

HCC offers free line cook training courses for fall

Holyoke Community College will be running three sessions of its free line-cook training program this fall at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

The first of two daytime sessions begins Sept. 18 and runs five days a week through Oct. 20. The classes are held Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Tuesday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Concurrently, an evening program, from 5 to 9:30 p.m., also begins Sept. 18 and runs Mondays through Thursdays until Nov. 9.

A second daytime session begins Oct. 30 and runs five days a week through Dec. 8. Likewise, these classes are held Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Tuesday through

Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The line-cook program is designed for those already in the restaurant industry who want to upgrade their skills, as well as unemployed or underemployed people interested in starting a new career.

“We usually have a mix of young people entering the job market for the first time, and people who are re-entering the job market and looking for a second career,” said Maureen McGuinness, assistant project coordinator for HCC’s noncredit, culinary arts programs. “The course is perfect for anybody who’s looking for a job and has a passion for food and the dining industry.”

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Classes will be held in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St., where participants will learn all the essential skills to become successful line cooks: knife handling; how to prepare stocks, soups, sauces, desserts, poultry, fish and meat; culinary math and measure-

ments; moist and dry heat cooking methods; as well as workplace soft skills, such as building a resume and searching for jobs.

Offered as part of the college's Business and Workforce Development division, the line cook course is free to qualifying applicants.

For more information, complete an online inquiry form at hcc.edu/line-cook, or reach out to workforce@hcc.edu or 413-552-2500.