

*Community Forum*  
***Student Mental Health:  
Depression and Suicide Prevention***  
***March 23, 2007***

***Program***

— **8:30-10:20** —

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Hal Plotkin, President** — Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees

**Martha Kanter, Chancellor** — Foothill-De Anza Community College District

Moderated by **Patty Fisher** — Columnist, San José Mercury News

**Panelist Presentations**

**Carlos Aguila** — Clinical Program Manager, EMQ

**Kevin Glapion** — Psychiatric Disability Specialist, De Anza College

**Melanie Hale** — Counselor, Foothill College

**Carla Holtzclaw** — Safety Program Coordinator, East Side Union High School District

**Victor Ojakian** — parent and mental health advocate

**Ernest Schmidt** — Counselor, Foothill College

**Jean Marie Scott** — Acting Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, University of California, Santa Cruz

**Wiggys Sivertsen** — Director of Counseling Services, San José State University

**Laurel Torres** — Counselor, De Anza College

— **10:20-10:30** —

**Break**

— **10:30-11:30** —

**Question & Answer Session**

Moderated by Patty Fisher

**Closing Comments**

Martha Kanter

Presentations and information will be posted online at [www.fhda.edu](http://www.fhda.edu)  
see the Community Forum link under "News"

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# Participant Biographies

**Carlos Aguila** – Carlos Aguila has served as an advocate and developer of mental health centers for elementary and high school campuses in the South Bay. He is currently clinical program manager for EMQ's 24-hour Mobile Crisis Unit, which responds to children experiencing acute mental health crises at schools and in the community. His professional career includes 12 years as a social work services coordinator for the East Side Union and Oak Grove school districts in San Jose. He holds a master's degree in social work from San Jose State and a pupil personnel services credential from the California Department of Education.

**Patty Fisher** – Patty Fisher began writing a twice-weekly local column in June 2005, after 15 years on the editorial board of the San Jose Mercury News. As an editorial writer she wrote extensively about issues affecting families, such as welfare reform, child support and juvenile justice. Fisher came to the Mercury News from the Miami Herald in 1981 and held a variety of editing and management positions before becoming an editorial writer. She holds a bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from Wheaton College in Massachusetts and a master's degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

**Kevin Glapion** – Counselor Kevin Glapion has been the psychiatric disability specialist in the Disabled Student Support Office at De Anza College for the past six years and has taught in the human development department at the college for the past four years. As a counselor, he provides disability management counseling and evaluates students' needs for accommodations. His experience working with individuals with psychiatric disabilities in educational and vocational rehabilitation settings spans 15 years. Glapion earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of New Orleans and his master's degree in counselor mental health from Loyola University in New Orleans.

**Melanie Hale** – As a psychological counselor at Foothill College since 1990, Melanie Hale provides brief therapy, personal counseling and crisis intervention services to students. Before that she worked with severely emotionally disturbed children and their families at Eastfield Ming Quong Family and Children's Services in San Jose. She has been a volunteer with a crisis hotline, an adjunct faculty member at San Jose State University and currently coordinates a consortium of Bay Area community college psychological counselors. A licensed clinical social worker, Hale has a bachelor's degree in sociology from City College of New York and a master's degree from Columbia University School of Social Work.

**Carla Holtzclaw** – Over more than 24 years, Carla Holtzclaw has been a teacher, Healthy Start coordinator and safety coordinator for East Side Union High School District. In the mid-1990s, she oversaw the building of the Healthy Start program, which links more than 40 community mental, social and physical health providers to the 4,200 multiethnic, multilingual students at Independence High School. She has facilitated critical incident debriefings for local law enforcement agencies and school districts. Holtzclaw holds a master's degree in educational leadership from San José State University.

**Victor Ojakian** – Since their son's death by suicide in December 2004, Victor Ojakian and his wife, Mary, have dedicated their time and energy to improving mental health care in California, especially for young adults. They are leaders of non-profit organizations whose work relates to mental illness, including Asian Americans for Community Involvement, the National Association for the Mentally Ill, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the California Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Advocacy Group. Their work includes encouraging the University of California to study and report on campus mental health services and addressing a federal congressional hearing on mental health insurance parity.

**Ernest Schmidt** – Ernie Schmidt has worked in the field of mental health since 1996 and at Foothill College as a psychological counselor since 2005. Before that he worked for Santa Clara County, where he provided therapy and counseling to young adults and their families, specializing in youth having difficulty adjusting to adulthood. At Foothill, Schmidt sees students for personal counseling and teaches courses on stress and emotional wellness. He also sees individuals in his private practice in Palo Alto. Schmidt, a licensed clinical social worker, earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of the Pacific in Stockton and his master's degree in social welfare from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Jean Marie Scott** – Jean Marie Scott is acting vice chancellor of student affairs at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She brings to her role more than 25 years experience in organizational and administrative management of complex higher learning environments relating to both student affairs and housing. She was named UCSC's associate vice chancellor for The Colleges and University Housing Services in 2005 and has been with the university since 1993. Scott has a master's degree in counseling and student development from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

**Wiggy Sivertsen** – Wiggy Sivertsen is currently director of counseling services and a visiting professor in the sociology department at San José State University, where she has been employed for the past 38 years. She is a graduate of Stephens College, San José State University, and Tulane University, where she earned a master's degree in social work. Sivertsen became involved in addressing the problems of discrimination when she was fired from a position after the organization learned about her lesbianism. She has dedicated her professional life to educating the public about the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities, and fighting for the rights of all "at risk" communities.

**Laurel Torres** – Laurel Torres is a counselor and certified psychiatric registered nurse at De Anza College. She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from UC Davis, College of San Mateo and California State University, Hayward, respectively, in psychology/sociology, nursing and marriage, family and child counseling. After working more than 20 years in psychiatric nursing in a community hospital, she transitioned to college counseling at De Anza College in 1996. Laurel is also a supported education specialist who specializes in working with students with mental health issues.