

February 16, 2022

CO-OP PROVIDES REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Julia Block is an ace in the classroom: a Chambers Award recipient at Middlesex College in 2020 with a 4.0 GPA; Phi Theta Kappa member, earning a transfer scholarship to Rutgers University, where she has maintained the 4.0; and award-winning editor for *Quo Vadis*, the student newspaper.

She is also an ace outside the classroom, where she has taken internships to new heights. She has had five of them.

"I managed to learn so many transferable life skills that professionals need to have: managing time wisely and effectively, working both collaboratively and independently on multiple assignments and tasks, strengthening analysis and evaluation strategies and abilities, meeting deadlines, and providing and taking constructive feedback," she said. "I also believe that each internship I have had on my journey that began in Middlesex College's co-op program has put me closer to understanding what my career goals are while showing me firsthand what I prefer in my current and future work environments."

The journalism major interned at TAPinto New Brunswick and TAPinto Raritan Bay, online news services; *Quo Vadis*; as an editorial intern at VUU NJ; and she is currently with HIP Video Promo as a marketing intern.

"My internship now is totally awesome, and it is a job I can see myself doing there or in another company looking ahead," she said. "It is more than just hitting submit on an assignment. It is having an opportunity to be a part of a team, with responsibilities bigger than yourself. You get to be a part of people's livelihood as you learn and make your way toward your very own."

Since 2014, 143 students have participated in Middlesex College's Co-Op program.

The Co-Op/Field Experience program is a unique experiential learning opportunity that integrates classroom study and supervised work

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in both the public and private sectors. Students' work experience supplements their classroom learning with practical workplace skills as they participate in the reality of the world of work, thereby increasing their self-confidence, career direction, and understanding of their chosen profession. Each co-op/field experience course has two components, direct work experience and a professional development seminar. Students from a variety of different majors (Fashion Merchandising, Small Business Management, Communications and Corrections, among others) locate internship sites specific to their field of study and meet together during class time to discuss professional development topics and build their career knowledge and skills.

Co-op students set learning objectives to complete at their internship sites. They submit a final portfolio project at the end of the semester to showcase their work and accomplishments that they present to one another during the last class meeting.

"I am confident in my experiences on my resume to date, but my resume would be lacking had I not continued to intern, intern and intern," Julia said.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

DEGREES WHEN DUE

Registrar Richard Cole and Acting Dean of Liberal Arts Terri Orosz presented at the Institute for Higher Education Policy's Degrees When Due Celebration and Sustainability Event in February. Vice President Michelle Campbell, Joselyn Quezada, Marketing and New Media Manager, and Meghan Alai, Institutional Research and Assessment Director, were also on the panel.

Degrees When Due is a completion and equity initiative to help states and colleges increase degree attainment among those who have some college credits but no degree. Middlesex College presented its successes and sustainability plan for this initiative. It was the only two-year institution to present.

Michelle Campbell, Meghan Alai, Academic Advisors, Success Coaches, and the Marketing and Communications Department have all been very involved in the success of this initiative.

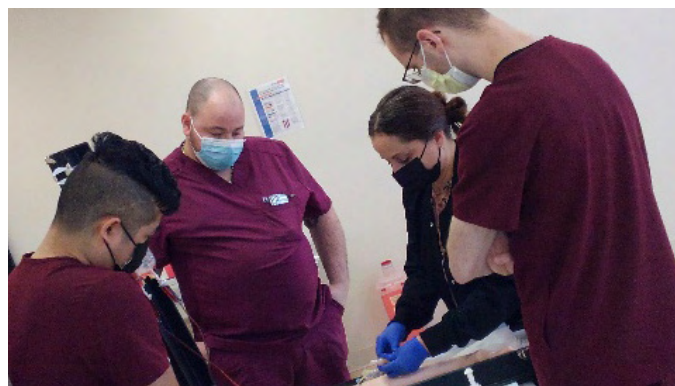


PHI THETA KAPPA HONORS

Middlesex College's Upsilon Gamma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recognized as a Middle States Region (MSR) Gold award recipient for 2021. In addition, four Phi Theta Kappa members, Stephanie Belizario, Aleisha Lewis, Josyleen Morales and Evangeline Onugha, were cited as MSR Scholars for completing the Scholars Speakers Bureau program via Google Classroom.

PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Students in the first class of the new Phlebotomy Technician Program recently conducted their skills evaluations utilizing the Canvas Learning Management System. Instructor Annette Pratts served as the skills evaluator. The program is an apprenticeship model developed in cooperation with Hackensack Meridian Health. The evaluation session tested venipuncture and other skills required of Phlebotomy Technicians and included testing on both models and classmates. Program costs were funded through the NJ HealthWorks Scaling Apprenticeship grant.



PINK NIGHT 2022

Pink Night, an annual event in which the Middlesex College men's and women's basketball teams raise awareness of breast cancer, returned after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Middlesex College faced off against Sussex County Community College, winning both contests 64-35 (women) and 73-53 (men). The pregame festivities included a ceremonial tipoff, as well as a celebration of all the sophomores on both squads. Here, President Mark McCormick tosses the jump ball before the Women's game while the Colts' Olivia Tirso and Sussex's Ellen Villapando await.



Professor Jennifer Altman's Fall semester Introduction to Sociology Community-Engaged Learning class partnered with the Middlesex County Division of Housing, Community Development and Social Services and the Middlesex College Community Resource Hub. Students provided research on unique programs around the country that address homelessness and housing insecurity among college students. Throughout the course, the issue was interweaved into the theories, research methods, and sociological themes the students were learning. It culminated in a poster presentation to the community partners and other stakeholders.



Over the next few months, you will start to see new branding appear in buildings throughout the campus. Pictured above is Senior Lab Coordinator for the Visual, Performing, and Media Arts Department Scott D'Elia installing the new motto on a wall on the second floor of Chambers Hall.



The wrestling squad is having an excellent season. Here is Matthew Carlson in action.

Connections

External Partner(s)	Who at Middlesex College is Involved	Action
Congressman Frank Pallone and staff	Trustee Caquias, President McCormick, and Vice President Campbell	Meeting to advocate for New Jersey community colleges
Senator Booker and staff	President McCormick and Vice President Campbell	Meeting to advocate for New Jersey community colleges
Middlesex County Vocational Technical Schools (MCVTS)	President McCormick, Vice Presidents Campbell and Scherr, Executive Dean Laureano, Acting Deans Howell and Orosz, and K-12 Partnerships Director Hooper	Met with MCVTS Interim Superintendent Mooney, incoming Superintendent Diaz and senior administrators to continue the conversation about how to collaborate more with MCVTS, including bringing MCVTS high school students on campus for tours and expanding Dual Enrollment at all five high schools and academies
St. Peter's Hospital (New Brunswick)	Director Vega	Met with St. Peter's Hospital HR staff to discuss training for incumbent workers
Tropical Cheese (Perth Amboy)	Career Advance Program Manager Miller and Career Advance Marketing and Outreach Coordinator Roche	Met with Tropical Cheese HR staff regarding a structured training program for employees
Wonder.com (Edison)	President McCormick, Vice President Scherr, Acting Dean Howell, and Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Dietetics (HCAD) Department Chair Maciolek	Met with representatives from Wonder.com to discuss opportunities for HCAD students and alumni to work for Wonder.com

Outreach

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Tuesday, January 25	J.P. Stevens High School Instant Decision Day	Edison
Monday, February 7	John F. Kennedy High School Instant Decision Day	Woodbridge
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual Events
Multiple times	Paying for College Information Session*	Virtual Events
Multiple times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual Events
Multiple times	Health Programs Information Session	Virtual Events
Multiple times	Live chat appointments with Enrollment Services staff*	Via telephone or the Web

*in English and Spanish

Coming Events

Date	Event	Location or Means of Access
Wednesday, March 9*	Board Committee meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, March 16 8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting	Via Zoom

*All morning (to be determined)