



STRIVE STAFF

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Some of you are graduating next month. Some of you just completed your first semester at HCC. No matter where you are on your journey, we hope that you each take a moment this month to be **proud of all your hard work!**

There are a number of **end-of-the-year celebrations** and events happening this month. See the dates on the next page, and keep an eye on your email for more details! We're looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of all our STRIVE students at the upcoming **HCC Honors and Awards Night** on May 23, and the **STRIVE Graduation and Recognition Ceremony** on May 17.

We also want to remind you that **HCC Commencement** is Saturday, June 2 at 10:00am at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. Student caps and gowns are available to pickup starting May 1 in the college store, DON154.

And finally, for those of you taking **summer classes**, the CAPS Centers will be open and providing services, and there will be a **STRIVE writing and math tutor available** to help you during the month of June. Your STRIVE counselors will also be here throughout the summer.

COMING UP

- * **May 8:** Last day of classes
- * **May 14 through May 17:** Final Exams. The schedule can be found here: <http://www.hcc.edu/courses-and-programs/academic-calendar/final-exam-schedule>
- * **May 17:** STRIVE's Graduation and Recognition Ceremony
- * **May 23:** HCC Honors and Awards Night
- * **May 24:** STRIVE's End-of-year party, 5pm-8pm. All STRIVE students are invited and are welcome to bring family or friends. There will be food, music, games, maybe even a little dancing. Keep your eyes out for an invitation in the mail. **Please RSVP** so we have an accurate head-count for food.
- * **May 28:** Campus closed for Memorial Day

STUDENT

highlights

SENDING OUT AN ENTHUSIASTIC CONGRATULATIONS TO STRIVE STUDENT, MATTHEW MEDINA!

Matthew Medina was one of only 47 students to be awarded the 2018 Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship, out of over 2500 applicants nationwide. The scholarship provides up to \$40,000 a year to community college students so they can complete their bachelor's degrees.

In case that's not impressive enough, Medina was also selected to represent Holyoke Community College at the Massachusetts State House in Boston on May 4 at the "29 Who Shine" ceremony. "29 Who Shine" is an annual event that recognizes a single student from each of the state's 29 community colleges and public universities.

Medina will graduate in June with his associate degree in liberal arts, high honors and a GPA of 3.95.



HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute Opens To The Public!

On April 12, several STRIVE staff had the pleasure of attending the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute grand opening, and got to see some of our STRIVE students in action! The 20,000 square-foot, \$6.43 million facility occupies the first two floors of The Cubit Building at 164 Race St. Though the institute opened for classes in January for the start of the spring semester, the April 12 event marked its official opening. After opening remarks, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, HCC president Christina Royal, and Mayor Morse together held a large scissor as they cut a ceremonial gold ribbon. (Photos, from left: Lucy Torres, Vivian Martinez, and Brandon Bass)



To our STRIVE Graduates: Sending each one of you a heartfelt congratulations as you graduate from HCC! It has truly been a pleasure and an inspiration to work with you. Wishing you all the best in the next phase of your adventures, and please keep in touch! Best wishes from all of us at STRIVE.



SENDING A BIG HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE STRIVE 2018 GRADUATES!

*Olivia Leonie Bonebo
Maranyelie Canales
Shannon Cavanaugh
Gabriel A. Cifuentes
Mariluz Colon
Elaine Renee Cote
Michelle Cruz-Maysonet
Edna A Davila
Joseph Frederick Davis
Gabrielle D Dillard
Feifei Dong
Mireida Patricia Fernandes
Theodora Frimpong
Kristine A Gorman
Ekeoma Roberta Ibe
Weam M Isam
Rachael Lucia Larriu
Alyssa Ann Elizabeth Lelievre
Amanda Lee Loiselle
Sabrina T. Lopez*

*Jared Allen McPherson
Matthew Medina
Veronica Grace Moore
Sullymar Nunez
Lindsey Jean Pare
Jessinia Perez
Ciara Prieto
Juleyka Rivera
Jaritza Rosario
Tessa J Roy
Joshua Suriel-Montero
Parisa Taheri
Lucy Torres
David Vickers
Krista Lynn Walder
Whitney-Marie Mechelle
Washington
Sareena Luz Marie Whitley
Yamilet Zayas*