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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay Area Entrepreneur Center Supports San Bruno Small Businesses Struggling in the Wake of COVID with Micro-Grants

San Bruno, California – April 30, 2021: The Bay Area Entrepreneur Center (BAEC) of Skyline College announced today that applications are now open for small businesses to gain access to technical support, business coaching and micro-grants through the Small Business Recovery and Assistance Program (SBRAP) thanks to an award of \$157,000 from the San Bruno Community Foundation. The \$157,000 grant to the San Mateo County Community College District's BAEC continues the Foundation's assistance to struggling San Bruno small businesses as they recover from the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BAEC launched the Small Business Recovery and Assistance Program with an initial \$100,000 grant from the San Bruno Foundation in July 2020. The program has offered no-cost financial advising, business consulting, tax preparation support, translation services, valuable business tools, and a host of virtual workshops, to assist small businesses with navigating funding programs, pivoting areas of their business, managing their new financial picture and with exploring and understanding their options going forward in the face of COVID-19 impacts.

In the fall, the BAEC added a new component to the SBRAP program – micro grants of approximately \$4,000 to each San Bruno business participating in the program to help them in their recovery plans. In December, the BAEC announced 16 micro-grant recipients, who were acknowledged in a January 28, 2021, virtual awards ceremony.

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With the Foundation's latest grant, the BAEC will continue to provide its workshops and coaching opportunities to a broad range of San Bruno small businesses, support a second cohort of 15 businesses with micro grants of \$7,000 each, and provide supplementary micro-grants of \$3,000 each to the 16 businesses in the first cohort.

"Our Small Business Recovery and Assistance Program connects San Bruno's business owners with a valuable support system that goes beyond providing grant funding, said Pcyeta Stroud, BAEC Director. "With SBCF's generous financial backing, the Small Business Recovery Assistance Program will continue to offer a valuable mix of funding and tools to develop business recovery plans. Outreach for this program to the small business community will begin immediately."

"Small businesses are the backbone of San Bruno's local economy, and the San Bruno Community Foundation is dedicated to helping economically distressed small businesses overcome the tumult caused by COVID-19," said Emily Roberts, President of the San Bruno Foundation's Board of Directors. "As our local small business resource center, the BAEC is uniquely positioned to assist these businesses through a combination of business coaching, access to online tools and resources, ongoing mentorship, and funding support – all in San Bruno."

San Bruno small business owners interested in applying for the Small Business Recovery and Assistance Program may contact the BAEC at baec@smccd.edu or fill out the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBRecovery. Applications open April 30th.

About Skyline College

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.