



President's Innovation Fund Awards for 2012-2013

Asian Studies Center

The Asian Studies Center will provide a one-stop resource center, training classes, cultural activities, and a study abroad program. There will be Chinese immersion summer camps to Middle and High school students. The project addresses Skyline College's mission by providing a breadth of educational opportunities and experiences which help student and communities to achieve success and embrace cultural diversity. The Asian Studies Center will serve to support the college's initiative in promoting multicultural awareness and international education. The project will enhance Skyline College's community outreach efforts which in turn will enable Skyline College to be a leader in international education.

Business Technology Speaker Series

Technology is defining and redefining the ways people communicate, teach and work. Faculty, Coordinators, Administrators, and Students at Skyline College work with and represent the minority savvy technology professionals and majority "playing/stumbling" with current technology. The BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES provides an inspiring and inviting opportunity for all Skyline College Community Members to: (1) participate in dialogues addressing the advantages, professional requirements, and social responsibility presented by today's social media tools (2) develop a critical approach to new or renewed digital authoring and self branding (3) employ communication technology to benefit individual, team and academic work.

College Lecture Series

Our goal is to develop an Annual Lecture Series for Skyline College. This year lecture series is titled "A Call to Consciousness ..." Our goal is to raise the consciousness of the campus community and increase opportunity for campus dialogue. The series will challenge "normative thinking" on a variety of topics and provide an opportunity for reflection upon the issues. In addition it will enable us to assess how our community can use this new knowledge and understanding to build a bridge from the best that our community currently has to offer to methods for becoming better than great.

Expressions (through Black Music)

Many Skyline College students are apathetic and disengaged from the academic process. Students are not aware of the valuable academic assistance living resources available to them at Skyline College, regardless of prominent publicity for these resources posted on campus. The Expressions through Black Music research and performance project (EBMP) offers students an exciting opportunity to gain valuable skills in leadership, research techniques, cultural and political engagement, community development and outreach.

FRESH Start

From Spring 2010 to Spring 2011, Skyline College had an average of 145 dismissal students per semester. Dismissal students are defined as students who have been on academic probation for at least two semesters and one or both of the following conditions exist: (1) Their cumulative grade point average (GPA) is less than 1.75 and/or (2) The cumulative total number of units in which they enrolled for which entries of "W", "I", or "NP" has been recorded has reached or exceeded 50 percent.

At the end of Fall 2011, the number of students who were on dismissal rose to 268 students. Counselors recognize that many factors may have contributed to the significant increase; however, we also recognize that the quality and scope of our services can be improved and enhanced to ensure greater success for our students.

Honors Alumni Project

The Honors Transfer Program has a rich potential resource of former graduates, but it does not have an effective mechanism in place to document and involve alumni in the ongoing activities of the program. An extensive database needs to be created to track and contact former Honors Transfer program graduates in order to acknowledge their continued academic and professional endeavors and to encourage communication and involvement.

This database will also be valuable in conducting on-going research on the honors students. This research might include follow up on program level SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes) to see how these skills affected students as they completed their subsequent degrees. This could result in improvements and refinements to the program to benefit students. In general, it would be helpful to know where the students went (what schools, what degrees, what majors, what professions), how well they did, and what effect the honors transfer program had on their success. We currently have anecdotal evidence that our graduates do quite well. Better data would enable us to make sure we are doing all we can to help student succeed.

Middle School Outreach

The Middle School Outreach Project proposes to mitigate the number of students who drop out of high school in our community by providing early college exposure and readiness to middle school students. Reaching out to students in grades sixth through eighth instills the expectation that higher education is accessible and realistic.

Self-Paced Laboratory Instruction in Biology

BIOL101 (Our Biological World) fulfills the life science and laboratory science requirements for graduation and for transfer to CSU and UC. The objective of this Project is to provide an instructional delivery system using 21st century technology, which will allow students to complete the Biology laboratory requirement at their own pace. BIOL101 laboratory instruction presently uses CD-based modules, which require students to sit in lab at computers set up on a lab counter. This project will complete the transfer of the CD modules to a web format. Students will be able to study modules in the Biology Laboratory and at home.

Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Chapter

There is a need to increase student engagement in the Business Programs. The Business Programs have been awarded ACBSP accreditation, and we indicated in the self-study that we need to tie our curriculum to co-curricular activities. In an effort to improve student engagement opportunities in the Business Unit we would like to form a "Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Chapter". The chapter would be open to all students at the college, primarily business students. This will be an opportunity for participating students to use business concepts to participate in community outreach projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need. Ultimately, the SIFE Chapter would increase student success in the Business programs through activities that help them to develop writing a business plan better. There is also a need to assist the YEP program in the CITD with their business plan competition. SIFE will work as a partner with YEP staff to help sponsor the program and help with recruitment efforts.

Spring Musical Project

The Spring Musical project seeks to provide Skyline College students with an annual opportunity to participate in a musical theater production on campus. The choice of the musical will be based on its appropriateness for the students who audition the instrumental requirements of the pit orchestra, the scene/set requirements, and the granting of licensing permissions.

In order to increase ticket revenue in an ongoing effort to make this project repeatable and self-sustaining, we plan to expand the number of performances in 2013.

Step Up

It is vital to engage students in civic learning and democratic leadership and practice on our college campuses. Education in democratic processes and civic participation should be available to all individuals who desire a voice and a seat at the table of campus, local, state and national democracy. American community colleges share the obligation of teaching, modeling, and applying participatory democracy processes, not least because we are the gateway to higher education for millions who might not otherwise get a postsecondary education. More critically, we are rooted deeply in local communities who badly need the civic leadership and practical democratic capacity of our students for their own political and social health.

This specific proposal aims at continuing and expanding student engagement, civic learning and democratic participation on our Skyline College Campus. It also proposes to begin making community connections with Daly City (possibly San Bruno and South San Francisco), exploring opportunities for broader community building and engagement forums, and training students to effectively participate in these forums.

Sustainable Campus Initiative

The intersection of the climate crisis with national and state economic crises and the ever increasing disparity between different populations substantiates a growing need to address environmental, social and economic issues. This need drives a desire to educate, inspire and empower this generation of learners to transform their lives, and the world around them. Interest and involvement from students during the 2011/12 school year, through the Sustainable Campus Initiative and a successful student led Earth Day Festival indicate that students care deeply about these issues and take a keen interest in sustainability as a solution. The Sustainable Campus Initiative is a lever to affect positive change in the community and increase student engagement and connection to Skyline College.

Teaching Excellence Diversity Internship

A Teaching Excellence Diversity Internship (TEDI) is being proposed to address this need. Through the First Year Experience (FYE) program and under the direction of the FYE coordinator and math instructor, an intern will gain experience with first-year, basic skills community college students and learn from faculty who teach the population. In conjunction with the math course, the intern will collaborate with faculty to develop innovative and interdisciplinary curriculum, including assignments, projects and presentations. Interns will participate in other campus projects, developing relationships across the campus while bridging student services and instruction.

Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP)

There are very few avenues, whereby high school and college (aged) students are provided resources to start their own businesses. Through partnerships at Skyline College and throughout the business community, the YEP program would target youth and young adults and provide resources and supportive activities to increase their business management skills and revitalize interest in this career technical education program.