center.

That money will come from Redevelopment Agency funds which the district receives and has usually dedicated to the repair and upgrading of outdoor facilities. You may recall that our athletic fields were renovated by means of that funding source. As a result, the amount we would have spent on the CDC can be redirected to ease our cut to the summer schedule. I will revise the budget reduction numbers to reflect that; I believe that it will change the cut from 50 percent to about 30 percent, a big improvement. The board members expressed appreciation to the members of the CBC for the deep thought and hard work you dedicated to our budget deliberations over the course of the fall.

Leadership Excellence brings the Middle Passage Experience to Skyline

On February 5, Leadership Excellence, a group dedicated to "educating African American youth for social change" presented the Middle Passage Experience to 30 students and 10 faculty, staff and administrators at Skyline. The four hour experience included a didactic component and then an interactive activity that replicated the movement of Africans from their continent to the Americas through enslavement. This was an impressive and moving experience for everyone and many participants came away with a profoundly awakened understanding. This activity was sponsored by ASTEP (African American Success Through Excellent and Persistence) and the College Success Initiative. I was grateful to be a part of it myself and I hope that we will be able to do it again at Skyline so that others can have the learning experience we shared.



Photo by Phyllis Taylor

Two Skyline students selected for PTK All-California Academic Team

I just received a letter notifying me that two of our students—Derrick Hau and Ashley Good—have been selected for the 2010 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-California Academic Team. PTK is the Honor Society for the community colleges and this particular PTK program recognizes these honorees through awards and scholarship opportunities. Lau and Good will be honored at a luncheon later this spring. Please join me in congratulating them, and their advisor, Chris Case.

National poet laureate, Kay Ryan, speaks eloquently of community colleges

The national poet laureate is a community college teacher from the College of Marin, and she recently spoke very beautifully about the work we do. I “These colleges are quietly saving lives and minds.” encourage you to go to this link and listen to her brief remarks for a guaranteed lifting of your spirits: <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/mindsjoy/kayryan.html>.

Website update

We are undertaking a series of projects to further improve the Skyline College Website. All of these projects have the goal of assuring that the wide range of website users can access the information they need quickly and reliably. These projects include:

- improving the functionality and ease of use of the “A-Z Site Index”
- allowing the Skyline college home page to scroll, which will increase the amount of information that can be placed on the home page
- revising the current navigation structures on the site to improve ease of use
- mining the data from Google Analytics to understand the flow of users through the various portions of the website
- cleaning up “broken links”.

I have asked Rob Johnstone to lead this effort. If you have suggestions or observations about the website, please contact him at johnstoner@smccd.edu

Haiti Now Taskforce gets going

The Classified Council, Academic Senate, the Associated Students, and the Management Council are working together on generating support for the Haiti relief effort. Their first event is next week:

“What We Can Learn From Haiti”

Presented by: Leslie Flemming, Merritt College

Friday, February 19

Room 2306, Noon-1:30

If you would like to volunteer to help at any of these events, please email [Omar Cubillos](mailto:Omar.Cubillos).

Smoking policy is working

The Smoking Policy Implementation Task Force, which was originally charged with providing leadership in developing and implementing Skyline’s Smoke Free policy, met recently to evaluate the policy’s effectiveness. Based on feedback and observations from various constituencies, the implementation of the Smoke Free Policy is effective and successful. This success is due, in large part, to good signage, good communication, and the support of staff and students. The committee also identified issues or problems associated with specific areas adjacent to designated smoking areas (e.g., by the Gallery; the retaining wall by Building 6 and 7; by the Bus Stop), and outlined a plan of action for correcting these problems. The Facilities Department will be adding signage, relocating a couple of the designated smoking areas, and removing ashtrays which are near or at the painted “no smoking” lines. It is anticipated that permanent designated smoking areas will be in place by Summer 2010. These spaces will be larger, have cement flooring, and have durable plastic benches. If you have any concerns or recommendation regarding our No Smoking Policy and designated smoking areas, please contact our Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Lori Adrian at adrianl@smccd.edu.

The Child Development Center has a “wish list”

Please consider donating items to the Child Development Center. You can view their Wish List at <http://www.skylinecollege.edu/facstaff/resources/childcare.html>

Institutional Planning Committee update

The Institutional Planning Committee, chaired by Rob Johnstone, Dean of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness, met on February 10th for the first time in 2010, and covered the following topics:

- A review of the 2010 Accountability Reporting for the Community Colleges (ARCC) data just released by the Chancellor’s Office
- A review of the 2008-09 Skyline College Balanced Scorecard – our internal process for assessing progress on key college benchmarks.
- An approval of the timeline to complete the Fall 2010 Skyline College Accreditation Midterm report.
- Discussion of the supplemental questions that can be added to CCC Apply in the forthcoming registration cycle to begin in April.

The next meeting will be on March 3.

Coming up...

Friday, February 12

- Lincoln’s Birthday (Holiday)
- Baseball - Skyline vs. San Joaquin, 1pm
- Women’s Basketball - Skyline vs. DeAnza, 2pm
- Men’s Basketball – Skyline vs. Cañada (at Cañada), 7 pm

Saturday, February 13

- Declared Recess
- Baseball - Skyline vs. San Joaquin Delta, 1pm

Monday, February 15

- President's Day (Holiday)

Tuesday, February 16

- Last Day to Drop Semester Length Class
- Scenes from the Puppet World, Gallery, through March 20

Wednesday, February 17

- Women's Basketball - Skyline vs. Monterey Peninsula, 7pm

Thursday, February 18

- Baseball – Skyline vs. Shasta, 2 pm

Friday, February 19

- "What We Can Learn From Haiti" – Rm. 2306, 12 noon
- Baseball - Skyline vs. Shasta, 2pm
- Women's Basketball – Skyline vs. City College, 5:30pm

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:



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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