

# AANAPISI Program

Support program helps increase awareness of educational options and improves college graduation rates for those from the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities

The goal of Highline College's AANAPISI program is to improve academic outcomes and increase engagement and satisfaction among parents and community members from the South King County region. AANAPISI provides access to mentorship, advising and wrap-around support services to build successful pathways for Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

**Learn more at [aanapisi.highline.edu](http://aanapisi.highline.edu).**

## Factoids



- Funded by U.S. Department of Education grant (CFDA #84.031L).
- 5-year, \$1.5 million grant ends 2020.
- Highline College is an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), one of only 24 with a federal grant in the U.S.
- 20% of Highline undergraduate students are Asian American and Pacific Islander.\*
- Highline created a \$120,000 AANAPISI scholarship endowment, half of which came from college-related fundraising activities.

\*Data does not include international students; 2018-19 academic year.

## Students Succeed With AANAPISI

Persistence rates at Highline are increasing for first-time, degree-seeking Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

| Persistence rates          | AY 2017-18 | AY 2018-19 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Full-time students:</b> |            |            |
| Fall to fall               | 72%        | 73%        |
| Fall to winter             | 91%        | 94%        |
| <b>Part-time students:</b> |            |            |
| Fall to fall               | 50%        | 51%        |
| Fall to winter             | 69%        | 72%        |

### Fun Fact:

The fall-to-fall persistence rate for all AAPI students enrolled in Highline's AANAPISI program was 68%, compared to 62% for all AAPI students at Highline.



## MEET Tevita Tupou

A Tongan by heritage, Tevita Tupou was born and raised in Washington and loves the Pacific Northwest. He also loves helping his fellow AANAPISI students as an ambassador, due in no small part to the help he received when he transferred to Highline from a four-year university.

“When I first came to Highline, I had no idea who to turn to for help and it came with a great deal of stress,” he says. “Then I met the student ambassadors and staff for AANAPISI and they helped me get myself together in terms of getting started at Highline and feeling welcome and comfortable.”

Ambassadors serve as campus liaisons, peer mentors and resources to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. They are role models and provide ongoing guidance and support to students who are historically disadvantaged and underrepresented in postsecondary education.

A first-generation student, Tupou also serves as president of the Pacific Islander Club.

“It makes me incredibly happy to see more people of color together furthering their success in higher education and breaking the typical stereotypes that are put on to us.”

Tupou adds that AANAPISI is an “amazing program” that is helping him earn an associate degree, after which he plans on transferring to a university to pursue a bachelor’s degree in communications.



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