

September 18, 2024

COUNTY PROSECUTOR YOLANDA CICCONE RECEIVES L'HOMMEDIEU AWARD

Middlesex College presented the Paige D. L'Hommedieu Award to Middlesex County Prosecutor Yolanda Ciccone during the College's Fall Convocation on August 26.

Established in 1974 in honor of the founding chair of the Middlesex College Board of Trustees, the award is the highest honor bestowed by the College.

Ciccone, the first woman to serve as Middlesex County Prosecutor, has spent a majority of her 44-year legal career serving Middlesex County, first as an assistant prosecutor – where she acted as chief of the Juvenile Division and advisor to the Narcotics and Gambling Task Force and also oversaw the Hate Crimes Task Force – and then as a Superior Court judge in the civil, criminal, and family divisions.

In 2006, she was appointed the Assignment Judge for Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren counties—the first woman in this role, as well.

Ciccone began her five-year term as Middlesex County Prosecutor in 2020.

“Prosecutor Ciccone is a pioneer who has spent her entire professional career in law enforcement and the court system focused on public safety and serving the community,” said Middlesex College President Mark McCormick. “Her commitment to serve the residents of Middlesex County exemplifies the spirit of the L'Hommedieu Award—citizenship, leadership, and humanity.”

As county prosecutor, Ciccone has a direct role in strengthening partnerships within the community and connecting with constituents. Several programs have been launched under her leadership with significant impact on improving the lives of Middlesex County residents, including



Blue Cares, an addiction support hotline, and Safe Place, which designates local safe havens for anyone experiencing a bias crime, discrimination, or harassment.

Ciccone's work extends to several student-focused initiatives that recognize the importance of emotional and social well-being and the challenges that young people face in these areas.

In 2021, the Prosecutor's Office partnered with Middlesex County and the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) to host an Educators' Summit on Student Mental Health to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young adults.

“I am honored for this recognition by the Middlesex College Board of Trustees,” said Ciccone. “This award is an acknowledgement of the work of the men and women of Middlesex County Law Enforcement, and to their dedication to enhance the quality of life with empathy and sensitivity.”

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

WELCOME BACK

Barbecues on the Quad brought together new students (on August 23 as part of New Student Day) and faculty and staff (on August 26 as part of Fall Convocation). Everyone enjoyed lunch in the sunshine as we kicked off a new academic year.



Over 80 adjunct faculty members attended the **Adjunct Faculty Welcome Back Night** sponsored by the Council for Adjunct Faculty Development (CAFD). Keynote speakers Dr. Benny Chan and Dr. J. Lynn Gazley from The College of New Jersey presented on the topic of "Experimentalism: Innovating and Sustaining Inclusive Excellence."

The **Grounds crew** gave the evergreen plants (andromeda, nandina, gold thread cypress, sky pencil hollies, and ornamental fountain grasses) that decorated the stage for Fall Convocation a new home at the Gateway building, giving the entrance to campus a seasonal refresh.



The **Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching** (CELT) hosted a week of professional development events, including collaboration in the classroom, working with adult learners and students with disabilities, and yoga.

SUMMERTIME FUN AND LEARNING

Summer was anything but slow for our campus community as we prepared incoming students for their first semester at Middlesex College and provided future Middlesex students a taste of college life.



Perth Amboy Mayor Helmin Caba recognized the College's **Success Bound Scholars** program during his State of the City Address, applauding the College for its outstanding efforts in preparing high school students for college.



The **Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)** Department's Summer Scholar Institute, a five-week program, helped new EOF students transition into the college experience through academic excellence, professional preparation, personal development, and development of social capital.



The **Office of K-12 Partnerships** hosted over 70 eighth graders from Jamesburg Middle School for a jam-packed campus visit, learning about Middlesex College, exploring various programs and majors, meeting Bolt the Colt, and more.

CMC Steel (Perth Amboy)	Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Director Montani, and Outreach Coordinator Haskins	Met with leadership from CMC Steel to explore student employment opportunities
Coach USA (East Brunswick)	Director of Corporate Education and Training Vega	Explored opportunities for corporate training to upskill workforce
Sigma Design Company (Middlesex)	Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Director Montani, and Outreach Coordinator Haskins	Provided on-campus tour and lab visit for staff to meet our students for employment opportunities

Saturday, August 10	Heart Festival	New Brunswick
Tuesday, August 13	Perth Amboy National Night Out	Perth Amboy
Thursday, August 15	Carteret High School Senior Orientation Day	Carteret
Sunday, August 25	Edison Housing Authority Back-to-School Event	Edison
Wednesday, August 28 and Thursday, August 29	Amazon Career Choice Fair (for Amazon employees)	Edison
Tuesday, September 3	CMC Steel – Employer Engagement Event	Perth Amboy
Tuesday, September 3	Bruker OST – Employer Engagement Event	Carteret
Tuesday, September 3	Sigma Design Company – Employer Engagement Event	Middlesex
Wednesday, September 11	Toyota HBCU Career Fair	Kean University (Union)
Tuesday, September 17	South Plainfield Senior Center	South Plainfield
Multiple times	On-Site Registration Event	Perth Amboy Center
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Fast-Track Admissions Day*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Health Programs Information Session	Virtual events
On an ongoing basis	Live chat appointments*	Via the web

*in English and Spanish

Wednesday, October 9*	Board Committee meetings	Via Zoom
Monday, October 14	College closed in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day	
Wednesday, October 16 (8:30 a.m.)	Board meeting	In-person location TBD and via Zoom
Thursday, October 17 (5-8 p.m.)	HarvestFest	Edison Campus

*All morning (to be determined)