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## HCC welcomes Mathis as VP of Academic & Student Affairs

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is pleased to welcome Sharale W. Mathis of Simsbury, Conn., as its vice president of Academic and Student Affairs.

Mathis holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford and was most recently the dean of Academic and Student Affairs at Middlesex Community College in Connecticut, where she was previously a tenured professor of biology, course coordinator, department chair, and STEM Division director.

A Hartford native, Mathis earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Eastern Connecticut State University and a master's degree in biomedical sciences from Quinnipiac University.

At Middlesex, Mathis taught both lab and non-lab science classes on campus, online and in hybrid formats. She was an early adopter of Open Educational Resources (OER), utilizing online resources for supplemental instruction designating that course as no cost to students.

"Dr. Mathis is an innovative and

inclusive leader with over 15 years of higher education experience in both academic and student affairs with a central focus on holistic student success," said HCC president Christina Royal. "She is dedicated to her work in diversity, equity and inclusion and creating a 'one team' dynamic to increase student outreach, retention, and success. That is exactly the kind of person we wanted to fill this position at HCC."

Mathis started her job at Holyoke Community College on July 1.

"I am extremely honored to step into the role of vice president of Academic and Student Affairs at Holyoke Community College," said Mathis. "HCC is embarking on many amazing transformative initiatives to promote student inclusivity and success. To become part of a team that is truly student focused with an intentional commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion is aspirational. I am excited to work under the leadership of President Royal and contribute my efforts to the powerful vision she has for the college."

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