

December 11, 2024

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF THE ARTS AT MIDDLESEX COLLEGE



Middlesex College's Department of Visual, Performing, and Media Arts (VPMA) engages a diverse population on campus and provides students with the opportunity to explore their talents in acting, dance, or mastering the latest computer animation technology.

"There are different experiences that we can expose them to," said Annie Hogan, VPMA department chair. "We're an open institution, you don't need to audition to be here, and we have people who come here with zero experience, but they love it and have a passion for it. We try to tap into that passion, because if you have a passion for something and you're committed, you're going to make it."

Middlesex College offers 11 different academic programs in eight disciplines and Hogan oversees multiple facilities on campus where shows are performed.

These type of events – an art show, a dance revue, a concert – are all important to Hogan's goal of using the arts to further community outreach.

"We always have a lot going on, and if there isn't more, I will make more," Hogan laughed.

Among the community events Middlesex College students participate in include an exhibition of work



by fine arts students at the Mexican Consulate in New Brunswick, the PACE Mural Robert Wood Johnson project collaborating on artwork displayed in a hospital setting, and the Teen Arts Festival for Middlesex County residents aged 13-19 years old.

Throw in the various theatre productions like the fall presentation of *Dracula* and last spring's performances of *Footloose*, and there's always something on the marquee.

"Our students rock my world," said Hogan proudly. "They are really great. The *Dracula* show was one of the best things I have ever seen here."

The VPMA department has become a pipeline for aspiring artists and performers to transfer to Rutgers, New Jersey Institute of Technology, or Fairleigh Dickinson where they can further shine in the bright lights on stage or work as one of the crew members backstage.

"By the time they leave here, our students will know what a good audition looks like," Hogan said. "They will know how to do elevator pitches and meet and greets with talent agents and do all of that. Not only do our students do academics here, but we also try to give them experiences outside the classroom."

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

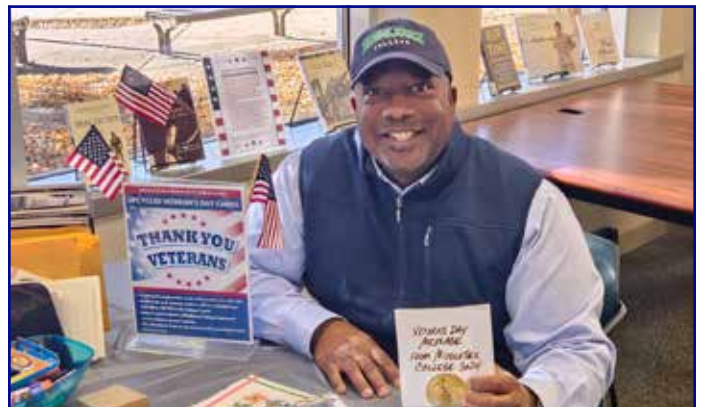
A SEASON OF GIVING

It's the time of year when we take stock of our blessings – as individuals and as a community – and provide a helping hand to those in need.



The **Middlesex College Foundation** team held its annual Giving Day campaign on December 3. The generous contributions of more than 150 donors will support efforts to assist students in three critical areas of need: student emergencies, access to a Chromebook (by providing them with one to keep), and lack of access to food via our Community Resource Hub and Food Pantry.

In celebration of SewaDiwali and service to others, local SewaDiwali organizations donated more than 20,000 pounds of food to our **Community Resource Hub and Food Pantry**.



The **Library Services** team held an upcycled Veterans Day card-making event for students and employees to express their gratitude to our Middlesex College veterans and active military. The team set up card-making stations with collaging materials in the College Center and the Library. More than 70 cards were created using recycled materials and then delivered to the **Military and Veterans Services** department staff for distribution to our student-veterans.



A GROUNDBREAKING PATHWAY TO RUTGERS

In a first-of-its-kind Dual Admission partnership with Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Middlesex College students who earn an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree and a minimum 2.8 GPA will be guaranteed admission to RU-NB as a junior in nearly all programs of study.

Middlesex College President Mark McCormick and Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Terri Orosz signed the Dual Admission agreement with Rutgers Chancellor Francine Conway and Vice Chancellor Sandra Tomlinson-Clarke at a signing ceremony on the College's Edison campus.



GIVING THANKS BY GIVING BACK

For Thanksgiving, **Hospitality, Culinary, and Dietetics** (HCD) students and faculty continued their annual tradition of cooking meals for the Ozanam homeless shelter in Edison. The department-wide effort involved students from Banquet Management and Quantity Production and Menu Design, courses taught by Professor Chefs Andy Rubin and Brian McInerney, along with faculty, staff, and student volunteers from other classes. HCD students cooked turkey with all the trimmings, numerous sides, and plentiful desserts. All items were handmade by the students.

Edison Job Corps (Edison)	President McCormick and Vice President for External Affairs, Communication and Advancement Coffaro	Networked with attendees at a 60th Anniversary celebration event
Middlesex County Probation Office (New Brunswick)	Workforce Development Director Montani and Outreach Recruitment Manager Haskins	Explored student recruitment opportunities for Welding and Supply Chain Logistics
Berje Inc. (Carteret)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Explored opportunities to provide electro-mechanical and English as a Second Language training for Berje Inc. employees

Thursday, November 14	Junior Achievement of New Jersey Inspire Career Fair (for middle school students)	Edison campus
Saturday, November 16	Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School College Fair	Perth Amboy
Thursday, November 21	Edison High School Instant Decision Day	Edison
Thursday, December 5	Piscataway High School College Fair	Piscataway
Friday, December 6	J.P. Stevens High School Presentation	Edison
Wednesday, December 11	Carteret High School Instant Decision Day	Carteret
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Health Programs Information Session	Virtual events
On an ongoing basis	Live chat appointments*	Via the web
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*in English and Spanish

Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25	Christmas	
Wednesday, January 1	New Year's Day	
Wednesday, January 8*	Board Committee meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, January 15 (8:30 a.m.)	Board meeting	Boardroom and via Zoom

*All morning (to be determined)