



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Josh Gerstman: (206) 592-3705, jgerstman@highline.edu

Jess Underwood: (206) 592-3393, junderwood@highline.edu

Highline College Turns 65 Years Old This Month

DES MOINES, Wash. — As the first community college in King County, Highline College has proudly gone from strength to strength since its founding 65 years ago.

On [October 10](#), 1961, the college opened its doors to 385 students and operated out of 14 portable [classrooms](#) on the campus of the former Glacier High School on South 142nd Street in SeaTac/Burien.

Starting with 15 instructors, Highline is now one of the state's largest institutions. It serves approximately 14,000 students annually and has more than 350,000 alumni. In addition, it is one of 34 community and technical colleges in the state of Washington and has been located on its 80-acre campus in Des Moines, Washington, since 1964.

To learn more about Highline's history, reach out to Josh Gerstman, Highline College's vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the Highline College Foundation.

Links within this release:

- <https://dp.la/item/99018eb85ae691203f05388563894776>
- <https://www.highline.edu/about/history.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.