** **

**City of Holyoke, MGHPCC Unveil Historical Gearwheel**

**and Interpretive Panel Outside Data Center**

***140-Year-Old Hardware Links City’s Past and Future***

Holyoke, Massachusetts, Friday, Sept. 27, 2013 – Linking Holyoke’s past and future, city officials and the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) today unveiled a gearwheel used to power a mill located on the MGHPCC site 140 years ago. The exhibit, located outside the entrance to the data center, also includes an interpretive panel explaining the role of water power in Holyoke’s industrial history.

"It is so fitting that this exhibit is found in the heart of the arts and innovation district of downtown Holyoke,” said Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse. “As the momentum in our City continues to build during its revitalization, this beautifully renovated piece of Holyoke’s history complements the bright future that lies ahead.  I commend the Holyoke Restoration Guild for preserving this important piece of history, and thank the MGHPCC for understanding the importance of investing in not only Holyoke’s future, but also its past.”

“The MGHPCC represents Holyoke's future, yet it is Holyoke’s historic investment in green energy that has brought it here,” said Rep. Aaron Vega. “This exhibit is a symbol of our past respectfully placed in the heart of our future. I applaud the MGHPCC for siting this exhibit and members of the Holyoke Restoration Guild for bringing it to fruition.”

“It is important for progress to create our future with open minds, creative thinking, passion and courage. It is equally important to preserve our history that inspires us with the wisdom and ingenuity of our ancestors, gives us sense of identity and teaches us respect and humility,” said Vitek Kruta, president of the Holyoke Restoration Guild. “This 5,500-pound gearwheel with wooden teeth is an example of ingenious engineering and incredible skills from time long gone by. It was an honor for the Holyoke Restoration Guild to contribute to the preservation of this important piece of our history.”

“Innovation helped power Holyoke’s economy a century and a half ago, and we are excited about being part of the innovation economy that is emerging in Holyoke today,” said John Goodhue, the executive director of the MGHPCC. “This exhibit reminds us of the legacy we inherited and our responsibility to the future.”

The seven-foot-tall gearwheel, part of a water-powered electric generator, was originally the property of Farr Alpaca, a manufacturer of wool products that operated a mill on the current site of the MGHPCC from the 1870s through the 1920s, The MGHPCC is using the same source of power as did the mills a decade ago – the Connecticut River.

The restoration of the wheel and creation of the exhibit were the work of several people and organizations from Holyoke. Kruta and John Gutowski of the Holyoke Restoration Guild oversaw the restoration, which was aided by Holyoke Gas & Electric, Siegfried Port Architects, Paul Tower Welding, and Pete Korenewsky of Northeast Steel Erectors. Images and text for the interpretive panel were developed by Eileen Crosby of the Holyoke History Room, City Historian Penni Martorell, Sarah Larose of Holyoke Gas and Electric, and Sarah S. Kilborne, author of *American Phoenix,* a biography of silk manufacturer William Skinner, whose first building was located on the MGHPCC site.

**About the City of Holyoke**

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**

The Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) is a ground-breaking collaboration of five of the state’s most research-intensive universities, state government and private industry — the most significant collaboration among government, industry and public and private universities in the history of the Commonwealth, and the first facility in the nation of its kind. The 90,000-square-foot computing facility in Holyoke, Massachusetts, opened in November 2012. Funding was provided by the five member universities -- Boston University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts -- the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Cisco, EMC, and the Federal New Markets Tax Credit program. The member universities will fund the ongoing operation of the MGHPCC. For more information on the Massachusetts High Performance Computing Center, visit <http://www.mghpcc.org>.

###

Media Contact for City of Holyoke:

Tim Beaudry, Aide to the Mayor

413-322-5510

[beaudryt@ci.holyoke.ma.us](mailto:beaudryt@ci.holyoke.ma.us)

Media Contact for Rep. Vega

Rory Casey

617-722-2400

[Rory.Casey@mahouse.gov](mailto:Rory.Casey@mahouse.gov)

Media Contact for Holyoke Restoration Guild

Vitek Kruta, President

413-539-0385

[vitekjp@gmail.com](mailto:vitekjp@gmail.com)

Media Contact for MGHPCC:

Pamela Jonah

[pam\_jonah@howellcomm.com](mailto:pam_jonah@howellcomm.com)

781.956.6865