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SUBJECT: HCCC MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM RANKED NUMBER THREE IN DIVISION III

**SOURCE: Donald Dutcher, Director of Athletics
(315) 866-0300, ext. 8255**

Herkimer, NY— Herkimer County Community College is ranked number three in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III men's basketball pre-season poll.

Returning key players include Will Mercado, of Miami (FL), and Chris Rocco, of Saugerties, with a combined 20.2 points, 10.5 rebounds and 7.4 assists per game last year. Also returning to anchor the defense is Chris Marcellus, a graduate of Hamilton High School, a first team Region III All-Tournament selection.

Other players to watch will be Preston Bell and Kevin Cook, both transfers from Morrisville State. A pre-season first-team NJCAA All-American and graduate of Long Island City High School, Bell was the leading scorer for Morrisville last season with 17.4 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. Cook, a graduate of Dr. Susan S. McKinley High School (Brooklyn), ranked second in scoring with 20.2 points, 10.5 rebounds and 7.4 assists per game.

Herkimer finished last season with a 23-9 season record and a second place finish in the Region III tournament after a 71-65 loss to Finger Lakes Community College.

Head coach Matt Lee enters his fourth year leading the Generals. Herkimer's season opens Wednesday, November 1 at Finger Lakes Community College. The first home game is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8 at 7pm against Schenectady County Community College.

The NJCAA released the rankings earlier this week. Other top ranked teams are Sullivan County Community College (#1), Cedar Valley College, TX (#2), Minneapolis Community and Technical College, MN (#4), and Gloucester County College (#5).

For more information, contact Donald Dutcher, Director of Athletics, at (315) 866-0300, ext. 8255.

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866-0300 OR 888-GO 4-HCCC, EXT. 8259.