

IN THE NEWS

Higher Education chief to discuss Latino student success, May 23

HOLYOKE – Improving the academic success of Latino students will be the focus of a free presentation given by the commissioner of the state Department of Higher Education beginning at 2 p.m. on Wed., May 23 at Holyoke Community College.

Commissioner Carlos Santiago's speech. "Latinx Students in Public Higher Education," will focus on strengthening Holyoke Community College as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

The event begins at 2 p.m. with a faculty and staff panel discussion concentrating on HCC's future as a Hispanic

On the panel will be HCC Spanish professors Raúl D. Gutiérrez and Mónica Torregrosa; Myriam Quiñones, coordinator of HCC's Multicultural Academic Services program; and Michele Snizek, HCC director of Retention and Student Success.

"Our goal is to develop a common understanding of our Hispanic Serving Institution designation and collectively form a vision of HCC as an effective HSI," said HCC President Christina Royal.

"Hispanic Serving Institution" is a federal designation for colleges and universities where more than 25 percent of the student population is Hispanic.

HCC received status as an HSI in 2017. As an HSI, HCC is now eligible for federal grants that can be used to improve services and programs that benefit all students.

The HSI event is part of HCC's year-long strategic planning initiative.

Earlier in the day from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 23, HCC will be holding a "Future Walk" celebration in the hallways and theater lobby in the Fine & Performing Arts building.

In addition to music and refreshments, HCC will unveil its new Strategic Plan, including mission, vision and values statements and a timeline showing how the plan was developed and soliciting feedback.

A reception in the theater lobby will follow Santiago's talk.



Carlos Santiago