

May 21, 2025

COLTS SHINE IN 2024-2025 SEASON WITH NATIONAL RANKINGS AND PLAYOFF RUNS

Middlesex College Athletics has added more gold to an already-stuffed trophy case.

Five different programs reached the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XIX playoffs during the 2024-2025 school year, while the baseball, softball, and men's basketball teams were each ranked nationally at points during the season.

"I always give credit to our student-athletes for balancing the workload they carry, and I am proud of the success they've had on the field in addition to their work in the classroom," said Middlesex College Athletics Director Rocco Constantino. "Our students have been recognized nationally and our teams have been able to travel as far north as the Finger Lakes and as far south as Myrtle Beach, carrying the Colts banner far and wide."

One of the broader goals of the athletics program this school year was to deepen the connection with former Colts. At the recent Athletic Hall of Fame event, the College honored former softball Jim Muldowney and former baseball coach Mike Lepore Sr. at events and held a special ceremony for beloved equipment aide Shannon Williams in the winter.

"Having a robust athletic department is a key part of the college experience and connecting with alumni and past players and coaches is a major part of athletics," said Constantino. "We made an effort this

year to honor our past athletes and coaches and want to continue to build those relationships."

The Colts baseball team went over 30 wins for the fourth year in a row and has been ranked as high as No. 8 in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III polls this year. The softball program posted 20 wins for a second straight year and was also ranked as high as No. 8.

Both soccer programs made it to the regional final, the first time both teams have advanced that far in the same year.

Jonathan Braun was the NJCAA Region and District wrestling champion at 174 pounds and competed in nationals in Iowa. Colts softball pitcher Madison Rackett was named NJCAA National Player of the Week.

Constantino sees a bright future for the Colts filled with many more wins as the College continues to invest in its athletic facilities.



**Middlesex College Colts Softball Pitcher
Madison Rackett**

"The addition of an open-air multipurpose community venue on campus where our softball, baseball, and soccer teams can play will be incredible for the student-athletes in those programs, and the complete renovation of our gym that is currently underway will help our basketball and volleyball programs," said Constantino. "We're excited to elevate the athletic experience here and, when all is said and done, I think we will have some of the best athletic facilities in the region, if not the country."

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

CELEBRATING HIGH ACHIEVERS

The end of the academic year is a time to honor students who have achieved academically. The College's chapters of national and international honor societies have been inducting new members, and we have celebrated student recipients of awards and scholarship nominations. Faculty celebrated outstanding colleagues, as well.



The College's Delta Omicron chapter of **Alpha Delta Nu**, which recognizes the academic excellence of nursing students, inducted 15 new members.



The College held a CELebration, allowing students to showcase the impact of their **Community-Engaged Learning** projects this semester.



The **Center for Enrichment of Learning and Teaching** hosted its Faculty Awards Ceremony, celebrating excellence in teaching demonstrated by two of our faculty colleagues: Computer Science Professor Dhruv Chunawala and Natural Sciences Adjunct Professor Nancy Merrill.



The College's Zeta Gamma chapter of **Alpha Alpha Alpha**, the national honor society for first-generation college students, recently inducted 89 new members: 77 students and 12 faculty and staff members.



The College's student newspaper *Quo Vadis* took home awards in 15 different categories for the NJ Press Association's 2024-2025 College Newspaper Contest, including five first-place awards, four second-place awards, and six third-place awards. Class of 2025 graduate Trinity Dunn earned or shared in nine different awards in a variety of subjects.

STUDENT DEVELOPER CHAMPION



Class of 2025 Salutatorian **Dhruv Sethi** is the Student Developer Champion in the 2024-2025 Terry O'Banion Student Technology Awards, as well as being one of 20 students nationwide selected as a member of the 2025 All-USA Academic Team, which recognizes high-achieving college students who demonstrate outstanding intellectual achievement, leadership, and community and campus engagement.



JACK KENT COOKE SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Class of 2025 Valedictorian **Alexandra Badaway** has been selected as a semifinalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, one of the most competitive scholarships for community college students seeking a bachelor's degree at a four-year institution.

CONNECTIONS

External Partner(s)	Middlesex College Representatives	Action
Edison Jobs Corp	President McCormick and Vice President Coffaro	Met with Edison Job Corps Center Director Tony Staynings and explored opportunities for continued partnership
New Jersey Film Academy	Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Executive Director James-Waldon and Director Stratton	Discussed offering film-related programming at Middlesex College

OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Thursday, April 24	New Brunswick Middle School Campus Visit	Edison campus
Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25	Piscataway High School Registration Days	Edison campus
Sunday, April 27	Spring 2025 Open House	Edison campus
Tuesday, April 29	Paul Robeson Middle School Campus Visit	Edison campus
Tuesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 8	Dunellen High School Campus Visits	Edison campus
Monday, May 19	Rae Kushner Yeshiva College Fair	Livingston
Wednesday, May 21	South River High School Presentation for English Language Learners	South River

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location or Means of Access
Monday, May 26	Memorial Day (College closed)	
Wednesday, June 11* and Thursday, June 12*	Board Committee meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, June 18 8:30 a.m.	Board meeting	Boardroom and via Zoom

*Schedule TBD

