

**HOLYOKE**

# HCC president is all in — for one more year



Holyoke Community College President Christina Royal, whose tenure coincided with the 75th anniversary of the college and the COVID-19 pandemic, will retire next July after a tenure that saw transformational change at the college. (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)

## Mayor calls departing Royal 'a rock star'

**BY RON CHIMELIS**

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As Christina Royal prepares for her final academic year as president of Holyoke Community College, she says she's asked what's in store for her next.

"People ask me where I'm going," she said yesterday after her plans to retire on July 14 were announced. "I'm going to focus on leading HCC. Anyone who knows me knows I won't be phoning it in."

Royal arrived at Holyoke Community in 2017, a moment in the college's history that was impactful in itself. She was just the fourth president

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