

4/1/19

BIZ MONDAY

PEOPLE IN BUSINESS

Holyoke Community College has hired **Lea Occhialini**, of East Longmeadow, as its first ombudsperson and chief culture officer.

Occhialini is the former faculty and staff ombudsperson



LEA OCCHIALINI

at Hampshire College and mediator/trainer in the Smith College Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. Prior to that, she worked as a Massachusetts Supreme

Judicial Court qualified mediator for the Mediation and Training Collaborative in Greenfield and helped oversee the Massachusetts Attorney General's Face-to-Face mediation program in Holyoke, Northampton and Greenfield small claims courts.

The ombudsperson/chief culture officer position is new at HCC.

"I'm excited about this," said HCC president Christina Royal. "Although it's very common at four-year institutions, to my understanding, this is the first time a community college in Massachusetts has had an ombudsperson."

Occhialini has worked in the mediation field since 2013. She started at HCC on March 4.

Occhialini holds a bachelor's degree from Smith College, a law degree from American University's Washington College School of Law, and a certificate in the foundations of organizational ombudsman practice from the International

Ombudsman Association.

She grew up in Western Massachusetts and lives in East Longmeadow.