



2020-2021 President's Innovation Fund Awards

1. A Collaborative Innovation Center

High demand for skilled workers in the San Francisco Bay Area, especially for Biotechnology, Information Technology and Business Finance industries, juxtaposed with a lack of access to developing these skills leave many working adults feeling displaced in today's workforce. The Collaborative Innovation Center seeks to alleviate this barrier by allowing business students to secure projects relating to local biotech by offering breweries and wineries yeast analysis services using cutting-edge equipment. As a result, students are expected to develop a systematic process for cell analysis and create career pathways in a high-demand market.

2. Access to Success for Foster Youth

This project intends to provide current and former foster youth with transportation and meal vouchers while attending Skyline College. Current and former foster youth struggle academically without a stable means of transportation and access to food. Providing basic needs services to foster youth, such as Clipper cards, parking permits and Pacific Dining food vouchers eliminates barriers that prevent students from engaging in leadership and career opportunities offered at Skyline College and will provide them with an equitable chance to graduate and transfer—reinforcing Skyline College's goal to ensure open access to all students. Students will also be monitored for academic success, student engagement, and course completion throughout the year.

3. Associate Internship Program

Each year the social and emotional needs of students steadily increase, and funding has been unable to address the needs within the current structure of service delivery. Given the rising needs of students during the COVID-19 global pandemic and subsequent social isolation of shelter-in-place, faculty and classified professionals seek out further training and consultation to better support students in on-campus and online classes. In fall 2019, the Counseling Division was so acutely aware of student needs in this area that hiring an additional Full-time Personal Counselor came in 3rd as a top priority. However, getting a position approved and procuring \$85k in funding for an Full-time staff member will take several years. The Associate Internship Program (AIP) was created as an alternative, transformative campus-wide solution that could amplify services for students, faculty and classified professionals. This involved hiring two highly qualified post grad Associate Marriage & Family Therapists (AMFTs), funded by a mental health grant awarded to personal counseling by the state.



4. Chemistry Jam

Students in their first semester of chemistry struggle due to a lack of fundamental understanding of chemistry, preventing them from moving on and excelling in subsequent courses. Chemistry Jam is a chemistry workshop designed to address this challenge by introducing students to critical topics such as unit conversion and stoichiometry before the fall and spring semesters. Using hands-on experience, inquiry-based learning, and applied understanding, students are able 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 major interest. Students who have participated in and completed Chemistry Jam in the spring reported feeling more confident and less fearful of entering chemistry courses. Chemistry Jam is a free, one-week program providing intensive, fun and stimulating coursework that helps remedy many of the challenges chemistry students face.

5. Classified Leadership Institute (CLI)

Engaging classified professionals in the development and implementation of campus-wide initiatives facilitates a clear understanding of the important role they play in student success. The Classified Leadership Institute (CLI) is a professional development program focusing on educational knowledge, engagement, professional and personal growth, upward mobility, and leadership development to help classified professionals reach the next level in their professional and personal journey. The varied workshops and leadership experiences offered through CLI will provide critical skills and training that will promote equitable practices and increased student engagement throughout the campus. The CLI will be a year-long, cohort-based training program for classified professionals, who will engage in scheduled sessions led by experts on various topics in the form of workshop activities, lectures, video trainings and networking opportunities. The CLI aligns with the mission, vision and values of Skyline College, and will engage classified professionals to create a Caring Campus that ensures deeper student engagement at every contact with students.

6. Community Mural Project (CMP)

The Skyline College Art Program facilitated several community partnerships resulting in mural projects with the City of Daly City and Daly City schools. In each partnership, Skyline College students served their communities by sharing art, while providing visual representations of themselves. These successful projects generated further requests for mural projects from a variety of San Mateo County communities. The Community Mural Project (CMP) will create a sustainable model for the creation of murals through the development of an application and selection process, paid faculty coordination, service learning curriculum and pedagogy, and



creation of a web page and outreach materials. The CMP creates a sustainable service learning model that builds a creative bridge to the community through art, and provides transformative learning experiences that create connections between students, Skyline College and community leaders.

7. Cultural Immersion Program

Despite the current decline in international students arriving in the U.S., the country continues to be the top destination for those seeking higher education outside of their home countries and it is critical that international students feel included in the campus community, as few have families or friends in the area when they first arrive. In order to provide opportunities for international students to socialize and navigate campus life, the International Students Program proposes a series of cultural immersion programs for new and continuing international students on campus, such as welcome events for new students, campus tours to nearby universities, and cultural events. Studies show that international students who are engaged in campus activities and have bonded with faculty and staff members have higher persistence rates. As an institution that values campus internationalization, it is imperative that we invest in programs and services that improve the student experience and success.

8. Discover Days

The Discover Days initiative allows local high school students who are African American, Latin, 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 will 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.

9. Educational Access Center - Educational Technology Program

Current assistive technologies for disabled students are limited to only students with ADA-defined “specific learning disabilities” and “physical disabilities,” leaving students with unspecified learning disabilities unsupported. The Educational Access Center (EAC) was developed to provide educational support services for students with learning challenges who are not identified with specific learning disabilities, with a primary focus on three key components: foundational Math and English, state-supported disability resources, and educational/assistive technologies. The EAC Educational Technology Training Program will provide access to learning technologies such as note-taking software, text-to-speech programs, and writing supports, as well as training and support with these technologies.



10. Equity Scholars Project

Many opportunities for initial training in equity and its role in student success are available to the Skyline College community. Despite this exposure to equity experts and opportunities to grapple with issues of equity, the faculty community's foundational knowledge does not easily translate into equity in action. The purpose of the Equity Scholars Project is to develop a faculty mentoring project that supports creating a culture of equity in action. This project implements spaces to share and enhance an equity lens and provides structured opportunities for embedding equity-minded practices and critical reflection in the daily work of faculty. Faculty will work to develop student-centered curricula that help to inspire, motivate, and prepare students to meet their educational goals. Inspired and critically reflective faculty foster inspired and critically reflective students, which help students move forward with getting through their course of study and graduating or transferring on time.

11. Explorers Program

The goal of the Explorers Program is to help guide students whom are undecided or undeclared in choosing a major and understanding a major's connection to various careers. The Explorers program provides actionable steps allowing students to choose from a variety of options including, (1) introductory courses that include information on majors and career exploration (2) workshops, events and guest speakers (3) embedded student support. Students participating in the program will have a better, more tangible understanding of their career choices, the subject matter required, and the salaries expected with these jobs, as well an opportunity to discover which careers they would find most fulfilling and enjoyable. The Explorers Program benefits students by creating a clear, guided pathway which helps eliminate unnecessary and excess units.

12. Forensics Team

In the Fall of 2019, Skyline College founded the first ever competitive Forensics team in the San Mateo Community College District. Forensics, or more commonly referred to as Speech and Debate, is an intercollegiate, academic competitive team experience. The participants perform in events and compete at tournaments against other four-year and community college competitors. "Forensicators" compete using critical thinking, intellect, and oral communication skills, honing valuable skills such as critical thinking, oral competency, argumentation, persuasion, organization of ideas and research and information literacy. Furthermore, the current Forensics team roster consists of students from various majors; diverse socioeconomic, gender, and racial backgrounds; Middle College; concurrent enrollment; and even a Fulbright Scholar. As such, the Forensics team fulfills Skyline College's vision to "inspire a global and diverse community of learners."



13. 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 those in higher education and they often 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. The GPS Program is a transition program designed to proactively support students with disabilities throughout their first year at Skyline College. 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 students to the differences between high school and college disability services, making connections with Disability Resource Center (DRC) staff, and learning 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.

14. Jamaica: Cultural Learning Experience

Students in the cosmetology, esthetics and hospitality programs at Skyline College will have the opportunity to take part in a Study Abroad / Service Learning trip to Negril, Jamaica, learning advanced industry skills and building relationships with local professionals. All participants in the program will learn hair braiding techniques, natural hair care and principals of care for African American hair from Jamaican professionals, and the opportunity to learn about facial / skin treatments that meet the needs of black women and men. During the program, classmates will work together to build relationships, develop ideas and generate a capstone presentation in one of three areas of specialization: Cosmetology Business Innovation, Social Media and Personal Branding, or Cultural Influences on Consumer Behavior in fashion, make-up artistry, beauty and hotel and resort operations. Service learning opportunities are rare for community college students, making this trip an educational innovation for students pursuing a certificate or associate's degree.

15. Library Outreach Programs

Library Outreach Programs will implement student-centered programming intended to enhance students' diverse perspectives, deepen their understanding of social justice issues, and allow students to build community and feel connected to Skyline College's mission and values. These events will be centered around such themes as culture, gender, racial justice, symbolic violence, restorative justice, sustainability and right to knowledge. Such programs will challenge students to think beyond accepted paradigms and engage in powerful, intellectually stimulating discourses. Skyline College Library's programming efforts will contribute to Skyline College's efforts to impact student success and support key components of the college redesign and the Skyline College Promise, such as transformative teaching and learning, peer coaching, and critical pedagogy.



16. Post-baccalaureate Preparatory Program

More than 50% of 2018-19 graduates majored in fields requiring graduate school, yet they are often not prepared for the rigors of graduate school preparation, particularly when compared with their counterparts at 4-year institutions. The Post-baccalaureate Preparatory Program will serve first generation and low-income students who are impacted most severely in their graduate preparation, and will help close the equity gap they experience as they prepare to pursue their academic and career goals. This program will provide students with faculty support, exposure, and information, building a profile to accelerate their graduate school readiness once they transfer. It will also connect students with graduate school conferences, college fairs, graduate school standardized testing, and build opportunities and knowledge that graduate schools seek in their admission process.

17. STEM Center Peer Mentorship Program

The lack of retention of STEM students in community colleges and the lack of growth of minority representation in the science and engineering workforce demonstrates the need to develop strategic programs and practices that increase the number and diversity of students succeeding in STEM. Research also indicates the importance of a student's academic and social integration on campus to their success. As such, the development of the STEM Center Peer Mentorship Program provides students with a comprehensive support network and integration early on in their transfer journey. The project onboards and trains a total of 6 STEM peer mentors that will facilitate mentorship, community building, a leadership forum, as well as support with retention and enrichment. The STEM Center Peer Mentorship Program will serve as a cornerstone of the STEM Center, designed to provide several series that lend structure and space for strengthening community, leadership and critical consciousness and persistence.

18. STEMPals

STEMPals is an enrichment program created to promote inclusion for women in STEM, with a specific focus on engineering. With a historic disparity in gender inclusion in STEM fields, STEMPals aims to empower more women to enroll and persist in engineering by introducing engineering as a field of study to tween girls. The program promotes inclusion by offering a diverse representation of role models, as girls of color are more responsive to seeing diverse role models that don't fit typical stereotypes of STEM. For the mentees, the program offers enhanced workshops and high touch points to allow them to gain confidence to explore, and seek engineering and computer science as a tangible career aspiration. The mentors will also be compensated for their inclusion of the program through an apprenticeship. By introducing young women to college students currently in pursuit of these historically underrepresented majors, we expect to see a significant increase their likelihood of pursuing and succeeding in STEM.



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 to support students in returning 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. Summer Transfer and Leadership Program

An examination of the latest Skyline College student transfer rates indicates students who have a desire to transfer are falling woefully short of their 2 year graduation rate; first-time only students transfer at 2% within 2 years, 11% within 3 years, and 46% within 6 years, which demonstrates a need for the Summer Transfer and Leadership Program (STLP). Through the STLP, students will engage in transformative, action-oriented instruction regarding the process of transferring and in the identification and development of leadership skills. STLP will inform students of the Meta Major structures, network them to Meta Major services and introduce them to the faculty and staff supports in Meta Majors, building the Meta Major community. Furthermore, the STLP will enroll non-Promise Scholar Program (PSP) students, who receive a wealth of support through PSP and campus collaborations. As such, STLP will increase the number of students who are served campus-wide, moving the transfer success needle.

21. Sustainability Pathway Integration

The goal of this project is to build and train a supported faculty network to promote the implementation of sustainability focused curriculum in alignment with the Comprehensive College Redesign goals. In order to connect with and build upon the redesign goals, these trainings will leverage existing campus-wide interest in sustainability integration through the thematic general education work group and the Sustainability Blitz, which integrates sustainability concepts into current Skyline College courses. Emphasizing professional development, these trainings will equip faculty and staff to lead in their fields, set new and innovative standards and improve instructional efficacy. In alignment with Skyline College values, these trainings are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and justice through strengthening the way teachers integrate sustainability in their classes.