

September 17, 2025

MAYOR CAHILL HONORED WITH THE 2025 L'HOMMEDIU AWARD

Named for the founding chair of the Middlesex College Board of Trustees, the award, established in 1974, recognizes community leadership and is the highest honor given by the College. The award was presented during Fall Convocation on August 25.

"As a dedicated public servant, Mayor Cahill embodies all the qualities the Middlesex College Board of Trustees looks for in bestowing the L'Hommedieu Award," said Middlesex College President Mark McCormick. "We are grateful for his support of our mission and the students we serve."

Cahill is a Middlesex College alum who has spearheaded a wave of economic and social growth in New Brunswick since becoming mayor in 1991. He's done so by forging partnerships with multiple members of the private sector and with Rutgers University and Middlesex County.

"It's an honor to accept the Paige D. L'Hommedieu Award. As a graduate, this award serves as testament to the excellence of Middlesex College—its mission, its people, and its evolution," said Mayor Cahill. "Thank you to the Board of Trustees for this kind recognition."

Cahill has transformed New Brunswick through bold investments in education, health care, and community spaces. His leadership brought new and

expanded schools, including New Brunswick High School, Redshaw Elementary, and the Blanquita B. Valenti Community School, as well as innovative programs like P-TECH (Pathways in Technology) and the award-winning Youth Services System. He has also helped make New Brunswick a hub for health care innovation, home to institutions such

as Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Saint Peter's University Hospital, the PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital, and the Jack and Sheryl Morris Cancer Center. At the same time, he has championed parks and open spaces in the city—revitalizing facilities, expanding recreation, and creating new green

spaces that enhance quality of life for residents.

"Paige L'Hommedieu believed in the promise of education," said Cahill as he accepted the award at Convocation. "Middlesex College continues that promise and honors his legacy by ensuring that every student has a chance to learn, to lead, and to give back. For the opportunities that you provided to me more than 50 years ago, and the kindness you bestow on me today, I am forever grateful."

Cahill is now in his ninth term as the mayor of New Brunswick, the longest serving mayor in the city's history.



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

WELCOME BACK



The campus was alive with energy as we welcomed students for the start of the Fall semester. Returning students reconnected with friends and classmates, filling the walkways, hallways, and student spaces with excitement and conversation. Faculty and staff were buzzing about, greeting students and creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The first day of classes reflected the College's strong community spirit—one where students feel supported, faculty are deeply engaged, and the semester begins with optimism and purpose.



Staff in Student and Enrollment Services welcomed over 350 new students and family members to campus for **New Student Orientation Week**. Our newest students participated in in-person and online workshops on a range of topics from services offered by Library and Tutoring Services to the importance of getting engaged in extracurricular activities. There were also sessions for parents of new students. The week culminated with a resource fair and lunch on the Quad. Thanks to our colleagues and current students who coordinated and staffed the Orientation events and helped prepare our newest students for a successful academic journey at Middlesex College.



After Fall Convocation, we gathered as a College community again at noon on the Quad to catch up over lunch in the sunshine. It was great to see so many of us there and enjoy a summertime menu with all the fixings.

CONNECTION, LAUGHTER, AND LEARNING

The **Center for Learning and Teaching** (CELТ) helped set a positive tone for this academic year beginning with keynote speaker Dr. Cate Denial, who presented on the “Pedagogy of Kindness” to a record attendance of 138 people. CELТ’s theme for the 2025-2026 academic year is “Creating a Welcoming Classroom: Fostering Belonging” and the Center offered a wide array of workshops during the first week of classes on topics such as artificial intelligence, strategies to support first-generation college students, and disability accommodations. Participants were also guided through a yoga session for balanced body and mind. CELТ Director Susan Altman invites all instructors to participate in CELТ events throughout the academic year to support teaching practice and build community for our students. Overall, it was an incredibly powerful and transformative start to the 2025-2026 academic year!



We opened Fall Convocation with the performance of an excerpt from ***Love Me, but Not the Lasagna***, a theatrical piece developed last Spring through a collaboration between Middlesex College students and faculty and Princeton University faculty that bridged STEM disciplines with the humanities. The play, originally written and performed by our students this past Spring, humorously explores love and digestion as a clueless chef falls for a woman with food intolerances, turning a simple meal into comedic chaos. The performance was arranged by Professors Celia Winchester and Anna deMers and performed by our talented students Aayu Goswami, Lexie Holland, Cassandra Ramos, and Alanna Rivera.



34 students participated in the **Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Summer Scholars Institute**, a five-week intensive program that offers incoming EOF Scholars the opportunity to experience college before they fully matriculate in the Fall. EOF Summer Scholars earned three college credits in either psychology, sociology, or English while also participating in activities and workshops that further their knowledge about being an EOF Scholar. Scholars also have the opportunity to present research during their coursework, exploring topics relevant to their experiences and taking an experiential learning trip to Washington, D.C., and the halls of the Capitol building. All 34 students successfully completed the program and are back on campus this Fall semester, where the EOF team continues to support them on their academic journey.

OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Saturday, June 21	Dunellen Street Fair	Dunellen
Monday, June 23	Small Business Expo-Perth Amboy Improvement Corporation, Inc.*	Perth Amboy Center
Wednesday, July 16	Middlesex County Business Resource Fair	Edison Campus
Thursday, July 17	Hispanic Business Expo/Feria de Negocios Hispanos 2025*	Edison
Saturday, July 19	Edison Housing Authority Family Fun Day	Edison
Tuesday, August 5	National Night Out*	Perth Amboy
Saturday, August 9	New Brunswick Heart Festival*	New Brunswick
Friday, August 15	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection College Fair*	Trenton
Sunday, August 17	Metuchen Street Fair	Metuchen
Saturday, August 23	Back 2 School Bash – Community Child Care Solutions*	Perth Amboy
Thursday, August 28	Edison Housing Authority Back to School Event	Edison
Thursday, September 4	Ventanilla de Salud Celebration*	New Brunswick
Saturday, September 6	Edison to India 5K	Edison Campus
Tuesday, September 9	Student Engagement Fair	Edison Campus
Multiple Times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual Events/Edison Campus
Multiple Times	Selective Health Program Information Sessions	Virtual Events/Edison Campus
Multiple Times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual Events
Multiple Times	Fast Track Admissions Day	Edison Campus

*in English and Spanish

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location or Means of Access
Wednesday, October 8* and Thursday, October 9*	Board Committee Meetings	Via Zoom
Monday, October 13	College closed in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day	College Closed
Wednesday, October 15 (8:30 a.m.)	Board Meeting	Boardroom and Via Zoom

*Schedule TBD