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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Four-Time Winner of National Diversity Award**

Highline College is only community college in state to be recognized for excellence

DES MOINES, Wash. — For the fourth consecutive year, Highline College has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. Highline was one of only two institutions in Washington — the other being Whitworth University — and one of only nine community colleges nationwide to receive the 2016 award.

Given by Insight Into Diversity magazine, the HEED Award is presented annually to institutions demonstrating initiatives that embrace all aspects of diversity, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ community.

“While we look at numbers and expect continued improvement for those schools that receive the HEED Award year after year, we also use a holistic approach in reviewing each application. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being accomplished every day across their campus,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of Insight Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

With more than 70 percent students of color and people representing more than 120 cultures, Highline is the most racially and ethnically diverse institution of higher education in Washington. Highline has won a number of awards of late, giving the college national recognition as a leader among the nation’s community colleges for advancing educational equity and social justice.

“We have enjoyed extraordinary recognitions from Insight Into Diversity and other organizations in recent years reflecting our innovative initiatives that improve student success and engage our communities. I hope that this wonderful award enhances the pride that our students feel about the quality of their own educational accomplishments,” said Dr. Jack Bermingham, Highline’s president.

As a recipient of the 2016 HEED Award, Highline is featured in the magazine’s [November 2016 issue](http://www.insightintodiversity.com/wp-content/media/digitalissues/november2016/index.html), along with the 82 other recipients:

Anne Arundel Community College

Arizona Summit Law School

Augusta University

Ball State University

California State University, East Bay

California State University, Fresno

California State University, Northridge

California State University, San Marcos

Capital Community College

Case Western Reserve University

Central Michigan University

Cleveland State University

Columbia University in the City of New York

Cuyahoga Community College

Davenport University

DePaul University

East Carolina University

Eastern Kentucky University

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

El Paso County Community College District

Florida Coastal School of Law

Florida State University

Framingham State University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia State University

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

Houston Community College

Indiana University-Bloomington

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Kansas State University

Kennesaw State University

Kent State University

Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Miami Dade College

Millersville University

Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University

Northern Virginia Community College

Oklahoma State University

Pennsylvania State University, The

Rochester Institute of Technology

Saint Louis University

San Diego State University

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Seminole State College of Florida

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Southwestern Law School

St. Cloud State University

Stockton University

SUNY Buffalo State College

SUNY System Administration

Texas Tech University

Union College in New York

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Georgia

University of Houston

University of Houston Law Center

University of Illinois at Chicago

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University of Louisville

University of Maryland University College

University of Massachusetts Boston

University of Massachusetts Lowell

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Florida

University of Oklahoma

University of South Carolina

University of Texas at Austin, The

University of Toledo, The

University of Vermont

University of Virginia

University of West Florida

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

West Virginia University

Western Michigan University

Whitworth University

Widener University

For more information about the 2016 HEED Award, visit [insightintodiversity.com](http://www.insightintodiversity.com/about-the-heed-award/). To learn more about Highline and its commitment to diversity and inclusion, visit [highline.edu/about-us](https://www.highline.edu/about-us/commitment-to-diversity/).

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**Attachment:** Photo of Dr. Jack Bermingham

Celebrating its 55th anniversary, Highline College was founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County. With nearly 17,000 annual students and 350,000 alumni, it is one of the state’s largest institutions of higher education. The college offers a wide range of academic transfer, professional-technical education and applied bachelor’s degree programs. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida and former Washington state poet laureate Sam Green.