

'Enduring Racism' event to examine bilingualism

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College continues its year-long “Enduring Racism” speaker series with a program Tuesday, April 9, examining the “paradox of bilingualism” in the United States. The event is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

“What does it mean to be bilingual? Is bilingualism an asset for everyone who is able to speak more than one language? Can bilingualism be a deficit in the U.S.? Our panel will examine the parallels of bilingualism and privilege in the U.S.,” said Mary Jane O’Connor, HCC Wellness

coordinator and one of the event organizers.

“Language, Status and Stigma: The Paradox of Bilingualism” will run from 12:30-1:45 p.m. in Room 303 of the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Avenue.

The panelists include Eileen Kelley, Ed.D., HCC professor of English as a Second Language and coordinator of ESL Support Services; and Laura A. Valdiviezo, Ed.D., associate professor and director of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean

and Latinx Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Mónica Torregrosa, HCC professor of Spanish, will moderate.

The “Enduring Racism” speaker series is a yearlong invitation to join in an open and honest conversation about racism and its many forms in American society. It is supported by the Community College Public Humanities Center at HCC.

For more information, people may contact Mary J. O’Connor at moconnor@hcc.edu, 413-552-2422 or Camille Close at cclose@hcc.edu or 413-552-2277.