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## *2019-2020 President's Innovation Fund Awards*

### **1. A Collaborative Innovation Center**

There is a high demand for skilled workers in the San Francisco Bay Area, especially for Biotechnology, Information Technology and Business Finance industries. Due to a lack of access to these skills, many working adults feel displaced in today's workforce. The Collaborative Innovation Center will alleviate this barrier by allowing business students to seek projects relating to local biotech by offering breweries and wineries yeast analysis services. Once business students have secured the project, biotech students will then use cutting edge equipment to conduct yeast analysis services. As a result, students will develop a systematic process for cell analysis and create career pathways in a high-demand market.

### **2. Access to Success for Foster Youth**

The goal of this project is to provide current and former foster youth with support for transportation and meal vouchers while attending Skyline College. Without a stable means of transportation and access to food, current and former foster youth struggle academically. This program will provide basic needs services to foster youth, eliminating barriers which prevent these students from engaging in leadership and career opportunities already provided by Skyline College. This project will provide the student population with an equitable chance to graduate and transfer—reinforcing Skyline College's goal to ensure open access to all students enrolled within its institution. Students will be monitored for academic success, student engagement, and course completion throughout the year. Practical applications of this program include providing Clipper Cards and parking permits, as well as food vouchers to eat at Skyline College Pacific Dining.

### **3. Campus France – Get In, Get Through, and Bonjour**

Campus France, an initiative supported by the French Embassy in Washington D.C., seeks to increase the number of Americans studying abroad in France. One of the top Business Schools in France—Rennes School of Business—will accept the 60 units of Associate of Business transfer degree for a Skyline College student, allowing students to transfer to their Bachelor of Business Administration degree program and complete their third/final year abroad with the option of a paid internship in France. Tuition at the Rennes School of Business is \$8,500 per year and this pathway will help Skyline College students attain the Bachelor's degree in one year instead of two, providing substantial cultural experiences and increasing transfer rates while decreasing overall time spent obtaining a business degree. In collaboration with the French Embassy and the Consulate General in San Francisco, this initiative supports Skyline College's mission of empowering and transforming a global community of learners.



#### **4. Chemistry Jam**

The lack of fundamental understanding of chemistry has created a persistent struggle for our students in their first semester of chemistry, resulting in an inability to move on and excel in their next course. To address this challenge, we will develop a chemistry workshop that will introduce students to critical topics such as unit conversion and stoichiometry *before* the fall and spring semesters. Chemistry Jam involves hands-on experience and inquiry-based learning, encouraging each participant in the learning process. Furthermore, the program educates each participant with applicable understanding in order to remember more course content and thereby excel in their first chemistry course at Skyline College. The overall goal is to increase student retention rates, decrease the number of students that repeat chemistry courses, and increase STEM major interest. Students who participated and completed Chemistry Jam in the spring reported feeling more confident and less fearful of entering chemistry courses. Chemistry Jam is a free, one-week program providing intensive, fun and stimulating course work that helps remedy many of the challenges our chemistry students face.

#### **5. Discover Days**

The Discover Days initiative allows local high school students who are African American, Latinx, and Filipino the opportunity to sit in on college classes in order to gain exposure to postsecondary education and discover what Skyline College is all about. In collaboration with the cultural learning communities, Discover Days will also provide cultural enrichment and ease the transition of students to Skyline College's academic environment. By providing students with intentional opportunities to experience college prior to enrollment, students will begin to build collegiate relationships and increase their navigational capital, ultimately increasing student success rates.

#### **6. Discover Little Manila**

Having a strong sense of one's ethnic identity is a protective factor for children; positive ethnic identity includes seeing your ethnicity as a central aspect of who you are and valuing that aspect of yourself. This program seeks to enforce those values by taking Kapatiran and Kababayan Learning Community students to visit the Little Manila Foundation to learn more about the Filipino/a-American experience in Stockton, California. Specific curriculum will be developed for students to learn about Stockton and its significance in Filipino/a-American history in the United States. Skyline College serves one of the largest Filipino/a-American populations in the bay area, necessitating a more comprehensive ethnic studies program promoting student engagement and positive attitudes toward learning. Funding will also support Kapatiran and Kababayan students building relationships and community, planting seeds for possible high school and college mentorship.



## **7. Energize Colleges**

Energize Colleges allows students to gain paid, real-world experience while contributing to meaningful campus and community projects tied to sustainability savings. Students will develop knowledge, skills and experience to effectively evaluate energy career options and transition them into a green workforce. The Energize Colleges team will recruit and support students in finding and completing an internship directly related to sustainability career pathways while building relationships with community partners and local high schools. The program benefits the colleges, students and community in several ways. First, internships introduce students to the growing Green Workforce and help build skills that will serve students in any career. Secondly, it provides Skyline College with implementation strategies for sustainability. Lastly, through these internships, the campus becomes better connected to the community at large.

## **8. Global and Domestic Academic Internship Program (GDAIP)**

The Global and Domestic Academic Internship Program provides academic internship placements to students in eight cities around the world: Cape Town, Dublin, Hong Kong, New York, Prague, San Francisco, Singapore and Santiago. In the 2017-18 academic year, 27 students enrolled in the program and began their internships in summer 2018. This program builds on the first year of the program to significantly increase the number of domestic and international students who participate in the program. With the launch of the GDAIP, the San Mateo County Community College District will be one of the few community college districts in the nation to offer structured academic internships globally and domestically at a low cost.

## **9. Guiding Your Path to Success (GPS)**

The Guiding Your Path to Success Program will support the success of incoming students with disabilities in the first year at Skyline College. The experience of students with disabilities in the K-12 system is dramatically different from what students will experience in higher education and students often struggle with the transition. For example, 89% of students with learning disabilities receive support in K-12, but only 15% continue to receive support in college.<sup>1</sup> The GPS Program is a transition program designed to proactively support students with disabilities throughout their first year at Skyline College. GPS also gives students with disabilities the tools and knowledge necessary to successfully navigate the complex challenges students face during the transition to community college. Practical applications of this program include a Guiding Your Path to Success Day, an awareness event during the students' final semester of high school to introduce students to the differences between high school and college disability services, making connections with Disability Resource Center (DRC) staff, and learning about assistive technology available to them. Additional features include family oriented workshops and a first-semester GPS Guide to help students navigate the transition to collegiate courses.

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<sup>1</sup> According to a National Longitudinal Transition Study (NLTS) from the U.S. Department of Education.



## **10. The Human Library**

The Human Library is an event that promotes community engagement and combats prejudice by creating dialogue opportunities between people with unique life experiences. Participants can “check out” human books whom have agreed to sit down with “readers” and have a personal conversation. Volunteer human books have included those that have experienced discrimination based on race, religion, sexual preference, class, gender identity, sex, age, lifestyle choices, disabilities, and other aspects of their life. This year Skyline College plans to host Human Library events throughout the year. Readers at the event would be Skyline College students, staff, faculty or community members whom are ready to build appreciation and understanding through sharing of diverse experiences. Open and civil dialogue promotes many Skyline College student learning outcomes, such as critical thinking, effective communication and citizenship. Both students and the community will be offered the unique opportunity to engage in discussions that challenge stereotypes and focus on diversity and equity.

## **11. La Raza Youth Conference**

The La Raza Youth Conference is a one-day event in which Skyline College invites local Latinx high school students to campus to experience higher education while exploring and celebrating culture and identity. For many local students, this event is their first interaction with any postsecondary institution and allows students to begin thinking of themselves as college students. For graduating seniors, participating in the event reaffirms their interest in Skyline College, their major, or their career goals. Additionally, the program allows students to interact with college staff and faculty, building trust that the student can utilize once fully admitted to the college. Finally, this event provides a volunteer opportunity for Skyline College Puente<sup>2</sup> students as a way to give back to the greater community and recruit the next Puente cohort.

## **12. Library Outreach Programs**

Library Outreach Programs will implement student-centered programming that will enhance students’ diverse perspectives, deepen their understanding of social justice issues, and allow students to build community and feel connected to Skyline College’s mission and values. These events will be centered on such themes as culture, gender, racial justice, symbolic violence, restorative justice, sustainability, and right to knowledge. Such programs will challenge students to think beyond accepted paradigms and engage in powerful, intellectually stimulating discourses. Skyline College Library’s programming efforts will contribute to Skyline College’s efforts to impact student success and support key components of the college redesign and the Skyline Promise, such as transformative teaching and learning, peer coaching, and critical pedagogy.

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<sup>2</sup> The Puente Program is a two-semester program which seeks to increase the number of students who transfer from two-year colleges to four-year colleges. The goal of the Puente Program is to increase the number of educationally under-served students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities.



### **13. Negril, Jamaica: A Service and Cross-Cultural Learning Experience**

Students in the cosmetology, esthetics, and hospitality programs at Skyline College will spend two weeks in Negril, Jamaica, learning advanced industry skills and building relationships with local professionals. All participants in the program will learn valuable new techniques in hairstyling, skin care and marketing, finishing the course with certificates to support new or established businesses. During the program, classmates will work together to build relationships, develop ideas and generate a capstone presentation in one of three areas of specialization: Cosmetology Business Innovation, Social Media and Personal Branding, or Cross-Cultural Communication. Service learning opportunities are rare for community college students, making this trip an educational innovation for students pursuing a certificate or associate's degree.

### **14. Pre-Departure Online Orientation**

The Pre-Departure Online Orientation will provide new international students with an overview of the U.S. higher education system, immigration requirements, campus support services, classroom expectations, academic honesty, and the transfer process. This specialized orientation will use animated videos and sophisticated online software to aid students in contextualizing what they are about to learn and experience at Skyline College. These videos have the ability to make complicated information easier to process and appeal to students through multiple learning modalities – utilizing visual, kinesthetic, and auditory elements. The purpose of the Pre-Departure Online Orientation is to make the first semester transition to Skyline College less challenging for new international students by providing crucial information prior to their arrival.

### **15. Science Expedition Fund**

The purpose of the Science Expedition Fund is to create an expedition culture at Skyline College, allowing students to learn outside of the classroom while building valuable skills. The Expedition Fund will allow STEM faculty to organize trips with students to perform a scientific experiments or observations. While these types of trips have occurred in the past through science clubs, the allowed budget was tight, requiring outside fundraising and only allowing for one expedition per semester. Setting aside a modest fund for these students will increase the value of their STEM courses significantly, as students learn in a realistic scientific environment and build a sense of community with one another. With the approval of this project, the Skyline College Scientific Expedition group will be able to plan and facilitate four expeditions such as taking Skyline College telescopes to the Sierras, using remote sensors to take scientific measurements while kayaking at Elkhorn Slough, and site visits at technical museums or research facilities.



## **16. SparkPoint Cash**

In 2016, SparkPoint<sup>3</sup> at Cañada College launched Cañada Cash, a program that provided a monetary incentive to students for meeting with a financial coach, completing specific financial behaviors and achieving their financial goals. SparkPoint at Skyline College plans to replicate this successful model and tailor it to meet the needs of our student population. This program not only encourages students to see their finances as a priority, but provides them a tangible incentive to make positive decisions and take responsibility for their finances. Students will meet with a financial coach and create a behavior pathway that aligns with the student's financial goals. Students will complete four behavior steps and receive \$25 for each completed step. These financial behaviors allow students the opportunity to improve finances in one of four key areas: income, savings, credit or debt. This improvement can be a determining factor in student persistence and leads to long-lasting financial stability and self-sufficiency.

## **17. STEM Center Forums**

A recent study shows that 69% of STEM students pursuing an Associate's Degree changed majors or left college without completing a degree or certificate.<sup>4</sup> STEM Center Forums seek to improve this statistic by launching a monthly series of lunch forums designed to provide a structured event for faculty mentors, peer mentors, and mentees to connect with one another and engage in activities and discussions that aim to foster community, strengthen persistence, and develop leadership and critical consciousness. Forums will be faculty and student led with topics such as equity in STEM, gender issues in STEM, and service-based STEM initiatives aimed at sparking civic engagement. The forums will provide an entry point for students interested in the Science, Technology and Health Meta Major and provide a space for mentors and mentees to connect and engage in critical discussions around academic and personal development.

## **18. The Student Success Program**

The goal of the Student Success Program is to provide support for students whose academic standing is probation 1, probation 2 and dismissal status and support students in getting back to good standing to graduate. When students are placed on probation 1 or 2, they will attend a probation information workshop, as currently the only way a student can get information regarding probation 1 or 2 is through a counselor and/or the Skyline College website. The goal of the workshop is to provide students a sense of belonging, become critically conscious of their barriers, gain an understanding of probation dismissal policy, learn student success strategies, and engage campus resources. When a student is placed on dismissal status, they will attend The Student Success Conference (SSC). The SSC will include a student success transfer panel, career panel, motivational workshop, work/school balance workshop, mental health workshop, campus resource fair, keynote speaker, and breakfast and lunch. The

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<sup>3</sup> SparkPoint is part of a regional United Way of the Bay Area network of financial education centers designed to serve individuals and families who are working to achieve financial self-sufficiency.

<sup>4</sup> Chen, 2013



follow-up to both the probation workshops and the SSC Conference will be with a Student Success Counselor who will help keep them in good standing through to graduation. Students who were once on probation or dismissal status will receive a Student Success sash to wear during graduation.

### **19. Thematic Math Modules**

Thematic Math Modules are an innovative math resource for tutors, instructional aides, instructors and students which create a repository of open educational resources (free), Skyline College-created online instructional videos, and Directed Learning Activities (DLAs) to be used across the math curriculum. By offering this content on the Canvas platform, it will be available to students both on and off campus. According to data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), a significant portion of students taking transfer level math courses in their first semester will fail without support and intervention.<sup>5</sup> Because of the importance placed on timely math completion for both students and the college, it is imperative that innovative math support is available to students. Thematic Math Modules will play a critical role in improving math success rates. Practical applications of Thematic Math Modules will include a collection of open educational resources (free) and instructional videos allowing students to view multiple ways of approaching math problems, an Affective Domain module which focuses on how to break down the language of math, and Directed Learning Activities, practice exercises that students complete partially on their own, and finish through meeting with a tutor in the Learning Center. Thematic Math Modules will be a critical resource for both students and those supporting successful math completion.

### **20. Transfer and Leadership Summer Program**

The Transfer and Leadership Summer Program (TLSP) is designed to increase current Skyline College students' transfer rates through an engaging summer experience. EOPS and TRiO counseling faculty will assist students in identifying and developing a transfer plan enabling their graduation and transfer within two years. The TLSP will increase students' knowledge, skills, and capacity to identify majors and career paths that best align with their aptitudes and interests, while selecting corresponding colleges and universities that provide an optimum education for their needs and interests. A key component of building student's transfer profile is the development of leadership skills with an operational plan to apply those skills in relation to a student's major and/or areas of interest. Networking with Meta Majors, students will identify areas in which their leadership interests can enhance the experience of college and/or community members, as well as their career preparation. The inclusion of their leadership experiences will increase student's transferability through building co-curricular experiences sought by transfer institutions.

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<sup>5</sup> July 11, 2018 Memo from CCCCCO