If you’re going to Highline, you sure are getting your money’s worth.

Recently, Highline received a top 20 spot on the 50 Best Value Community Colleges of 2016, presented by Value Colleges.

The college also received a No. 7 ranking among the 14 Most Scenic Community Colleges in the U.S., presented by LawnStarter, a lawn care service blog.

The criteria for the Top 50 award measured the graduation and transfer rates, the mid-level salary of graduates, and tuition rates from 614 institutions, which then narrowed down to the top 50 colleges from across the nation.

“Every college in Washington state would fit the affordability criteria, so then it ties into the degrees we offer,” said Dr. Lisa Skari, the vice president of Institutional Advancement. “We’ve got nursing, computer programs, and paralegal. We’ve got nice wage jobs on the professional and technical side.”

Shoreline has received recognition in the past and this year Green River also scored a top 20 ranking, too.

“We had no say in what they wrote about us [for the award],” said Dr. Skari. “I thought the write-up was passionate.”

Dr. Skari said one of her hopes is that the level of recognition Highline has been receiving lately will catch the attention of a private foundation that has similar values as the college.

“I hope some of this visibility will get us on somebody’s list that has a passion for the things we’re doing on campus,” she said.

This award also creates a sense of pride, she said.

“I think people should be proud, whether it’s students or staff or faculty. It’s nice to be recognized for a job well done,” said Dr. Skari.

While Highline has received awards that limit each college to a one-time win, there are several awards that Highline continues to win, such as the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award.

Highline has won this award for the past three years, and wants to keep that tradition alive, Dr. Skari said.

“There’s a sense of pride that we are a leader in this award field and we want to keep that going.”

While the awards are great acknowledgement, Dr. Skari said it is important for Highline to continue to hold on to the main values of the college.

“I’m proud when I look at some of the awards that we have that really speak for the Highline spirit,” she said. “The Diversity award, the Equity award, these are really at our core.”

Highline is especially focused on student progression, academic excellence, diversity, community engagement, and sustainability, she said.

“These have been core themes for years. It’s not like we’ve been changing and going after something else every five years,” she said. “This is really what we believe in and what we think is important.”

Not only is Highline a force of excellence, but the campus is also pretty to look at.

In April, LawnStarter ranked Highline as the seventh most scenic community college in the U.S.

“When we shared that [post] on social media, it became the No. 1 most shared item we’ve ever had,” Dr. Skari said.

This article quickly circulated on popular social media networks like Facebook and Twitter. The post had a total of over 19,000 engagements of likes, comments, and shares.