

**Mayor Announces Winners of MGHPCC Scholarships**

Total Awards Top $60k, Part of Broader Collaboration on Education & Workforce Development

Holyoke, Massachusetts, June 05, 2020 – Holyoke Mayor Alex B. Morse today announced the winners of two scholarship awards totaling $13,000 from the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) to Holyoke Public School students. Now in its seventh year, the MGHPCC merit-based scholarship program has awarded more than $60,000 in grants so far.

“I’m grateful for community partners such as the MGHPCC and its member institutions for their support of the scholarship program, which is just one part of our collaboration around education and workforce training,” said Morse. “Obtaining a post-secondary degree can help lead to higher paying jobs and communities benefit from having a well-prepared labor force.”

“Part of our mission and commitment to Holyoke is to provide educational and training opportunities to local students,” said John Goodhue, Executive Director of the MGHPCC. “The scholarship program is one way that we can help create economic opportunity for deserving students.”

This year’s scholarship recipients are Christiaan Boria, who will attend UMass Amherst as a political science major, and John Shea, who will major in mechanical engineering at Harvard.

“Christiaan and John are hard-working students who have persevered through the uncertainty of the last few months to keep up with their studies. I have every confidence these two young people will succeed in their college careers and beyond,” said Dr. Stephen Zrike, Superintendent of Holyoke Public Schools. “They have been ably helped by the Holyoke Public School teachers, staff and guidance department, which has worked tirelessly to help our students navigate the college process during this time of crisis.”

The MGHPCC scholarship program is open to any Holyoke Public School student enrolling at one of the five founding institutions of the MGHPCC: Boston University, Harvard University, Northeastern University, MIT or UMass. It is open to students in any major and not limited to students of computer science or other scientific disciplines. Recipients are chosen based on an 800-word essay answering the question, “What do you see as the three biggest challenges currently facing Holyoke, and what would you do to address them?”

In addition to sponsoring the scholarship program, the MGHPCC works with the mayor’s office, Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical Community College and local community service organizations to host internships, robotics competitions, teacher workshops, after-school classes, programming courses, career awareness days and summer camps.

To watch the ceremony via Zoom honoring the students, go to the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=582531385983827>

[**About the City of Holyoke**](https://www.holyoke.org/)

Holyoke is an exciting community with committed citizens, a rich history, a dynamic business sector, and a wide variety of opportunities. Holyoke developed in the 19th Century as the nation’s first planned industrial community, at one time boasting the greatest paper production in the world. The City’s attractive complement of urban scale and natural serenity includes numerous mill sites as well as a collection of parks, historic sites and recreation destinations.

[**About the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center**](http://www.mghpcc.org/)

The Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) provides state-of-the-art infrastructure for computationally intensive research that is indispensable in the increasingly sensor and data-rich environments of modern science and engineering. Computers at the MGHPCC run millions of virtual experiments every month, supporting thousands of researchers in Massachusetts and around the world. The MGHPCC was developed through an unprecedented collaboration among the most research-intensive universities in Massachusetts (Boston University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts); the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and private industry (Cisco and Dell EMC). The member universities fund the ongoing operation of the data center, which is open for use by any research organization.

Media Contact for the City of Holyoke:

Mayor’s Office

413-322-5510

Media Contact for the MGHPCC:

Jennifer Rosenberg

781-854-2997

jenn@howellcomm.com