

April 17, 2024

A SUCCESSFUL TRANSFEREE IS NOW IN CHARGE OF STUDENT TRANSFER SUCCESS

To say Amery Thompson '14 played an active role on campus during his time at Middlesex College would be an understatement. Now, an assistant director for transfer student success at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Thompson is experiencing a full-circle moment in his return to where it all started – Middlesex College.

Back when Thompson was a student at Middlesex College, the business major worked in the Student Activity Center (now the Office of Student Life) and served as an orientation leader and on a variety of committees across campus, including the Planning Committee for the design of West Hall.

“I was able to be part of that before I graduated to get student perspectives about the things that are needed in that one-stop shop type of space.”

Thompson transferred to Montclair State University (MSU), where he majored in business administration with a concentration in marketing, all while engaging with the MSU campus community.

“I did exactly what I did at Middlesex and got involved as much as possible. I did all the different clubs and organizations and joined a fraternity. I became a resident assistant, as well as a transfer orientation leader or what they called a peer success advisor.”

It was while working as a resident assistant at MSU that Thompson envisioned a potential career in higher education. Right before his graduation from MSU, he secured a job at Ramapo College, overseeing two buildings with 550 beds and 16 student staff members.

“From Middlesex to Montclair to the RA position, all of those experiences really shaped what I was able to do when I stepped into that role as a graduate resident director at Ramapo College.”

While working at Ramapo, Thompson earned a master's in higher education administration from William Paterson University.

He then accepted an offer to join University of Maryland – Baltimore Campus (UMBC) to serve as a community director of a 550-person residence hall, a role that was very familiar to Thompson.

But it wasn't smooth sailing when he got to UMBC in mid-2019. Adjusting to a new job in another state where he had no family or friends required a period of adjustment. Add to that a global pandemic that forced a world shutdown in March 2020, Thompson admits “it was a trying time.”

He says he is glad he persevered and stayed at UMBC, serving as a community director for three years before switching to his current role as the assistant director for transfer student success.

“I have lived the transfer student experience, wrote my thesis on the transfer student experience, and was always involved in the transfer student experience when this opportunity came,” said Thompson. “I also realized this was the job for me when I had to give a presentation on the transfer student experience and how I would support it. In that moment, everything kind of clicked.”

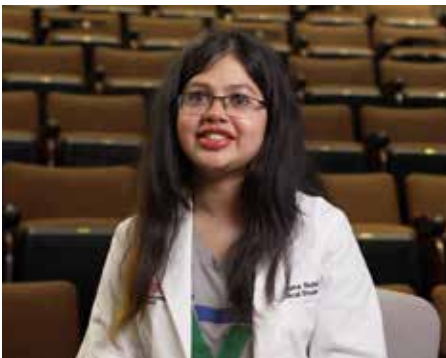


Amery Thompson '14

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

COLTS FOREVER

April is Community College Month! As part of the month-long celebration, Middlesex College will spotlight inspiring individuals who make up our alumni community. Here are just three of the amazing alumni who are proud to be Colts forever.



After transferring to Rider University and earning a bachelor's in biology, **Sanjana Butala '21** is now enrolled at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.



Since graduating with an associate in business administration and management, **Jaren Haskins '17** has created his own Anime convention called "Kogaracon."



A single mother, **Damaris Fernandez** is studying business administration at Middlesex College while working in the EOF department as an admissions and recruiting specialist.

CLAUDIO MIR '96 IS NAMED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Claudio Mir serves as senior program coordinator for the Collaborative Center for Community Engagement, Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Rutgers University. In addition to his associate degree in Professional and Commercial Photography, Mir holds a M.F.A. in creative writing from Rutgers-Newark, a B.F.A. in visual arts from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, and a B.F.A. in acting from the National School of Theater in the Fine Arts Palace of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Mir will join the College community in celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2024 by addressing them at Commencement.





WOMEN'S HISTORY CELEBRATED ON CAMPUS

We celebrated Women's History Month with a series of events organized by faculty and students representing more than a dozen clubs on campus. At the Library, a display of books featuring women authors was created by Library faculty and staff who also coordinated a scavenger hunt where students hunted for a book for a prize.



SIX ARE IN THE HUNT FOR A LIFE-CHANGING TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

Graduating students Safia Ansari of Woodbridge Township, Adriana Fung of North Brunswick, Theodore Kozak of Middlesex Borough, Nima Sedghi of Piscataway, and Idaliz Herrera and Crystal Paulino, both from Perth Amboy, have been selected as semifinalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's prestigious Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, one of the most selective scholarships for the nation's top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges or universities. Each Cooke Scholar has access to generous financial support for two to three years (which can be as much as \$55,000 a year after all institutional aid is considered), college planning support, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with a thriving community of fellow Cooke Scholars.

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| Wakefern (Keasbey) | Corporate Education and Training Director Vega | Met with Wakefern HR staff to explore training opportunities for Wakefern employees |
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| Wednesday, March 20 | St. Peter's University Hospital Recruitment Event | New Brunswick |
| Saturday, March 23 | Women's History Celebration | Perth Amboy Library |
| Tuesday, March 26 | JFK High School College Admissions presentation | Edison |
| Wednesday, March 27 | Workshop for Parents of Students at Livingston School | New Brunswick Center |
| Saturday, March 30 | Community Easter Egg Hunt | Perth Amboy |
| Tuesday, April 2 | South Brunswick High School Instant Decision Day | South Brunswick |
| Tuesday, April 9 | RWJBarnabas Health Recruitment Event | New Brunswick |
| Wednesday, April 10 | Piscataway High School Admissions Presentation for Guidance Counselors | Piscataway |
| Thursday, April 11 | Middlesex County Magnet Schools Registration Day for Seniors | Edison campus |
| Thursday, April 11 | South Plainfield High School College Fair | South Plainfield |
| Friday, April 12 | Colonia High School Registration Day for Seniors | Edison campus |
| Wednesday, April 17 | Highland Park High School Instant Decision Day | Highland Park |
| 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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| Wednesday, May 9* | Board Committee meetings | Via Zoom |
| Wednesday, May 16 8:30 a.m. | Board meeting | West Hall, Parkview Room and via Zoom |
| Thursday, May 17 | Commencement | Jersey Mike's Arena, Rutgers University (Piscataway) |

*All morning (to be determined)