

November 13, 2023

A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR VETERANS

Former Army paratrooper Ignacio Garcia jumped into the Middlesex College Veterans Services Center and landed in the perfect spot.

"I heard nothing but good things about the College. Being that I was from Middlesex County, all I ever heard was my teachers say, 'go to Middlesex, go to Middlesex,' save the money, get your degree and transfer," said Garcia, 24. "They said it all the time."

Garcia, a native of South Plainfield, found the Veterans Services Center staff to be comprehensive in providing support, including answering his questions about veterans benefits and assisting with accessing those benefits and connecting him with support services such as Tutoring. He also appreciated that the Veterans Services Center fostered multiple opportunities for him to connect with other student veterans.



"We are a gold star member, top military-friendly school," said Carlos Perez, who serves as Coordinator for Military and Veterans Services at the College. "We try to make this a one-stop shop for veterans. You don't just come here for the educational benefits and then we kick you out. We are trying to get you where you need to go."

Perez reports that the number of student veterans decreased during the COVID era and that he will be exploring new ways to attract more veterans to the College. Located in West Hall, the Veterans Services Center helps veterans with the transition from military service to college..

Veterans often experience an adjustment in moving from an environment in which they were expected to take orders from a military chain of command to the college environment where students are expected to make decisions more on their own. The Veterans Services team is available to support our student veterans in navigating that transition.

"Some of them come with unique concerns," said Perez. "Or they are looking for vocational services and employment opportunities which we offer here. When they have special concerns, we try to accommodate them and point them in the right direction."

After serving five years in the Army, Garcia was eager to return home and resume his education. He's now in his second year in the Homeland Security program and is working in the Veterans Services Center.

"I just searched on the internet 'best colleges for veterans' and Middlesex College popped right up," Garcia said. "I checked the website and veterans' services came up, and I called and they said come down here right now and they took care of everything. They said if you have any questions don't be afraid to call us."

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

HARVESTFEST 2023

Nearly a thousand attendees flocked to our Edison campus to enjoy carriage rides, inflatable games, a classic car show, a pumpkin patch, and new this year – an escape room. Students, alumni, employees, and their families along with members of our local community gathered on the Quad on a beautiful Fall evening of food, fun, and friendship.





TRICK OR TREAT!

Our campus community got into the spirit of Halloween with pumpkin-decorating contests, costume parades, and parties. Bolt the Colt and I also walked around campus reverse trick-or-treating.



INSPIRING FUTURE URBAN PLANNERS

Staff from urban planning firm Topology led Middlesex College students on a tour of Perth Amboy to provide a glimpse into urban planning careers, which often involve issues of sustainability, social justice, economic development, and more.



GO COLTS!

Our men's and women's soccer teams qualified for the NJCAA Region 19 tournament for the second year in a row. The men's team won their quarterfinal game against Sussex County Community College, but then lost in the semifinals to the #1 seed, Camden County College. The women's team also made the semifinals but lost to #1 seed, Rowan College of South Jersey. Individually, Carlos Torres of Old Bridge (pictured on the left) and Isabelle Marin of South Plainfield (pictured on the right), were named First Team All-Region 19 in men's and women's soccer, respectively.

CMC Steel (Sayreville)	Vice President Scherr, Dean Duzgoren-Aydin, and Engineering Department Chair Sabol	Toured the plant and discussed developing a curriculum schedule for a cohort of CMC employees to complete the Engineering associate degree
Kulture Collection (North Brunswick and Somerset)	President McCormick, Vice Presidents Laureano and Scherr, and Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Executive Director Coffaro	Met with the co-founders of Kulture Collection to explore ways they can connect with students who aspire to be entrepreneurs

Thursday, October 19	Metuchen High School Admissions Presentation	Metuchen
Thursday, October 19	Financial Literacy Workshop	Perth Amboy Center
Thursday, October 19	West Windsor-Plainsboro High School College Fair	Plainsboro
Saturday, October 21	New Brunswick Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition Event	New Brunswick Center
Tuesday, October 24	Blanquita Valenti Community School Building Wealth for Our Families Conference/Resource Fair	New Brunswick
Wednesday, October 25	Dunellen High School College Fair	Dunellen
Tuesday, October 31	John F. Kennedy High School College Fair	Edison
Thursday, November 2	Edison High School Admissions Presentation	Edison
Thursday, November 2	Piscataway High School Admissions Presentation	Piscataway
Friday, November 3	East Brunswick Magnet School	East Brunswick
Friday, November 3	Perth Amboy High School Instant Decision Day	Perth Amboy
Friday, November 3	South River High School College Fair	South River
Tuesday, November 8	New Brunswick High School Admissions Presentation	New Brunswick
Wednesday, November 9	College Resource Fair for High School Seniors	Perth Amboy Center
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

Thursday, November 23 – Saturday, November 25	Thanksgiving Break	
Wednesday, December 6*	Board Committee meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, December 13 8:30 a.m.	Board meeting	West Hall, Parkview Room and via Zoom

*All morning (to be determined)