



**Media Contact:**

Stacey Doss  
SDDPR / Base 11  
949-285-2362  
[Stacey@sddpr.com](mailto:Stacey@sddpr.com)

Cherie Colin  
Skyline College  
650-738-4346  
[colinc@smccd.edu](mailto:colinc@smccd.edu)

**Base 11 Launches Innovation Center and New Course at Skyline College  
to Support the Next Generation of STEM Entrepreneurs**

*Program Provides New Blueprint for Community College Partnerships*

**San Bruno, Calif., April 6, 2016** – Students at community colleges across the country who have the potential to develop into the next world-changing science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) professional are lacking just one component to success – resources. Today, the nonprofit Base 11 and Skyline College launched a partnership that brings students the tools – and the training – to become the next great STEM entrepreneur.

Officials announced their plans at the opening of the campus’s new Base 11 Innovation Center, which features a Fab Lab – short for fabrication laboratory – developed by MIT researchers. It will be one of about 110 Fab Labs in the country, and the first on a California community college campus. The expert design, installation and operational training for the lab is led by Blair Evans, director of Incite Focus, an MIT alumnus and certified Fab Academy guru. Within the Fab Lab, tools like 3D printers and laser cutters enable students and community members to design and produce almost anything they can imagine.

To accelerate innovation within the lab, Base 11 is also rolling out a 16-week entrepreneurial course at Skyline College designed to help students turn their classroom learning into new product ideas and then teach them how to create prototypes in the Fab Lab, develop a business plan, and pitch their product. The course will culminate in a pitch contest, with the top pitches advancing to Base 11’s national competition.

“Base 11 has brought a tremendous array of resources to Skyline College that most community college students would never have access to,” said Regina Stanback Stroud, Ed.D., president of Skyline College. “By bringing Ivy League-quality resources to our campus, we are leveling the playing field for students.”

Base 11’s partnership with Skyline College represents a new “Entrepreneur Accelerator” model, which Base 11’s leaders plan to replicate at other community colleges across the country. Base 11 focuses on high-potential students who possess limited resources, and aims to provide them with the tools and support necessary to develop as STEM entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs, with the end-goal of

catapulting them into higher-paying jobs, acceptance and scholarship opportunities at top-tier universities, and direct access to the funding and mentorship needed to launch the business ventures they create while in the program.

This “Entrepreneur Accelerator” expands upon the successful Base 11 internship program, which awards the highest performing Skyline College students with paid summer residency internships at Caltech, University of Southern California, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and the University of California, Irvine.

“We’re giving these students an opportunity with top-tier universities and corporations to ignite the innovation that our country so desperately needs,” said Landon Taylor, CEO of Base 11. “We absolutely believe the next Elon Musk or Steve Jobs may emerge from this Innovation Center at Skyline College.”

Base 11 aims to propel 11,000 students nationwide into its “Victory Circle” by 2020, and hopes 1,000 of those will come from Bay Area schools. Students qualify for the “Victory Circle” when they are:

- Admitted to a four-year university to pursue a STEM-related degree,
- Employed in a well-paid STEM job, or
- Become a STEM entrepreneur.

#### **About Skyline College**

Skyline College is an accredited, comprehensive California community college serving more than 10,000 students offering approximately 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.

#### **About Base 11**

Base 11 is a non-profit public benefit corporation focused on empowering high-potential, low-resource community college students with hands-on education and training in STEM-related enterprises. Base 11 partners with community colleges and their feeder high schools to provide high-potential, low-resource students with real-world training, experience and mentorship in STEM-related enterprises, delivering to employers a prerecruitment pipeline of well-trained, highly skilled STEM employees and entrepreneurs. For more information, please visit [www.Base11.com](http://www.Base11.com). Base 11 is a DBA of the Center for Innovations in Education, a non-profit 501(c) 3 - IRS exemption EIN# 26- 4365936.

###