



MEDIA RELEASE

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Local Colleges and Universities Declare Affordable Housing Week, May 13–17

They Join 25 Cities and King County in Recognizing the Importance of Safe, Healthy, Affordable Housing

DES MOINES, Wash. — The presidents of four Seattle-area universities and colleges have joined forces to declare May 13–17, 2019, as Affordable Housing Week on their campuses. Dr. John R. Mosby, president of Highline College; Dr. Daniel J. Martin, president of Seattle Pacific University; Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J., president of Seattle University; and Dr. Ana Mari Cauce, president of University of Washington, have signed proclamations or otherwise affirmed the importance of safe, healthy, affordable homes in communities of opportunity.

The higher-education institutions join King County and 25 King County cities in recognizing the benefits of affordable housing to everyone in the community.

Nationwide, 12 percent of community college students and 9 percent of university students are homeless, according to a [national survey of 43,000 college students](#) by Wisconsin HOPE Lab, summarized in an April 2018 report. The survey also found that 36 percent of university and 46 percent of community college students are housing insecure.

Students in South King County are also hit hard by lack of affordable housing, according to [data from Washington school districts](#). During the 2017–18 school year, 3,737 students in the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila school districts identified as homeless, up from 3,488 the year before.

To explore their role in addressing homelessness, local universities are hosting a first-time conference, “Higher Ed on Homelessness: Collaborating for Change,” Friday, May 10, in Seattle. About 75 to 100 faculty, staff and graduate students from more than 10 area higher-ed

institutions will share their research, teaching, service learning, community engagement and advocacy best practices. The conference is hosted by Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University and University of Washington.

[Affordable Housing Week](#), now in its fourth year, is hosted by the [Housing Development Consortium](#) of Seattle-King County. The Seattle City Council is expected to sign this year's proclamation today, and the King County Council is expected to sign at its meeting tomorrow.

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Attachment: 2019 Highline College Affordable Housing Week Proclamation

Links within this release:

- Wisconsin HOPE Lab April 2018 Report: <https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wisconsin-HOPE-Lab-Still-Hungry-and-Homeless.pdf>
- Washington state school district data: <http://www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/Data.aspx>
- Affordable Housing Week: <https://www.housingconsortium.org/affordable-housing-week/>
- Housing Development Consortium: <https://www.housingconsortium.org/>

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.