

KICKER

HCC celebrates nursing grads

Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 43 students from its associate in nursing degree program on May 27.

The students were recognized in a virtual pinning ceremony during which they were formally inducted into the health care field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals.

During a traditional pinning ceremony, new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin from a registered nurse, and recite the Nightingale Pledge. This year, because of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the program was held virtually.

Earlier in the day, however, students stopped by the college's Center for Health Education & Simulation to receive their pins and candles and celebrate in person with nursing faculty and staff.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will not sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses.

This year's graduates from Western Massachusetts, by community, include:

Agawam: Zodi Wray;

Amherst: Xinhong Wu;

Belchertown: Kathy Col-

During a traditional pinning ceremony, new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin from a registered nurse, and recite the Nightingale Pledge. This year, because of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the program was held virtually.

lado and Nicole Colon;

Chicopee: Elena Aguirre, Candy Owusu Asante, Eric Piquette, Xiomara Rigau, Stephanie Singh, Lyudmila Tkachenko, Melanie Turgeon and Jessica Walsh;

Deerfield: Justin Ford;

East Longmeadow: Krista MacGillivray;

Easthampton: Rachel Lambert;

Holyoke: Shaun Connor, Brianna Ecklin-Fournier and Mildred Lefebvre;

Longmeadow: Dayle Douglas;

Ludlow: Nicholas Fales;

Montgomery: Zofia Harmata-Wegrzyniak;

Palmer: Salina Aguilar and Hope Moynahan;

South Hadley: Kayla Goldie Opalenik;

Southwick: Ashley Carr;

Springfield: Ana Bedinelli, Kayla Cardona, Maria Hernandez, Brittany Hogan, Selena Toro-Brown, Phyllis Wangi and Ellondy Wray;

West Springfield: Chelsea Bergeron, Chelsea Douglas, Denis Dyachkov, Phuong Mazza and Marley Waterman; and

Westfield: Zipporah Irari,

Nicole Kwatowski, Jessica LaFortune and Versaviya Okhrimenko.

Disc ha

