
Holyoke Community College announces free cannabis training classes

HOLYOKE – For a limited time, the Cannabis Education Center at Holyoke Community College will be offering its two-day, introductory cannabis course for free on a first-come, first served basis.

“Cannabis Core: Foundations of the Industry” typically costs \$599 and is a prerequisite for career-specific cannabis training programs.

The next Cannabis Core program runs Feb. 11-12. All classes meet over Zoom on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additional Cannabis Core programs are scheduled for March 11-12, April 22-23, and May 20-21.

The spring calendar also includes multi-week, career-track training programs for cultivation assistants (Sundays, March 19-April 16), and extraction tech-

nicians (Saturdays, April 22-May 13).

“Any student who completes Cannabis Core can apply for a scholarship for career-track programs through our partners, Elevate and Mass CultivatEd,” said Lanre Ajayi, HCC director of Education and Corporate Learning.

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 career track courses:

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.

To register, please go to hcc.edu/cannabis-core or contact Lanre Ajayi at lajayi@hcc.edu / 413-552-2324.

The Cannabis Education Center is a partnership between HCC and Elevate Northeast and based out of HCC’s Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. Elevate Northeast is a Massachusetts-based, women-founded nonprofit, created to support the Northeast’s growing cannabis industry through workforce training, education and advocacy.

More information on these and other cannabis industry programs can be found on the Cannabis Education Center’s website – cannabiseducationcenter.org.



A cannabis plant in one of the cultivation rooms at Mill Town Agriculture in Holyoke. HCC is offering free training classes this spring.

Submitted photo