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San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley joins UC Berkeley Pathways Program for Student Transfers

San Mateo, CA – October 25, 2016 – University of California, Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks and San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley President Dr. Jing Luan, have signed a partnership agreement that will prepare all eligible students at San Mateo’s three colleges (Skyline College, Cañada College and the College of San Mateo) to transfer to UC Berkeley and other selective American universities. The Pathways to Four-Year Universities partnership agreement provides students with specialized and individualized guidance and advising, along with opportunities to experience rigorous academic programs as they prepare to transfer to UC Berkeley. The UC Berkeley Transfer Center will be on the Colleges’ campuses to meet with students interested in transferring and assist them with their course selection and transfer questions.

“The San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley were established as preparatory schools for UC Berkeley and Stanford University. For nearly 100 years, San Mateo Colleges have been providing elite, quality transfer programs and services for our students,” said Dr. Jing Luan, president of the San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley. “With this partnership, we are building upon a tradition and an existing pathway that we know works. We know that our students who transfer to four-year universities are successful because of the academic preparation they received at San Mateo Colleges.”

The San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley, operated by San Mateo Community College District, are among the most culturally diverse community college campuses in America. This level of diversity complements UC Berkeley’s values and benefits transfer students by making them better adjusted and prepared for the rigorous academic studies of the university.

“We invited San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley to be part of this small network of community colleges and we are looking forward to working with them directly and extensively to prepare students for UC Berkeley and other four-year selective universities,” said Rick Russo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education at the University of California, Berkeley. “Our Pathways partnership will provide great opportunities for our region’s students to continue their university education.”

Financial aid is available for eligible students. Students who are interested in learning more about this transfer partnership can visit pathways.berkeley.edu or smccd.edu/international/university-transfer.php