

February 18, 2026

## SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Facing an ever-changing and growing list of challenges, the job of ensuring student success at Middlesex College is an essential one.

“I know this may sound cliché, but people go above and beyond here,” said Middlesex College Dean for Student Success and Retention Alex Delgado. “It’s a big job, but when you have an amazing team like I do, it’s not as difficult as it could be.”

The Student Success and Retention Team comprises multiple student support offices that offer services including holistic advising, basic need services, mental health counseling, disability services, career enrichment, and comprehensive support for special populations such as the Education Opportunity Fund, veterans, and first-generation students.

Through a new virtual orientation, students are introduced to the myriad services available at Middlesex College and are able to get answers to questions they might have. It is Middlesex College 101 – open 24/7.

“The virtual orientation supplements the week-long student workshops and events held during New Student Week,” said Delgado. “It gets students in the mindset of

what Middlesex College has to offer, what and who they need to know, and what are the next steps. And they can always refer back to it.”

Delgado has also been working on a plan to connect with student parent/guardians, through a Bolt Family Newsletter, to engage them in their students’ collegiate journey. The newsletter communicates important information and ways they can advocate for the student in their life. Delgado said it was once taboo to include parents as part of a college student’s experience, but research shows that family members can play a role in the retention and persistence of our students.

Increasing accessibility is another major component of Delgado’s job. This includes connecting students enrolled in courses at the College’s satellite campuses in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy to services and programs the College offers, including in different modalities, and offering off-hours and weekend support to accommodate the population of students we serve.

“Student success is about a transformational experience to help students grow,” said Delgado. “That process varies because every student is different. Some are coming here because they are seeking a career. Some want to transfer to a four-year school, and some are looking to find their own identity or learn more about themselves and discover skill sets they would like to improve.”

Middlesex College maintains success rates that are on par with peer institutions, but the goal is always to improve. That is why Delgado remains passionate about finding new ways to connect with the student population. Everyone has a role to play in student success at Middlesex College.

“We want to help our students grow and thrive and see things in themselves that they don’t see,” said Delgado. “We want to help them reach their potential and beyond.”



# WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

## SHOWCASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

The Spring Student Engagement Fair showcased 45 student clubs/organizations and 10 College departments, providing students with an excellent opportunity to explore the many engagement options available at Middlesex College, learn about campus resources, and sign up to join clubs and organizations. Events like the Student Engagement Fair highlight the importance of student involvement on campus, as engagement opportunities foster a sense of belonging, build leadership skills, and support student success both inside and outside the classroom. "We try to serve students who are looking to build their educational value," said Student Life Director **Zulema Cheek**. "The roles that students hold being in a club help them understand how to work with people, how to have a conversation, and how to deal with conflict resolution."



## ATHLETICS UPDATE



The Middlesex College gym has undergone a significant renovation that was unveiled on February 3 before the Women's and Men's Basketball games against Essex County College. The renovations include a new floor, bleachers, sideline chairs, and more. The unveiling kicked off the College's annual Pink Night event, a tradition that promotes cancer awareness and asks attendees to wear pink attire.

In the first game of the evening, the Women's Basketball team lost a close game by a score of 67-62. In the second game, the Men's Basketball team topped Essex County College 105-93. The Men's team remains in first place in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 standings with two weeks left in the regular season, while the Women's team is in fifth place out of 10 teams in NJCAA Region 19 Division 2.

## OUR RADIOGRAPHY STUDENTS SHINE

The Middlesex College **Radiography** program has partnered with University Radiology Group (URG) as one of its newest clinical affiliates. During a clinical rotation in the Fall, our Radiography students were sent to URG locations in Edison and Warren. URG-Edison praised our students' work ethic and leadership. As announced at Spring Convocation, the Radiography program has expanded its partnership with URG and will be sending our students on clinical rotations to two additional URG locations—in East Brunswick and Metuchen—beginning this semester.



## ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES



**Robert Lovich '05** is an Army veteran and program manager with over a decade of experience. Robert obtained his master's degree in labor relations from Rutgers University in 2023. He is now a program manager with Lab Corp, where he provides results-driven management skills with a proven track record in the laboratory environment. Robert will share more about his logistical and supply chain work in an upcoming Global Supply Chain Webinar by Middlesex College Corporate Education and Training.



**Mark Hanna '19** received his bachelor's degree in dietetics from Rutgers University after graduating from Middlesex College, followed by his master's degree in dietetics and clinical nutrition from the University of Rhode Island. Now a registered dietitian, Mark recently decided to embark on a journey into an outpatient setting with Nourish, which provides on-demand access to hyper-personalized, clinical-grade nutrition care. Mark also continues to work per diem at Jersey City Medical Center, where he has been employed for over three years.

## CONNECTIONS

External Partner(s)	Middlesex College Representatives	Action
East Jersey State Prison (Rahway)	Director of Corporate Education and Training Vega	Offered cohorts of Small Engine and Welding classes
South Brunswick Public Schools	President McCormick, Vice Presidents Miller and Laureano	Discussed ways to expand the partnership with the College
Unitex Plant (Linden)	Director of Corporate Education and Training Vega	Explored training opportunities
Wakefern Food Corporation (Edison)	Director of Corporate Education and Training Vega	Explored training opportunities

## OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Thursday, January 22	Instant Decision Day at JP Stevens High School	Edison
Thursday, January 22	New Student Week at New Brunswick and Perth Amboy Centers	New Brunswick and Perth Amboy
Wednesday, January 28	New Brunswick Department of Human and Community Services Open House	New Brunswick
Thursday, January 29	Fast-Track Admissions Day	Edison Campus
Wednesday, February 4	Perth Amboy High STEP UP Program: Presentations on College Pathways, Financial Aid, and Success Bound	Perth Amboy
Thursday, February 5	Application Assistance at Perth Amboy High School	Perth Amboy
Sunday, February 8	Shiloh Baptist Church Annual HBCU College Fair	Plainfield
Tuesday, February 10	NJ Department of Labor Information Session	Virtual Event
Tuesday, February 10	Puerto Rican Association for Human Development College and Career Fair	Perth Amboy
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
Wednesday, March 11* and Thursday, March 12*	Board Committee Meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, March 18 8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting	Boardroom and via Zoom

\*Schedule TBD