

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Immediately

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Extended Hours for Free Income Tax Help at Highline College

United Way and Highline Continue Partnership, Add Morning, Saturday Hours

DES MOINES, Wash. — Community members can get their taxes done for free, thanks to a partnership between United Way of King County and Highline College. Households that make less than \$66,000 are eligible, provided tax returns are not too complex.

IRS-certified volunteers will prepare returns as long as they do not involve income earned in other states, business taxes, rental income or sale of property or stocks. No appointment is necessary. Those who arrive first will be served first.

This community service is available three days a week through April 18 in Building 1 (east entrance) on <u>Highline's main campus</u>. Morning hours are available for the first time:

— Monday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.— Thursday: 4:30–8:30 p.m.— Saturday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Customers will need to bring the following:

- Social Security cards/individual tax identification numbers (ITINs) and birthdates for everyone who will be listed on the return.
- Photo ID.
- All tax statements, including forms such as W-2, 1099 and SSA-1099.
- Health insurance forms 1095-A, 1095-B or 1095-C.

If filing jointly with a spouse, both must be present to e-file.

Bringing bank account numbers, routing numbers and a copy of last year's tax return is also highly recommended.

In 2018, customers received more than \$700,000 in refunds at Highline's tax site, where volunteers prepared nearly 450 returns.

In addition to tax preparation, community members can be screened for other public benefits such as health care, food stamps and reduced transit fare, called ORCA LIFT. This service is available through Highline's partnership with WithinReach, an organization that helps Washington families connect with resources and navigate health and social services systems.

For questions or more information, visit <u>United Ways' Free Tax Help page</u>, email freetax@uwkc.org or call 800-621-4636.

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Links within this release:

- Highline College's main campus: https://www.highline.edu/campus-guide/locations-and-directions/
- WithinReach: http://www.withinreachwa.org/
- United Ways' Free Tax Help page: https://www.uwkc.org/need-help/tax-help/

Founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County, Highline College annually serves more than 17,000 students. With over 70 percent students of color, Highline is the most diverse higher education institution in the state. The college offers a wide range of academic transfer, professional-technical education, basic skills and applied bachelor's degree programs. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida and former Washington state poet laureate Sam Green.