

HCC shifts noncredit courses to remote platforms

In keeping with recommendations from public health officials and Gov. Charlie Baker's stay-at-home advisory, Holyoke Community College has shifted its noncredit professional development and personal enrichment classes to online and remote forums for the foreseeable future.

Anyone with extra time who is interested in classes that are fun, educational or entertaining can now do so from the comfort and safety of their homes using a computer, tablet or smart phone.

As of Monday, March 30, HCC began offering all of its credit-based certificate and degree programs remotely

while restricting access to its main campus and satellite offices.

The noncredit courses being offered remotely include those in areas such as art, business, careers, home and garden, languages, law, money and investment, and safety. Students will have the opportunity to engage with live instructors and classmates by voice and video using a number of different online and remote platforms like Zoom, WebEx and Google Hangouts.

"We've had to be very creative with some of our courses like painting and dancing," said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of professional devel-

opment and corporate learning. "For Acrylics, for example, the teacher will share her screen during the lesson and have students share their own; Puerto Rican Bomba is similar to an online workout class."

Classes are forming now for the remainder of the spring semester.

Some current options include:

- Arts – Introduction to Pastels, Watercolor Journaling (April 11-18)
- Business and Career – Leadership Series including Personal Effectiveness, Critical Thinking, and Emotional Intelligence, Supervisory Series, Notary Public, Microsoft Excel 2016.

- Dance and Health – Puerto Rican Bomba

- Money Management – Extreme Couponing, SS Income Strategies, Earning Extra Money with a Mystery Shopping Business, Protecting Your Financial Nest Egg.

- Other options include Memory, Dementia & Alzheimers, How to be a Smart Landlord, Elder Law & Estate Planning, Flying Drones: Prep for the FAA Exam.

To see a full schedule of courses or to register, please visit hcc.edu/spring-online or email Valentyna Semyrog at vsemyrog@hcc.edu.