AI HEALTHCARE from cover

programs.

"Through a collaborative effort with faculty and academic leaders from the Schools of Business, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences and Medicine, the Office of Lifelong Learning designed a flexible, high-impact program tailored to the upskilling needs of working professionals," Witherspoon said.

This will help Quinnipiac's Department of Lifelong Learning expand and help professionals understand how AI can be used responsibly and effectively in healthcare.

Those in this program will have the opportunity to explore how AI can improve efficiency, decision-making and drive.

"I think it's amazing that Quinnipiac is expanding and launching more programs," Garcia said. "I also think it's important to understand how AI can be effective if it is used appropriately."

In addition to the grant awarded, BHEF and NEBHE will provide technical assistance, including collaborations with peers and employee partners.

The grant, supported by the Connecticut Office of Workforce Strategy, is a statewide initiative, according to Witherspoon. It is administered by the Business-Higher Education Forum, partnering with the New England Board of Higher Education.

Alongside Quinnipiac, top universities are establishing similar programs and research focused on AI, healthcare and business innovation. These universities include Harvard Medical School, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia University, University of Buffalo, University of Pittsburgh and Johns Hopkins University.

"As a nursing major and someone invested in healthcare, I love how other schools also have similar programs. I just feel like it can lead to so many opportunities," Garcia said.

Harvard in particular has several similar programs to offer. This includes Leading AI Innovation in Healthcare, AI innovation in Healthcare and Implementing Healthcare AI into Clinical Practice.

"We are excited to extend the expertise of QU faculty to industry partners, alumni and professionals who are ready to take the next step in harnessing AI to enhance innovation and ultimately improve patient outcomes," Witherspoon said.



TYLER MIGNAULT/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University's Department of Lifelong Learning will use a grant to support the launch of Artificial Intelligence for Business Innovation in Healthcare.

SELECTMAN from cover

some town buildings.

Over the years, Freda has established many relationships, including with other mayors and First Selectmen, and the past presidents of the university.

A fan of sports and fitness, he used sports analogies throughout the presentation.

"You have to have a great team, and I have a great team, and I'm very appreciative of each and every one," he said, comparing collaborations to baseball.

The job of selectman means having the ability to be "working internally with the government, but also externally, and be a cheerleader for the town," according to Freda.

Freda split the presentation into four different parts: the economic and fiscal health of the town, the infrastructure, housing trends and economic development of North Haven.

He started the presentation with an overview of the town's finances. North Haven retains a strong bond rating.

A bond rating indicates a government or organization's ability to repay borrowed money.

It's a result of North Haven's relationship with rating agencies, according to Freda.

This year, North Haven reported a 2.7% in grand list growth, the increase of total value of taxable property, such as real estate. While "many municipalities are experiencing zero or a point 5% groundless growth," according to Freda, North Haven's grand list growth yields $3.33 million in incremental revenue for the town.

When it comes to infrastructure, Quinnipiac's history of providing funding has allowed for improvements to North Haven playscapes and schools.

Recently, the town has seen an increase in costs.

"Everything in government is going up," Freda said. Paving per mile has increased by $100,000.

Through bonds, grants and the Quinnipiac contribution program North Haven has been able to pursue construction projects such as the DeMeo field, Kings Highway, Pool Road and Center Block district. These projects aim to prepare for the future, stop flooding and make the area more visibly appealing.

"A (town's) reputation is only as good as the way it looks. For the people that live there, and for the people that travel through there," Freda said.

He covered housing trends.

Demand for housing is high. "We are apparently a very desirable community. I think that's important," Freda said.

There are 36 houses on the market in North Haven, with a median sale price now up to $530,000. Tenants of apartments on average pay about $1,800 a month for one bedroom.

One of the biggest issues that is seen throughout the state is affordability, Freda said.

However, there is a project already underway: 225 apartments at 20% affordable rate, which is attractive to firefighters or recent college graduates who may be in debt. It's all based on the area's median income. The rents would be subsix Freda addressed challenges and explained why some buildings haven't been renovated or developed.

In one situation, a car dealership bought a building and refused to sell it. So, the building sits unused.

While many expressed the desire for a Trader Joe's in North Haven, Freda explained that it wasn't possible.

"Economic development reminds me of a song by 'The Rolling Stones.' You can't always get what you want. Just might find you get something you need," Freda joked.

Freda then went on to describe the upcoming opportunities.

North Haven is expecting multiple restaurants, activities and other entertainment. This includes a new vintage-style restaurant called Gas Burgers, a 7-ELEVEN and potentially, a new coffee chain.

Freda concluded his presentation by sharing personal anecdotes.

"I've always tried to stay focused, stay consistent, stay positive and keep moving forward in a positive, upbeat fashion," he said.

He believes that intention is only good if you can work with other people to execute it.

During the questions, some took a moment to thank Freda. Members of the Board of Directors of the North Haven Land Trust, inquired about the lack of information about open space in Freda's presentation.

North Haven has bought open space for years, using the town's open space committee to purchase space for purposes such as farming. At the moment, there is no one willing to sell their free space.

President of QCC Garrett Sheehan concluded the event with a few words of gratitude.



LILLIAN CURTIN/CHRONICLE

North Haven First Selectman Micheal Freda gives the annual State of the Town Address at Quinnipiac University's North Haven Campus on Feb 12.

Quinnipiac approved for expansion to old bookstore

By NATHAN ROJAS
Staff Writer

The Hamden Planning and Zoning Committee approved Quinnipiac University's 1,600-square-foot expansion to the old bookstore space that is set to become an extension of the dining space in the Carl Hansen Student Center.

These renovations are part of the university's Planned Development District. But it needs PZC approval before any work can be done.

Quinnipiac relocated the bookstore to the North Lot before the start of the spring 2026 semester.

This is simply approval for the expansion and no other confirmed plans have been released.

Salvatore Filardi, vice president of capital planning, said the request for expansion comes from the university's desire to expand dining options for students.

According to Filardi, Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellet and Provost Debra Liebowitz, there are rumors of a new "all-you-care-to-eat" buffet and a new swipe system — something that has been requested by students for quite some time.

However, Ellet stresses that these plans are purely speculation, as both he and Filardi have stated that there is no official plan in place at this time.

Information shared at a PZC meeting in January strongly indicates the addition of a new dining facility, buffet or not.

The expansion "will accommodate seating for 222 students and include a larger kitchen to support expanded food service," according to an article by Patch.

Additionally, approval from the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority for two new grease traps is still pending, further supporting the idea of a new dining facility.

Any and all changes to the old bookstore space have yet to be confirmed, something which Filardi hopes will change in the near future.

Howard Pfrommer, an engineer of Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates, said that the campus's current infrastructure will be able to support the expansion.

This would also allow for the remodel of the loading dock located behind the old bookstore space, as the expansion is designated for the back of the space.

This is part of a long list of other expansions and campus improvements that Quinnipiac is looking to make over the summer, according to Liebowitz.



RYLEY LEE/CHRONICLE

The old bookstore is currently closed off and rumored to be turning into a new dining space.