

Teaching and Early Learning Program

Increasing diversity of educators to improve student retention and achievement

One goal of Highline's Bachelor of Applied Science in Teaching and Early Learning is to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of educators in South King County. People representing more than 120 cultures and ethnicities attend classes at the college, making Highline perfectly positioned to help diversify the teaching corps. In addition to more traditional students, the program is designed to support those currently working as para-educators, preschool teachers and childcare providers. It prepares candidates for careers in elementary schools or in early childhood education settings, giving them access to more job opportunities and higher wages. [Learn more at highline.edu/bas/teaching](https://highline.edu/bas/teaching).

Factoids

at a
glance

- Two-year program started in fall 2017; first cohort will graduate in June 2019
- Funding needed for enrollment support (such as student scholarships) and program expansion
- Teachers of color account for only 17 percent of classroom teachers, while students of color make up 70 percent of the population in six neighboring school districts*
- With more than 70 percent students of color, Highline ranks as the most diverse higher education institution in the state of Washington and ranks fifth among four-year public institutions in the nation, making the college uniquely positioned to help bring more teachers of color into area schools

*Data from Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton and Tukwila school districts (Washington's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oct. 2016)

Students: Quick Look

2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

84
total
students

87%
female
students

73%
students
of color

64%
first-generation
students

Students: Race/ Ethnicity

2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR



White/Caucasian	23	27.4%
Hispanic/Latino	20	23.8%
Black/African American	10	11.9%
Asian	9	10.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	1.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1.2%
Two or more races	4	4.8%
Other	5	6.0%
Not reported	11	13.1%

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MEET

Tamara Snow

At age 60, Tamara Snow may be older than most of her classmates and professors but that hasn't stopped her from following her passion.

Snow is enrolled in Highline's new applied bachelor's degree program in Teaching and Early Learning.

"I chose Highline because it offered the exact degree I'd been looking for, with online, night and hybrid classes so I can still work full time," Snow says. "Highline campus is where I teach, so it was convenient, too."

Snow has been teaching pre-K at Children's Home Society on the Highline campus since October 2013.

Snow's educational journey has been just that, a journey. She was homeless at age 16 but managed to finish high school on her own. She then earned a full academic scholarship for her first year at a community college. She received top grades but couldn't afford the money to pay for her second year.

"I've wanted to go back to school for my degree since 1976 when I graduated from high school."

Once Snow completes her bachelor's degree, she plans to earn a master's degree in early childhood education and special education.

"I'm passionate about both learning and teaching: learning because it makes me a better person and teaching because it's a pay-it-forward thing. My goal in teaching is to make a positive difference in young children's lives as well as in the lives of their families."

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