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Highline Vice President Honored for Fostering Student Success and Diversity

**Dra. Maribel Jimenez Has Received the Rhonda Quash Coats Award
for Excellence in Multicultural Student Services**

DES MOINES, Wash. — Last week, Dra. Maribel Jimenez, Vice President of Equity, Diversity and Transformation at Highline College, received the Rhonda Quash Coats Award for Excellence in Multicultural Student Services.

The award is presented every year at the Students of Color Conference to an outstanding Community and Technical College (CTC) professional in Washington State. That person must have made significant contributions to equity, multicultural, diversity and student services in the following areas: leadership, advocacy, service, dedication, innovation, and/or research that fosters student success.

Tanya Zaragoza, Multicultural Student Services Directors (MSSDC) President, said: “I cannot think of a leader more deserving of this award that honors work for and with our diverse students across the Washington CTC system. (Dra. Jimenez) is a dedicated professional, who brings her heart and soul to everything she does to make the world of higher ed better for students, staff, faculty, and surrounding communities.”

At Highline College, Jimenez is instrumental in creating an environment that values and demonstrates its commitment to equity, diversity and transformation by developing, aligning and/or integrating a range of new and existing initiatives, policies and procedures into a cohesive, collegewide plan. Highline College is the most diverse higher education institution in the state with over 75% of the student population identifying as students of color.

Zaragoza noted that Dra. Jimenez, “...is a seasoned educator with 15 years of experience designing, facilitating, and leading collaborative work at a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and (an) early adopter of a Guided Pathways approach.”

MSSDC established the Rhonda Quash Coats award in 2007 to honor Dr. Rhonda Quash Coats for her leadership, advocacy and pioneering activities, which have had a lasting impact on the Washington state community and technical college (WCTC) system in the area of multicultural/diversity programs and services.

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Attachments: Photo of Dra. Jimenez at the award ceremony; Dra. Jimenez' profile pic

About Highline College

Founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County, Highline College annually serves 14,100 students. With more than 75 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 seven applied bachelor's degree programs. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, internationally acclaimed author Ann Rule, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida, Dr. Tom Jackson, president of Cal-Poly Humboldt and retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and nurse Sandra Cravens Robinson.