South Seattle College was established and started offering classes to surrounding communities in 1969, breaking ground on the first buildings in 1970. Since that time, South expanded its program offerings to meet the needs of community members seeking further education, no matter their starting point. Throughout the 2019-20 academic year, the college is paying tribute to our past with an art gallery retrospective, storytelling opportunities and a community celebration. The campus community is also using this milestone as an opportunity to envision the college’s next 50 years.

South Seattle College is undertaking a collective effort to culturally and systematically change the way we interact with students to remove barriers, increase retention and completion, and close achievement gaps. We have recently completed more than 40 program maps that clarify the path to completion for students and provide them insight into career and transfer opportunities. We have also assigned advisors to Areas of Study (metamajors) so they have a focus area to better support students and created new faculty professional development and assessment positions to increase student success in the classroom. New student retention software will help students, advisors and faculty stay connected and increase support opportunities.

Waste Management Northwest, Seattle’s provider of garbage, recycling and yard/food waste curbside collection, recently donated two used trucks to South Seattle College’s Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology program. The donation creates new opportunity for students to learn the ins-and-outs of these high-tech vehicles in preparation for careers servicing large engines that power buses, trucks, construction equipment and ships. With this donation, students have expanded access to current electronic systems, automatic transmission assemblies and controls, compressed natural gas engine configurations, and more to hone their skills.