

Holyoke Community College holds nurses pinning ceremony

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College (HCC) recognized 48 new graduates of its associate degree program in nursing with a traditional pinning ceremony on Friday, May 31.

The ceremony was held in the Leslie Phillips Theater in HCC's Fine and Performing Arts Building. Nursing professor Kara Moriarty was chosen by the graduates to deliver the keynote speech.

Other speakers included HCC president Christina Royal, Monica Perez, vice president of Academic Affairs and Clare Lamontagne, dean of the health and natural sciences.

The pinning ceremony is a

time-honored nursing school tradition. It signifies the nursing students' official initiation into the brotherhood and sisterhood of nurses. The ceremony was rich with symbolism, completed with the lighting of candles and recitation of the Nightingale Pledge.

"This class is a diverse group of both traditional and non-traditional students," said HCC professor of nursing Johanna Kolodziej. "Many have families and have worked throughout school. Many will go directly into the workforce; others plan to continue their educations and begin studies toward their bachelor's degrees in nursing starting this fall."