

HONORS SCHOLAR PROGRAM



Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

~Yeats

Presented by Barbara Clinton, HCC Honors Scholar Program

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INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

We're all about—

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Outcomes Assessment**
- **Diversity**
- **Access to Opportunity**



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Highline's program incorporates several of AAC&U's high impact practices:

- Shared intellectual experiences
- Collaboration
- Learning communities
- Diversity and global learning
- Writing intensive

What academic excellence looks like:

To graduate as a Highline Honors Scholar, students complete 35 honors credits.

2 credits of Honors 100 (Honors Seminar-"BOOTCAMP")

1 credit of Honors 101 (Honors Colloquy)

30 credits of Honors and/or Honors Options:
(must include)

--5 credits from Humanities,

--5 from Social Science,

--5 from Science/Math,

2 credits of Honors 299 (Honors Interdisciplinary-CAPSTONE))

A student who completes the Honors Scholar Program with a 3.5 GPA will receive a **merit tuition scholarship** for the final quarter at HCC and will be **recognized at graduation**, as an "Honors Scholar."

If students participate in honors classes and/or acquire honors option credits but are unable to complete the total requirements to graduate as an Honors Scholar, those credits will still appear on transcripts as Honors work.



OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

Highline has implemented a campus-wide outcomes assessment project:

- Program Outcomes
- “Bootcamp” Outcomes
- Database Resource

DIVERSITY

- HCC serves a population that is over 50% students of color, more than 60% female, economically disadvantaged first-generation college students (the most diverse CC in WA).
- The diversity of HCC's Honors Scholar Program comes close to mirroring that of the college.
 - ✓ Only about 40 % of our Honors participants are born-in-the-US Caucasians.
 - ✓ Participants range from students who have never been out of Washington state, to International students from Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Germany, to immigrants and refugees from Laos, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Sudan, Somalia, Bosnia, Moldova, Ukraine...
 - ✓ “Bootcamp” throws them together into teams/work groups

HCC'S Program is not elitist.

- **CRITICISM:** Honors Programs are dominated by high-achieving Caucasian females.
RESPONSE: Over 40% of our Honors 100 students report themselves to be non-Caucasian.
- **CRITICISM:** Students are selected for Honors Programs by faculty who respond to the “apple polishers” or the “whiz kids.”
RESPONSE: Faculty do NOT select students for the HCC Honors Program. Students self-select, choosing to place themselves in the program.
- **CRITICISM:** Honors Programs favor the students who have a history of strong academics and exclude “late bloomers.”
RESPONSE: Any HCC student, with any GPA, can enter the program merely by performing at a 3.5 level in any class and completing a special Honors Option project. Students with GPAs of 3.2 or better can enroll in the Honors 100 Seminar.



ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

The HCC Honors Scholar Program:

- **Is Inclusive**
- **Teaches how to “play the game” of higher education**
- **Opens Doors**

HONORS STUDENTS— WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

- Amherst
- Brandeis
- Brigham Young
- Central Washington University
- George Washington University
- Gonzaga University
- Evergreen State College
- New York University
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Princeton
- Seattle Pacific University
- Seattle University
- Tufts University
- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Military Academy at West Point
- University of California (various)
- University of Maryland - Pharmacy
- University of Michigan - Engineering
- University of the Pacific
- University of Redlands
- University of Washington
- University of Washington-Tacoma
- Washington State University
- Western Washington University
- Whitman College



HONORS STUDENTS— WHO ARE THEY?

- **Meheret Endeshaw**
- **Nate Marotta**
- **Joseph Burnett**

HONORS— a Program to be proud of

- **Student Participation and Achievement:** After piloting our new program in spring of 2003 with 15 students, we began in fall of 2009 with about 200 active participants. Spring term of 2010 we expect to end with about 250 in the program, hoping to exceed late year's mark in scholarships, grants, and aid as students continue on to four-year schools.
- **Faculty Support:** HCC faculty members are enthusiastic in their support of students in the program. While Honors Option projects can only be done by students at the discretion of the instructor, and while instructors are not given additional pay for participation, agreement for and support of the projects definitely has become the campus norm. About 100 faculty members participate on a regular basis. Faculty participation seems to have become part of our student-centered campus culture.

HONORS— a Program to be proud of

- *Over 95% of the students who complete 15 credits of Honors work go on to four-year schools.*
- *Over 85% of those who complete Honors 100 go on to four-year schools.*
- *Our marvelous database for the Honors Program showed us that those students who graduated in '09 reported themselves to be taking with them*

Scholarships & Financial Aid worth over \$3.2 million.



HCC has an Honors Program

And we would LOVE to share it with you—

<http://flightline.highline.edu/honors/HONORS100/ToolKit/INDEX.htm>

