
HCC event series celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month this year with a series of events celebrating Latinx history and culture.

“Latinx Heritage Month” events at HCC begin Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. with a celebration of Puerto Rican history and culture focusing on a style of music known as Reggaetón in the HCC Campus Center.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationally each year from September 15 through October 15 to recognize the cultural and historical influences of Hispanic Americans. On the HCC campus, starting this year, it is being called Latinx Heritage Month.

HCC is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution. About 34 percent of students identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Latinx.

“We use the term Latinx throughout our campus conversations and believe it is a more inclusive term that creates space for a broader group of people from Latin America including Black and indigenous communities and is also gender inclusive,” said Julissa Colón, director of El Centro, a bilingual support program for Latinx students.

Latinx Heritage Month events at HCC:

Sept. 18, 11 a.m.: “Hasta ‘Bajo: Reggaetón, Historia y Cultura

Puertorriqueña,” an interactive workshop exploring Reggaetón music and its history (El Centro, Campus Center 248).

Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m., “Family Story Time: ¡En español!” President George Timmons will read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in English, with ASL translation, followed by reading in Spanish. There will be arts and crafts, raffle prizes, giveaways, and a selfie-station, El Centro, Campus Center 248.

Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m., “Froteria.” Enjoy fried treats and play the lottery with members of El Centro and HCC’s ALANA Men in Motion programs. (Kittredge Center 301).

Oct. 2, 11 a.m., Latinx Fiesta, a celebration of Latinx heritage with food, music, and crafts. (Campus Center cafeteria).

Oct. 9, 11 a.m., “The Intersections of Deaf and Cultural Identities: Puerto Rican Experiences,” a panel presentation supporting both Hispanic Heritage Month and Deaf Awareness Month, (Leslie Phillips Theater).

Continuously, throughout the month: “Our Heroes, Our History,” an exhibit highlighting the mural painted last year by artist Betsy Casañas in the Campus Center that features Latinx activists, artists, musicians, and educators, who have made a deep impact on Latinx history and culture. (Outside HCC Library, second floor, Donahue).