

Holyoke Community College launches search for next president

HOLYOKE – The search is on for the next president of Holyoke Community College.

HCC has assembled a 21-member search committee and retained the Pauly Group, Inc., a national consulting firm that assists in the recruiting and hiring of community college executives. Angela Provart, Pauly Group president, is working directly with the committee. Provart previously assisted the college in the presidential search that led to the hiring of Christina Royal, HCC's fourth president.

In August, Royal, who's been with HCC since January 2017, announced that she would retire after the 2022-2023 academic year. Her last day will be July 14, and she expects to assist with the transition to the next administration.

The search committee held its first meeting on Thurs., Nov. 3.

"I realize that a lot of people are paying attention to this search, and they should be," said search committee chair Eleanor P. Williams, a member of the HCC Board of Trustees and an attorney at MassMutual. "The decision about who will lead HCC is an important one. The committee will put forward a slate of candidates, one of whom will be the next president of the college. We are all grateful to have been chosen to serve on this committee, and we take our responsibility very seriously."

Provart hosted a virtual Town Hall with members of the HCC campus community on Nov. 2 to learn more about the college's needs and expectations. A second Town Hall is scheduled for Wed., Nov. 30, from noon to 1 p.m. for HCC faculty, staff, and students.

Williams said the Presidential Search Committee hopes to select a slate of semifinal candidates by March and conduct interviews later that month. Finalists will be invited to visit the college and meet with the Board of Trustees and various campus groups in early to mid-April.

"Everyone who interacts with the finalists will have an opportunity to share their feedback," Williams said.

The search committee represents a large cross-section of campus and community stakeholders and includes five members of the HCC Board of Trustees – Williams, Vanessa Smith, Ted Hebert, Ivonne Vidal, and Robert Gilbert, the board chair; five HCC faculty members; eight HCC staff members representing various campus constituencies; one HCC Foundation trustee; and one student; as well as Anthony Soto, superintendent of Holyoke Public Schools; and Robert Awkward, assistant commissioner for Academic Effectiveness at the Massachusetts Dept. of Higher Education.

More information on the search for HCC's fifth president will be posted on the college website.

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The 2021-2022 academic year marked the 75th anniversary of Holyoke Community College, the Commonwealth's oldest community college. HCC opened its doors in 1946 as the first two-year college in Massachusetts. In the decades since, the

college has paved the way for generations of learners from western Massachusetts and beyond, a beacon of hope and opportunity for people seeking better lives. Please visit us at hcc.edu.