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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SKYLINE COLLEGE HOSTS FALL 2013 LECTURE SERIES WITH  
JIMMY SANTIAGO BACA 10/15 AND GLORIA LADSON BILLINGS 11/7**

**San Bruno, California – October 14, 2013:** Skyline College will continue it's ***A Call To Consciousness Lecture Series*** this fall semester with an appearance by award-winning poet Jimmy Santiago Baca on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. in the Theater, Building 1 at 3300 College Dr., San Bruno, Ca. Mr. Baca won the American Book Award and the International Hispanic Heritage Award and is a renowned poet. The event is open to the community and Skyline College students, faculty and staff. There is no fee to attend the lecture.

Gloria Ladson Billings will visit Skyline College as the next lecturer in the series on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the Theater, Building 1 at 3300 College Dr., San Bruno, Ca. Ms. Ladson Billings is an innovative educator and expert on culturally relevant pedagogy and critical race theory.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to host Mr. Baca and Ms. Ladson Billings to the Skyline College campus to provide students, faculty, staff and the community of San Bruno access to world renowned scholars, right in their backyard," said, said Regina Stanback Stroud, Ed.D., President, Skyline College.

The ***A Call to Consciousness Lecture Series*** launched last academic year with an all faculty and staff opening day keynote speech from Pedro A. Noguera, Urban Sociologist and Educational Reform Scholar followed by guest lectures from George Lakoff, cognitive and neural linguist and political researcher and Natasha Tretheway, U.S. Poet Laureat among others.

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**About Skyline College**

*Skyline College is an accredited, comprehensive California community college serving more than 10,000 students offering over 80 Associate Degree and Certificate programs. 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.*

**About Jimmy Santiago Baca**

*Jimmy Santiago Baca was born in New Mexico of Indio-Mexican descent, Jimmy Santiago Baca was raised first by his grandmother and later sent to an orphanage. A runaway at age 13, it was after Baca was sentenced to five years in a maximum security prison that he began to turn his life around: he learned to read and write and unearthed a voracious passion for poetry.*

*During a fateful conflict with another inmate, Jimmy was shaken by the voices of Neruda and Lorca, and made a choice that would alter his destiny. Instead of becoming a hardened criminal, he emerged from prison a writer. Baca sent three of his poems to Denise Levertov, the poetry editor of Mother Jones.*

*The poems were published and became part of *Immigrants in Our Own Land*, published in 1979, the year he was released from prison. He earned his GED later that same year. He is the winner of the Pushcart Prize, the American Book Award, the International Hispanic Heritage Award and for his memoir "A Place to Stand" the prestigious International Award. In 2006 he won the Cornelius P. Turner Award. The national award recognizes one GED graduate a year who has made outstanding contributions to society in education, justice, health, public service and social welfare.*

*Baca has devoted his post-prison life to writing and teaching others who are overcoming hardship. His themes include American Southwest barrios, addiction, injustice, education, community, love and beyond. He has conducted hundreds of writing workshops in prisons, community centers, libraries, and universities throughout the country.*

*In 2005 he created [Cedar Tree Inc.](#), a nonprofit foundation that works to give people of all walks of life the opportunity to become educated and improve their lives.*