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## **SKYLINE COLLEGE LEADER SELECTED AS A 2019-2020 ASPEN PRESIDENTIAL FELLOW**

*40 Exceptional Leaders Tapped to Participate in Highly Selective Program Amid Looming Shortage of  
Community College Presidents*

**San Bruno, Ca – April 15, 2019** – Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, Ph.D., vice president of instruction at Skyline College, has been selected by the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program to join the 2019-2020 class of the [Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence](#), a leadership program aimed at preparing the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success, both in college and in the labor market.

“We are incredibly proud to have Dr. Taylor-Mendoza on the executive leadership team at Skyline College,” said Regina Stanback Stroud, Ed.D., president of Skyline College. “She is the kind of leader institutions of higher education need to make a difference in students’ lives. This invaluable fellowship will provide her with unique growth opportunities as she pursues higher leadership responsibilities and opportunities.”

Dr. Taylor-Mendoza and the 39 other Aspen Presidential Fellows will embark on a 10-month fellowship beginning in July 2019. Delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, the fellows will work with mentors – current and former community college presidents – who have achieved exceptional outcomes for students throughout their careers. Fellows will also learn from national experts about ways to harness data to assess student success outcomes, strategies for internal change leadership, and how to create strong external partnerships with K-12 schools, four-year colleges, and employers.

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The Aspen Presidential Fellowship responds to a specific and growing need for a new generation of leaders who are well-equipped to meet the challenges of the future. Nationally, nearly 80 percent of community college presidents plan to retire in the next decade. The pathway to replace them has traditionally excluded women and people of color. The incoming class of Aspen Presidential Fellows is 65 percent female and non-binary, 43 percent are people of color, and their institutions vary widely in size and location.

“Evidence shows that substantial improvements in student success are achieved only when presidents have the commitment and skill needed to lead change within their institutions and through partnerships in the community,” said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program. “These fellows have been chosen because they embody that commitment and, we believe, will build their skills even further to become transformational presidents.”

Taylor-Mendoza was selected through a rigorous process that considered her abilities to take strategic risks, lead strong teams and cultivate partnerships, and focus on results-oriented improvements in student success and access.

*For a bio and photo of Taylor-Mendoza and a list of the 2019-2020 class of Aspen Presidential Fellows, visit: <http://as.pn/1ky>.*

The Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence is supported by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, College Futures Foundation, Greater Texas Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Kresge Foundation, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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**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.

**The Aspen College Excellence Program** aims to advance higher education practices and leadership strategies that significantly improve student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges’ understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students, especially the growing population of low-income students and students of color on American campuses. For more information, visit [higher.aspeninstitute.org](http://higher.aspeninstitute.org).