

MAKING NEWS

House earmarks \$50K for new manufacturing program at HCC

HOLYOKE — A new manufacturing and training program at Holyoke Community College has received a \$50,000 earmark in the House's fiscal 2022 budget.

"Holyoke employers need a trained workforce and Holyoke constituents need career-track jobs," Rep. Patricia Duffy, D-Holyoke said. "I'm thrilled to see these local assets of our population and our historical manufacturing base come together and build on each other."

According to labor and workforce data, 9.7% of jobs in Holyoke are in manufacturing compared to 6.7% statewide. Meanwhile, at 9.9%, the unemployment rate in Holyoke is the second highest in western Massachusetts after Springfield at 11.2%, compared to a statewide rate of 6.6% for March 2021.



**REP. PAT DUFFY,
D-Holyoke**

The program will serve up to 45 individuals in three cohorts by providing approximately 150 hours of remote and in-person, hands-on training combined with workplace experiential learning.

The three-phase program includes: skills assessments, and pre-training focused on workplace readiness in English and basic math, followed by core training in entry-level manufacturing.

The manufacturing component will include modules in communication, teamwork, customer service, digital literacy, general manufacturing processes and principles; blueprints, dimensions, tolerances, instrumentation and measuring; manufacturing workplace math; lean manufacturing, problem-solving, quality control; and workplace safety.

Regional employers will be invited to participate in curriculum design and delivery, as guest speakers, as well as in hosting tours of their facilities when possible. Participants will be connected to area employers and receive job placement assistance through HCC and MassHire Holyoke.

SEE MAKING NEWS B4