New round of classes set for casino dealers

He finished blackjack training this past fall, but Guillermo Godreau wants to learn as much as he can about table games. He hopes to be back at the Massachusetts Casino Career Training Institute (MCCTI) in January, when new classes start.

“I want to learn all the games I can, just to have them. I think it’s going to help me out later in my career,” said Godreau, of Holyoke.

“I want to make this a long-term career,” he added. “It’s fun. You get to meet a lot of people. I see how all the pit bosses are living, and that’s where I want to be.”

Over a dozen students, including Godreau, took the blackjack class earlier this fall and were handed their certificates of completion during a graduation ceremony on Oct. 22. To get an audition with MGM Springfield, students need to have training in at least two games. Most who are new to the gaming industry start with blackjack and then move on to carnival games, which are nontraditional casino games.

Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College, in collaboration with MGM, created the training school to help people learn skills to work at MGM Springfield.

MCCTI on Jan. 7 will offer its next round of classes for new and experienced dealers:

- Blackjack (the first step for anyone interested in becoming a table games dealer)
- Poker (for new dealers)
- Roulette (for current MGM dealers)
- Carnival games (for a small group that just finished blackjack class)

Godreau had been working in security at MGM Springfield and saw the wide range of gaming classes at MCCTI as an opportunity to start a new career. The entertainment complex, which officially opened Aug. 24, has hired about 3,000 people, including many trainees who went through MCCTI.

“Once this casino opened, I wanted to get in here quick,”

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