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## *2018-2019 President's Innovation Fund Awards*

### **1. 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 three days a week throughout the academic year.

### **2. ART FOR ALL**

Many low-income students are prevented from enrolling in studio art classes as they cannot afford the tools and materials required for the course. ART FOR ALL will provide students with much needed assistance in acquiring art supplies. While Skyline College offers many assistance programs, none directly address the financial burden of many low-income students in their acquisition of required tools, supplies, and materials for studio art courses. Due to this burden, there exists an inherent inequality in both access and success in such classes, as students cannot manage the continuing cost of required supplies. Many students do not qualify for financial assistance programs, creating an access barrier to courses such as painting, drawing, sculpture and ceramics. The making of art by students enhances self-esteem, confidence and personal expression—fortifying self-identity and sensitivity, as well as awareness of their environment, culture and social interactions. Art is a legacy that remains beyond the student and reaffirms the goals of Skyline College's educational promise.

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

Campus France, a new initiative supported by the French Embassy in Washington D.C., seeks to increase the number of Americans studying abroad in France. This initiative takes it a step further, as one of the top Business Schools in France—Rennes School of Business—will accept the 60 units of Associate of Business transfer degree from Skyline College, 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 \$7,500 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 will involve hands-on experience and guide inquiry-based learning, encouraging each participant in the learning process. Furthermore, the program will educate 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 (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) major interest. Students who participate will gain motivation and a sense of belonging which they can carry with them throughout their academic career. Chemistry Jam will be a free, one-week program providing intensive, fun and stimulating course work that will remedy many of the challenges our chemistry students face.

#### **5. Coding for Middle College**

This program was designed to increase the interest and confidence of Middle College<sup>1</sup> students within the computer science and programming industry. Middle College will create a series of four workshops during summer 2018, providing hands-on exposure to computer programming curriculum currently utilized within various industries. In addition, students will learn about jobs available to computer programmers, how to explore these industries and what additional knowledge and skills they might need to achieve computer science or programming goals. The program will provide students the opportunity to learn computer programming from an industry professional, learn how to network within an industry, and how to continue their education to achieve career goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Middle College is an alternative education program offered by the South San Francisco Unified School District in collaboration with Skyline College that provides high school students with an exciting and challenging learning environment where they can take control of their own education, complete high school graduation, and begin accumulating college credits.



In addition, this program seeks to help underrepresented populations within the computer technology industry by boosting access to information and pathways for diverse Middle College students.

#### **6. 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 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.

#### **7. Discover Little Manilla**

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 Manilla 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.

#### **8. 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.

#### **9. 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.

#### **10. 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 often students 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>2</sup> The Guiding Your Path to Success Program is a transition program designed to proactively support students with disabilities throughout their first year at Skyline College. Going beyond simply providing accommodations, 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 them to the differences between high school and college disability services, make connections with Disability Resource Center (DRC) staff, and learn 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.

#### **11. Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Cultural Enrichment Tour**

The purpose of this tour is to empower and transform students by experiencing different types of colleges, cultures and lifestyles that are not often portrayed here in California. Often times, HBCUs are in better alignment with the cultures of students of color,

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<sup>2</sup> According to a National Longitudinal Transition Study (NLTS) from the U.S. Department of Education.



making them more valuable than experiences at predominantly white colleges. This opportunity is available to all students who may consider transferring to an out-of-state institution to meet their education goals. With the college's new transfer agreement program with HBCU campuses, students and faculty alike will learn about the historical contributions and importance of African-American history that is often lost in the America educational system. Based on previous student reflections, this trip is transformative as a hands-on experience promoting leadership and cultural identity.

## **12. 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 though 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.

## **13. 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>3</sup> students as a way to give back to the

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<sup>3</sup> The Puente Program is a two-semester program which links students, a counselor, an English instructor, community mentors and UC and other colleges in an effort 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.



greater community and recruit the next Puente cohort.

#### **14. Learning Abroad for a Better Tomorrow**

Many students earning a Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate are focused on attaining their goal quickly and often miss out on the traditional “college experience,” including student clubs, study abroad, and electives focused on expanding their personal perspectives and professional experiences. Certificate and associate’s degree paths do not typically feature service learning or exchange programs due to short program duration and limited funding. Learning Abroad for a Better Tomorrow seeks to remedy that inequity. A semester-long sister school partnership with Cosmetology and Hospitality/Tourism programs in Negril, Jamaica will culminate in a weeklong service learning trip. Students from Skyline College and the HEART Program will work in teams throughout the semester to build relationships, develop ideas and content, and generate a capstone presentation in one of three areas of specialization: Cosmo Business Innovation, Social Media and Personal Branding, or Cross-Cultural Communication through fashion, make-up artistry, beauty, and hotel and resort operations. As instructors guide student teams, they will also share with each other theoretical and practical techniques for developing culturally sensitive and inclusive projects. Service learning opportunities to meet and work with students in other countries are rare for community college and CTE students, making this trip an innovation for student pursuing a certificate or associate’s degree.

#### **15. Men of Color Initiative**

Graduation rates for males of color are significantly lower than those of their peers. The continuation of this trend is establishing a structural inequality for males of color and preventing students from breaking the cycles of poverty and oppression. The goal of the Men of Color initiative is to increase the number of males of color graduating from institutions of higher education and returning to their communities as agents of change. The program is designed to develop a community of supportive emerging scholars for males of color who attend Skyline College. It has several key components that will meet the varied needs of males of color and increase acclimation, campus engagement, persistence, and commitment to graduation or career goal. Those key components include a Completion Coach to help the student keep on track, Quality Instruction by means of reserved seats in key math courses and faculty tutoring, Brother to Brother mentorship, weekly Chop-It-Up Meetings to empower students through critical conversations and networking, and Post Year Convocation to celebrate accomplishments with other successful participants, establishing a legacy of success. Men of Color are among the fastest-growing segments of population in the U.S. and require intentional focus to



change the trajectory of males of color who continue to have the lowest levels of educational attainment.

### **16. SparkPoint Cash**

In 2016, SparkPoint<sup>4</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. SynDaver Cadaver**

The SynDaver is a state-of-the-art synthetic human cadaver that will enable students to improve identification and differentiation of various body parts during instructional and laboratory classes. Not only will students enhance their ability to locate different structures, but the SynDaver also supports the instructor's facilitation of teaching and learning in the classroom. Locating and identifying different organs and structures are difficult to attain using biological cadavers. Dissected structures are easily torn and structures and anatomical areas may be difficult to isolate or see. The SynDaver makes it easier to locate, isolate and identify structures, simulating a real view. Benefits of SynDavers include the association with 3-dimensional special orientation that simply cannot be digested by most students using computers, written documents or disarticulated plastic models and eliminating the cost of dissection that accompanies real cadavers. With proper care, the life expectancy of the SynDaver will far exceed the use of a real cadaver.

### **18. Teacher Education Community of Practice**

The Teacher Education program will increase the number of students in a paid internship while they take foundational education courses. Education/Child Development

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<sup>4</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.



(ECE/EDUC.) faculty will meet with General Education faculty to provide a seamless pathway as students are looking to achieve a certificate or transfer to a 4-year program. While California faces a severe teacher shortage, Skyline College's ECE/EDUC. program is in the position to prepare future educators now. To address the teacher shortage problem, The Teacher Education program seeks to 1) Expand the Teacher Internship Learning Community with paid stipends that will support students to intern at the Child Development Lab Center and local elementary schools, 2) Sustain the teacher education community of practice with CDLC staff and education faculty and expand it to include local elementary school teachers, 3) Promote the Elementary Education Associate for Degree Transfer with an interdisciplinary community of practice that brings together General Education and ECE/EDUC. faculty, and 4) Continue support for the Educator Prep Institute Center (EPICenter) by providing a student assistant to maintain the center, promote social media presence, and expand resources and events for students.

#### **19. 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 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.





## **20. Skyline College Women’s Mentoring and Leadership Academy**

The mission and goals of the Women’s Mentoring and Leadership Academy (WMLA) are designed to address the needs of women who are identified as members of disproportionately impacted groups on campus in order to help students get through college and to graduate in a timely manner. The women who participated in the academy this past academic year identify as African American/Black, African, Latina/Chicana, Filipina, Pacific Islander, Pakistani, Chinese, multicultural, biracial, and Samoan/Italian/Salvadorian. Comprehensive Program Data listed on the Skyline College website indicate that African-Americans, Latinx and Pacific Islanders have the lowest success rates on campus. Given the needs of the women on campus and the research cited above, the mission of the Skyline College Women’s Mentoring and Leadership Academy is *empowering and transforming women at Skyline College to achieve personal and professional growth*. We seek to accomplish this mission by providing women with social and academic support via individual, group and peer mentoring as well as leadership development opportunities. The academy seeks to be a support program that assists women in overcoming the barriers that have prevented them from being successful in personal and academic goals. Many women have reported that they joined the academy to meet like-minded women on campus, creating an additional support system. Others joined in order to hone their leadership, communication, and career readiness skills. These goals help reinforce the college’s values of fostering a campus-wide climate of mutual respect and appreciation for diversity, open access to campus services, and strengthening student voices as they transform their lives through educational experiences.