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14-Year Highline Veteran to Head Financial Services

Alumna and longtime employee, Cartwright brings experience, passion and deep roots

DES MOINES, Wash. — Cathy Cartwright has been promoted to Director of Financial Services at Highline College.

She will manage the accounting functions of the college, prepare the college's financial statements for audit and supervise the finance staff.

"I'm excited for this new opportunity with Highline College. I have always loved to learn new things, and now I'll have the chance to do that every day," Cartwright said. "I love the people I get to work with and what we do as a college to make positive changes in people's lives and in our local communities."

Cartwright has worked at Highline College since September 2002, serving in a number of different roles including course information manager, director of instructional budget and planning, adjunct accounting professor and most recently, director of budget, grants and contracts. Additionally, she has worked as a certified public accountant.

"Cathy is a dedicated Highline employee who maintains a positive attitude in every task she carries out. Her experience as a CPA brings a depth of understanding to her new position as well as her 14-plus years with Highline," said Michael Pham, Highline College Vice President for Administration. "I know she will be successful and keep the interests of our students at heart."

According to Cartwright, she is born and bred Highline. She attended Mount Rainier High School in the Highline School District before attending Highline College. Cartwright attended the Central Washington University extension program and earned her master's degree in accounting.

"I am an accountant because of an accounting instructor that I had here at Highline many years ago," Cartwright said. "I lived and grew up in this community with roots that go deep. My instructor at Highline brought accounting to life and showed me how cool it was. I'm fortunate to continue to be a part of that magic."

Cartwright lives in Des Moines.

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Attachment: Photo of Cathy Cartwright

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.