

2024-2025 President's Innovation Fund Awards

1. Critical Global Citizenship

This project is aligned directly with our college's mission. Global citizenship education is often perceived narrowly through international student recruitment and study abroad programs and does not integrate into curricular and co-curricular activities. Our project aims to implement shared, informal, and co-curricular learning experiences in the library that fill gaps pertaining to Global Citizenship Education in standardized curricula.

2. Fall Musical

An expansion of the musical theater offerings, this project will provide Skyline College students with a musical theater production in the fall semester focused on a contemporary social issue. The plan is to collaborate with related campus programs/services to raise awareness through special forums and/or benefit performances. This project is also part of the post-pandemic enrollment recovery effort to help rebuild our in person performing arts enrollment devastated by the pandemic move to online instruction. Performances will take place in the newly-renovated Theater and strive for professional production values to attract students to our Dance and Music programs.

3. Teach Palestine

The Teach Palestine Speaker Series highlights the history and experiences of SWANA (South West Asia North Africa) communities within the United States and in a global context. The series will consist of lectures, workshops, film screenings, poetry/cultural events by scholars and community-activist guest speakers who will engage students in global discussions and cross-cultural dialogue. The series will fill a gap in Skyline College's educational programming, professional development, and interracial coalition-building towards social justice, which currently lacks the presence of SWANA and Palestinian students, despite the Bay Area being home to the second largest Palestinian community in the United States.

4. Black Educators Mentorship and Support

At Skyline College, we believe in the importance of diversity and inclusion in education. Unfortunately, the lack of Black representation in our faculty can make it challenging for our Black students to feel fully supported and connected to our college community. We are excited to propose the Black Educators Mentorship and Support (BEMS) Program, a unique opportunity to address the dearth of Black educators at Skyline College and achieve equity goals outlined in the college's equity and master plans. Through mentorship, networking, and



training, BEMS aims to create a pathway for Black graduate students to become successful community college educators and leaders, deepening the relationships between Skyline College and our local four-year colleges and universities and creating a pool of skilled Black educators who are prepared for teaching positions at Skyline College. It also gives faculty mentors an opportunity to share their expertise, enhance their leadership skills, and make a meaningful impact on education's future.

5. RIDE

The R.I.D.E. Conference is a place-based Lowrider studies conference. The event's focus is education through the lens of the lowriding culture. Employing multiple modalities, disciplines and topics the conference is successful in the service of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and community engagement. Looking to the future of the program, the planning indicates that there is demand and necessity to move from the half-day model to a full day of conference programming.

6. Digital Textbooks

The high cost of textbooks is an equity issue and barrier to student success. The Skyline College Library's Digital Textbook Loan Program, developed with the first two years of this grant, is making digital copies of high-demand textbooks available to students in a copyright-safe manner. From fall 2022 to the present, we've provided 885 students with free access to more than 90 digitized textbooks. For our final year, we propose to expand this service to include all electronically-available textbooks in one central location, resulting in increased access and reduced costs for students, and thereby contributing to their overall academic success.

7. Black and Brown Scholars

While we recognize that there is so much work to do to eliminate the barriers to educational opportunities for our young men of color, this grant proposal is also about building upon the assets of young men of color. There is an abundance of literature illustrating these assets where our Black and Brown Scholars demonstrate remarkable resilience. Our purposeful intention is to also create spaces where they are visible and seen, where their voices are amplified and not silenced, and where they can be their authentic selves. Educational systems were not designed with our Black and Brown Scholars in mind so to systematically strip their culture and authenticity for the sake of assimilating into "college culture" disrupts their ability to see themselves worthy in academic environments. Our Black and Brown Scholars bring so many assets to school: leadership, tenacity, strong relationship building, networking, entrepreneurship, community, and family. This project is rooted and aligned with Skyline College's



commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in creating conditions that honors our Black and Brown Scholars. This transformative approach to building communities allows the opportunity for equitable change, not only in the lives of the students, but also the lives of their future families and communities.

8. Cultural Immersion

The U.S. continues to be the top destination for those seeking higher education outside of their home countries and it is critical that international students feel included in the campus community, as few have families or friends in the area when they first arrive. In order to provide opportunities for international students to socialize and navigate campus life, the International Students Program proposes a series of cultural immersion programs for new and continuing international students on campus, such as welcome events for new students, campus tours to nearby universities and cultural events. Studies show that international students who are engaged in campus activities and have bonded with faculty and staff members have higher persistence rates. As an institution that values campus internationalization, it is imperative that we invest in programs and services that improve the student experience and student success.

9. Student Newspaper Digitization Project

The Skyline College Student Newspaper Digitization Project aims to preserve and provide comprehensive digital access to two of our student newspapers, The Skyline Press and The Skyline View. As a partner of UC Riverside's California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC), Skyline College's final digital product would be maintained by UCR at no future cost to our college. For more than 50 years, the student newspapers have represented the student voice(s) in our community. They promote civic engagement and provide a unique, historical record of the college, useful to all campus constituents. Now digitized, the newspaper is our newest tool for digital scholarship with relevance for a wide range of student projects

10. Earth Day Every Day

The Earth Day Every Day initiative will promote sustainability and environmental awareness in our campus, local and global communities. A wide range of collaborative activities will include beach clean-ups, collaborative art projects with reclaimed materials, culinary events and educational workshops on environmental justice, gardening and sustainable choices. Monthly themes will include water, digital life, food choices, composting, biking and more. In Spring 2025, we will host a series of events for Earth Fest Week with community partners. We will promote curricular connections and collaborations throughout the Skyline College community and share collaboration opportunities at Flex Days.



11. Barbering/Cosmo/Esthetics Enrichment Symposium

The Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics (BCE) Symposium is a dynamic one-day event meticulously crafted to engage, enrich and inspire the Skyline College community, prospective students and industry professionals in the BCE field. Through educational workshops, practical skill demonstrations, a resource fair and an exhilarating skills battle, attendees can expect a carefully curated blend of civic-minded activities that include barbering and beauty but also business, arts and communication. This conference will serve as a platform where prospective students can discover and explore the BCE programs, college resources and reaffirm their interest in Skyline College while industry professionals continue their education.