

## HCC program earns national kudos

Holyoke Community College has been named a finalist for a national Bellwether Award in recognition of Jump Start, the college's job training and placement program for people who receive public assistance.

HCC was one of 10 U.S. colleges selected as a finalist by the Bellwether College Consortium in its Workforce Development category, which identifies strategic alliances that promote community and economic development. Bellwether finalists represent leading community colleges whose programs and practices are considered outstanding and innovative.

The Bellwether Awards are widely regarded as one of the nation's most competitive and prestigious recognitions for community colleges. HCC is the only community college in Massachusetts selected as a 2022 Bellwether finalist. This is the second year in a row HCC has been named a Bellwether finalist.

"It's very impressive that HCC has received this kind of recognition two years in a row," HCC president Christina Royal said. "We're honored to be in such elite company."

"Jump Start's success is based on the program's ability to connect individuals on public assistance with real-world workforce training resources," said Jeffrey Hayden, vice president of business and community services. "We believe that everyone has unique skills and talents that can help them get a job, and, with the help of Jump Start, they do."

Jump Start offers workforce training for jobs as culinary workers, nursing assistants, pharmacy technicians, customer service representatives, preschool workers, production

SEE ETC, PAGE B2

## ETC

CONTINUES FROM PAGE B1

technicians, and bus and truck drivers.

Award finalists will undergo a rigorous second and final round of review before the winners are announced in January at the 2022 Community College Futures Assembly in San Antonio, Texas.

