

In The News



HCC nursing student Gabriela Artin of Westfield tending to a patient in one of the medical simulation rooms at the Center for Health Education and Simulation.

Submitted Photo

HCC event highlights free nursing education

HOLYOKE - As part of state-wide STEM Week activities planned by the Governor's office, Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler and Commissioner of Public Health Robbie Goldstein will visit the Center for Health Education and Simulation at Holyoke Community College on Tuesday, Oct. 17, to officially launch a new state initiative that provides free community college education to nursing students.

The event began at noon with tours of the facility led by HCC nursing students.

There was a short speaking program with remarks by Tutwiler, Goldstein, HCC President George Timmons, and HCC nursing students Afrike Phakos of Springfield and Katelynn Richard of Ludlow.

State Sen. Jo Comerford, Sen. Adam Gomez, state Rep. Pat Duffy, Rep. Brian Ashe, and Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia also attended.

Unlike the state's new MassReconnect program, which provides free community college to students 25

and older, the state's new nursing initiative provides free community college education to nursing students of any age.

The Center for Health Education and Simulation is home to HCC's nursing and radiologic technology programs. Opened in 2015, the 11,000 square-foot facility includes flexible classrooms, student study areas, a radiology suite, a large radiology image library, and an image critique room, four private patient simulation rooms, two semi-private patient simulation rooms, three control rooms, two debriefing rooms, prep storage, prep spaces and two larger multi-bed lab spaces can be transformed into acute care or community environments.

For STEM Week, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler, and other Healey Driscoll administration officials are hosted events across the commonwealth highlighting the importance of STEM education.