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Free culinary training for English language learners

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is offering two free programs for English language learners looking to begin careers in the culinary and hospitality field.

The courses, “Culinary Training for English Learners,” both begin Tuesday, July 5, at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. The daytime program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, through Aug. 31. The evening program runs from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, through Sept. 8.

The 180-hour training is designed for people learning English who are at an intermediate level; ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) instruction is built into the curriculum. The programs are free thanks to a grant from the Adult and Community Learning Services division of the Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Students will gain skills in knife techniques, cooking methods, culinary math and measurements, workplace etiquette, resume building, and job search-



An HCC student prepares pan-seared chicken breasts during a class at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

Submitted photo

ing, and earn certifications including ServSafe (for alcohol service), OSHA-10 (for workplace safety), and Guest Service Gold (for customer service excellence). The course incorporates 90 hours of English language learning and career preparation.

The programs are open to adult residents of Massachusetts who are learning English.

“We’re looking for students who are ready to enter employment in culinary/hospitality at the conclusion of the program, and are ready to actively participate in an exciting, hands-on experience,” said Emmanuel Reyes, academic and career adviser for HCC Adult Basic Education and Workforce Development. “We are currently working with over two dozen local employers eager to hire qualified graduates as food preparers, line cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and hostesses, and hotel workers.”

For more information or to enroll, please contact Emmanuel Reyes at 857-318-2148 / ereyes@hcc.edu.