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Sanchez earns HCC award

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College Criminal Justice professor Alejandro “Alex” Sanchez, a former Holyoke city councilor and Springfield police officer, has received HCC’s highest honor – the Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence.

As a result, Sanchez, 54, of Southwick, will carry the ceremonial mace and lead the procession of graduates at Holyoke Community College Commencement on June 2.

“It’s not just me,” Sanchez told his colleagues during the annual staff and faculty awards ceremony on May 9, “it’s everyone working together that makes this place happen, that makes this place tick. I appreciate the recognition, but I do it because I enjoy doing it, and I like being here.”

The Marieb Award, endowed by HCC professor emeritus Elaine Marieb ‘80, recognizes a full-time

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member of the faculty for outstanding classroom teaching. Award recipients serve for one year and receive a small stipend for professional development, lead the procession at Commencement, and also give the keynote graduation speech.

HCC's 71st annual Commencement ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on June 2 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. The event will also be streamed live on the HCC website (www.hcc.edu).

A tenured member of the Criminal Justice faculty, Sanchez, who goes by



ALEX SANCHEZ

Alex, has been teaching full time at the college since 2006. He is also an alumnus of HCC from the class of 1990.

Sanchez joined the Springfield Police Department a few years after high school, earned his associate degree in criminal justice from HCC. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Westfield State and a master's degree in criminal justice from Anna Maria College.

He also served on the police departments in Hatfield and Sunderland, was elected to multiple terms on the Holyoke City Council and held seats on the city planning board and fire commission.