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### **Four-Time Winner of National Diversity Award**

Highline College is only community college in state to be recognized for excellence

DES MOINES, Wash. — For the fourth consecutive year, Highline College has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. Highline was one of only two institutions in Washington — the other being Whitworth University — and one of only nine community colleges nationwide to receive the 2016 award.

Given by Insight Into Diversity magazine, the HEED Award is presented annually to institutions demonstrating initiatives that embrace all aspects of diversity, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ community.

“While we look at numbers and expect continued improvement for those schools that receive the HEED Award year after year, we also use a holistic approach in reviewing each application. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being accomplished every day across their campus,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of Insight Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

With more than 70 percent students of color and people representing more than 120 cultures, Highline is the most racially and ethnically diverse institution of higher education in Washington. Highline has won a number of awards of late, giving the college national recognition as a leader among the nation’s community colleges for advancing educational equity and social justice.

“We have enjoyed extraordinary recognitions from Insight Into Diversity and other organizations in recent years reflecting our innovative initiatives that improve student success and engage our communities. I hope that this wonderful award enhances the pride that our students feel about the quality of their own educational accomplishments,” said Dr. Jack Bermingham, Highline’s president.

As a recipient of the 2016 HEED Award, Highline is featured in the magazine’s [November 2016 issue](#), along with the 82 other recipients:

Anne Arundel Community College  
Arizona Summit Law School  
Augusta University  
Ball State University  
California State University, East Bay  
California State University, Fresno  
California State University, Northridge  
California State University, San Marcos  
Capital Community College  
Case Western Reserve University  
Central Michigan University  
Cleveland State University  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Cuyahoga Community College  
Davenport University  
DePaul University  
East Carolina University  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania  
El Paso County Community College District  
Florida Coastal School of Law  
Florida State University  
Framingham State University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Georgia State University  
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District  
Houston Community College  
Indiana University-Bloomington  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
Kansas State University  
Kennesaw State University  
Kent State University  
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College  
Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Miami Dade College  
Millersville University  
Northeastern University  
Northern Arizona University  
Northern Virginia Community College  
Oklahoma State University  
Pennsylvania State University, The  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Saint Louis University  
San Diego State University  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Seminole State College of Florida  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
Southwestern Law School

St. Cloud State University  
Stockton University  
SUNY Buffalo State College  
SUNY System Administration  
Texas Tech University  
Union College in New York  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
University of Central Florida  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Georgia  
University of Houston  
University of Houston Law Center  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Louisville  
University of Maryland University College  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Florida  
University of Oklahoma  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas at Austin, The  
University of Toledo, The  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of West Florida  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
West Virginia University  
Western Michigan University  
Whitworth University  
Widener University

For more information about the 2016 HEED Award, visit [insightintodiversity.com](http://insightintodiversity.com). To learn more about Highline and its commitment to diversity and inclusion, visit [highline.edu/about-us](http://highline.edu/about-us).

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**Attachment:** Photo of Dr. Jack Bermingham

*Celebrating its 55th anniversary, Highline College was founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County. With nearly 17,000 annual students and 350,000 alumni, it is one of the state's largest institutions of higher education. The college offers a wide range of academic transfer, professional-technical education and applied bachelor's degree programs. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida and former Washington state poet laureate Sam Green.*