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HCC offers cannabis training

The Cannabis Education Center at Holyoke Community College will begin its spring schedule of industry training programs Jan. 21 and 22 with “Cannabis Core: Foundations of the Industry,” a two-day, introductory cannabis course.

Additional Cannabis Core programs are set for Feb. 11 and 12, March 11 and 12, April 22 and 23, and May 20 and 21. All classes meet over Zoom on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The spring calendar also includes multi-week training programs for jobs as culinary assistants, patient services associates, cultivation assistants, and extraction technicians.

The Cannabis Core program provides an overview of the cannabis industry in Massachusetts and is geared for people looking for general knowledge as they consider a cannabis career. The program is a foundational course and a prerequisite for the center’s four career track courses:

Culinary assistants are responsible for preparing cannabis or

cannabidiol-infused products using a variety of cooking, baking, and infusion techniques.

Patient service associates work behind the counters at cannabis dispensaries, interacting with the public, answering technical questions, and providing information to registered cannabis patients, caregivers, and recreational customers making purchases.

Cultivation assistants provide the daily care of the crops from seed to harvest and may be involved in cracking seeds, soil mixing, potting, defoliation, watering, pest control, and trimming.

Extraction technicians work in labs assisting production managers in all aspects of extraction, purging, oil manipulation, winterization, distillation, solvent recovery, and quality control.

Cost of the training is \$599 and career track programs are \$799. Scholarships are available to those who qualify.

To register, go online to hcc.edu/cannabis-core or contact Lanre Ajayi, director of education and corporate learning, by email to la-jayi@hcc.edu or call 413-552-2324.

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The Cannabis Education Center at Holyoke Community College will begin its spring schedule of industry training programs Jan. 21 and 22. Above, a cannabis plant in one of the cultivation rooms at Mill Town Agriculture in Holyoke.

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