



MEDIA RELEASE

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Highline Receives Major Scholarship Funding

DES MOINES, Wash. — On September 11, 2007, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Highline Community College \$599,968 to provide scholarships to students majoring in math and science. Students who are eligible for financial aid may receive up to \$5,265 per year through the new Science Scholars Program (SSP) beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year.

“These scholarships will make a tremendous difference in creating access and motivation for our students”, said Highline Interim President Jack Bermingham, PhD.

Students pursuing careers in astronomy, biology, biotechnology, botany, chemistry, environmental science, geology, marine science, oceanography, and physics will receive scholarship awards. Computer science, engineering, and mathematics scholarships are available under a separate NSF award.

(more)

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The new grant is part of a larger effort by NSF to increase to the number of math and science graduates nationwide. Highline's excellent stewardship of an ongoing \$400,000 scholarship grant for engineering students paved the way for the new project award, which makes scholarships available for every degree program offered in the Pure and Applied Sciences Division.

"This grant is another excellent reflection on faculty leadership and initiative at Highline," Bermingham added. The project, entitled "Science Scholars Program (SSP)," is under the direction of Tina Ostrander, Eric Baer, Gregory Reinemer, Jeff Owens, and Robert Embrey.

The grant award is one of about 90 new awards that will be made by the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education this year. These awards are a result of the evaluation of 249 proposals submitted in February 2007. Thus, the Highline project is in a select group nationwide.

Along with enriching educational opportunities for students, the grant will strengthen relationships with area K-12 school districts, institutions of higher education, and employers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students.

The award is effective September 15, 2007 and expires August 31, 2011.

Highline Community College was founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County. With approximately 9,500 students and 350,000 alumni,

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it is one of the state's largest institutions of higher education. The college offers a wide range of academic transfer and professional-technical education programs, with day, evening and weekend classes. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida and noted author Ann Rule.

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