



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Immediately
DATE: October 22, 2024
CONTACT: Jess Underwood: (206) 592-3393, junderwood@highline.edu
Sharon Vail: (206) 592-4139, svail@highline.edu

Highline College Foundation to Host Annual Fundraiser

DES MOINES, Wash. — Highline College Foundation is set to host its annual fundraiser early next month. The theme of the event is titled ‘Thunderbirds Soar Through the Decades’ and will take place on Saturday, November 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the Highline College Student Union (Building 8).

“Thunderbirds Soar is an opportunity for our supporters from throughout the community, and the campus community, to come together to celebrate the great work happening at Highline, support our students through financial contributions and connect with familiar faces and new friends,” said Josh Gerstman, Executive Director of the Foundation.

All net proceeds go to furthering Highline College students who need assistance pursuing and reaching their educational goals.

Highline’s Director of Philanthropy, Institutional Advancement, Sharon Vail confirmed, “We believe in increasing equitable education for students through the support of community, collaboration and building relationships. This event reflects that.”

What to Expect:

Guests will be greeted with a glass of champagne at the door. Then served plated appetizers, a hefty, healthy buffet with vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options, experience a photo booth, live musical performers, complimentary wine, a no-host bar and of course a delectable dessert dash!

It will be an opportunity to connect with friends, colleagues and Thunderbirds from throughout the community. Experiences to sign up for may include a sailing excursion on Lake Union, an afternoon on the South Sound to learn about marine life, ‘sipping and painting’ or ‘writing a poem’ in a scenic setting, enjoying a spirits tasting, or attending a sporting event among Seattle’s finest fans.

Theme/What to Wear:

‘Thunderbirds Soar Through the Decades’ will hopefully spur guests to think creatively about what decade they and/or their table might want to focus on. The evening will begin with ‘in the 70s’ – when the

Foundation originated – and move through to the 2000s. With the blues and greens streaming throughout, guests are encouraged to come as their authentic selves, no matter what they wear.

Tickets are \$75, and sponsored tables (of 8) are also available for \$750. [Purchase ticket\(s\) today!](#)

About the Highline College Foundation:

The Foundation works to support educational efforts of the college through scholarships, emergency need awards and special projects. It provides critical resources for granting access, enabling continued education and funding dreams.

###

Attachments: Thunderbirds Soar Through the Decades graphic

Links within this release:

- <https://hghlnccf.ejoinme.org/ThunderbirdsSoar>

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 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.