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For Immediate Release

**Moorpark College Partners with National Centers for Inquiry and Improvement
on Student Financial Stability Initiatives**

Moorpark Student Financial Stability Profile One of Seven Colleges Featured on NCII Website

Moorpark, Calif. (October 31, 2022) — Moorpark College was proud to partner with the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement (NCII) on Student Financial Stability study and to be one of the seven colleges featured on the website that posted October 17th. Participation in this study includes a \$1000.00 donation from the Center to the Moorpark College Foundation go towards student scholarships.

NCII partnered with seven colleges across the country that are making student financial stability an institutional priority. The profiles demonstrate how each college has changed its practices and policies to make sure that more students can cover college costs, meet their basic needs, and choose education and career goals that put them on a path toward long-term social and economic mobility. The profiles show that this work is possible in a variety of contexts and provide ideas that colleges can use to strengthen their own students' financial stability.

The featured colleges are incorporating access to financial stability resources and services in students' day-to-day experiences, normalizing the use of these supports, and proactively reaching out to students about their financial needs. The colleges are also using an equity lens — identifying which students are experiencing financial instability compared to which students are getting their needs met — to determine how to prioritize resources and improve supports.

Pre-COVID-19, surveys revealed significant food and housing insecurity among Moorpark's students, galvanizing the college to have difficult conversations about who it serves and what different student groups need to succeed. During COVID-19, Moorpark saw students living even more tenuously than previously realized. And as COVID-19 evolves, Moorpark recognizes it must address these issues while preparing students differently.

Numerous institutional practices are helping Moorpark fulfill this imperative. Even with a relatively high completion rate, Moorpark has a laser focus on supporting the 36 percent of students who do not complete on time. This is accomplished by integrating its Educational Master Plan into a robust data-informed decision making process that includes a heavy investment in professional development and a highly integrated organizational structure that focus on a students' cultural and economic needs. Examples of this include a year-long orientation for all new faculty and classified staff and a week-long professional development for all personnel to ensure all employees know the importance of supporting the whole student and promoting the college's culture of centering on student success.

“At the center of the work we're doing is the belief that we're equipping people for life,” said Dr. Julius Sokenu, President of Moorpark College. “ So whether we're equipping them for life in terms of providing them pathways to career success, building skill sets and habits of mind that they can take from the learning environment in the classroom to their lived lives as productive members of a community, and making informed choices that are not just about building wealth, but the fact that wealth is generational and that the way in which we can help provide for our students today and model behaviors for them, which they can then model for their children, the members of their family, their community and build community success and community capacity.”

The college also now ensures that basic needs assistance and financial literacy efforts are integrated into all grant-funded programs and activities. For example, Moorpark's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) efforts, such as Project STEM Impacto and the

Attract, Inspire, Mentor, and Support Students (AIMS2), include economic supports for participants, like book vouchers and relevant paid work experience. Both basic needs and financial literacy are also embedded into initiatives that support the colleges' priority student equity groups.

The entire Student Financial Stability Report on Moorpark College from The National Center of Inquiry and Improvement can be found on the NCII website at: <https://ncii-improve.com/student-financial-stability/student-financial-stability-college-profile-series/> For more information on the Basic Needs Center @ Moorpark College or the Moorpark College Foundation, please go to <https://www.moorparkcollege.edu/community/foundation>

About Moorpark College

Moorpark College Mission

Grounded in equity, social justice, and a students first philosophy, Moorpark College values diverse communities. We empower learners from local, national, and global backgrounds to complete their degree, certificate, transfer, and career education goals. Through innovation and customized student support, our programs are designed to achieve equitable outcomes.

Moorpark College is one of three colleges in the Ventura County Community College District and annually serves more than 14,000 students. Founded in 1967, Moorpark College is fully accredited and has the highest six-year completion rate within the California Community College System. An Aspen Institute Top 10 Finalist for 2023, Moorpark College has also been named a 2020 Champion of Higher Education by The Campaign for College Opportunity for the Associate Degree for Transfer Pathway. It is also a designated Hispanic-Serving Institution. The college's signature career/technical programs include nursing, radiologic technology, biotechnology and journalism. The college's America's Teaching Zoo is the only associate degree exotic animal training program in the country. To learn more, visit MoorparkCollege.edu or follow @MoorparkCollege on social media.

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