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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Skyline College Announces its Promise Scholars Program Designed to Increase Graduation Rates

San Bruno, California – May 7, 2018: Space is still available for the 2018-2019 academic year Promise Scholars Program at Skyline College, offering a full scholarship and comprehensive support services for first time, full time students for one year. The Promise Scholars Program aims to address barriers that students face in both accessing and succeeding in higher education by easing the financial burden of attending college through fee waivers, textbook credit and monthly transportation incentives. The application for the fall 2018 Promise Scholars Program is open on [WebSMART](#), and prospective students can find information about eligibility and applying to the program on the [Promise Scholars Program webpage](#). This unique program is a key component of the college's comprehensive redesign, aimed at empowering more students to reach their educational goal on time.

The Promise Scholars Program at Skyline College has supported two pilot cohorts and will launch a full replication of the evidence-based and highly successful City University of New York (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) model, expanding to serve 500 students, with its fall 2018 cohort. The model includes specific requirements for student to counselor ratios (150 to 1) providing more focused and dedicated academic counseling for students and benchmarks the student must also meet in terms of academic planning and career exploration. The model was chosen due its ability to double graduation rates within three years for participating students.

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“This model is not just a one year success story, this is 10 years of longitudinal student data demonstrating the positive impact this program has on student success rates and therefore on the lives of students. We are honored to be chosen as the first community college in California to replicate the model,” said, Angélica Garcia, Ed.D., Vice President of Student Services at Skyline College.

To date, across seven cohorts, ASAP has an average graduation rate of 53.2%, in contrast to a 24.1% graduation rate of the comparison student group. These results speak for themselves and provide a driving force for the work being done at Skyline College.

“This is why we come to work everyday, to transform students’ lives with opportunities like the Promise Scholars Program. We are laser focused as an institution, on implementing innovative programs and integrated services to provide a place where students can not only succeed in higher education, but transform themselves and their communities as informed citizens of our global world,” shared Regina Stanback Stroud, Ed.D., President of Skyline College.

The Promise Scholars Program is funded by fundraising support generated through the work of the Skyline College President’s Council and thanks to many community and corporate supporters. The program is also funded through various grants and by the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees.

Promise Scholars Program Pilot Results

The Skyline College Promise Scholars Program piloted key components of the ASAP model in fall 2016 with 139 participating students and in fall 2017 with 253 participating students. The Program has shown a positive impact on student persistence, the rate at which students continue to attend and succeed in college. For students who participated in the program in fall of 2016, 96.4% persisted to the spring 2017 semester compared to only 81.6% of the comparison group. From fall 2016 to fall 2017, Promise Scholars achieved a persistence rate of 82%, as opposed to only 60.5% of the comparison group. Persistence rates for the fall 2017 cohort is 91.7% from the fall 2017 to the spring 2018 semester.

Skyline College is an accredited, comprehensive California community college serving more than 16,000 students annually, offering 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.

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