

June 18, 2025

TITLE V GRANT IS OPENING PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS

Middlesex College was awarded a five-year, \$3 million Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education to optimize success rates for Hispanic and low-income students, broaden professional growth opportunities for faculty, and identify roadblocks to degree completion. The College was the only New Jersey community college to be awarded a Title V grant in the 2023 competition cycle under the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program.

The Title V grant supports the goals of the College's Strategic Plan by providing staffing and services to support students' academic and personal success as well as comfortable spaces at the Edison campus and both Centers for students to study and connect with peers.

"Middlesex College is in this significant growth period in partnership with Middlesex County and other external partners, and this grant infuses federal money into supporting a wide range of students," said **Claude Taylor**, project director for the Title V DHSI Grant. "It aligns perfectly with our strategic plan. The grant gives us a chance to amplify all the things we do well and helps us build and scale better performances for our students and residents of Middlesex County."

To qualify for the DHSI grant, an institution of higher education must have a Hispanic population of at least 25%. The percentage of students enrolled at Middlesex College who identify as Hispanic is at 34% as of the Fall 2024 semester. The College's grant proposal, "Abriendo Caminos" ("Opening Pathways"), focused on

providing pathways for success for Hispanic and low-income students by addressing barriers.

Middlesex College used a portion of the funds to enhance its onboarding process for new students starting this fall, making sure that students who cannot physically be present on campus for orientation still have the tools they need. This accommodation adjustment also included different course offerings, adjusting time periods for courses and creating more

quiet spaces on campus to relax and study.

"We are trying to use this money to do better," Taylor said. "The hope is that as we get to the end of the grant, we will be able to read real-time data, catch students before they fall into the gaps, and be able to forecast out further where students encounter these challenges."

Middlesex College is approaching the end of the second year of the five-year grant, and we are beginning to see signs of the impact that the grant is having,

including an ability to track student success, increased opportunities for professional development for faculty and staff, and creation of comfortable study spaces at all three College locations.

"This grant matters because it gives our staff and faculty the opportunity to adapt to a rapidly-changing higher education landscape," said Taylor. "We know our students today will see a world ahead of them that will shift and change and, through this grant, we're better prepared to help them handle it."



Claude Taylor pictured tabling at the most recent QuestionMart outreach event

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

COMMENCEMENT: BEST DAY OF THE YEAR!

The Middlesex College community celebrated its 58th commencement on May 13 at Jersey Mike's Arena. The 1,583 members of the Class of 2025 ranged in age from 17 years old (with 55 graduating with an associate degree before receiving a high school diploma) to 75 years young. Ten are military veterans. Thirty-three are student-athletes and, for the first time in five years, an athlete from every sports team graduated.





CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN BUILDING SOCIAL AND LIFE SKILLS

Students from the [Center for Adult Transitions](#), under the leadership of Coordinator Elvia Valdez Gonzalez, celebrated the completion of the spring program during a special end-of-year recognition event. Participants received certificates for their achievements in job shadowing, computer skills, and the culinary program. The event also honored our dedicated staff for their continued support and commitment to our students. Parents shared heartfelt reflections on the impact the program has had on their children's growth and confidence. Thanks to the team in [Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning](#), Computer Skills instructor Pratima Sharma and Chef Pearl Williams and team for providing a memorable experience for our program participants.



HONORING OUR PAST AND PRESENT ATHLETES

The newest inductees to the Middlesex College [Athletics Hall of Fame](#) were honored at a celebration on May 20 that included recognition of outstanding student-athletes from this past academic year. The honorees included Baseball Coach Mike Lepore Sr., Wrestling National Champion Steve Bonsall, Soccer All-American Wooldy LaPointe, Basketball star Angela Bradley, and three-sport standout Melissa Gromek, along with the entire 1981 Softball Team — the first team to be inducted into the College's Athletics Hall of Fame.

TRUSTEE MARK FINKELSTEIN RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges presented the **Ronald D. Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award** to Middlesex College Trustee Mark Finkelstein at the second annual New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit awards banquet on June 5 in Atlantic City. The award is presented to a trustee who has made outstanding contributions to a New Jersey community college.



CONNECTIONS

External Partner(s)	Middlesex College Representatives	Action
Aptar (Eatontown)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with HR manager regarding customer service and other training opportunities.
Arc of Middlesex County (New Brunswick)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with educational specialist regarding Leadership 101 program.
Brown Super Stores (Westville)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with HR manager regarding corporate training.
Kuehne Nagel (Piscataway)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with HR manager regarding ESL training.
Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (Perth Amboy)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with HR manager regarding corporate training.
RWJBarnabas Health (New Brunswick)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with HR manager regarding ESL training.
Sabert (Monmouth Junction)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with HR manager regarding ESL training.
Staff Management (Edison)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with HR manager regarding corporate training opportunities.
Westfield Libraries (Westfield)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with head librarian regarding corporate training.

OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Tuesday, May 27	ESL Placement Testing on-site	Perth Amboy Center
Tuesday, May 27	Community Health Worker Completion Ceremony	Edison
Tuesday, May 27	Construction Industry Career Day	Edison
Wednesday, May 28	Outreach at Triple C Housing	North Brunswick
Wednesday, May 28	Carteret HS Admissions and Financial Aid Presentation*	Carteret
Thursday, May 29	Young Men's Conference	Edison
Thursday, May 29	ESL Event—East Brunswick HS*	East Brunswick
Thursday, May 29	Outreach with EMPOWER Students	New Brunswick
Friday, May 30	Mental Health Awareness Carnival, "Life is a Carnival 2025"	New Brunswick
Saturday, May 31	Community Fair (#ALLIN4NB)*	New Brunswick
Wednesday, June 4	New Brunswick Adult Learning Center	New Brunswick
Saturday, June 7	Rock 'N' ReEnroll	Edison campus
Tuesday, June 10	ESL Placement Testing on-site*	Perth Amboy Center
Wednesday, June 11	Father's Day Paint and Sip	Perth Amboy Center
Saturday, June 14	Celebrate Middlesex	Roosevelt Park
Tuesday, June 17	College Summer Series at HMM Jersey Shore University Medical Center	Neptune
Wednesday, June 18	ESL Placement Testing on-site	New Brunswick Center
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual Events
Multiple times	FAFSA On-Demand Workshop*	Virtual Events
On an ongoing basis	Live chat appointments*	Via the web

*in English and Spanish

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location or Means of Access
Friday, June 20	Juneteenth (College closed)	
Friday, July 4	Fourth of July (College closed)	
Monday, August 25	Fall Convocation	Performing Arts Center
Monday, September 1	Labor Day (College closed)	
Wednesday, September 10* and Thursday, September 11*	Board Committee Meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, September 17	Board meeting	Boardroom and via Zoom

*Schedule TBD