



HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

57 Suffolk Street - Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040
Tel. (413) 534-2005 ♦ Fax. (413) 534-3730

Dr. Stephen Zrike, Jr., Receiver
Judy Taylor, Web and Print Communications Director

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2016

Mount Holyoke College and Holyoke Public Schools partner to offers master’s for educators

HOLYOKE, Massachusetts—The Holyoke Public Schools and Mount Holyoke College have launched a partnership to offer a new “Urban Teachers Pathways Program” allowing ten district educators to pursue master’s degrees at the College while at the same time enhancing their skills. The goal of the program is to improve educational outcomes for students by increasing staff retention and enhancing the qualifications of Holyoke Public Schools educators, who will earn their Master of Arts in Teaching Degree at minimal cost through Mount Holyoke.

The Urban Teacher Pathways program provides an opportunity for teacher candidates to learn about teaching and learning through a full range of courses taught by college faculty and current teachers. Courses are taught at Mount Holyoke College or at a local Holyoke Public School through MHC’s Professional and Graduate Education division and its Master of Arts in Teaching program. Each practicum is carried out in the candidate’s classroom with a supervising practitioner.

Program requirements include a bachelor’s degree, successful completion of the Communications and Literacy Massachusetts Test for Education Licensure (MTEL) exam, and nomination by a supervisor. The courses are closely linked to the practical classroom experience and current research on best practices. During the summer, candidates will have the opportunity to explore how technology can enhance the classroom experience for students, the underlying tenants of expeditionary learning, and the power of interdisciplinary curriculum design. Candidates will complete a series of courses to pursue an initial license in the general education classroom, as well as a moderate disabilities license, which makes this particular program unusual.

"This program provides the opportunity for educators from the district to complete a graduate program for minimal cost while they continue to contribute to the district," said Holyoke Public Schools Receiver Dr. Stephen Zrike, Jr. "They will learn how to design instruction that is academically challenging, culturally relevant and addresses the social and emotional needs of our students. We are grateful to Mount Holyoke College for this opportunity. We have had a longtime partnership that includes community based learning initiatives, to share resources and address community needs."

“A community working together to prepare our students for their future”

About the Holyoke Public Schools

The Holyoke Public Schools are celebrating a new chapter in Holyoke history. With a new Receiver, new and returning teachers, new pre-Kindergarten classrooms and new programs and opportunities, it is a really exciting time to go to school in Holyoke. The district has over 5,000 students enrolled, pre-Kindergarten classrooms are offered in the majority of elementary schools, and students seeking secondary education opportunities may choose to attend Holyoke High School or Dean Technical High School.

If you have any questions or are interested in visiting the Holyoke Public Schools, please contact Judy Taylor, Web and Print Communications Director at (413) 493-1605 jtaylor@hps.holyoke.ma.us.

###