Ensuring Equity and Inclusion During the Pandemic  
Highline, like other colleges, has adapted teaching and student support strategies during the pandemic, keeping equity and inclusion at the forefront of our practices. In 2019-20, 11% of students taking Basic Education for Adults courses in Washington state were enrolled at Highline. For English language learners, moving to remote learning proved especially problematic. To address barriers in online instructional methods, class instructors have been sending weekly printed packets to several hundred students to work on at home. Instructors call and text these students to monitor progress and answer questions.

Increasing Access Through Multiple Measures and Dynamic Placement Process  
Research has indicated that placement tests used by community and technical colleges are not reliable predictors of student performance in college-level coursework. It’s estimated that as many as 30% of students placed in remedial education could have succeeded in college-level courses, and the time and money wasted in those cases is an obstacle to degree completion. With this knowledge and the help of grant funding, Highline transformed its placement process and now uses multiple measures of assessment for course placement. Students are active participants and situate their skills within their educational pathway. The new approach has increased access to college-level English courses from 60% to 89% and college-level math from 17% to 63%.

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 achieve sustainability and self-efficiency. In 2019, Highline provided 2,361 hours of service to more than 466 clients and helped launch 34 new businesses, created 90 full-time and 41 part-time new jobs, and generated $5.39 million in loans and investments. Businesses served report $5 million increase in revenue. Highline’s economic development initiatives include the Small Business Development Center and StartZone.