

MIDDLESEX COLLEGE BUILDS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH ARRAY OF PROGRAMS

October 21, 2026

At Middlesex College, being a good community partner manifests itself in many forms. It could be as simple as a new trash can on the street outside of the New Brunswick Center or a grab-and-go food pantry, or as big as the partnership with Rutgers University's Pre-College Outreach program that provides mentors for our students.

"To me, being a good community partner means showing up consistently and being responsive to community needs, whether those needs are large or small," said Angelo Abreu, Dean of Satellite Centers and Community Initiatives. "Strong partnerships are built on trust, accessibility, and a genuine commitment to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve. There is no request too small if it helps strengthen the relationships and supports the people who rely on us."

Gillyam Suazo is the director of the New Brunswick Center, which serves approximately 500 Middlesex College students who come from a wide array of social and economic backgrounds.



"We want this to be a centralized place where students, faculty, and staff know they belong, where they can receive support and connect with events and resources," Suazo said. "When people feel welcomed and supported, they tell others, and that's the most powerful kind of outreach."

The New Brunswick Center has opened its doors to local organizations, including the New Brunswick Fire Department for trainings and seminars, and has partnered with the Department of Public Works in the City of New Brunswick on a neighborhood cleanup. Suazo is working with the Healthier Middlesex Committee to connect the community in New Brunswick with resources and services. As part of these ongoing efforts, the Center is exploring opportunities for students to volunteer at a local food pantry, providing them with a meaningful way to serve the community while strengthening the connection between Middlesex College and the City of New Brunswick.

Middlesex College has also entered into a collaboration with My Brother's Keeper Middlesex County in New Brunswick, which works to help expand education and employment opportunities for boys and young men of color. Middlesex College also partnered on a recent career and job fair at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center.

Being a good community partner is a job that never ends, but a rewarding one.

"These partnerships reflect Middlesex College's mission of creating opportunities through education, workforce development, and community engagement," said Abreu. "By working alongside schools, hospitals, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders, we expand our impact beyond the classroom. Together, we are helping students and residents build skills, access opportunities, and achieve outcomes that benefit both individuals and the broader community."

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

A TASTE OF ITALY

Students from the Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Dietetics Department and the American University of Florence, presented a dynamic culinary showcase of thoughtfully prepared Northern Italian cuisine made with locally-sourced New Jersey ingredients. Guests enjoyed live demonstrations as the students brought the flavors of Italy to life with handmade pastas, regional specialties, and signature dishes that emphasized the country's rich culinary heritage. Live music and expertly paired wines accompanied the multicourse dinner.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



The College community celebrated our Latinx and Hispanic members in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. This year's celebration theme was *Unidos, Somos Más (Together, We Are More)*, to represent and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and vibrant histories of our American–Latinx community. A *Viva La Musica* event was held on the Quad, featuring a live band, refreshments, lots of dancing, and camaraderie. Other events included a trivia game, a movie night, and *Cafecito con Coping*, an open dialogue about mental health. These events served as a reminder of the importance of celebrating the rich diversity that is one of the hallmarks of our College community.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FAIR

The Fall Student Engagement Fair brought hundreds of students to the Quad to explore student organizations, connect with faculty and staff, and sign up for activities that piqued their interests. The event featured a variety of engaging opportunities, resources, and services, with 50 student-run organizations as well as 15 College departments represented. A DJ provided a soundtrack throughout the afternoon, with refreshments available for all to enjoy. The late-summer weather created a seasonal backdrop to the lively and welcoming atmosphere, encouraging students to get involved and build connections on campus.



FALL ATHLETICS UPDATE

It's an exciting start to the Fall athletic season for the Colts. The Men's Soccer team has an overall record of 9-1-1, currently ranked #11 in the latest National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III national poll.

The team's 19 wins are the most among the NJCAA Region 19 teams at this point in the season. Freshman Chris Duran leads the team with seven goals and 19 points, ranking him in the top 20 of the country's NJCAA Division III players. The Women's Soccer team returned with one of the largest rosters they've had in years, and a 3-3-1 record with recent wins against Bucks County Community College and Nassau Community College. Freshman captain Valeria Fernandes Oliveira leads the team with eight goals and 18 points.



OUTREACH		
Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Thursday, September 17	Hispanic Heritage Mental Health Panel	Perth Amboy Center
Saturday, September 19	Sustainable Health and Wellness Village Fest	New Brunswick
Tuesday, September 22	Piscataway High School College Fair	Piscataway
Wednesday, September 23	Carteret High School College and Career Night	Carteret
Wednesday, September 23	Middlesex County Senior Health and Fitness Walk	Edison
Wednesday, September 23	My Brother's Keeper Middlesex County Career Fair and Job Expo	New Brunswick
Friday, September 25	CASA of Middlesex County Aging Out Conference	Edison Campus
Tuesday, September 29	Voter Registration Drive	Perth Amboy
Saturday, October 3	New Brunswick Education Foundation Workshop	New Brunswick Center
Tuesday, October 6	Rae Kushner Yeshiva High School College Fair	Livingston
Thursday, October 8	Middlesex County Business Summit	New Brunswick
Thursday, October 8	Old Bridge High School College Fair	Old Bridge
Thursday, October 8	South Amboy College Fair	South Amboy
Tuesday, October 13	Linden High School College Fair	Linden
Wednesday, October 14	East Brunswick High School Senior Seminar Panel	East Brunswick
Wednesday, October 14	Middlesex County Regional College Fair (at JP Stevens High School)	Edison
Wednesday, October 14	Rahway High School College and Career Fair	Rahway
Wednesday, October 14	South River High School College Fair	South River
Thursday, October 15	College Achieve Central Charter School College Fair	North Plainfield
Thursday, October 15	Harvest Fest	Edison Campus
Thursday, October 15	St. Thomas Aquinas High School College Fair	Edison
Thursday, October 15	West Windsor – Plainsboro High School College Fair	West Windsor
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
Tuesday, November 10 and Thursday, November 12	Board Committee Meetings	via Zoom
Wednesday, November 11	Veterans Day	College Closed
Monday, November 16	Annual Meeting and Board Meeting	Boardroom and via Zoom
Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27	Thanksgiving	College Closed

*Scheduled TBD