

October 15, 2025

CAMPUS CENTERS LINK MIDDLESEX COLLEGE COMMUNITIES FOR GREATER GOOD



Middlesex College Campus Centers in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick are two small, but vibrant, educational communities strategically positioned to enhance the College's mission of accessibility and inclusion.

"I had a student tell me that our Center is a place of hope and opportunity," said Angelo Abreu, Middlesex College assistant dean of Urban Satellite Centers and Community Initiatives. "Though they are subsets off the main campus, we have student life come and decorate every month so our students get a sense of belonging and a sense of home."

Under Abreu's guidance, the Centers have transformed into one-stop shops for Middlesex College students. Among the amenities provided are registration and admissions assistance, guidance on financial aid opportunities, English as a Second Language (ESL) placement testing,

support for setting up student accounts with online payments, and a help desk to create NetIDs and passwords.

Each center has 10 classrooms. The Perth Amboy Center has an additional three computer labs for classes and one open computer lab for student use. The New Brunswick Center has a pair of computer labs as well as a biology lab used for instruction.

"It's been quite a journey in terms of seeing the two Centers develop and, now that our leadership is committed to keeping them streamlined and together as one, it feels like we are one division of two Centers," said Abreu.

The Centers maintain longer hours of operation in order to cater to the student population's needs. Both Centers are open from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Abreu notes that both Centers have been modernized – providing the same service opportunities with flexibility for staffing. The Centers also house multiple pre-college programs including the Perth Amboy Success Bound Youth Leadership Academy, the Pathways to Health Careers program, and the E.M.P.O.W.E.R. academic college prep program in New Brunswick.

"The Centers provide opportunities at different ends of Middlesex County that stretch beyond the main campus," Abreu said. "We are a bridge to everything at the main campus. Our students still get to experience Middlesex College from where they are. We are also community centers. Our communities depend on us as a source of information and a pathway to a better future."

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

OFF TO A GREAT START



Student Welcome Week: During the first week of classes, the Office of Student Life hosted a series of Welcome Week activities during the Fall semester kick-off to help students feel engaged, welcomed, and connected to the campus community. Students enjoyed a “last days of summer” Sundae Monday event, enjoying ice-cream sundaes with all their favorite toppings. Students had a fun time entertaining the crowd at the high-energy Pop-up Karaoke event. Collectively, these activities contributed to a positive and inclusive start to the semester.

Fall Sports Update: The Women's Volleyball team is 2-7 overall with wins over Delaware County Community College and Borough of Manhattan Community College. Freshman Lauren DeCastro (South Plainfield) and sophomore Maryann Lourenco-Rivas (South River) have been the top two players for the Colts this season. The Men's Soccer team has an overall record of 7-2-1 and is currently in second place in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 regular season standings. The Colts recently beat Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester, which was ranked #8 in the country at the time. The Middlesex College Men's Soccer team is currently ranked #11 in the country in the latest NJCAA Division III National Poll.



Year of Aesthetics: The History and Social Sciences Department launched the Year of Aesthetics, which is envisioned to be a collaborative, campus-wide exploration of how beauty, form, and meaning shape human experience. The initiative is the brainchild of Philosophy Professor Jonathan Finnerty with support from faculty members and academic administrators across multiple disciplines. Students, faculty, and staff members packed the Terrace in the College Center for a launch event on September 16, complete with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The goal of the initiative is to bring beauty to the center of our campus life through engaging activity modules embedded in courses, lectures, and events that invite students and colleagues to consider not just what is true or useful, but what is meaningful.



Student Engagement Fair: Hundreds of students gathered on the Quad for the Fall Student Engagement Fair. The event highlighted the variety of opportunities available to students, featuring tables from 47 student-run clubs as well as 21 campus departments. Students were able to explore different organizations, connect with faculty and staff, and sign up for activities that match their interests. A DJ provided music throughout the afternoon, and snacks and refreshments were available to enjoy. With clear skies and beautiful weather, the fair created a lively and welcoming atmosphere that encouraged students to get involved and build connections on campus.



9/11 Day of Service: Middlesex College hosted a 9/11 Day of Service for all members of the College community – students, faculty, and staff. Participants had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 20 community partner organizations, engage in service projects on-site, and sign up to participate in a future service project right here in our community. Community organizations represented at the event included The Arc of Middlesex County, Middlesex County Parks, the Raritan Bay YMCA, and the Perth Amboy Teen Center.



Taste of Italy: This event brought together 63 talented students from the American University of Florence and Middlesex College for a dynamic culinary showcase. The event highlighted authentic Italian cuisine, blending traditional techniques with fresh, creative approaches. Guests enjoyed live mixologist demonstrations as students brought the flavors of Italy to life — handmade pastas, regional specialties, and signature dishes that celebrated the country's rich culinary heritage. Alongside the food, students shared the cultural stories, artistry, and passion that make Italian cooking world-renowned.

CONNECTIONS

External Partner(s)	Middlesex College Representatives	Action
AARP – Edison Chapter	Director of Life Long Learning Stratton	Presented on Senior Academy and WDLL classes.
BIONJ, BeOne, and New Jersey Council of Community Colleges (NJCCC)	Vice President Coffaro	Participated on a panel discussing NJBioFutures and networked with biomanufacturing business leaders.
Made Scientific (Princeton)	Vice President Coffaro and Executive Director of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning (WDLL) James-Waldon	Shared information regarding Aseptic Manufacturing Program at Middlesex College.
Middlesex County Courts	Executive Director of WDLL James-Waldon	Provided information on training opportunities in WDLL.
New Jersey Council of County Colleges and a wide range of industry groups	President McCormick, Vice Presidents Coffaro, Herron, Laureano, and Miller, and Executive Director James-Waldon	Networked with leaders from industry groups at the Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Convening sponsored by the NJCCC.

OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Thursday, September 18	Fast-Track Admissions Day	Edison campus
Tuesday, September 23	City of Perth Amboy Career Fair	Perth Amboy
Wednesday, September 24	Middlesex County Senior Health and Fitness Walk	Edison
Thursday, September 25	Paul Robeson Community School for the Arts Back to School Night	New Brunswick
Thursday, September 25	Carteret High School College and Career Fair	Carteret
Tuesday, September 30	Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School College Fair	Livingston
Tuesday, September 30	Old Bridge High School College Fair	Old Bridge
Friday, October 3	South Plainfield High School College Fair	South Plainfield
Monday, October 6	St. Thomas Aquinas High School College Fair	Edison
Thursday, October 9	South Amboy High School College and Career Fair	South Amboy
Thursday, October 9	College Achieve Central High School College Fair	North Plainfield
Thursday, October 9	Middlesex County Business Summit	New Brunswick
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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location or Means of Access
Tuesday, November 11	Veterans Day (College closed)	
Wednesday, November 12* and Thursday, November 13*	Board Committee Meetings	via Zoom
Monday, November 17	Annual Meeting and Board Meeting	Boardroom and via Zoom
Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28	Thanksgiving (College closed)	

*Schedule TBD



MIDDLESEX
COLLEGE

Edison | New Brunswick | Perth Amboy

middlesexcollege.edu