
2025-2026 President's Innovation Fund Awards

1. Black and Brown Scholars – Supporting Men of Color Experiences

While we recognize that there is so much work to do to eliminate the barriers to educational opportunities for our young men of color, this grant proposal is also about building on the assets of young men of color. Our intention is to create spaces where they are visible and seen, where their voices are amplified and not silenced, and where they can be their authentic selves. Educational systems were not designed with Black and Brown Scholars in mind. To systematically strip their culture and authenticity for the sake of assimilating into “college culture” disrupts their ability to see themselves worthy in academic environments. Our Black and Brown Scholars bring so many assets to school: leadership, tenacity, strong relationship building, networking, entrepreneurship, community, and family. This project is rooted and aligned with Skyline College's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in creating conditions that honors our Black and Brown Scholars. This transformative approach to building communities allows the opportunity for equitable change, not only in the lives of the students, but also the lives of their future families and communities.

2. Collaborative AI and Entrepreneurial Center

This project launches two connected initiatives through Skyline College's Collaborative AI and Entrepreneurial Center (CAEC): a hands-on AI Boot-camp to train Business and Biotechnology students in emerging digital tools, followed by an Innovation Hub where student teams apply those skills to real-world projects with local small businesses and high schools. This cross-disciplinary model promotes workforce readiness, regional economic development, and equitable access to innovation - preparing students for high-demand careers while supporting community partners through AI-powered business and bio-manufacturing solutions.

3. Critical Global Citizenship

This project advances global citizenship education through a comprehensive exploration of water justice, representation, and sustainability. By engaging students, faculty, and community members through film screenings, interactive exhibits, and community partnerships, the project aims to foster critical awareness and advocacy skills. The initiative aligns with the college's mission, community learning outcomes, and commitment to sustainability, particularly supporting the Education Master Plan's Goal 4: cultivating civic mindedness to empower individuals and strengthen society.

4. Earth Day Every Day

The Earth Day Every Day initiative promotes sustainability and environmental awareness in our campus, local, and global communities. In 2024 and 2025 we hosted a wide range of collaborative activities and events engaging our campus in environmentalism and fostered student engagement through the branch of our student club S.A.G.E. Our goals for this year are to continue to feature campus engagement events with community partners but focus throughout the year on institutionalization of the project. We will promote curricular connections with sustainability topics, seek collaborations and advisory assistance throughout our local communities, and be the voice for institutional efforts that support our college's sustainability values.

5. Fall Musical

Seeking to expand theatrical offerings through Fall Musical Project provides Skyline College students with a fall semester production focused on contemporary social issues. Featuring collaborations with related campus services/cross-disciplinary departments to improve student belonging (e.g. SAGA club/LGBTQIA2S students: Year 1 musical RENT) and student experience (e.g. Personal Counseling services: Year 2 musical CARRIE) through special forums and/or benefit performances. This project is part of the post-pandemic recovery effort rebuilding in-person performing arts enrollment devastated by pandemic online instruction. Performances will take place in our Theater and strive for professional production values to attract students to our Music and Drama programs.

6. Herman@s con Poder: HSI College Tour

This project aims to create a pathway from high school to college, offering support to LatinX youth in our community as they transition into higher education. Students enroll in College Success Factors & Transition to College. The curriculum includes campus visits, allowing students to experience college firsthand thanks to the President's Innovation Fund. Students will participate in a 4-day tour of HSIs in Southern California. The project benefits Skyline College by enhancing one of the most successful and well-established dual enrollment programs on campus. It will provide students with insight into institutions/resources that are intentionally designed to support the retention of LatinX students. The experience of seeing themselves represented in educational spaces for the first time empowers students, inspiring them to pursue their aspirations with greater motivation. The impact of this initiative will extend beyond the students themselves, positively influencing their families, peers, Herman@s community, and Skyline College.

7. Immersive Learning Journey's - Advancing Equity and Information Literacy With Virtual Reality (VR)

The Virtual Reality (VR) Immersive Learning Program at Skyline College provides students unique, experiential learning opportunities without the barriers of travel. Located centrally in the Skyline College Library, this program democratizes access to global experiences such as exploring Broadway in New York or visiting the Smithsonian Museum, thus enhancing cultural understanding, curiosity, and empathy. Directly linked to information literacy, the VR experience equips students to critically engage with diverse information sources, enriching their research abilities and fostering an inclusive, antiracist educational environment.

8. Lunch and Learn: Empowering Student Success Through Exploration and Engagement

The Lunch and Learn Series at Skyline College will provide students with structured career exploration opportunities through workshops featuring industry professionals, interactive activities, and networking sessions. By fostering student engagement in a welcoming setting with complimentary meals, this initiative aims to increase awareness of career pathways, enhance workforce readiness, and strengthen industry connections. The series directly benefits students by broadening students' career possibilities and vision, improving career preparedness, and increasing social capital while advancing the College's workforce development goals. Additionally, the program supports the community by cultivating employer partnerships and increasing equitable access to career resources for historically underrepresented students.

9. Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) Mentorship

Title V of the California Education Code, updated in 2021, now includes requirements for Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) that strengthens the instructor-student relationship while directly supporting student learning outcomes. These updates align with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) standards. When Skyline College undergoes its upcoming accreditation process, reviewers will assess online courses using RSI standards. Courses that previously met the older "regular effective contact" requirements may not fully align with RSI expectations. In this project, we will assess the efficacy of professional development interventions that support RSI in asynchronous online courses. Faculty will collaboratively analyze student success data before and after a series of trainings and other interventions. Project findings will inform the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning's professional development programming.

10. RIDE

Skyline College recently held its 3rd R.I.D.E. Conference, a place-based Lowrider studies conference. 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, transitioning to a full day of conference programming this past year.

11. Teach Palestine

Teach Palestine makes visible the history and experiences of SWANA (South West Asia North Africa) communities in order to build belonging and institutional support for SWANA students, faculty, staff, and allies. The project will continue to host scholars and community-activists as guest speakers on campus to promote global and critical dialogue. In year two, the project will focus on establishing a SWANA learning community at Skyline College to provide space for students to explore their identities, histories, and futures through community building and cultural and political education. This project fills a gap in Skyline College's educational programming, professional development, and cross cultural coalition-building towards social justice, which currently lacks SWANA and Palestinian students, despite the Bay Area being home to the second largest Palestinian community in the United States.