

**TRiO**  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## STRIVE STAFF

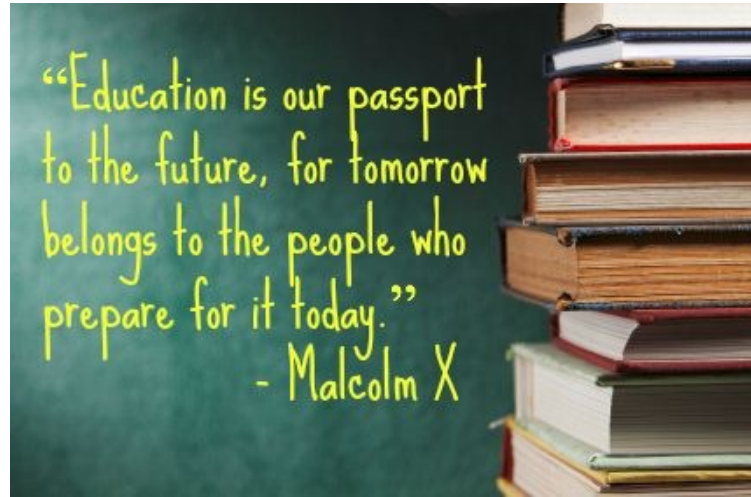
Elsie Rodriguez-Garcia  
Director  
DON 235  
(413) 552-2610  
[erodriguez@hcc.edu](mailto:erodriguez@hcc.edu)

Denise Salgado  
Academic Counselor  
DON 237  
(413) 552-2044  
[dsalgado@hcc.edu](mailto:dsalgado@hcc.edu)

Denise Roy  
Learning Specialist  
DON 209  
(413) 552-2196  
[droy@hcc.edu](mailto:droy@hcc.edu)

Erica Carlson  
Academic Counselor  
DON 231  
(413) 552-2332  
[ecarlson@hcc.edu](mailto:ecarlson@hcc.edu)

Raisa Amirova  
STRIVE Clerk  
DON 240  
(413) 552-2505  
[ramirova@hcc.edu](mailto:ramirova@hcc.edu)



The Spring 2017 semester is upon us! This month, we are delighted to bring you a message from Holyoke Community College's new president, Dr. Christina Royal.

*"Welcome back to Holyoke Community College. I am honored to join HCC as the 4th president and first female president at the institution. I recently moved here from Minnesota, although I've spent most of my life in New York State. As a first-generation, bi-racial college student who grew up in a low-income family, I can relate to many of the students at HCC. It is also why I believe in having support services to support your successes. We are a learning-centered institution and college is the place where dreams are made. It is a place to meet people from all different backgrounds and cultures. It is the place where futures begin. I encourage you to stay connected with the STRIVE team, and utilize the available resources to assist you in reaching your goals. We are here to help you succeed!"*

*-Dr. Christina Royal*

## IMPORTANT DATES !

- STRIVE Social Hour Wednesday, **February 8**. DON 368, 11:00am - 12:15pm
- STRIVE Recruiting Day, Wednesday, **February 15**, in the DON 2nd floor hallway near CAPS. Bring a friend! Word of mouth is our best advertising!
- Monday, **February 20**: The College will be closed for Presidents Day
- Tuesday, **February 21**: The College will follow a Monday schedule
- Tuesday, **February 28**: STRIVE Scholarship Workshop in KC 418, 12:30-1:30pm
- Wednesday, **March 1**: STRIVE Scholarship Workshop in KC 418, 11:00am-12:00pm
- Planning to transfer to a MA state college or university for Fall 2017? MassTransfer deadline is **March 1**. See more at <http://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/a2b/application.asp>



## SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOPS

This month's STRIVE scholarship workshops offer an overview about how scholarships work plus address specific questions about applying for the scholarships offered by the HCC Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. Tuesday, Feb. 28 in KC 418, 12:30-1:30pm, and Wednesday, Mar. 1 in KC 418, from 11:00am-12:00pm.

Contact Erica (413) 552-2332, [ecarlson@hcc.edu](mailto:ecarlson@hcc.edu) or Raisa (413) 552-2505, [ramirova@hcc.edu](mailto:ramirova@hcc.edu) if you have questions.

And don't forget that you'll need your completed **FAFSA** in order to apply for scholarships!

The Financial Aid office is hosting their next FAFSA workshop on Tuesday, February 28, from 1:00-2:00pm in FR151.

**HAVE YOU  
COMPLETED  
THE FAFSA?**

*Don't  
wait!*

### NEWS AND REMINDERS

Thanks to everyone who joined us for STRIVE Program Day on January 17: we are so happy to welcome our new students to the STRIVE Program!

And for all new and returning students: don't forget to connect with your STRIVE counselor early in the semester: contact your counselor directly, or call Raisa to schedule a check-in.

Now is the time to set yourself up for success for the semester: if you're interested in meeting with a learning coach, a math tutor, or a writing tutor this semester, now is the time to sign up! Contact Raisa to get started.

And finally, please join us for our Social Hour this month, next Wednesday, February 8 (see details below).



#### **Need help filing your taxes?**

**THRIVE** is offering **free tax preparation** (for simple returns). Find out more at <http://www.hcc.edu/student-services/support-at-hcc/thrive>

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### **February's STRIVE Social Hour is Wednesday, February 8**

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This is a monthly event for STRIVE students to connect and get to know each other. We'll meet in **DON 368** from **11:00am - 12:15pm**. Light snacks will be available.

