

HCC cannabis industry classes begin next month

HOLYOKE — The Cannabis Education Center at Holyoke Community College will offer three cannabis industry training programs beginning next month.

The CEC's 12-hour introductory Cannabis Core course is 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. two days, April 2-3, over Zoom. This course 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 the 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. This course is a prerequisite for cannabis career track courses.

Cannabis extraction technician training also begins April 2 and runs through April

23. The course meets weekly 10-11 a.m. on Wednesdays, over Zoom, supplemented by self-paced online instruction. In this course, students will learn the basic fundamentals needed to work in a cannabis extraction laboratory: 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 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through May 10 at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke. 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 provides 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, visit hcc.edu/cannabis-core. The Cannabis Education Center is a partnership between HCC and Elevate Northeast and based at HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development.

More information on these and other cannabis industry programs can be found at cannabiseducationcenter.org or by calling 413-552-2320.