
HCC announces Black History events

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is celebrating Black History month in February with a series of events highlighting this year’s national theme: “African Americans and Labor.”

On-campus events begin Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 11 a.m., in HCC’s Learning Collaborative (Frost 265), with a presentation by Erika Slocumb, a Black history scholar and director of interpretation and visitor experience at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Conn: Reliquary of Blackness: Reclaiming, Retelling, and Reframing the History of Black folks in Holyoke.”

Slocumb, a Springfield resident and PhD student in African-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, will focus on the history of Black communities in western Massachusetts with an emphasis on labor history.

On Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 11 a.m., in the HCC Campus Center, jazz professor and guitarist Robert Ferrier will lead “Rhythms Through Time: A Celebration of Jazz,” a discussion about jazz and performance by the HCC All Stars band.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 p.m., HCC will host a watch party for a Zoom presentation by UMass graduate student Tiamba M. Wilkerson:

“Voices of Solidarity: on Black Union Participation.” Wilkerson is a PhD student in sociology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst whose research focuses on the intersections of race and gender in the labor market, racial capitalism, neoliberal urban redevelopment and gentrification, as well as race and place in the South

Black History Month events at HCC continue on Wednesday, Feb. 26, with a Harambee Celebration at 11 a.m. in the HCC Campus Center. Harambee is a Swahili word that means “pull together” or “unite.” It’s a celebratory event that honors the contributions and achievements of Black people. HCC’s event will feature food, music, and an open mic session.

“At a time when conversations about equity, inclusion, and justice are more important than ever, celebrating Black History Month allows us to uplift voices that have historically been marginalized,” HCC’s Black Leadership Council and Black History Month Committee, said in a campus-wide email. “Recognizing and honoring these histories is not just about the past, it’s about shaping a future that embraces diversity, fosters understanding, and empowers all members of our community.”



In addition, HCC’s Marieb Adult Learner Success Center will host weekly book readings, accompanied by milk and cookies in the Parent Learning Center (Frost 269) for student parents and their children: Feb. 5, 2 p.m. (When Harriet Met Sojourner by Catherine Clinton); Feb. 12, 2 p.m. (All Because You Matter by Tami Charles); Feb. 20, 12:30 p.m. (Black is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy); Feb. 26, 2 p.m. (Sulwe by Lupita Nyong’o).

Also, on Friday, Feb. 21, at 12:30 p.m., HCC will host a Black History Month-themed trivia contest in the HCC Campus Center.

To learn more about Black History Month months at HCC or to participate remotely, please go to: hcc.edu/bhm.
