

## **ETC.**



Gary Rome, second from left, president of Gary Rome Hyundai in Holyoke, presents a check for \$10,160 to the #TogetherHCC campaign at Holyoke Community College. From left are Holyoke Community College Foundation board chairman Corey Murphy, Rome, Student Senate President Carolina Peña and college President Christina Royal. Rome led the one-day "Drive to Change Lives" campaign for the college foundation, scholarships and student services. Almost \$112,000 was raised in the single-day fundraising effort. (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)

## **Gary Rome drives support for HCC**

Gary Rome Hyundai's president Gary Rome presented a \$10,160 check to the Holyoke Community College Foundation for the auto dealer's partnership with the campaign #Together HCC.

The goal for the "Drive to Change Lives" one-day campaign on May 4 was to raise money for student support programs and scholarships at the college and to have 150 donors participate in the campaign. Both that number and a second goal of 250 donors were surpassed.

A grand total of \$111,977 was raised to help students through the President's Student Emergency Fund, student scholarships and the Thrive Center and Food Pantry at Holyoke Community.

The "Together HCC" initiative started last year. Rome pledged a challenge donation of \$10,000. Said Rome, "The reason that we got involved in the campaign is because we wanted to shine a spotlight on this wonderful institution right here in our backyard, dispel the misconception that community colleges receive all their funding from the state, and highlight how important it is to raise funds to help support our community college."

College president Christina Royal said, "The funds raised in this campaign will directly support students by mitigating some of the financial barriers to their academic success. We're so grateful to Gary Rome for leading the charge and being such a great example of a business leader who cares about the community, cares about students, and cares about education as a means for transforming lives."

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