

# DUAL ENROLLMENT INCREASES COLLEGE READINESS AND BOOSTS STUDENT CONFIDENCE



By providing an opportunity to explore the college environment, along with a significant financial benefit, the popularity of dual enrollment courses at Middlesex College continues to grow.

Dual enrollment is a program that allows high school students to take college courses and earn college credit before graduation, smoothing their transition into higher education.

Students at over 40 high schools in Middlesex County can take college courses through the Middlesex College dual enrollment program. Each course is certified by the appropriate academic department to ensure that the instructor has the proper credentials and that the curriculum aligns with a similar course at Middlesex College.

Middlesex College Director of K-12 Partnerships CJ Mooney said that during the 2025-2026 school year more than 5,000 high school students completed more than 30,000 credit hours of classes in the program, with 71 students earning enough credits to be awarded an associate degree this Spring.

“Many students that we see are first generation and don’t have the built-in family support to know what it takes to be successful in a college course,” Mooney said. “That’s where our K-12 Partnerships team comes in. When students enroll in a dual enrollment class, they realize that they can handle a college course. It builds excitement in them that it’s something they can accomplish.”

Courses completed through dual enrollment are transcribed as credits toward a degree at Middlesex College. Mooney’s team advises students to follow [NJtransfer.org](https://www.njtransfer.org) guidelines to ensure that the credits will also apply at other institutions.

If a high school does not have the ability to run dual enrollment classes, high school juniors and seniors can take advantage of Middlesex College’s High School Scholars program, where students ages 15 and up can apply to take classes either on campus or online.

The dual enrollment program has become a major selling point for Middlesex College. Mooney’s office has continued to raise awareness of such options by holding open house days for elementary and middle school students.

“Especially for the middle school students, it’s nice to get them on campus to see what the College looks like and plant in their minds that they have an opportunity to get a head start on their college education once they are in high school,” Mooney said. “It can start to build excitement about attending Middlesex College.”

Dual enrollment classes give students a taste of what college, and their potential future, could look like.

“It ties in perfectly with the College’s mission,” Mooney said. “Giving students a chance to explore and the confidence to grow; that they can come to Middlesex College to finish their education, and then the opportunities are endless.”

# WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

## COMMENCEMENT: BEST DAY OF THE YEAR!

At Middlesex College's 59th Commencement Ceremony, 921 of the 1,616 graduates from 2025-2026 participated at Jersey Mike's Arena surrounded by their families, friends, loved ones, and all of us at Middlesex College who have been supporting them and lifting them up on their journey to earning an associate degree. Members of the Class of 2026 ranged in age from 17 years old (with 70 graduating with an associate degree before receiving a high school diploma) to 70 years young. Nineteen were military veterans and 20 were student-athletes. The look of joy on the face of each graduate as they came across the stage when their name was called reminded all of us in attendance of why we do what we do.



# END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATIONS



## DENTAL HYGIENE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Dental Hygiene Program held its annual Recognition Ceremony in West Hall celebrating the 26 students who successfully completed the program.



## NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

The 73 graduates of the class of 2026 Nursing Program received their program pins on May 18 at a heartfelt and emotional pinning ceremony on campus. This year's class was the largest nursing cohort since 2019.



## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND CELEBRATION

The EOF Awards Night celebrated the hard work and persistence of our recently graduated and returning EOF students—many of whom graduated with a 3.2 GPA or above. The event honored their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue to strive for more.

## ATHLETIC AWARDS BANQUET



The annual Colts Achievement Awards celebrated the successes of student-athletes during the 2025-2026 academic year. Twenty-six awards were distributed, and four Colts teams were recognized for qualifying for the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 19 playoffs (Men's Soccer, Men's Basketball, Baseball, and Men's Volleyball). In addition, Head Baseball Coach CJ Mooney was saluted for his 300th career win—the youngest coach in Middlesex College history to hit this milestone achievement and was recognized as the Middlesex College Coach of the Year.

## CONNECTIONS

External Partner(s)	Middlesex College Representatives	Action
Vantage (Avenel)	Director of Corporate Education and Training Vega	Explored training opportunities
Williams-Sonoma (South Brunswick)	Director of Workforce Development Montani and Outreach Recruitment Manager Haskin	Explored how to connect Supply Chain Management students with employment opportunities

## OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Thursday, May 21	Barack Obama Green Charter School College and Spring Fair	North Plainfield
Thursday, May 21	Piscataway Magnet School Registration Day	Edison Campus
Thursday, May 28	Edison High School – ESL Presentation	Edison Campus
Thursday, May 28	Family Success Center Bingo	Perth Amboy Center
Thursday, May 28	Old Bridge High School Registration Day Event	Edison Campus
Friday, May 29	Life is a Carnival – New Brunswick Middle School	New Brunswick
Wednesday, June 3 and 4	Colonia High School Registration Day Event	Edison Campus
Saturday, June 6	#ALLIN4NB Community Fair (New Brunswick Public Schools)	New Brunswick
Wednesday, June 10	East Brunswick Magnet School Registration Day	Edison Campus
Wednesday, June 10	Success Bound Pass the Torch Ceremony	Edison Campus
Thursday, June 11	New Brunswick Adult Learning Center College and Career Fair	New Brunswick
Thursday, June 11	Sayreville War Memorial High School Registration Day	Edison Campus
Saturday, June 13	Celebrate Middlesex	Edison
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, September 9* and Thursday, September 10*	Board Committee Meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, September 16 8:30 a.m.	Board meeting	Boardroom and via Zoom

\*Schedule TBD