



**C**ongratulations to Holyoke Community College President Christina Royal who has been selected for a national fellowship for first-time college presidents administered by the Washington, D.C.-based Aspen Institute. The Aspen New Presidents Fellowship is a new initiative designed to support community college presidents in the early years of their tenure to accelerate transformational change on behalf of students. President Royal, who lives in Northampton, and President Luis G. Pedraja of Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester were the only two community college presidents chosen from Massachusetts. They are part of the inaugural group of 25 Aspen fellows selected from more than 100 applicants nationwide. The leaders, all of whom are in their first five years as a college president, will engage in a seven-month fellowship beginning in June 2020. The fellows were selected for their commitment to student success and equity, willingness to take risks to improve outcomes, understanding of the importance of community partnerships, and ability to lead change. The incoming class of Aspen fellows is 48 percent female, and 40 percent persons of color.

AS-Ann Roy 3/1/20