

## “I was really quiet”



**Staci Judd**  
HCC education major

Staci Judd was like a lot of middle school students when she came to the STEP program six years ago: bright, shy, and not sure how she should plan her future.

“I wasn’t that sociable, but when I started to get involved in all of the STEP activities and trips, I got more social,” says Judd, now a second-year HCC student who tutors other STEP participants. “There were people in STEP who talked to me about building my goals.”

That talk was not just idle chatter. In STEP Judd learned about the things she needed to do to make college a reality.

“I would never have known how to do it without STEP.”

**Find out more about STEP**  
**Call Melany Mendoza**  
**STEP program manager**  
**(413) 552-2471**

<http://www.step-program.com/>

*The STEP program has been made possible through the combined efforts of Holyoke Community College, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, the Holyoke Public Schools, the Balfour Foundation, Girls Inc., and the Massachusetts Department of Education’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant program*

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT STEP...

After being in STEP for at least a year, the vast majority of the 2007–2008 students said they got more out of the program than their expectations of having fun and getting help with homework. They made friends of the type they wanted, they had completely new and different experiences, their grades went up and they learned about attending college.

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Get in

# STEP



### When you get in STEP you can

- Visit colleges!
- Attend courses in theatre, hip-hop, video, photography and more!
- Improve your grades!
- Join in HCC events!
- Go on a rope-climbing adventure!
- Meet new people!
- Have fun while you learn!

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## What is the STEP Program?

Holyoke Community College's Skills Training and Enrichment Program (STEP) is a free, academic support program for Holyoke students in the seventh and eighth grades. Students gain new skills and the motivation to succeed – in middle school, in high school, and in college.

## STEP Activities

### Tutoring

At least twice a week, STEP provides after-school tutoring for students. Tutors are well-trained, motivated high school mentors who have graduated from the STEP program.

### Mini-courses

On Saturdays, STEP offers free mini-courses on the HCC campus. Courses include traditional subjects like language, math, and science, but also include some exciting options like video, hip-hop, theatre, photography, and pottery.

### Peer Leadership Workshops

STEP offers workshops that help students reach for success. Workshops focus on teamwork, self-esteem, study skills, goal-setting, communication, diversity, and college planning. Students learn what skills they will need to succeed from guest speakers and field trips to various workplaces.

## Who is eligible?

STEP participants must be in need of academic assistance and be committed to working hard to achieve their goals. As a condition of STEP's funding, the program is open to students who come from low-income families and/or families in which they are the first generation to go to college.

## ¿Qué es STEP?

STEP es un programa de apoyo académico para los estudiantes que crusan el séptimo y octavo grado en la ciudad de Holyoke. STEP asiste a los jóvenes en obtener las destrezas necesarias y motivarlos a terminar la escuela intermedia, escuela superior y luego matricularse en la universidad. El program incorpora experiencias interactivas y manuales con actividades dentro de los salones de clases.

## ¿Quién es elegible?

Para participar en el programa de STEP, los estudiantes deben comprometerse con las metas del programa. Los estudiantes deben no sólo tener el potencial para ser exitosos en la escuela intermedia, superior y universidad, sino también alguna necesidad académica al solicitar al programa. Debido a que STEP es un Programa de Igualdad de Oportunidades, los participantes deben venir de familias de escaso recursos económicos o de familias donde ésta sea la primera generación de estudiantes universitarios.

## Actividades del Programa

Un programa después de la escuela de tutoría académica en las escuelas intermedias de Holyoke disponibles. Los tutores de STEEP son estudiantes graduados de STEP de escuela superior altamente cualificados.

Varios mini cursos se ofrecerá los sábados en el campus del Holyoke Community College. Estos mini cursos se enfocan en temas tradicionales como lenguaje, matemáticas y ciencias, así como no tradicionales tales como video, hip-hop, teatro, fotografía y cerámica.

Talleres de liderazgo entre compañeros sobre tópicos tales como: trabajo en equipo, auto estima, estableciendo metas, destrezas de comunicación, diversidad y planificación de colegio. Oradores invitados y excursiones a posibles lugares de empleo, para proveer a los estudiantes con información sobre educación y destrezas necesarias para diferentes carreras.

Varias excursiones educativas durante el año. Estas excursiones incluyen viajes a Boston y New York.

STEP además ofrece un programa de enriquecimiento académico durante el verano en el campus de HCC.