College Town: Dual enrollment to be offered at Assumption, Notre Dame

By Scott O’Connell

WORCESTER — Notre Dame Academy students will be able to begin taking free college credit courses at Assumption College this fall after the schools recently agreed to a dual-enrollment partnership.

The program will be open to juniors and seniors at the Catholic all-girls school who have a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

“We are absolutely thrilled to partner with such an incredible institution like Assumption College on this dual enrollment program,” Elizabeth Murphy, Notre Dame Academy’s director of development and community relations, said in a statement. “To me, this partnership couldn’t be more perfectly aligned, not only because of our geographic closeness, but our commitment to the Catholic mission.”

“Dual enrolled students will be able to further explore their interests in possible fields of study that they are considering for a college major,” Kathryn Woodson Barr, the academy’s head of school, said. “Students will also be able to explore a discipline that may not be available at our school or at the high school level.”

**Becker to host Fortnite tournament**

Capitalizing on one of the most popular video games of the moment, Becker College will host its first Fortnite tournament next month.

The July 12 competition is open to all high school students, although reservations are required, according to Becker.

“I am excited that we are hosting a Fortnite Championship series at Becker College,” Alan Ritacco, dean of the School of Design and Technology, said in a
statement. “I look forward to seeing the next generation of gamers on campus competing and working as teams in this competition.”

After a short question-and-answer session and practice period, competitors will face off until a champion is declared and awarded the college’s first Fortnite Champion plaque. The tournament will be streamed on Twitch for friends and families to watch.

**Gardner inmates are Second Chance grads**

A pilot program run by Mount Wachusett Community College aimed at reducing recidivism and easing prisoners’ transition to the outside world awarded Small Business Management certificates to 15 inmates at North Central Correctional Institution in Gardner earlier this month.

Ten of those graduates also earned a Certificate of Merit for maintaining a grade point average of at least 3.3 in the initiative, called the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program.

Mount Wachusett offered a Second Chance Pell Pilot Program at MCI-Shirley last year.

“A core duty of community colleges is to provide education to the entire community. It’s embedded in our name,” the college’s president, James Vander Hooven, said in a statement. “These students will have a better chance of succeeding when they leave prison because they have furthered their education. That benefits everyone.”

Mount Wachusett was selected by the U.S. Department of Education in 2016 to administer the program, and is one of 64 colleges and universities in country – and the only one from Massachusetts – participating in the initiative.

**Holy Cross to offer college prep help**

The College of the Holy Cross will hold its July Advisory Days next month, a program to help all high school seniors – not just those planning to attend Holy Cross – prepare for the college admissions process.
The three-hour sessions are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in July, and include a campus tour, an essay-writing and interviewing seminar, and other information.

More about the program, and a link to register, is available on the college’s website at www.holycross.edu/visit/july-advisory-days.

QCC gets ‘Hands-Only’ CPR award

Quinsigamond Community College was recently recognized as a 2018-19 College “Hands-Only” CPR Challenge award winner by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association of Central Massachusetts for training more than 800 of its students, faculty members and staff in the “hands-only” CPR technique.

Nine schools participated in the challenge this year, instructing a total of more than 5,400 people in the “hands-only” method, which does not use mouth-to-mouth breaths. The approach is recommended in situations where a teen or adult suddenly collapses, according to Quinsigamond.

“Only about 46% of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receive the immediate help that they need before professional help arrives,” Jay Cyr, an American Heart Association board member in Central Massachusetts and senior vice president of surgical services at UMass Memorial Medical Center, said in a statement. “Learning ‘Hands-Only’ CPR enables bystanders to take action in an emergency. Quinsigamond Community College’s dedication to training their community saves lives.”

“We are thrilled that we won the award,” said QCC nurse education professor Susan Johnson. “It was pretty challenging, but we exceeded the amount of students, faculty and staff that we were able to train.”