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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Paralegal Studies Program at Skyline College Earns American Bar Association (ABA) Approval

San Bruno, California – August 27, 2018: The Paralegal Studies Program at Skyline College has been granted approval from the American Bar Association (ABA). The official recognition, received on August 14, 2018, makes Skyline College one of just three higher education institutions in the bay area approved by the national association.

"This designation is a tremendous achievement for the faculty and showcases the high quality of our Paralegal Studies Program," said Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, PhD., vice president of instruction, Skyline College. "A degree from an ABA-approved college provides students with a competitive edge and makes graduates more desirable in the job market."

The highly regarded approval is granted for a period of 6 years and demonstrates from an outside perspective, that Skyline College graduates are fully prepared for a career as a paralegal or to continue their education in the law profession by transferring to a four-year college or university to pursue their bachelor's degree. The on-going accountability and increased scrutiny on the college ensures that the program continues to meet the ABA's high standards as a quality, well-rounded program.

The approval was granted after a team of ABA professionals completed a rigorous review of the program and conducted a site visit to the college. The team assessed the curriculum, quality of instruction delivered by the faculty, administrative support and advisory committee engagement from legal professionals in the community as well as student learning outcomes.

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“Graduates from the Paralegal Studies program at Skyline College will now be eligible for a wider selection of jobs. Some firms and larger companies only hire graduates from ABA approved programs,” Jesse Raskin, associate professor, Paralegal Studies, Skyline College. “At Skyline College, we strive to offer a highly supportive educational experience where students can realize their full potential. The efforts we put forth as a College to develop a paralegal program worthy of ABA approval serve as a good example of our commitment to supporting success for all students.”

The College's program, which offers both a certificate and an associate degree in Paralegal Studies, prepares students to assist lawyers in gathering and analyzing factual data, conduct interviews and investigations, draft correspondence, research legal questions and prepare legal documents. Graduates of the program may decide to seek employment as a Paralegal or further their education with a four-year degree.

“The application process began in 2016, and took hundreds of hours of work. The approval is recognition of the hard work by instructors, students, administrators and community members including alumni and the advisory committee who support the program” said, Danni Redding Lapuz, interim dean, social science/creative arts, Skyline College.

For more information about the Paralegal Studies Program, visit skylinecollege.edu/paralegal.

About the American Bar Association

The ABA is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Its mission is to serve equally its members, its profession and the public by defending liberty and delivering justice as the national representative of the legal profession. The ABA is a national organization that offers resources to legal professionals and those who are interested in law-related issues. For more information, visit www.americanbar.org.

Skyline College is an accredited, comprehensive California community college serving more than 16,000 students annually, offering 100 Associate Degree and Certificate programs as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Respiratory Care. Located on a 111-acre campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Skyline College has offered world-class educational opportunities to residents from North San Mateo County and beyond since 1969. Part of the San Mateo Community College District, Skyline College strives to inspire a global and diverse community of learners to achieve intellectual, cultural, social, economic and personal fulfillment.

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