

HCC announces Black History Month events

H O L Y O K E – Holyoke Community College is celebrating Black History Month this February with a series of online events that includes conversations about the 400-year span of African-American history, voting rights and health issues such as COVID-19 and their disproportionate impact on communities of color.

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All events will be held virtually and advanced registration is required through HCC's Black History Month celebration webpage: hcc.edu/bhm

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 11 a.m., HCC anthropology professor Vanessa Martinez, Ph.D., will lead "The Legacy of Poor Health: Communities of Color From 1619 to COVID." Martinez will share data on the legacy of American racism and how it amplifies the challenges of living during COVID-19, especially for communities of color. By using a historical anti-racist perspective and health equity lens, she will offer some concrete ways we can improve the lives of our most vulnerable communities.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m. HCC will host a watch party and discussion of the film "Fannie Lou Hamer:

Voting Rights Activist" about the outspoken civil rights leader, who was the granddaughter of a slave and the youngest of 20 children. In this rare documentary, Hamer's struggles and triumphs are expressed through her own words as well as those of friends and colleagues. HCC history professor Maura Henry, Ph.D., will lead a discussion following the viewing.

Capping off the month on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 1 p.m., HCC history professor Gaylord Saulsberry, Ed.D., will lead a discussion about *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*, by Carol Anderson, the award-winning author of *White Rage*. In *One Person, No Vote*, Anderson explores the history of voting rights in the United States. The book is part of a Holyoke Community College community read project. Copies are available for free as an ebook through the HCC Library.
