

**FOR RELEASE:** Immediately

**DATE:** March 2, 2017

**CONTACT:** Bobby Butler: (206) 592-3985, [bbutler@highline.edu](mailto:bbutler@highline.edu)  
Rick Shultz: (206) 592-4117, [rshultz@highline.edu](mailto:rshultz@highline.edu)  
Kari Coglon Cantey: (206) 291-8622, [kcantey@highline.edu](mailto:kcantey@highline.edu)

### **City Farming and Food Access Focus of New Summit**

Free Two-Day Event at Highline College to Fight Food Desert in South King County

DES MOINES, Wash. — A mother goat with her new kid are likely to steal the show at the South King County Urban Agriculture Food Summit, scheduled for March 17–18, 2017, at Highline College. In its inaugural year, the free summit is open to all who want to learn about growing food and farming in the city.

The two-day event — March 17, 2–5 p.m., and March 18, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. — will feature workshops, demonstrations, vendors and children’s activities on the college’s main campus in Building 8. Attendees will learn about permaculture/sustainability techniques, soil science, bee keeping for increased pollination, edible landscaping and more.

“The goal of the summit is to support, develop and promote new energy for urban agriculture in south King County,” said Rick Shultz, who is one of the event organizers.

Shultz noted that the new summit, as well as Highline’s [Urban Agriculture/Food Security program](#) in general, gives the college and its community partners the ability to increase awareness and opportunities to develop urban agriculture in a region of King County that is recognized as a food desert.

Several outside organizations are participating in the two-day event. Ravenna Ridge Metro Milkers will bring goats to demonstrate urban goat keeping, and the [Seattle Tree Fruit Society](#) will present its 12th annual grafting show, with many fruit growing–related workshops.

“I am excited to be partnering with King Conservation District and the Seattle Tree Fruit Society for this event. Both organizations are wonderful resources for folks in the community that are interested in growing their own food and learning more about sustainable practices,” said Bobby Butler, who along with Shultz is organizing the summit. Butler manages Highline’s Urban Agriculture program.

“I am hoping that this event will give members of the community the motivation and guidance they need to get their garden or farm off and running this spring. The event will also be a great

opportunity for people to get to know about some of the wonderful food-based organizations that are here to serve their community.”

In 2015, Highline was awarded a two-year, \$80,000 grant from the [King Conservation District \(KCD\) Regional Food System program](#) to help launch its Urban Agriculture/Food Security program.

The KCD grant program was initiated to serve as a catalyst for making local food production environmentally and economically sustainable. It funds projects that contribute to the economic viability of local farmers, encourage new farmers, expand acreage in food production, improve food access and increase demand for King County farm products.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/highlineagriculture](http://www.facebook.com/highlineagriculture).

Highline College’s main campus is located in Des Moines, midway between Seattle and Tacoma at South 240th Street and Pacific Highway South (Highway 99).

###

**Attachment:** Photo of two goats (doe and kid)

**Links within this release:**

- Highline College’s Urban Agriculture/Food Security program: [www.facebook.com/highlineagriculture](http://www.facebook.com/highlineagriculture)
- King Conservation District: <http://www.kingcd.org/>
- Seattle Tree Fruit Society: <http://www.seattletreefruitsociety.com/>

*Celebrating its 55th anniversary, Highline College was founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County. With nearly 17,000 annual students and 350,000 alumni, it is one of the state’s largest institutions of higher education. The college offers a wide range of academic transfer, professional-technical education and applied bachelor’s degree programs. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida and former Washington state poet laureate Sam Green.*