

## HCC Class of 2020 virtual celebration Aug. 20

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College will recognize the Class of 2020 with a virtual celebration that will be available for streaming beginning at noon on Thursday, August 20, 2020.

"We'll have special guests, a few surprises and a great time celebrating you," President Christina Royal said in a May 8 email to students.

The video celebration, which is not a virtual commencement, will include congratulatory remarks, student speeches, recognitions, music, and submissions from graduates. Prior to Aug. 20, each member of the Class of 2020 will receive a special surprise package in the mail and be invited to host their own watch parties on Aug. 20 or anytime after to share on social media using the hashtag #HolyokeCC20.

More details will be released on the HCC website as they become available: [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu)

HCC had previously announced the cancellation of its traditional Commencement on May 30 at the MassMutual Center because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead, HCC will hold a traditional, in-person Commencement honoring both the Class of 2020 and 2021 on June 5, 2021.

"HCC will also mark its 75th anniversary in 2021, so you can look forward to being part of what will be an extra-special ceremony for this historic milestone," Royal said.

"I know this is not how you envisioned the conclusion of your academic journey with HCC," Royal said. "However, despite the detours this global pandemic has presented the class of 2020, I believe you possess the strength and resilience to shine, and I promise you will be celebrated like no other graduating class in HCC history. Although your time as an HCC student is coming to an end, remember that there is no end to your relationship with Holyoke Community College. You are now part of a community of 40,000 HCC alumni worldwide, and in your own backyard. They will be your colleagues, future classmates, business partners, and lifelong friends. HCC remains a part of you always."

"I am so impressed with each of you and the resilience you have demonstrated in completing your studies. I hope you will take advantage of every opportunity to celebrate - creatively, virtually, and eventually, in person - because you truly deserve it. I wish you the very best in these final days of the semester."