

December 13, 2023

ENGAGING STUDENTS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Clubs and organizations at Middlesex College help students stay connected and engaged, providing another key piece of their educational puzzle.

“Because we have such a diverse group of students at Middlesex College, we see our wide array of clubs as an important part of student life to bring our campus together,” said Odé Hoppie, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement.

Middlesex College has approximately 45 student organizations open to all of the nearly 10,000 enrolled students. They are broken down into six main categories: honor societies, academic-based clubs, affinity-based clubs, special interest clubs, media-based clubs and athletic clubs.

Each club has a faculty or staff advisor who works closely with the Student Life Office to maintain successful and engaging programming.

Students are also encouraged to start a club if they see a need or interest that is not already represented. Hoppie said that the threshold is seven members and a club constitution and that the Student Life staff can assist students with drafting the constitution and recruiting members.



The big day for all of the clubs on campus is the Student Engagement Fair at the start of every semester. This is where students can learn about the individual clubs on campus, meet representatives and find out what being involved in the club entails.

“Clubs are a great way to take advantage of what Middlesex College has to offer, but also are an important part of the overall college experience,” Hoppie said.

“It’s a chance for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom and expand on that in a new environment, make connections with other students who have a shared interest or background, or learn new skills or leadership skills as a club officer.”

Hoppie said the Office of Student Life, located in College Center, is always open to students who want to find out more about the College’s wide array of clubs and organizations.

“There are also social events, parties, speakers, free giveaways, and sometimes food,” said Hoppie with a laugh. “It can be a great opportunity to meet people you’d never have encountered before.”

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

GIVING DAY



GIVING DAY TUESDAY

The Middlesex College Foundation launched an online campaign on Tuesday, November 28, to raise funds for a variety of supports that address the needs of the WHOLE student. Donations help offset expenses that are not covered by financial aid and scholarships, such as food and basic needs items and funds available for students in crisis through the Student Emergency Fund.

SELLING CUPCAKES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

The students in Professor Nikki Gonzalez's Social Psychology class competed in a cupcake battle in College Center to raise money for the Edison Animal Shelter. Teams had to influence students and employees who passed through College Center to buy a cupcake using different psychological methods such as the foot-in-the-door technique, halo effect, scarcity effect, and other persuasion techniques. After an hour of persuading passersby to buy cupcakes, the class was able to raise \$500 to donate to the shelter.



A TWIST ON AN AMERICAN CLASSIC



The College theater community staged several performances of *John Proctor is the Villain* at the Performing Arts Center in November. The story, inspired by *The Crucible*, is about a group of high school students in rural Georgia who start a feminism club and discover unexpected similarities between their lives and the events at the center of Arthur Miller's play.

COLTS OFF TO A GREAT START



The men's basketball team continued its historic transition to Division II, winning the first five games. They lost their first game of the season to undefeated Montgomery County Community College. The Colts are ranked #21 in the nation among the 157 men's basketball teams competing at the NJCAA Division II level. **Savion Pressley**, sophomore from Woodbridge, leads the team in scoring with 19 points per game. The team is ranked #21 in the nation among the 157 men's basketball teams competing at the NJCAA Division II level. Women's basketball is also off to an impressive start, with a 6-2 record. Their six wins are the second most among all Region 19 teams, regardless of division. **Courtney Hansen** led the Colts against Essex County College with 23 points and leads the team with an average of 15.3 points per game.

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| Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Middlesex County | Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Executive Director Coffaro, Perth Amboy Center Director Abreu, and Corporate Education/Training Director Vega | Met with CASA staff to discuss training needs for employees of CASA and related non-profit organizations in Middlesex County |
| Vantage Apparel (Avenel) | Director Vega | Met with Vantage Apparel's new HR Manager to discuss training needs |

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| Throughout November | Explore Middlesex College Month | Virtual events |
| Tuesday, November 14 | Admissions Presentation at a meeting of the Healthier Middlesex Consortium | New Brunswick Center |
| Wednesday, November 15 | Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School Admissions Presentation | Perth Amboy |
| Wednesday, November 15 | Piscataway Magnet School Admissions Presentation | Piscataway |
| Thursday, November 16 | Middlesex County Job Fair | New Brunswick |
| Thursday, November 16 | New Brunswick High School Parent Night FAFSA Presentation | New Brunswick |
| Thursday, November 16 | North Brunswick High School Admissions Presentation | North Brunswick |
| Thursday, November 16 | Perth Amboy High School Admissions Presentation | Perth Amboy |
| Thursday, November 16 | Spotswood High School Admissions Presentation | Spotswood |
| Friday, November 17 | J.P. Stevens High School Admissions Presentation | Edison |
| Tuesday, November 28 | Edison High School Instant Decision Day | Edison |
| 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

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| Monday, December 25 – Tuesday, December 26 | Christmas Eve and Christmas (observed) | |
| Monday, January 1 | New Year's Day | |
| Wednesday, January 10* | Board Committee meetings | Via Zoom |
| Monday, January 15 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed) | |
| Tuesday, January 16 8:30 a.m. Breakfast 9:30 a.m. State of the College | Spring Convocation | Breakfast (Cafeteria) State of the College (Performing Arts Center) |
| Wednesday, January 17 8:30 a.m. | Board meeting | West Hall, Parkview Room and via Zoom |

*All morning (to be determined)