

Shaping Our Future—an Open Letter to Skyline College

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As many of you have been saying, there is a lot going on around here! It seems timely to provide everyone with an overview of it all, and some perspective on what it all means to Skyline College and to our students. The projects and activities I am going to mention will, taken together, reshape the college in some important ways. The broader and more effective the involvement of all of us, the better that shape will be. So this is an update, and also an appeal for your engagement. Many of you are already involved in one or more of these. This overview should provide you with a sense of other projects in which you might like to sound your voice. I am distributing it electronically and in hard copy as well.

The projects under way this spring fall into these broad areas:

- Planning for the future
- Accreditation and assessment
- Improvement of access to the college

Here is a brief review of the specifics, with the rough timeline, and the contact people in case you have questions:

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE:

1. **Facilities Master Planning Project:** February-June. Steinberg Group Architects, the district's Master Architect, will work with the college to help us identify our highest priority facilities projects, to be funded through the bond measure passed in November. (Contact person: Cathy Hasson)
2. **Educational Planning Project:** February-April. The Voorhees Group, a master planning consulting firm, will help us develop an educational master plan to inform the Facilities Master Plan noted above. The firm will conduct a number of internal focus groups of key decision makers and shared governance groups. They will also draw upon the extensive data and work we have on hand already, such as program reviews and prior planning. (Contact person: Cathy Hasson)

For these first two projects listed above, we are forming a new *Educational and Facilities Master Planning Task Force* to address both of them together. We will be sending out an invitation letter shortly to the following groups: College Council, Institutional Planning Committee, Academic Senate Governing Council, Classified Senate Governing Council, Associated Students Governing Council, Management Council, and our DSPPS specialist. The invitation will include the timeline and key dates for these projects. We would love to have the full membership of all of the above participate, but will welcome as many as can manage it. In addition there will be other means to provide input including open college-wide forums.

3. **3 Year Work Plan Transition:** January-March. The Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) has revised our annual planning process to better align our budget and planning work, and to build in specific college wide Strategies for each of our college goals. That will allow us to assess progress toward our goals. This is a transition year during which all units will develop a three year work plan and submit a draft to the IPC. (Contact people: Deans, Cathy Hasson)

ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT:

1. **Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Cycle (SLOAC):** Ongoing. You have been received regular electronic updates on this important work. (Contact person: Karen Wong)
2. **Accreditation Self-Study:** January-May. Writing teams will assess, evaluate and draft responses and recommendations based upon the accreditation standards. (Contact people: Ray Hernandez and Donna Bestock). Also, two related efforts:
 - a) **Student Campus Climate Survey:** February-March. Faculty will receive it, administer it to students, and return the completed surveys to the research office. (Contact person: Cathy Hasson)
 - b) **Employee Survey:** February-May. The Accreditation Steering Committee will be drafting items and requesting feedback from our shared governance groups. (Contact person: Cathy Hasson)

IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE COLLEGE:

1. **Enrollment Growth:** Ongoing efforts to increase enrollment through a variety of marketing, outreach, scheduling, programmatic and other means. (Contact people: Deans, Regina Stanback Stroud)
2. **Fresh Look Project:** Ongoing efforts to better inform the community about Skyline including new visual identity standards which we will begin implementing later this spring, redesign of our logo, selection of a tagline, and, next fall, redesign of our website. (Contact person: Sandy Irber)
3. **Campus Change Network:** Ongoing, including four projects (Designing the First Semester Experience, Outreach, Improving Campus Transportation, and an All Campus Orientation). The focus this spring will be upon furthering of these projects and institutionalization of them. (Contact people: Carla Campillo, Rachel Bell, Regina Stanback Stroud, Pablo Gonzalez and Taylor Angel)

Although this array of work represents a lot to take on at once, there are important synergies among these projects. I am committed to ensuring opportunities for involvement, so I will be keeping you posted as these projects move forward. We will also provide an ongoing update on our website. I will send you that exact address later.