Meeting Employer and Student Demand with New Applied Bachelor’s Degree

Students combine their passion for visual design, technology and problem-solving with equity-based design in Highline’s new Bachelor of Applied Science in Integrated Design. The degree meets student and employer demand. Students want the four-year degree, which until now, hasn’t been available in south King County. And most employers want designers with a bachelor’s degree. The degree includes a focus on diversity and globalism studies, helping future designers understand the world and community for which they design. With more than 70 percent students of color, Highline ranks as the most diverse higher education institution in the state, reflecting the diversity of south King County.

Beyond Campus: Learning in Our Communities

Students often don’t have the time or resources to come to campus for classes. So, Highline offers classes in the communities where students live and work. One such location is the YWCA in White Center, a community 10 miles north of Highline’s main campus. At this location, all students are refugees and immigrants and most are English language learners. Highline offers a number of courses for about 150 students each quarter, including early childhood education classes in several language cohorts, such as Arabic, Somali and Spanish. Many of the students are early childcare providers working toward their state credentials.

Contributing to the Area’s Economic Development

Highline contributes to the economic development of south King County by providing no-cost business training and one-to-one technical assistance for new and existing businesses. Such assistance helps local businesses become sustainable and self-sufficient. In 2018, Highline provided 1,932 hours of service to more than 443 clients and helped launch 35 new businesses, create 69 new jobs and generate $5.061 million in loans and investments. Businesses served report $4.7 million increase in revenue. Highline’s economic development initiatives include the Small Business Development Center and StartZone.