



Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2020

CONTACT:

Mitchell Bailey – baileym@smccd.edu
Richard Rojo – rojo@smccd.edu

San Mateo County Community College District International Education Program Honored with Prestigious National Award from U.S. Department of Commerce

San Mateo, CA – U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the San Mateo County Community College District's International Education program – San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley – has been awarded the U.S. government's highest honor for export success. Secretary Ross conferred on the program The President's "E" Award, which was first established by President Kennedy in 1961, for contributions to American export growth. The SMCCCD program is the only educational institution among the 28 companies and businesses nationwide honored with this year's prestigious award.

"It is an honor to receive The President's "E" Award and be recognized for the tremendous work our team has done to grow and support our international educational program," said SMCCCD Chancellor Michael Claire. "We believe that engaging international students to come and study at our colleges enriches the culture, education and diversity of our campuses and our community. This award is further validation of that belief."

From 2015 to 2019, the SMCCCD's International Education Program served more than 6,500 students from 135 countries. In recent months, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the international program has pivoted its offerings to increase access for international students from the convenience of their home country. Through enhanced online classes, programs and support services, international students are able to enroll at the colleges of the SMCCCD – Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College – through the District's Global Online Learning (GOL) initiative.

"We are thrilled that our Global Online Learning program has been recognized for its reach from Silicon Valley to parts across the globe, while emphasizing local connections and support for students," said Dr. Jing Luan, Provost for International Education and leader of the District's San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley. "As we diversify our delivery methods and bring our classrooms to students' homes across the world, we expect greater opportunities for learning and success for all students."

In another expansion of the international education program, the District will be signing a memorandum of understanding and partnership with both Taipei Municipal Heping High School and Taipei Municipal Chenggong High School in Taiwan, where a new cohort of high school students will enroll in District classes while studying at their high schools in Taipei. These students will earn credits that lead to an associate degree or transfer opportunities to universities either in Taiwan or in the United States.

For more information on the international education program, visit smccd.edu/international.

###