

Women's Fund of Western Mass., HCC partner on leadership program

HOLYOKE – The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts is sponsoring an eight-week spring training program at Holyoke Community College aimed at women who want to enhance their leadership skills.

The course – “Women Leaning Into Leadership: Empowering Your Voice” – is being offered over Zoom on Thursdays, from noon to 1:15 p.m., March 25 through May 13.

Beyond that, each program participant will receive 30 minutes of private, one-on-one coaching from the instructor, Annie Shibata Ph.D., owner of Growth Mindset Leadership and Communication Coaching.

The cost of the eight-week program is \$799, but the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts is offering sponsorships of up to \$650 to each qualified participant.

“One of priorities at the Women's Fund is to help facilitate parity in positions of power and leadership,” said Monica Borgatti, chief operating officer of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts. “We would like to see more women in leadership positions across the region, and we are proud to partner with HCC on a program designed to help women become more effective leaders.”

This course, along with HCC's monthly Women's Leadership Luncheon Series, is targeted to emerging leaders in mid-career and to women working to become more effective in their jobs and in the community.

During the program sessions, participants will learn to evaluate their communication skills and apply new communication techniques; practice the power of mindfulness; distinguish forms of influence and persuasion to create powerful messages; assess their leadership strengths; and create short- and long-term plans for career development.

“We're really happy to announce this new collaboration with the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts as we work together to develop women leaders in our community,” said Michele Cabal, HCC executive director of Business, Corporate and Professional Development. “The partnership makes sense as we share a common mission of working to help others achieve their goals.”

Enrollment for the course is limited by design. To register and apply for a sponsorship, please go to: hcc.edu/women-leaning