

0186 5/1/19

Healey to speak at HCC today

Attorney general to discuss current affairs with students

By **MATT BERG**
For the Gazette

HOLYOKE — Students and faculty at Holyoke Community College will discuss current events with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey during her visit to the campus on Wednesday.

“HCC has a long history as a leader in providing young people with the tools to succeed,” Healey said in a statement. “Their work is vitally important to our economy here in Massachusetts, and I am looking forward to speaking with students about the critical issues our state is facing.”

Following a brief talk, Healey will participate in a question-and-answer session moderated by HCC criminal justice professor Alex Sanchez.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for our students to hear from and talk to the top law enforcement official in Massachusetts about is-



Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey

SUBMITTED PHOTO

sues that directly relate to their studies here at HCC, particularly on the subject of opioid addiction,” Sanchez said about Healey’s visit. “We’re looking forward to her visit and hearing her opinions on the subject, especially as it relates to the lawsuit the attorney general

filed earlier this year against pharmaceutical industry giant Purdue Pharma.”

Healey’s lawsuit accused Purdue, its board of directors and executives, of allegedly misleading prescribers and consumers of the risk of opioid use. The lawsuit alleges company contributed to the opioid epidemic, including the opioid-related deaths of more than 670 Massachusetts residents prescribed Purdue opioids since 2009.

Healey will meet with criminal justice, human services and nursing students from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the HCC Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. Students will also lead the attorney general on a tour of the school’s Thrive Financial Success Center and Food Pantry, the new Center for Life Sciences and the HCC Campus Center.

HCC President Christina Royal, members of the HCC Board of Trustees and Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse will also meet with Healey prior to the discussion.

The event is free and open to the public.