
2023-2024 President's Innovation Fund Awards

1. Be ABOSS

The Business Major is the number one transfer degree at Skyline College and Accounting is an integral part of the degree. Be ABOSS (Accounting Business Opportunities Success Strategies) goals are to increase enrollment by 10%, provide mentorships, develop 21st Century Skills, and gain hands-on experience. In collaboration with campus programs such as CIPHER (Center for Innovative Practices Through Hip-Hop Education and Research) and the Strategic Partnerships Workforce Development Division. We seek to build connections with industry professionals such as YouTube, Kaiser, and SF Film Festival. Be ABOSS will ensure Skyline College students stay on the cutting edge of industry knowledge.

2. Bridges & Beats: Cultivating Student Leadership

Within the Kababayan (est. 2003) and CIPHER (est. 2014) learning communities, over the years, we have had a robust legacy of emerging student leadership, but when the pandemic hit in 2020, this steady pipeline came to an abrupt halt. With the President's Innovation Fund, we will create a student leadership training and development program for students in our learning communities. We hope to not only rebuild our student leadership teams, but also create a framework that can be useful and applicable to all of the learning communities at Skyline College. By starting with our own learning communities and current student cohorts, this project would be able to provide opportunities for students of color who often do not traditionally see themselves as student leaders.

3. Classified Leadership Institute

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.

4. Comunidad

As an anti-racist and equity-minded institution and an HSI (Hispanic Service Institution), there is a need for more support and spaces for Hispanic/Latinx identifying students, faculty, classified professionals and administrators, at Skyline College to experience a sense of belonging in order to succeed and aid one another in our respective success and retention. Comunidad has the overall aim to build a supportive network of employees across the college through collaboration, civic empowerment/engagement, mentorship, and peer support. Together we can dismantle barriers, reach higher potential, and establish Comunidad both for ourselves and, ultimately, our students.

5. Cultural Immersion Program

The U.S. 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 student success.

6. Digital Textbook Loan Program

The high cost of textbooks is an equity issue and barrier to student enrollment and success. Although the Skyline College Library offers short loans of print textbooks and the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning is at the forefront of promoting Open Education Resources, barriers persist. Now, new software will help the Library lift those barriers by making digital copies or chapters of textbooks available to students. Called Alma-Digital, this software can integrate these digital assets into our catalog where they will be available for registered students to download for free regardless of location. This simple solution will reduce costs, increase enrollment, and contribute to academic success for our students.

7. Explorers Program – Road Trip Nation Film & Panel Discussion

Career exploration is crucial for promoting educational equality by providing students with access to diverse career opportunities, regardless of their socio-economic background. To facilitate this, we plan to showcase several award-winning Roadtrip Nation films and hold panel discussions throughout the 2023-24 academic year. These films demonstrate how people from all walks of life found fulfilling careers aligned with their interests. Panel discussions, featuring community members, will follow the films to inspire students to take confident and incremental steps toward fulfilling their career goals. At least one film and panel will be hosted per semester to aid enrollment goals, and Roadtrip Nation will assist in collecting pre/post-survey data to measure the impact of the documentaries on students.

8. Fall Musical Project

An expansion of the musical theater offerings, this project will provide Skyline College students with a musical theater production in the fall semester focused on a contemporary social issue. The plan is to collaborate with related campus programs/services to raise awareness through special forums and/or benefit performances. This project is also part of the post-pandemic enrollment recovery effort to help rebuild our in person performing arts enrollment devastated by the pandemic move to online instruction. Performances will take place in the newly-renovated Theater and strive for professional production values to attract students to our Dance and Music programs.

9. Forensics Team

Forensics, or more commonly referred to as Speech and Debate, is an intercollegiate, academic competitive team experience. Similar to baseball or other competitive sports programs, student enroll in a class, that is lab based, to work with a coach and teammates on the development and practice of various speaking, performance and debate events. The participants then perform these events in competition at tournaments against other four-year and community college competitors. Instead of touting physical prowess, “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. This is offered as an opportunity for cross disciplinary engagement.

10. 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.

11. RIDE Conference

Skyline College hosted the inaugural R.I.D.E. Conference, the first place-based educational lowriding conference in the world. The event's focus was education through the lens of lowriding culture. Employing multiple modalities, disciplines, and topics the conference was very successful in the service of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and community engagement. The conference successfully served its purpose, and the planning for this year's event has begun. Looking to the future of the program, the planning indicates that there is demand and necessity to move from the inaugural half-day model to a full day of conference programming.

12. Student Newspaper Digitization Project

The Skyline College Student Newspaper Digitization Project aims to preserve and provide comprehensive digital access to two of our student newspapers, The Skyline Press and The Skyline View. As a partner of UC Riverside's California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC), Skyline College's final digital product would be maintained by UCR at no future cost to our college. For more than 50 years, the student newspapers have represented the student voice(s) in our community. They promote civic engagement and provide a unique, historical record of the college, useful to all campus constituents. Now digitized, the newspaper is our newest tool for digital scholarship with relevance for a wide range of student projects

13. Summer Transfer and Leadership Program

According to Skyline College student transfer rates, 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.

14. Understanding College

A workshop entitled “College Students with Learning Disabilities” will be held in The Learning Center and STEM Center, and then to a Professional Development day, to bring about deeper awareness, education and empathy for college students with learning differences/disabilities (LDs). The workshop consists of 1) six stimulation stations in which participants experience challenges involved with reading, writing and listening that students with LDs experience; and 2) a lecture by Skyline College’s Education Access Center (EAC) that will describe and explain what LDs are and how we can better support our students with LDs.