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IN THE NEWS

## HCC to inaugurate Christina Royal as fourth president Nov. 3

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College will mark a new chapter in its history with the inauguration of Christina Royal as its fourth president on Friday, Nov. 3, at 10 a.m. in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater.

The ceremony will be followed by an inauguration celebration and showcase of HCC programs and people on Sat., Nov. 4, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Both events are open to the general public. Anyone who would like to attend is asked to R.S.V.P. through the Presidential Inauguration page on the HCC website: [www.hcc.edu/inauguration](http://www.hcc.edu/inauguration)

Tickets for the Saturday inaugural celebration, "A Proud Past and a Bright Future," can be purchased through the inauguration page for \$75 per person. Sponsorships are also available. Proceeds will be used to establish a student emergency fund through the Holyoke Community College Foundation to provide support for students facing unforeseen financial challenges.

The Friday, Nov. 3, inauguration ceremony will commence at 10 a.m. in the theater lobby of HCC's Fine & Performing Arts Building with

a procession of HCC faculty and distinguished guests who are also expected to offer brief remarks: Carlos E. Santiago, Massachusetts commissioner of Higher Education; Holyoke mayor Alex Morse; state Rep. Aaron Vega, of Holyoke; and Gillian McKnight-Tutein, vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, Front Range Community College.

There will also be faculty and student speakers.

Robert Gilbert, chair of the HCC Board of Trustees, will present the presidential medallion to President Royal,

who will give an address.

Royal, who now lives in Northampton, started working at HCC in January. She is just the fourth president in the 71-year history of HCC and the first woman to hold the position. Before coming to HCC she served as the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

She holds a PhD in education from Capella University and a master of arts in educational psychology and a bachelor of arts in math from Marist College.

She succeeded President William F. Messner, who retired in August 2016 after serving for 12 years.



Christina Royal