

► In The News

Holyoke Community to celebrate grand opening of Tech Hub

HOLYOKE – Tech Foundry, the regional leader in IT workforce development and training, in partnership with Holyoke Community College, will celebrate the grand opening of Tech Foundry’s new Tech Hub on Wednesday, Oct. 25, beginning at 10 a.m. on the first floor of HCC’s Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center, located at 206 Maple St.

The following day, Thursday, Oct. 26, Tech Hub will officially open to the general public, offering free services and classes that include digital skills training workshops, walk-in IT support and troubleshooting, Internet connectivity consultations, and computer distribution (free in limited quantities).

Tech Hub, a program of the Springfield-based nonprofit, Tech Foundry, was started in 2023 as part of a state-wide initiative of the Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity, which received a \$5.1 million grant earlier this year from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. Along with HCC, other key partners and supporters of the Tech Hub project include the Accelerate the Future Foundation, Comcast, Google, Bulkley Richardson, and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

“Tech Hub’s mission is to empower Massachusetts residents through access to the skills and technology needed to thrive in the digital world,” said Michelle Wilson, deputy director of Tech Foundry.

The Oct. 25 celebration will include a tour of the Tech Hub facility, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and remarks from attendees including Tech Foundry CEO



Tech Hub fellow Shanice McKenzie lends assistance to Tech Foundry deputy director Michelle Wilson, seated.

Submitted Photo

Tricia Canavan, HCC President George Timmons, Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia, state Rep. Pat Duffy, Dr. Frank Robinson, vice president for community relations and public health at BayState Health and chair of the Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity, and Dan Glanville, vice president of government affairs and community impact for Comcast’s Western New England Region.

“We understand the important role that the Internet plays in helping build a future of unlimited possibilities for everyone in the community,” said Glanville. “We are proud to partner with organizations like Tech Foundry that are making it easier for people across west-

ern Massachusetts to adopt the Internet and succeed in an increasingly digital world.”

The emcees for the day will be two graduates of Tech Foundry’s 18-week IT Workforce Training program who are now working at Tech Hub: Shanice McKenzie of Springfield and Lasharie Weems of Chicopee.

“An essential component of the Tech Hub is hiring Tech Foundry graduates to help run the program,” said Wilson. “This one-year fellowship will allow our graduates to hone their IT skills in service to the community.”

Starting Oct. 26, Tech Hub will be open noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, with classes

held from noon to 1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. On Mondays and Fridays, Tech Hub manager Shannon Mumblo and Tech Hub fellows will take their IT services into the community all around western Massachusetts.

“We’re starting by doing outreach in Springfield and Holyoke,” Mumblo said, “and we have also been making partnerships with different organizations in Amherst and South Hadley. We will take our workshops on the road and go to the places and spaces where they are needed.”

To learn more, sign up for classes, and access Tech Hub help-desk support, please visit: techhubmass.net.

If you would like to attend the Oct. 25 grand opening celebration, please RSVP to Michelle Wilson at michelle@thetechfoundry.org.

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improvements to buildings, such as accessibility modifications, fire systems and other compliance updates that must be made under orders from public safety or building officials. Minimum award amounts will be \$2,000; maximum award amount will be \$100,000.

Applications materials are available on Facebook (@HolyokeOCD), by emailing the Mayor’s Office at fays@holyoke.org or the Office for Community Development Office at zoellera@holyoke.org or by calling the Office for Community Development at 413-322-5610.