Dear Friends:

Welcome to Assumption College and to the College Search Academy. As the parent of three children, including a daughter in college, and a son who is a high school senior, I know that the college admissions process can be both exciting and daunting. By participating in today’s program, you are well on your way to finding a quality match and making a well-informed decision with regard to the college you will attend in the fall of 2016. Even that is still only the beginning – there is an entire lifetime of learning ahead of you to anticipate.

Education is a journey in search of wisdom and truth, and in a world filled with more information than one individual can ever fully acquire or comprehend, it is truly a life-long pursuit. At Assumption, our goal is to provide students with an intellectual and spiritual foundation that prepares them to realize their unique potential, identify and address some of the world’s most pressing challenges, and to grow into who they truly are. Assumption students are empowered to couple the knowledge they have learned with their unique skills and talents to identify and address some of the world’s most pressing challenges and to light the way for others.

I invite you to return to Assumption College in the coming months for a more thorough visit and a discussion of how the College can prepare you for a life of meaning and personal fulfillment. Assumption’s excellence in the liberal arts and sciences, complemented by strong programs in business studies, education and other professional fields is just one facet of our commitment to form the whole person – intellectually, professionally, morally and spiritually.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at presoffice@assumption.edu if you have any questions with regard to your visit to Assumption. Enjoy your visit to our beautiful campus.

Good luck with your college search.

Sincerely,

Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D.
President
Assumption College
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
**REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, AND MINI-COLLEGE FAIR**—Hagan Hall

Meet Admissions Representatives from:
- Assumption College
- College of the Holy Cross
- Clark University
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Worcester State University

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. 
**WELCOME**—Hagan Hall

Evan Lipp, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Assumption College

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Jeff Kallay, CEO, Render Experiences

Steps to make the most of your campus visits

Learn how to prepare before, engage during, and follow-up after the all-important campus visit – it’s an investment of time and money and you’ll learn how to get the most out of those visits.

Jeff Kallay and his team have the greatest job on earth, they tour colleges for a living. He has personally taken over 2000 campus tours and his company Render Experiences has worked with over 600 colleges and universities across the country to improve campus visits for prospective families like yours.

His campus visit consulting work has been featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Chronicle of Higher Education. Research shows the campus visit is the top influencer in the college search process and he’s going to share tips on how to make yours fun, memorable and productive.

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10:45 – 11:45 a.m.  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Financing a College Education  
Kennedy Hall 119

- Understanding the FAFSA
- Loan Options
- Types of Financial Aid Awards

**Presenters:**
- Bill Smith, Director of Financial Aid, Assumption College
- Mary Ellen Severance, Director of Financial Aid, Clark University

Where Do I Begin?  
Kennedy Hall 112

- Starting the college search
- How to create your college list
- Making the most of the campus visit

**Presenters:**
- Joan Bress, Founder of College Resource Associates
- Ed Connor, Dean of Admissions, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Tiana Carrasquillo, Associate Director of Admissions, Worcester State University

How Do I Present Myself?  
Carriage House

- Essay writing & interview tips
- High school transcript and test scores
- Leadership & extracurricular activities

**Presenters:**
- Theresa Malone, Director of Admissions, Clark University
- Claudia Neithercut, Director of Guidance, Westborough High School
- Lynn Verrecchia, Associate Director of Admissions, College of the Holy Cross

1:00 p.m.  
**LUNCH & STUDENT PANEL**—Hagan Hall

Assumption students will share their college search stories, provide insight on how they made their final decision and will answer your questions about the process and college life.

2:00 p.m.  
**ASSUMPTION CAMPUS TOUR**
Financial Aid

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?
Financial aid is a term used to describe the various options available to help students and their families pay for a college education. A financial aid package is the combination of funds needed to make up the difference between a college’s cost and the amount a family can reasonably afford based on the financial strength and estimated family contribution (EFC).

HOW DOES A COLLEGE DETERMINE EFC?
A family’s income, assets, debt, family size, number in college and extenuating circumstances are factors that are considered in determining the EFC (which can vary on a year to year basis). This value is derived through family financial information that is submitted on financial aid forms called the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) required by all colleges and universities and the College Profile, which is required by certain private colleges and universities. These forms, which must be completed on a yearly basis throughout the college years, require parent and student income and asset information.

WHO APPLIES FOR FINANCIAL AID?
Any family with a child planning on applying for college should apply for financial aid if there is a concern regarding the ability to pay the entire cost. As students begin the college search process, they should be mindful of the necessary forms and deadline dates for submission of financial aid forms as well as the admission application deadlines. These deadlines are often very different.

HOW IS THE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE DEVELOPED?
Once college financial aid offices receive the data from your FAFSA and where required, the College Profile form, it will be reviewed to determine family financial strength, the family contribution and consequently any demonstrated financial need. Financial need is the difference between the cost of attending (tuition, fees, room, board, and books) minus the EFC. Upon establishment of demonstrated need, college financial aid offices will attempt to meet that need by awarding a financial aid "package", reflecting need-based aid which typically will include a combination of grant, loans and college work-study (campus based employment).

Aside from this need-based variety of aid, merit-based aid is also available and is awarded to students in the form of scholarships as recognition of academic performance, special skills and talents and other abilities that suggest significant success in college. Also, many scholarships are provided through private sources, organizations and foundations that students and parents should pursue through their high school guidance offices and through parent employment, civic and community organizations, agencies etc.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL AID?
The following websites may be helpful in understanding the financial aid process as well as a source of private financial aid opportunities for students and families:

www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.org
www.collegeboard.com

FINANCIAL AID TERMS

CSS PROFILE: A form developed by the College Scholarship Service and used by some private colleges to assess a family’s ability to pay the costs of attending their college. The aid awarded would come from the colleges’ own institutional funds.

EFC (EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION): The amount a family is expected to contribute towards the cost of attending college. The amount would be similar for different colleges even though colleges’ costs would vary.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid form used to determine eligibility for federal sources of financial aid including grants, loans and college work-study. The application form is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

GRANT: An amount of money provided to a student (rather than loaned) based on need, such as the federal Pell grant award.

LOANS: The most common loans for college funding by families are:

• Federal Direct Stafford Loans: (subsidized and unsubsidized) with eligibility determined by information on the FAFSA. Repayment typically begins six months after separation from college.
• Federal Direct Perkins Loan: A low interest loan offered through the college financial aid office as part of a financial aid package based on information from the FAFSA. Repayment typically begins six months after separation from college.
• Parent Loan Programs: Parents borrow from participating banks. Repayment typically begins 60 days after inception of loan.
• Federal Direct PLUS: A low interest loan offered through the federal government for parent borrowers with favorable repayment and deferment options.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS: (No-Need Scholarships) Money awarded to students for college expenses without regard to financial need to recognize academic, music, dance, athletic talents, etc.

STUDENT AID REPORT: A report summarizing and detailing your FAFSA data that is e-mailed to families upon completion of their FAFSA application to allow for correction and review.

WORK-STUDY: A federally sponsored program that pays students for working in campus based positions. Pay is usually minimum wage or slightly higher for approximately 10 hours a week. Work-study earnings are part of a financial aid package to help pay for college expenses and are awarded on the basis of FAFSA information.
TIPS FOR PARENTS IN THE COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS

While the student will most likely make the final decision in the college search process, parents play an important role throughout this journey. You may find it will be a rollercoaster of emotions and decisions, but we hope these tips will help you through the process.

ENJOY – This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some quality time with your child as you travel from college to college in your journey to a very important decision that will have a tremendous influence on his/her future.

STAY GROUNDED – Regularly take a deep breath, stay positive and maintain your sense of humor. The ride may be bumpy at times, but it does lead to a rewarding destination.

ENCOURAGE AND ADVISE – Be actively involved in your child’s high school course selection, help them develop good study habits, and encourage meaningful co-curricular activities. Establish a good relationship with your child’s high school guidance counselor.

BE FLEXIBLE – Your approach to the college search should fit your child’s unique planning style. One size does not fit all. Some students are quite organized and self-directed and require minimal support and affirmation. Others require more parental intervention and direction in the college search process.

BEGIN CAREER DISCUSSIONS – Initiate conversations about careers and reinforce your child’s interest and ability areas, but know that it’s not necessary to have a specific career direction by high school graduation.

DIVE DEEPER – Once all applications are submitted, encourage your child to inquire about the colleges’ Orientation programs, first-year programs to promote successful transition to college life, and the structures to prepare students for the work world and/or graduate school. These are some of the elements that will help define the best match.

REMEMBER – Students don’t need pressure; they need support.

Many colleges have resources on their websites specifically for parents. Be sure to check these pages out as they will be helpful in keeping track of school-specific deadlines, scholarship information, and other key points of information. Also, be sure to visit CollegeSearchAcademy.org which will be regularly updated with timely information and resources.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Preparing for the SAT and/or the ACT

Many colleges require students to take one of the college entrance exams, either the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) or ACT (American College Test). There are also some colleges that have eliminated testing as a requirement. It is important to keep things in perspective regarding testing. Surveys by national educational groups indicate that most colleges are likely to view the high school record as the most important criterion for admission and by itself a better predictor for college success than testing alone.

Over the longer term, good grades in a good selection of solid academic courses, extensive reading and consistent effort in your studies are the best strategies. Test results, however, are important as they provide a common measure for all applicants and combined with a student’s academic record make for a better predictor of success than either just academic record or just testing alone.

Colleges have become more competitive, and at some colleges, test results are playing a more significant role in admissions decisions and are carrying more weight to varying degrees. Preparation and practice can improve scores. Students should familiarize themselves with standardized testing.

Taking the PSAT during junior year (to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship) can be very helpful in familiarizing a student with the format of the SAT and understanding his or her areas of strength and weakness.

The College Board web site, www.collegeboard.com, and ACT web site, www.act.org, are good sources for test information, preparation and advice. Students who feel they need additional help and confidence may choose to pursue test prep programs and/or tutors. Take into account that the effectiveness of any program will depend largely on a student’s learning style, motivation and self-discipline.

SAT I

3 SECTIONS:
1. Critical Reading
2. Math
3. Writing

• Vocabulary emphasized
• Measures aptitudes/skills
• Includes non-multiple choice
• Math represents 33% of total score
• Penalized for wrong answers
• Score range is 600 to 2400

Note: SAT II Subject Tests are additional tests required by some colleges in addition to the SAT I. They are similar to the ACT in that they are content tests.

ACT

4 SECTIONS AND A COMPOSITE SCORE
1. English
2. Math
3. Reading
4. Science Reasoning
5. Writing test (optional)

• Vocabulary less important
• Measures knowledge of subject content
• Entirely multiple choice
• Math represents 25% of composite score
• No penalty for wrong answers
• Composite score range is 2 to 36 with individual subject scores included
When you choose a college, you're deciding where you will be living for four years. Worcester, Massachusetts, New England's second-largest city, is home to over 30,000 college students. With a plethora of restaurants, movies, music and museums, Worcester provides a bustling environment for students to explore.

Worcester is an employment leader in many sectors, including biomedical technology, education, financial services, and medical research. This means access to internships in virtually every field.

Worcester's ideal location in central Massachusetts offers numerous advantages – daily trains to Boston, a short drive to Hartford or Providence, beaches and mountains all within close reach, and Worcester's own regional airport offers flights on jetBlue.

Worcester Area College Tour Schedule

August Visit Opportunities

After the program today, visit one of the other participating schools or come back to Worcester for a visit. A tour of Assumption will be offered at the end of today's event.

Assumption College (August 1 – August 22)
Group Information Presentations and Campus Tours: Monday – Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Campus Tours Only: Monday – Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Clark University (August 1 – August 20)
Campus Visit Experience: Monday – Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

College of the Holy Cross (August 1 – August 22)
Information Sessions: Monday – Friday at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.
Campus Tours: Monday – Friday at 10:00 a.m., noon, 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (August 1 – August 29)
Information Session & Tour: Monday – Friday at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Worcester State University (August 1 – August 20)
Campus Tour: Monday – Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Friday at 11:00 a.m.

More information and fall tour schedules are available on each of the colleges’ websites.