

HCC honors disability rights activist Chris Palames

HOLYOKE – Disability rights activist Chris Palames, of Florence, is the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award from Holyoke Community College.

Palames is the founder of the Stavros Center for Independent Living in Amherst, executive director of Independent Living Resources in Florence, and a retired consultant for the Massachusetts Division of Capital and Asset Management, which manages construction projects for publicly owned facilities in the state.

He has served on the

Northampton Commission on Disability, the Massachusetts Disability Policy Consortium and frequently advises the staff in HCC's Office for Students with Disabilities and Deaf Services on matters both large and small.



Chris Palames

HCC president Christina Royal presented the Distinguished Service Award to Palames at HCC's 71st Commencement ceremony at the MassMutual Center in Springfield on June 2.

"Chris has long been a valued friend of HCC, and, as a consultant for the

See PALAMES, page 9

MORIARTY, from page 1

said. "It's fantastic."

As a freshman, Moriarty was part of HCC's reconstituted track and field squad, which returned as a varsity sport in the spring of 2017 after a hiatus of more than 20 years.

In his first year, under the guidance of head coaches Nick Davis and Luke Archambault, Moriarty threw both the shot put and javelin.

In 2017, he qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association's national championship in the javelin throw and finished eighth.

He was the only member of the HCC track and field team to qualify this year.

In an April 29 tournament at Yale University, Moriarty finished first against athletes from big-name schools all over the Northeast, including Yale, Columbia, Marist, Stony Brook, Sacred Heart and Hofstra.

Moriarty graduated from HCC June 2 with honors and his associate degree in Communications, Media and Theater Arts.

Stewart said Moriarty is transferring to the University of Massachusetts Amherst and intends to throw the javelin next year for the university's track and field team.