



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **10th Annual Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration**

#### **Highline College to hold free event October 12**

DES MOINES, Wash. — Highline College will celebrate its 10th Annual Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 12, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Building 2 with storytelling, lectures and performances by Native presenters and artists.

The free [event](#) welcomes everyone and provides an opportunity to recognize the thriving culture and value that neighboring tribes and other Indigenous nations add to the college. Local tribes include Muckleshoot and Lower Elwha S'Klallam tribes. The day also offers attendees the chance to reflect on the ongoing strengths and struggles of Indigenous peoples.

Among those relaying their experiences will be Roger Fernandes (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), a Native American artist, storyteller and educator whose work focuses on the culture and arts of the Coast Salish tribes of western Washington. Dr. Denise Bill and Elise Gerrish-Bill (Muckleshoot) will present about the land we are on, which is Muckleshoot.

"We are thrilled to have speakers who are respected in the Native community share their time and voices with us," said Dr. Tanya Powers, event organizer. "It would be amazing for folks to understand that ideally every day is Indigenous Peoples' Day," Powers continued.

Highline began official recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day in 2016. Over its 10-year history at Highline, it has attracted a combination of Highline College students and community members.

Special thanks for the support of this day to Dr. Rolita Ezeonu, Dr. Maribel Jimenez, Mia Bull, Dr. Hugo Puerto, Ricaflor Fontillas, Dr. Tanya Powers, and Center for Leadership & Service.

**Links within this release:**

- <https://highline.edu/about/newsroom/news/indigenous-peoples-day-2026.html>

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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.*