

5/27/22

6 Holyoke Sun

Education professor to lead HCC's 75th commencement June 4

HOLYOKE – Sheila Gould, associate professor of Education and recipient of the 2022 Elaine Marieb Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, will lead the procession of graduates and give the keynote address at the 75th Commencement of Holyoke Community College, Sat., June 4, beginning at 10 a.m. at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



Sheila Gould

A Holyoke native and graduate of Holyoke High School who now lives in Chicopee, Gould is coordinator of HCC's Early Childhood Education program, co-host of HCC's Itsy Bitsy Zoomcast, and a co-founder of HCC's new Itsy Bitsy Child Watch program. The Marieb

Award, endowed by the late HCC professor emeritus Elaine Marieb '80, recognizes a full-time member of the faculty for outstanding classroom teaching. Award recipients serve for one year, receive a small stipend for professional development, lead the procession at Commencement, and also give the keynote graduation speech.

"Sheila is anything but Itsy Bitsy," said her close colleague, education professor Tricia Kiefer, during a year's end faculty and staff meeting May 18 introducing Gould as this year's Marieb Award winner. "She certainly deserves this."

On June 4, HCC will confer asso-

ciate degrees and certificates to more than 600 graduates from the class of 2022. Alumni from the classes of 2020 and 2021, who were not able to celebrate their graduations in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will also be recognized as HCC marks its 75th year as the oldest community college in Massachusetts.

HCC was founded in September 1946 as Holyoke Graduate School and held its first Commencement in 1948 as Holyoke Junior College, conferring degrees to 14 graduates.

"This year's Commencement takes on an even greater meaning as we celebrate the college's 75th anniversary," said President Christina Royal. "This is the perfect time for our community to come together and show our students how

proud we are of their achievements."

A handful of those students will be featured center stage. Biology major Yannelis Cruz '22 of Springfield will give a speech to her classmates as student orator. Carolyn Sicbaldi '22 of South Hadley will present the class gift. Liberal arts major Deanna Bach '22 of Longmeadow and music major Elena Ciampa '22 of Florence will give musical performances.

For those who cannot attend in person, HCC will stream the Commencement ceremony live over the Internet. The livestream will be available through a link on the main page of the college website, www.hcc.edu, where other details about this year's Commencement can also be found.

The event will be closed captioned and American Sign Language interpreted.