HOLYOKE

HCC slates events for Black History Month

Holyoke Community College will celebrate Black History Month in February with events both on and off campus. All events are free and open to the public, except where otherwise noted.

Marie Troppe, HCC’s director of Transition to College & Careers program, will lead a workshop exploring how 19th-century African-American literature, such as “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl” by Harriet Jacobs, illuminate modern views on race. Troppe holds a PhD in English with a focus on 19th-century African-American literature from the University of Maryland. Troppe’s workshop, “What’s the 19th Century Got to Do with Our Views on Race Today?” will be offered on Feb. 12 from 9 to 10:30 a.m., and again on Feb. 18 from 3 to 4:30 p.m., in the Center for Excellence (Frost 265).
Other events include HCC Community Night on Feb. 13, 5 to 8:30 p.m., at the Smith College Museum of Art in Northampton. HCC students, faculty and staff will receive free admission to the museum and its featured exhibit, "Black Refractions: Highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem." Guests accompanying members of the HCC community to the museum will be charged $5 ($4 for seniors).

On Feb. 19, HCC will hold a free screening of the 2004 documentary "Shirley Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed" at 11 a.m. in the Leslie Phillips Theater on the second floor of HCC's Fine & Performing Arts Building. In addition to being the first black woman elected to Congress in 1968, Chisholm, D-New York, was the first black major party candidate to run for President of the United States. She was also HCC's keynote speaker at commencement in 1984.

Black History Month events at HCC will conclude on Feb. 27 with a Black Heritage Food Fest in the lobby outside the Leslie Phillips Theater on the second floor of the Fine & Performing Arts, featuring food prepared for the event by local chefs specializing in southern, Creole, Cajun and other ethnic cuisine. While the food is free for HCC students and employees, a donation of $5 will go toward the creation of a scholarship fund for an active member of the college's Black Student Alliance.