

September 16, 2026

NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLYWOMAN YVONNE LOPEZ HONORED WITH THE 2026 L'HOMMEDIEU AWARD

Cited for her efforts on behalf of community programs and women's affairs, New Jersey Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez was presented with the Paige D. L'Hommedieu Award at Fall Convocation at Middlesex College on August 31.

The award was established in 1974 and named for the founding chair of the Middlesex College Board of Trustees. It is the highest honor given by the College.

"I am truly honored to receive the L'Hommedieu Award from Middlesex College," Lopez said. "It is especially meaningful to be recognized by an institution whose mission is so closely aligned with the work of strengthening our communities. It is an honor to be a part of that mission."

Lopez was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 2017 in the 19th Legislative District and has been the Deputy Speaker since 2022. She is the chair of the Assembly Housing Committee and on the Community Development and Women's Affairs Committee.

Her district encompasses Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy, and Woodbridge, all in Middlesex County. Lopez expressed her appreciation for the College's contributions to the community.

"Middlesex College has proven itself as a foundation of opportunity for residents throughout our state. I have seen many of my constituents turn to the College as they pursue their academic and career goals, and I want to support an institution that continues to make those opportunities attainable," Lopez said. "Contributing to the College's mission is ultimately about investing in our students, our families, and the future of our communities."

Lopez is also the founder of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy and has served on multiple boards and commissions, including the Middlesex County Human Services Advisory Council.

Before working in the non-profit sector, she served as vice president/community affairs manager for Wachovia Bank. She sees a bright future for her constituents and Middlesex College.

"The College has consistently found innovative ways to collaborate not only within Middlesex County, but with institutions, agencies, and communities throughout the state," Lopez said. "Those partnerships allow the College to broaden its reach and create even more possibilities for residents and students. I am eager to see the continued impact that the College will have throughout our communities."

"A dedicated public servant with deep roots in our community, Assemblywoman Lopez's leadership exemplifies the spirit of the Paige D. L'Hommedieu Award – an unselfish devotion and tireless commitment to the people she serves," said Middlesex College President Mark McCormick.



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

WELCOME BACK



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

The Student and Enrollment Services team welcomed over 500 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 including financial aid, campus resources, digital tools, and information for parents of new students. Students were able to tour the Edison campus and enjoy an

engaging and interactive day of activities during New Student Celebration Day, which aimed to foster new connections and reduce anxiety about starting college. Thanks to our colleagues and current students who coordinated and staffed the orientation events and helped create a sense of belonging for the new students starting their academic journey at Middlesex College.



EOF SUMMER BOOTCAMP

Thirty-nine students participated in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Summer Scholars Institute, a five-week intensive program that offers incoming EOF Scholars the opportunity to advance their college career before they fully matriculate in the Fall. Students earn three college credits in either psychology, ethics, or English while participating in activities and workshops that further their knowledge

about being an EOF Scholar. Students presented research during their coursework, explored topics relevant to their experiences, and participated in an experiential learning trip to Eastern State Penitentiary and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. All 39 students successfully completed the Summer program and are back on campus this semester, where the EOF team continues to support their academic pursuits.



ALL-CAMPUS BARBECUE

The College community reconnected at the start of the academic year at an all-campus barbeque buffet, where employees enjoyed catching up with colleagues and meeting new members of the faculty and staff. Whether inside the College Center or out on the patio, the day offered a fun and festive welcome back to campus for all.



FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

We welcomed students back to campus with refreshed energy for the beginning of the Fall semester. Students made their way to classes, met with student support staff members, and buzzed about, chatting with friends old and new on the Quad. Faculty and staff were seen around campus creating a warm, exciting atmosphere. The first day of classes showcased the College's strong community spirit and kicked off the semester with an air of optimism and purpose.



CENTER FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING

The Center for Learning and Teaching (CELT) kicked off the academic year with keynote speaker Todd Zakrajsek, who presented on the "The Science of Learning Meets AI: What Helps, What Hinders, and What to Do Next," with record attendance. CELT's theme for the 2026-2027 academic year is "Growing and Adapting in an Evolving World" and CELT offered a wide array of workshops during the first week of classes on topics such as cross-disciplinary learning and leveraging AI in the classroom. Participants were also guided through one of the most popular ways to start out the semester: a yoga session to support both a balanced body and mind.

CONNECTIONS

External Partner(s)	Middlesex College Representatives	Action
Ferraro Foods (Piscataway)	Director of Corporate Education and Training Vega	Explored training opportunities
NJ Faith Action Center (Trenton)	Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Executive Director James-Waldon	Explored potential collaboration

OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Wednesday, July 1	Hackensack Meridian Health College Fair	Brick
Saturday, July 11	Dr. Bridget Turner's Carteret Community Resource – Day in the Park	Carteret
Saturday, July 11	Edison Housing Authority Family Fun Day	Edison
Thursday, July 16	Hackensack Meridian Health Job Fair	Perth Amboy
Monday, July 27	St. Peter's University Family Health Fair	New Brunswick
Tuesday, August 4	National Night Out	Perth Amboy
Wednesday, August 5	NJ Faith Action Center Freedom School Day at the State Capitol	Trenton
Tuesday, August 11	NJ Association for College Admission Counseling – College Fair	Montclair
Friday, August 14	NJ Department of Environmental Youth Inclusion Initiative Career Fair	Trenton
Wednesday, August 19	NJ Department of Labor Annual College Day	Trenton
Tuesday, September 15	New International Students Reception	Edison Campus
Tuesday, September 15	Student Engagement Fair	Edison Campus
Multiple Times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual Events
Multiple Times	Adult Learner Admissions Session	Virtual Events
Multiple Times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual Events
Multiple Times	First-Generation Admissions Session	Virtual Events
Multiple Times	Take the Next Step Toward Your Future	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
Monday, October 12	College closed in observance of Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day	College Closed
Wednesday, October 14* and Thursday, October 15*	Board Committee Meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, October 21 8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting	New Brunswick Center and via Zoom

*Schedule TBD