

February 15, 2023

E-LEARNING TEAM CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY AT MIDDLESEX COLLEGE

The COVID pandemic underscored the need for a more welcoming and diverse online educational experience for Middlesex College students. The eLearning Department, which started in 2017, works across multiple areas, supporting faculty, students and clubs at Middlesex College through the Canvas online learning platform.

“The Department of eLearning supports faculty in the development, design and deployment of effective online, web-enhanced and hybrid courses,” said eLearning Director Michael Sullivan.

“The eLearning Department administers the Learning Management System and manages all facets of distance education development and implementation.”

All currently-enrolled spring semester students (7,554) and faculty members (568) are connected through the eLearning Department. That adds up to over 29,000 assignments that go through eLearning Department portals annually.

“COVID put us in the position to provide in-depth support to the whole Middlesex College community

through Canvas,” said Shannon Osborn-Jones, eLearning Assistant Director. “We had a lot of faculty who already taught online and were using Canvas, but a lot who weren’t. The issue is that students coming up from a K-12 background are used to being able to see their grades and assignments online, and by helping faculty master Canvas, we are better able to meet students' needs and expectations, providing them with a more streamlined learning experience.”

The department has undertaken a pair of new initiatives through the English Department. The first is the creation of a software model that helps students understand the concept of plagiarism and methods to avoid it. The second is the formation of a critical thinking advocacy program that helps students from reciting fallacies or parroting incorrect facts.

The eLearning Department also provides helpdesk support for faculty and students for Canvas and has the job of making sure that the information supplied by faculty on Canvas meets all Americans with Disabilities Act standards to maintain accessibility.



Michael Sullivan
Director



Shannon Osborn-Jones
Assistant Director



Megan Elliot
LMS Administrator

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

STUDENTS HONOR THE MEMORY AND LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING WITH A DAY OF SERVICE



Our students honored the civil rights leader by participating in a variety of service activities throughout the College.

At the Perth Amboy Center, the Success Bound Program partnered with AmeriCorps and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation to host a laundry donation drive-up at the Center's parking lot. Success Bound scholars collected laundry items for individuals and families who are dealing with housing insecurity.

Bonner Leaders from Democracy House also participated in this year's Day of Service. The event, coordinated by Jersey Cares, included decorating bags and filling them with pots, topsoil and seeds, along with a card with planting instructions. The bags will go to students at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway, who are learning about gardening and sustainability. The program was featured on News12.



Pictured from left (kneeling in front): Democracy House Coordinator Suany Pascale with students Faizan Zahoor, Jason Martinez, and Yousuf Khan. Pictured from left (standing in rear): students Lisbeth Sumano, Cidney Reyes, Yesle Juarez Vasquez, Glendy Lopez, and Jeanny Gonzalez Emiliano.

SHOPPING FOR A GOOD CAUSE



The men's basketball team and head coach Winston Smith accompanied Student Life staff Odé Hoppie and Mary Tutalo on a shopping excursion utilizing a \$2,000 grant from local Edison Elks Lodge #2487. They filled their carts with cleaning products, personal hygiene items, snacks and more to restock the Middlesex College Cares Food Pantry.



GO COLTS!

The wrestling team recently competed against the Rutgers University Club Team and the University of Delaware on the same day. Our team lost to the Rutgers Club Team, but won their match against the University of Delaware with a score of 24-6.

CLINIC RENOVATIONS REACH MILESTONE

Phase II of the Dental Hygiene Clinic construction was completed in January 2023, and the renovations to the first floor of L'Hommedieu Hall are now complete. The Phase II construction included a new Dental Hygiene lab, three all-purpose classrooms, faculty offices, and the Dental Hygiene student locker room. Please stop by and have a look!



Association of Community College Trustees and members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation	President McCormick, Trustee Patel, and Vice President Campbell	Participated in the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington DC and met with staff in the offices of Senator Menendez, Congressman Pallone, and Congresswoman Watson-Coleman to advocate for support for community colleges and community college students
CMC Steel (Sayreville)	Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Executive Director Coffaro and Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Toured the facility and met with managers to explore opportunities for training
George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick)	President McCormick, Vice Presidents Campbell and Scherr, Executive Director Coffaro, and Lifelong Learning Director James-Waldon	Met with the George Street Playhouse Education Director to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership
New Jersey City University	President McCormick, Vice President Scherr, Executive Dean Laureano, Acting Deans Howell and Orosz, and Director of Advising, Career, and Transfer Services Gaviria	Toured the NJCU Fort Monmouth Center and explored degree pathways and partnerships with NJCU academic administrators

Wednesday, January 18	Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Admissions Presentation	Piscataway
Wednesday, January 18	Metuchen High School Admissions Presentation	Metuchen
Wednesday, January 25	Continuing Education Open House	Edison campus
Wednesday, January 25	J.P. Stevens High School Instant Decision Day	Edison
Wednesday, January 25	Old Bridge High School Instant Decision Day	Old Bridge
Thursday, January 26	New Brunswick Adult Learning Center Admissions Presentation	New Brunswick
Thursday, February 9	Middlesex High School Admissions Presentation	Middlesex
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Paying for College Info Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Health Programs Information Session	Virtual events
On an ongoing basis	Live chat appointments*	Via the web

*in English and Spanish

Monday, February 20	Presidents Day	
Wednesday, March 8*	Board Committee meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, March 15 8:30 a.m.	Board meeting	West Hall, Parkview Room and via Zoom

*All morning (to be determined)