Holyoke Community College welcomed Rachel Rubinstein, of Northampton, as its first vice president of academic and student affairs.

Prior to her arrival Oct. 1, Rubinstein spent 16 years at Hampshire College in Amherst, where she was a professor of American literature and Jewish studies and from 2010 to 2018 served as dean of academic support and advising.

At HCC, Rubinstein will oversee the divisions of academic affairs and student affairs in what is a newly unified role at the college.

Rubinstein holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the Department of English and American Literature and Language at Harvard University.

A child of Mexican-born Jewish immigrants, Rubinstein grew up in a Spanish-speaking household and also studied Yiddish. Her academic studies, professional scholarship and teaching have largely focused on immigration, migration, and multilingualism.

Rubinstein was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship and a Whiting Foundation Travel Fellowship. She has taught at Smith and Mount Holyoke colleges and also taught adult learners and high school students through community organizations including the Jones Library and the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst.

Her scholarly work includes two co-edited volumes, “Arguing the Modern Jewish Canon: Essays on Literature and Culture in Honor of Ruth R. Wisse” (Harvard University Press, 2008), and the forthcoming “Teaching Jewish-American Literature” (MLA Publications Committee, 2019). She is the author of “Members of the Tribe: Native America in the Jewish Imagination” (Wayne State University Press, 2010), which earned a Jordan Schnitzer Book Award Honorable Mention.