



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Highline Educator Grads Eligible for New UW Tacoma MEd Pathway

DES MOINES, Wash. — A new Highline College pathway is attracting early interest. Graduates of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Elementary Education (EE) [degrees](#) can now apply to the Master of Education for Practicing Educators (MEd) [program](#) at the University of Washington Tacoma.

Dr. Tanya Powers, associate dean for workforce pathways at Highline College, said a recent information session at the college drew an enthusiastic crowd eager to advance their career potential.

Students who are K–8 certified teachers have the ability to increase their wages with this master's degree, while earning an English Language Learners (ELL) endorsement or a Special Education endorsement. This program also allows full-time permanent state employees to take advantage of the 12-credit tuition waiver to reduce costs.

“Highline College is proud to collaborate with the University of Washington Tacoma to create a seamless pathway into the Master of Education for Practicing Educators,” said Dr. Powers. “We are excited to have our students access quality graduate programs.”

Dr. Rachel Endo, dean of the School of Education at the University of Washington Tacoma, shared Dr. Powers' sentiment about the partnership between the two institutions.

“UW Tacoma's School of Education is deeply honored to partner with Highline College. With a shared mission to advance equity and excellence in education, this pathway will allow us to prepare practicing educators to advance their education in service to diverse communities, families, and learners,” Dr. Endo said.

She noted: “I also look forward to our ongoing partnership as we collaborate with our communities and schools to provide a culturally sustainable and high-quality education to all children, irrespective of their backgrounds or circumstances.”

Students who have successfully completed, or are in their final two quarters of, the BAS in ECE or EE undergraduate programs at Highline College are eligible to apply to the program.

Graduates of these programs with a GPA of 3.0 or higher will not be required to complete any leveling courses before starting UW Tacoma’s MEd for Practicing Educators program, allowing for a streamlined application process.

**Links within this release:**

- <https://education.highline.edu/programs/>
- <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/soe/master-education-practicing-educators>

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**About Highline College**

*Founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County, Highline College annually serves approximately 14,000 students. With more than 80 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, internationally acclaimed author Ann Rule, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida, Dr. Tom Jackson, former president of Cal-Poly Humboldt and retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and nurse Sandra Cravens Robinson.*