



MEDIA RELEASE

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Highline College Adds New Geology Degree \$1,500 Scholarship Available

DES MOINES, Wash. — Whether you're paid six figures to find oil for the production of gasoline or you are working to save the planet by cleaning up the environment, there are a variety of careers available for a geologist.

While students could study geology through an Associate of Arts transfer degree at Highline, Highline College is now better able to reach those who are interested in the study of the earth with its new Associate of Science in geology degree.

"What we're doing now is creating this degree specifically for students that are transferring in geology and it will allow them to take classes specifically needed to major in geology at a four-year school and receive all the benefits of an Associate of Science degree," said Eric Baer, a geology instructor who has worked at Highline College for 25 years.

Baer said the following colleges have agreed to accept Highline's new geology degree: Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University, Heritage University, Pacific Lutheran University and Seattle University.

Carla Whittington, a geology instructor who has been at Highline nearly as long as Baer, said students would essentially step into their bachelor's degree as a junior. Whereas a regular Associate of Arts transfer degree may cause the student to end up with some gaps in their needed prerequisites to complete a bachelor's degree in geology.

Opportunities are endless for geologists. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, there are more geologists employed in the United States than there are biologists. Additionally, Baer said the Washington Occupational

Information Service estimates there will be another 1,000 geology job openings in King County throughout the next year.

To help geology students pay for this new degree, the [Highline College Foundation](#) will offer a \$1,500 scholarship this spring during their scholarship open application period, typically in April.

To learn more about the geology program and the new Associate of Science in geology, visit pathways.highline.edu/stem-pathway/geology/.

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Attachment: Photo of a geology lab taught by Highline College geology instructor Carla Whittington. Students use a stream table to determine the stream's discharge.

Links within this release:

- <http://foundation.highline.edu>
- <https://pathways.highline.edu/stem-pathway/geology/>

Founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County, Highline College annually serves more than 13,000 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.