

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

DATE: January 26, 2009

CONTACT: Bob Bonner: (206) 878-3710, ext. 3469, bbonner@highline.edu
Nicki Bly: (206) 878-3710, ext. 3677, nbly@highline.edu
Lisa Skari: (206) 870-3705, lskari@highline.edu

Highline health care programs unveil cutting-edge technology

Respiratory Care and Polysomnographic Technology programs celebrate arrival of SimMan

DES MOINES, Wash. — A piece of cutting-edge technology is breathing new life into Highline Community College's Respiratory Care and Polysomnographic Technology programs.

The programs will host a free event, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 20, celebrating the arrival of the new SimMan, an advanced human simulator that breathes and talks. Current students will be performing advanced cardiac life support codes throughout the event. The event is open to the public.

Respiratory Care and Polysomnographic Technology students receive training in the college's state-of-the-art sleep lab so they have the skills they need to work immediately in these high-demand professions after graduation.

There's an increasing need in the medical field for more polysomnography technicians who help diagnose and treat more than 90 different sleep disorders.

"Demand is very high within Washington state and across the nation as hospitals and independent sleep labs are expanding to meet the increasing number of patients referred by family physicians and cardiologists," said Nicki Bly, program coordinator for the Polysomnographic Technician program.

In addition, job openings for respiratory therapists are expected to climb 19 percent from 2006 to 2016, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(more)

Highline Community College

Page 2 of 3

Respiratory therapists work with doctors and health care staff in medical facilities to find the best treatment for patients with breathing or other cardiopulmonary disorders.

“Students who complete the program will enter a profession that is never boring and allows them to make a lasting and meaningful difference in the lives of others,” said Bob Bonner, program coordinator for the Respiratory Care program. “They will get much more out of their career than just a paycheck.”

Both programs are accepting applications through May 1, 2009 for fall quarter 2009.

An Associate of Applied Arts degree in the Respiratory Care or the Polysomnographic Technology program may be completed in seven quarters. A certificate in the polysomnography program may be completed in three quarters.

Information sessions about the programs take place in Building 26, room 219, on Highline’s main campus throughout the academic year. Upcoming sessions are:

- 1 p.m. Feb. 4
- 11 a.m. Feb. 18
- 1 p.m. March 4
- 1 p.m. April 1
- 11 a.m. April 15
- 1 p.m. May 6
- 1 p.m. June 3

For more information, visit <http://polysom.highline.edu> or <http://respiratory.highline.edu>.

Highline Community College was founded in 1961 as the first community college in King County. With approximately 10,000 students and 350,000 alumni, 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, online and weekend classes.

(more)

Highline Community College

Page 3 of 3

With the most diverse population of any college in Washington state, Highline takes a multicultural approach to education for the success of all its students and the prosperity of its surrounding communities. Alumni include former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, entrepreneur Junki Yoshida and Washington state poet laureate Sam Green.

###