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At the recent topping-off ceremony for Holyoke Community College's \$43.5 million campus center renovation project, student Erin Burns, of Belchertown, signs the ceremonial white beam for herself and other members of her family who attended HCC, including her sister, Emily, father, Robert, and mother, Cynthia Burns.

(HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PHOTO)

Family affair at HCC

When the final beam was raised recently for the \$43.5 million campus center renovation at **Holyoke Community College**, it was a special day for the Burns family from Belchertown.

Student **Erin Burns** got to sign the ceremonial white beam for herself and other members of her family who has two generations of history at the college. Her sister, **Emily**, is a member of the Class of 2016, while her father, **Robert Burns**, graduated in 1985 and mother, **Cynthia Burns**, is a 1984 alumna.

The topping-off ceremony was held on Feb. 28. The nearly 40-year-old campus center was emptied and closed a year ago for the renovation.

Since then, the first and second floors have been completely gutted and reconstruction work has advanced significantly on both the interior and exterior. The renovation will add about 9,000 square feet to the 57,727 square foot building.



CHRISTINA ROYAL

"Having the opportunity to sign this beam represents the last piece of the building that we're erecting, the highest point," said president **Christina Royal**, "and while you won't necessarily see it, everybody who signed it today, you're leaving your imprint on history. And that's what it is. This represents our history."

The building is expected to reopen for the fall 2019 semester.