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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SKYLINE COLLEGE TO BE THE ONLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE NATION TO HOST THE 2017  
MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS**

**San Bruno, California – June 6, 2017:** Skyline College is the only community college in the nation selected as an institute partner for the 2017 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. The college will host 25 bright, emerging Business and Entrepreneurship African leaders for a six-week academic and leadership institute beginning on June 16, 2017, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

The [Mandela Washington Fellowship](#), the flagship program of the [Young African Leaders Initiative](#) (YALI), empowers young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, management and entrepreneurship. The fellows are from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa and are accomplished individuals in promoting innovation and positive change in their organizations and communities. The cohort of fellows hosted by Skyline College will be part of a larger group of 1,000 Mandela Washington Fellows studying at institutions across the United States this summer.

“Hosting the Mandela Washington Fellows at Skyline College allows us to further our mission of empowering and transforming a global community of learners,” said Regina Stanback Stroud, Ed.D. “Furthermore, a strong, prosperous, democratic Africa aligned with the U.S. will ensure our national strategic interests for decades to come.”

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This young African leaders initiative is an investment in the next generation of leaders across the continent and is designed to give future leaders a venue to elevate their own communities and countries. The U.S. initiative facilitates self-sufficiency among the leaders' communities while building long-term relationships which benefit the United States. It is critical to America's economic strength to engage with young leaders from around the world, who are poised to take over influential roles in government, civil society, and business.

The Skyline College program will introduce the fellows to a variety industries located in Silicon Valley. These exceptional young leaders will meet at the end of their institutes in Washington, D.C., for the Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit, where they will take part in networking and panel discussions with each other and U.S. leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Following the summit, 100 competitively-selected fellows will spend six weeks in professional development experiences with U.S. non-governmental organizations, private companies, and government agencies.

For more information, contact Tammy Robinson, Ed.D., Dean of global learning programs and services at Skyline College at (650) 738-7098.

*The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is a U.S. government program funded by the U.S. Department of State and supported in its implementation by IREX. For more information about the Mandela Washington Fellowship, visit [yali.state.gov](http://yali.state.gov) and join the conversation at #YALI2017.*

**Skyline College** is an accredited, comprehensive California community college serving more than 17,000 students annually, offering 100 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.