



MEDIA RELEASE

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4 Highline College Employees Earn Honors Annual Awards Recognize Professional Excellence

DES MOINES, Wash. — Each year, Highline College recognizes exemplary staff and faculty who make a difference in students' lives. This year, four staff and faculty members were honored for their professional excellence and achievements at the annual employee luncheon in June: Ron Godfrey, a Burien native now living in Eatonville; Allison Green, Seattle; Indira Hazbic, SeaTac; and Doris Martinez, Federal Way.

Employees are nominated through a confidential process by Highline students and/or peers. Along with the award, each received \$1,500, courtesy of the [Highline College Foundation](#).

Adjunct Faculty of the Year: Ron Godfrey

Ron Godfrey, a part-time instructor in computer information systems and computer science, was recognized for his passion and knowledge.

“The students love that he ties the work they are doing in class into what he does for a living,” said a coworker. “Students see that what they are learning has a real meaning and application for jobs in the industry.”

One of his students said, “He is a shining example of a professor who loves his job, loves his students and is passionate about teaching inside the classroom and out. He is unquestionably the best professor I’ve ever had in my academic career.”

A native of Burien, Godfrey now lives in Eatonville and has worked at Highline for 10 years. He served in the Marine Corps before working at Boeing for nearly 30 years.

At Boeing, he spent two decades as a digital forensic examiner where he supported numerous corporate investigations for organizations tasked with enforcing policies and laws.

Godfrey is a member of the Computer Technology Investigators Network and provides presentations on computer forensic topics to students enrolled in computer forensic courses.

Tenured Faculty of the Year: Allison Green

Allison Green, an instructor in English, humanities, and diversity and global studies, was honored for her student-centered approach.

“She is nonjudgmental and encouraging while challenging people to deepen their thinking about identity, equity and inclusion,” said a coworker. “Her devotion to this work is a reflection of her profound concern for students and desire to help create a campus environment in which all our students have an opportunity to thrive.”

Green, a Seattle resident, has worked at the college for 25 years.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in creative writing and journalism from The Evergreen State College, a master’s degree in creative writing and literature from Emerson College in Boston and a Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Certificate from Seattle University.

While at Highline, she co-founded the Diversity and Globalism department in 1999, chaired the Arts and Humanities division from 2005 to 2011, won several awards and published two books.

Classified Staff of the Year: Indira Hazbic

Indira Hazbic, a senior secretary in Adult Basic Education, was recognized for being calm, cheerful and compassionate when working with students.

“In over 10 years working with her, I have witnessed many tense situations at the front desk, but I have never seen her lose her patience or become angry with any student,” said a peer who nominated her for the award.

Hazbic, a SeaTac resident, has worked at Highline College for 18 years. She was born in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but moved with her family to the United States as a refugee due to armed conflict in her home country.

She received her bachelor’s degree in international affairs from Seattle Pacific University in 2008 and is currently working on her master’s degree.

Exempt Staff of the Year: Doris Martinez

Doris Martinez, director for student diversity and inclusion, was honored for her campus leadership.

“The leadership she has shown in the Highline College Faculty and Staff of Color committee is exemplary,” said a colleague, who witnessed Martinez in a challenging situation. “Doris navigated the conflict gracefully and ... earned the respect of those involved.”

Martinez, a Federal Way resident, has worked at Highline College since 2014.

A child of immigrant parents, the Honduran American of Garifuna decent was raised to value education, which included knowing her family, language and heritage. This resulted in living in

Honduras with her maternal grandmother during her elementary years, meeting extended family and becoming trilingual.

After graduating from Highline College in 2007, she continued her studies at Seattle University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in strategic communications in 2009 and a master's degree in student development administration in 2011.

Highline College has been [honoring employees for more than 30 years](#), beginning with the 1987–88 academic year.

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Links within this release:

— Highline College Foundation: <https://foundation.highline.edu/>

— Highline College Employee Awards: <https://www.highline.edu/spring-2016-awards/#faculty-award>

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.