

HCC cannabis industry training classes begin April 2, 16

HOLYOKE – The Cannabis Education Center at Holyoke Community College will be running three cannabis industry training programs beginning next month.

The CEC's 12-hour, introductory Cannabis Core course will be held April 2-3 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. each day over Zoom.

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. During four, three-hour sessions, students will interact with cannabis experts and guest speakers in reviews of the plant, various cannabis products, the endocannabinoid system, laws and prohibition, growing and plant care, labeling, packaging, testing, employment considerations, and more.

The Cannabis Core program is a foundational course and a prerequisite for career track courses.

Cannabis Extraction Technician training also begins April 2 and runs through April 23. The course meets weekly on Wednesdays over Zoom from 10-11 a.m., supplemented by self-paced online instruction. In this course, students will learn the basic fundamentals needed to work in a cannabis extraction laboratory:



Cubit Building, home to the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, where HCC will be running a cannabis culinary assistant training program April 19 to May 10.

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how to extract useful molecular components from cannabis and hemp using various techniques, including both solvent and solvent-less methods. Topics covered include good lab practices; health and safety, metrics; extraction techniques; winterization; and dewaxing.

Cannabis Culinary Assistant training begins April 19. Classes will meet

in person on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through May 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke.

Cannabis culinary assistants are responsible for cooking, baking, and infusing cannabis- or hemp-based products with extracts. The program is a 20-hour introductory course that pro-

vides an overview of cooking and baking techniques used to create edibles. The course reviews tools, equipment, food safety, standard recipes, and dosing, and provides discussions on infused oils, sauces, chocolates, ice cream, and more. Cannabis is not used in this program. Participants will be introduced to industry professionals, prepare for employment opportunities, and have the opportunity to earn SERV Safe certification.

The cost of the Cannabis Core training is \$599. Industry specific course training is \$799. Scholarships may be available to those who qualify.

To register, please go to: hcc.edu/cannabis-core

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 501(c)(3) 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 or by calling 413-552-2320.