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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SPARKPOINT AT SKYLINE COLLEGE PRESENTED  
DR. JOHN W. RICE AWARD FOR DIVERSITY AND EQUITY**

**San Bruno, California – July 12, 2012:** The SparkPoint Center at Skyline College is one of three community college programs in the state awarded the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. John W. Rice Award for programs that exemplify diversity and equity through service to underrepresented constituencies. Named after the former member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, the 2012 Dr. John W. Rice Award was presented to Skyline College's SparkPoint Center on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 in Sacramento.

SparkPoint at Skyline College is part of a regional United Way of the Bay Area initiative aimed at reducing poverty in the region by 50% by 2020. Students and other members of the San Bruno community utilize SparkPoint services and resources to gain financial literacy, access benefits and increase their income through education and training. SparkPoint features financial coaches who function like personal trainers for financial fitness. More than 1,200 people have benefitted this year from SparkPoint services that include budget development, credit repair, access to matched savings and checking accounts, scholarships and even an on-site food pantry. Thirty-four \$2,000 scholarships were awarded in 2011 through SparkPoint's Grove Scholarship Program for career technical education students who commit to a series of financial coaching sessions.

"These programs exemplify the best of our system," California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott said. "I think Dr. Rice would be proud of these fine programs and I'm sure we'll continue to see their success stories. These programs and the fine folks who run them continue to have a profound impact on our community colleges."

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The award is named in honor of Dr. John W. Rice who served on the California Community Colleges' board from 1992 until his death in 2000. He was a leader, innovator and spokesperson for equal employment opportunity and nondiscrimination in the California Community Colleges. While on the board, Dr. Rice also displayed a strong commitment to multicultural learning experiences for all students. The Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award was established in 2001 to honor community college staff members, districts, colleges or programs that have made the greatest contribution towards faculty and staff diversity or student equity.

*Skyline College is an accredited, comprehensive California community college serving more than 10,000 students offering over 80 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.*

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