

HCC forum to focus on public education

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College (HCC) will welcome state Sen. Jo Comerford, Holyoke mayor Alex Morse and state Rep. Aaron Vega, along with HCC president Christina Royal, for an open discussion Monday, March 18 about public education funding.

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“Funding the Future of Public Education in Holyoke” will be held Monday, March 18, from 2-3 p.m. in HCC Library lobby on the second floor of the Donahue Building on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Avenue.

This event, sponsored by the HCC Chapter of the Massachusetts Community College Council and the HCC Library, is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.

“In 2014, the Higher Education Finance Commission found that public colleges and universities in Massachusetts are underfunded by \$574 million a year,” said Stephanie Marcotte, an HCC faculty member who also serves as HCC’s MCCC chapter president. “For Holyoke Community College, that amounts to more than \$9 million a year in lost revenue. While state funding has decreased, student debt has exploded. Our students, our institutions and our community deserve more.”

