



PATHWAY TO **POSSIBILITIES**







A MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

The 2022-2023 academic year was full of indelible moments – a perfect game pitched on opening day, the ribbon-cutting of the new Dental Hygiene Clinic, a ceremony for the inaugural class of Hall of Fame inductees, the announcement of the game-changing Middlesex County Community, Innovation, and Opportunity (CIO) Strategic Investment Plan, and so much more.

But most of all, the past year demonstrated emphatically that the sky is the limit for the individuals who come to Middlesex College to achieve their educational goals.

The Class of 2023 graduates highlighted in this report vary in age, background, accomplishments and future plans. They are beneficiaries of the efforts of caring, dedicated faculty and staff. Their successes are also a powerful testament to the generosity of donors, alumni, and community and business partners whose support make possible the programs and opportunities that fuel our students' determination and hard work.

Thanks to their time at Middlesex College, these graduates have experienced career-paving internships, the attainment of a college degree after a years-long pause, and admission to a wide array of four-year institutions.

Their incredible stories, along with many others, shine a light on Middlesex College as a place where: veterans get help transitioning back to civilian life, high schoolers can prepare for college, scholar athletes can reach their full potential on and off the field, adult learners can train for a career, and graduates can transfer to four-year colleges and universities debt-free.

In sum, 2022-2023 made clear that no matter your situation in life: Middlesex College is a **PATHWAY TO POSSIBILITIES**.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sweeping strokes.

Mark McCormick
President, Middlesex College



“ I want so very much to be the person people believe I had the potential to be. I am working very hard to prove them right.”

- Zakiya Forbes '23

ZAKIYIA FORBES heard it her whole life. She was a failure. She couldn't focus. She couldn't finish anything she started. At Middlesex College's 56th Commencement, Forbes heard something different: cheers as the valedictorian of the Class of 2023.

She finally made good on the "pinky promise" she made to her two children, Medina and Noble, of achieving a college degree.

It's been a long and difficult journey for the 45-year old New Brunswick native. When Forbes graduated from high school more than 25 years ago, she wanted to continue her education, but for whatever reason, she failed out of multiple schools.

"I always blamed myself and felt I wasn't trying hard enough despite giving it all I had, or I simply wasn't smart enough to comprehend. No matter how the failure was presented, I believed it could be traced back to me simply not being good enough," Forbes said.

Earning a college degree seemed forever out of reach to Forbes. But things took a dramatic turn when, at the urging of her supervisor and mentor, Forbes sought help for a learning disability, and was diagnosed as being neurodivergent.

"I got counselling, I got a treatment plan," Forbes said. "I got the support system that I needed and, in a month, I felt like an entirely different person."

Forbes also applied to Middlesex College even though she feared rejection.

Forbes thought, "no way Middlesex would take her," or accommodate her, but she found a welcoming environment that offered support.

"I found at Middlesex that really, truly, whatever the class was, when they saw how much you wanted to learn, they would help you do anything along the way," Forbes said. "I didn't imagine I would land where I did next. Now, I am going to another amazing school remembering the dreams I had when I was young."

That amazing school is Columbia University, where she is maintaining a 4.0 GPA and focusing on creating self-sustaining communities based on cooperative economics.

"I wish there was enough time to individually name every administrator, professor, support staff and fellow student who got me to this point," said Forbes. "As I continue forward, the encouragement and lessons they gifted me will guide my journey and remain close to my heart."



“Middlesex gave me an education and a degree that is mine forever, no one can take it away. It has opened up so many doors for me.”

- Carlos Perez '23

FROM MARINE TO COLLEGE GRADUATE

CARLOS PEREZ wouldn't change a thing about his path in life. After graduating from North Brunswick Township High School in 2012, he spent a year looking for something that "clicked," trying multiple jobs but finding nothing fulfilling.

Perez ultimately decided to join the Marines. He completed two international deployments, including in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I was your basic grunt that you see on TV," Perez said with a smile.

From his time in the Marines, Perez took away valuable lessons on organization, working with people from all over the world and the importance of a sense of purpose.

"That's what drives me to this day, to know what purpose feels like and contributing to something that's bigger than you," Perez said.

After leaving the Marines in 2017, Perez enrolled at Middlesex College to see what the college environment was like, but he found it intimidating. After a year, he went back to work, but then realized education at Middlesex College was the right path all along.

While pursuing an associate degree in homeland security, Perez jumped in to help other military veterans like him by working at the College's Veterans Services office where he is now Acting Assistant Veteran Specialist.

It's a big title that encompasses a lot of different tasks. Perez helps veterans with their paperwork, making sure they get all the benefits to which they are entitled. He also offers support at a smaller level, helping out with procuring equipment for class or acting as a friendly ear who can listen.

"We have great programs for veterans here," Perez said. "We try to make the atmosphere almost have a USO kind of feel where the veterans can come in and see familiar faces and know they don't have to isolate themselves. We try to set them up for success and make them comfortable. I know the feeling [of apprehension] I walked in here feeling the same way."

Perez is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in national security at New Jersey City University with the goal of becoming a federal agent.

"I will never forget my experience at Middlesex. I was bouncing around when I got out of the Marine Corps. I didn't know what I really wanted to do. It was the best thing when I walked through these doors," said Perez.



“ Whether it was finding jobs on campus or connecting me with networking opportunities, I always felt supported as I pursued my career goals.”

- Gabriella Grande-Perez '23

GABRIELLA GRANDE-PEREZ was elected by her fellow 2023 classmates to serve as the graduating student representative to the Middlesex College Board of Trustees for academic year 2023-2024.

Inspired by her own experience at Middlesex College, Grande is eager to take on the duties and responsibilities that come with the position as a way to pay it forward for future students attending the College.

"I think it's important to uplift other students and encourage them to get more involved in the community," said Grande. "I also want to show gratitude to the people who have helped me and learn about what schools are thinking about offering future students."

After taking U.S. history in high school, South Amboy native Grande became interested in civic engagement and acting as a voice for others. She got a taste of real-world politics when she interned for New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone during his re-election campaign in 2022.

Grande's political lens took on a global perspective when, after graduating in May, she completed a summer internship in Washington D.C. for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"I worked with a team and we tried to push out workshops regarding gender equity and sexual harassment and anti-violence messages," Grande explained of her intern duties. "We tried to find solutions without overlooking the conflict because that's what we were all about."

She is continuing her political science studies at Montclair State University this fall. She looks back at her time at Middlesex College as a turning point in her educational journey, especially thankful for the College's Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) staff for helping launch her college career.

She credits the EOF office for opening doors and providing educational opportunities and experiences that she never imagined having.

"They were always willing to listen to what I needed and wanted from my experience at Middlesex. They were open to all ideas and helped ground me by laying out all the avenues that were available to me as a student who wanted to pursue a career in political science, government or law," Grande said.

"I still contact them when I have certain doubts or when I remember certain ideas that they told me a year ago or two years ago."

STUDENT BODY



1,634

Students Graduated
in 2022-2023

9,744

Enrolled in Fall 2022 Credit Courses

1,137

Workforce Development and
Lifelong Learning Registrations

4,858

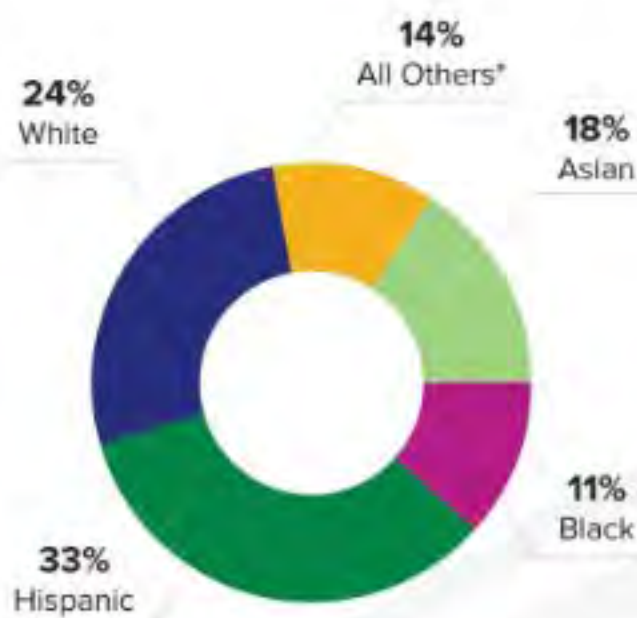
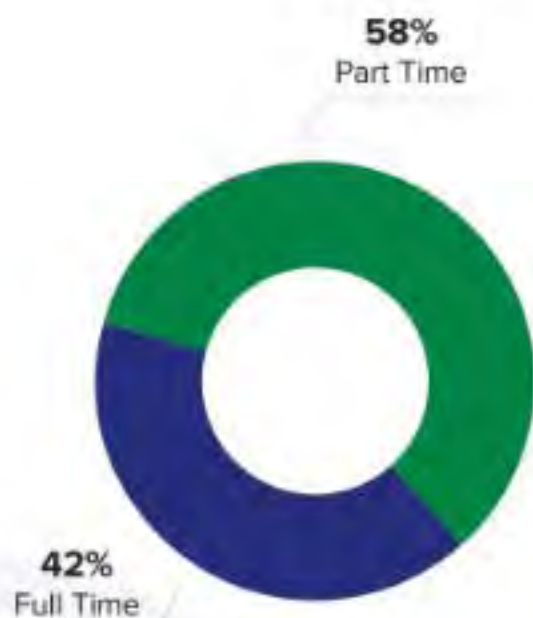
High School Students
Taking College-Level Courses

354

International Students
Representing 58 Countries

22

Average Age



*Includes: International, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Unknown, and 2 or more.

64,399

Total Alumni / Students Graduated Since 1968

41,326

Alumni in New Jersey

25,975

Alumni in Middlesex County

3,517

Hours of Community Service by Students

40%

Students Receive Financial Aid
(federal, state, institutional, 3rd party, and/or loans)

\$27 million

Total Financial Aid Received by Students
(federal, state, institutional, 3rd party, and/or loans)

848

Transferred to a Four-Year Institution



TOP PROGRAMS

Business Administration
Allied Health Pre-professional
Liberal Arts – General
Computer Science
Criminal Justice
Psychology
Education Transfer
Biology

TOP TRANSFER PARTNERS

Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Kean University
Rutgers University – Newark
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Montclair State University
New Jersey City University
Felician University
Rider University
Chamberlain University
The College of New Jersey

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CAMPUS REVITALIZATION

The College celebrated the completion of a \$2.8 million renovation of the **Dental Hygiene** facilities in L'Hommedieu Hall, which included the repurposing of former biology labs into a new, state-of-the-art dental hygiene clinic. The renovation also converted the former dental hygiene clinic into a new dental hygiene lab, three all-purpose classrooms, faculty offices, and student and faculty locker rooms.

East Hall, now home to Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency programs, underwent a makeover that included repairs to the exterior façade, a roof replacement, the creation of four new classrooms, refurbishment of the entrance lobby, and the installation of a new central air conditioning system.

Ninety-year-old **North Hall** was also renovated from top to bottom, including repairs to the exterior facade, replacement of the roof, updated restrooms and office space, and the creation of a new two-story, 1,500 square foot addition that includes an entrance lobby with an elevator.

State and local government officials, along with school district officials, gathered at the Edison campus of Middlesex College last fall to announce the Middlesex County **Community, Innovation, and Opportunity (CIO) Strategic Investment Plan**, part of the County's Destination 2040 Strategic Plan. The project's completion will cement Middlesex College's reputation as one of the best two-year colleges in the country, while turning the campus into a multifaceted destination for the community.



HONORING PAST GREATS

The College community celebrated the first class of **Athletics Hall of Fame** members during the long-awaited induction ceremony and dinner.

- Robert Edmonds (Track and Field)
- Dave Meads (Baseball)
- Jill Romanovsky (Softball)
- John Sacchi (Wrestling Coach)
- Robert Zifchak (Athletic Administrator)



PREPARING RESIDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND WORK

Our high school population continues to increase thanks to the popularity of the Dual Enrollment Program. Through the **Dual Degree Pathway**, students at Edison Academy Magnet School and Woodbridge Academy Magnet School can now obtain an associate degree while still in high school.

The first cohort of students completed the **Community Health Worker** program at the College's New Brunswick Center. They are now ready to join the workforce.



GOLDEN RECOGNITION

The College's Marketing and Communications Department took home Gold in the 2023 Hermes Creative Awards Program for the College's multi-phased social media campaign of "Bolt the Colt," which included an online voting feature that allowed the College community to vote on the mascot's official name.

Middlesex College again achieved Gold status among the 530 schools designated by G.I. Jobs magazine as a 2023-2024 **Military Friendly**® School.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The College was among six community colleges selected by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities to host the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit, "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America." The College was also named a "**Voter Friendly Campus**" by the Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project and the NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

LEADERSHIP, FACULTY, STAFF



Mark J. Finkelstein Elected Board Chair

A leading figure in the state's education sector, **Mark J. Finkelstein** was elected board chair during the College's Board of Trustees' annual meeting in November 2022.

Mark McCormick Named a Top Higher Ed Influencer

President McCormick was recognized by ROI-NJ as a higher education leader who is delivering the kind of education that is needed in the Garden State. He was just one of eight community college presidents to be named.



2023 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award

Professor Alexandra Fields was recognized for her work with justice-impacted students. Fields began a service-learning partnership with the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) in 2017 to offer college programming to Middlesex JDC residents and developed the Center for Justice-Impacted Students at Middlesex College.

Open Educational Resources Leadership Award

Library Services Director **Marilyn Ochoa** and Coordinator **Steven Chudnick** were honored for their work in expanding the use of quality Open Educational Resources materials which provide students with significant cost savings on textbooks. Ochoa is the statewide lead on a \$1.44 million federal grant for Open Educational Resources.



OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

GO COLTS!



Perfection!

Colts made history on opening day when Nick Diaz pitched a perfect game against Orange Community College.

Track Season Ends with Individual and Team Gold at Nationals

Middlesex College capped the outdoor track season with a record-setting performance at the NJCAA Division III nationals in Utica, New York. Standout Raven Orange repeated as champion in the 400-meter hurdles, while the men's 4×4 team (Jan Nolasco, Tom Bell, Jessi Jimenez and Maurice Hernandez) won the national title in a new school record time.

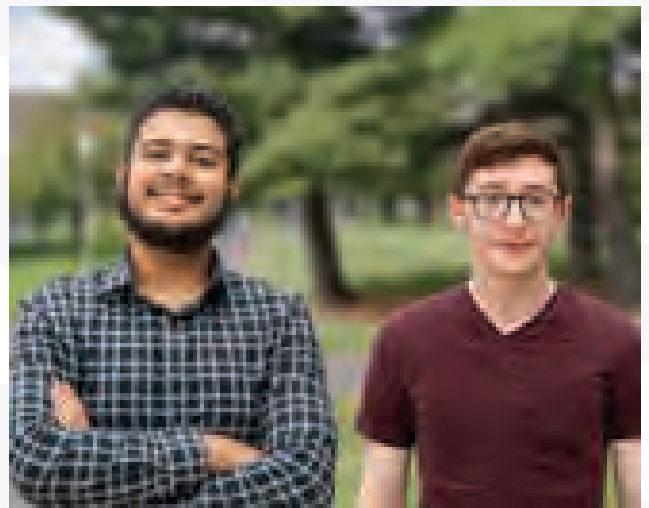
Ready to Play Division I Ball

Colts star outfielder Braden Ramirez received a scholarship to continue his collegiate baseball career at Dayton University, the first Middlesex College baseball player to receive a Division I scholarship in recent memory.



Excellence in Nursing

New Middlesex College graduate Kelbin Quintana (center) and second-year student Christine Tverdob (left) received the DAISY Award, an honor for exemplary effort and care in the nursing profession.



A Numbers Game

Three of the top five students in the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Student Math League competition were Middlesex College students — Ismaeel Malek (left), Ezra Goldfarb (right), and Mouner Wissa.

THRIVING ALUMNI

Our graduates are testaments to the power of a Middlesex College degree, becoming leaders in the fields of health, law, hospitality and transportation.



ERIC CARNEY '93 is President and CEO, Monmouth Medical Center and Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus. After graduating from Middlesex College, Carney went on to earn a bachelor's in management science from Kean University and a master's in healthcare management from Johns Hopkins University Cary Business School. He was named the College's 2023 Alumnus of the Year.

LISA M. MEYERS ZERVAS '99 went on to earn a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from Rutgers University and a master's in criminal justice from Monmouth University. She serves as a Court Services Supervisor - Criminal Division for the Superior Court of New Jersey.



DERRICK STROTHERS '12 studied hospitality management at Middlesex College and continued his education at Johnson & Wales University. He is now a business development manager for Holland America Line - Northeast.

VIKAS MATTA '19 went on to earn a bachelor's degree in finance from Rutgers Business School. He is a financial analyst for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and is pursuing a master's degree in non-profit leadership at the University of Pennsylvania.



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

RECOGNIZING DIVERSE NEED



\$606,989

In 2022-2023 Scholarships from
the Middlesex College Foundation



452

Scholarship
Recipients



830

Scholarship Awards from the
Middlesex College Foundation

RECOGNIZING DIVERSE NEED

MIDDLESEX COLLEGE FOUNDATION

We know when our students succeed, their successes can strengthen families for generations to come and benefit our communities. Donors come to the Middlesex College Foundation with diverse life experiences, professional backgrounds, personal motivations and reasons for investing in our students. Their common goal to provide access, to encourage learning, and to help turn dreams into reality, creates an inspired result.



Scholarships Provide Access

Access to education is the foundation of opportunity. Scholarships are the first tool in building that solid base. Over the last 57 years, the Foundation's mission has been built on a tradition of providing access through scholarships, and since its inception the Foundation has distributed over \$18 million in scholarships. While tuition remains low compared to many other higher education options, even with substantial state and federal funding programs, tuition and fees can still be a barrier for many students. In 2022-2023, 452 students received 832 awards totaling \$606,989.38.



Program and Grant Funding Supports Excellence and Inclusion

As Middlesex College continues to envision a comprehensive approach to community-based opportunity, expanding industry recognized credentials and certification programs for non-degree seeking and change of career students have garnered attention. Middlesex College Foundation donors rose to the challenge in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Four new financial assistance programs and expanded grant funding focused on students in Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning

programs have opened more doors than any other time in the past.

Our partners recognize that student dreams are as diverse as their backgrounds, interests and abilities. Donors who support programs across the campus provide opportunity for students to achieve through high quality, challenging curricula and innovative, specialized programs. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, program support totaled \$715,731.92.

Tangible Support Creates Immeasurable Impact

Middlesex College Foundation donors continue to recognize personal financial hardships, including food and housing insecurity, access to unreliable transportation, and limited educational resources including technology, as significant obstacles to completing an education. In addition to the program support above, over the last year, the Foundation received 401 gifts from 212 donors for student basic needs programs of the Food Pantry, Student Emergency Fund and Save Our Seat assistance program. Of the total \$46,000 in holistic student support, \$31,640 was in cash donations and \$14,946 was the value of in-kind donations. These gifts range from \$5 to \$4,200.



Supporting parenting students is a unique challenge, but when done well can ripple into future generations. One of the most forward-looking gifts this year was the Johnson & Johnson grant for childcare at the Early Learning Center at Middlesex College to support parenting nursing students.

A special thank you to every donor. Know that beyond access, excellence, inclusion and impact today, your gift is an investment in the future.

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Donna Coyle '78
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Fernanda De Campos
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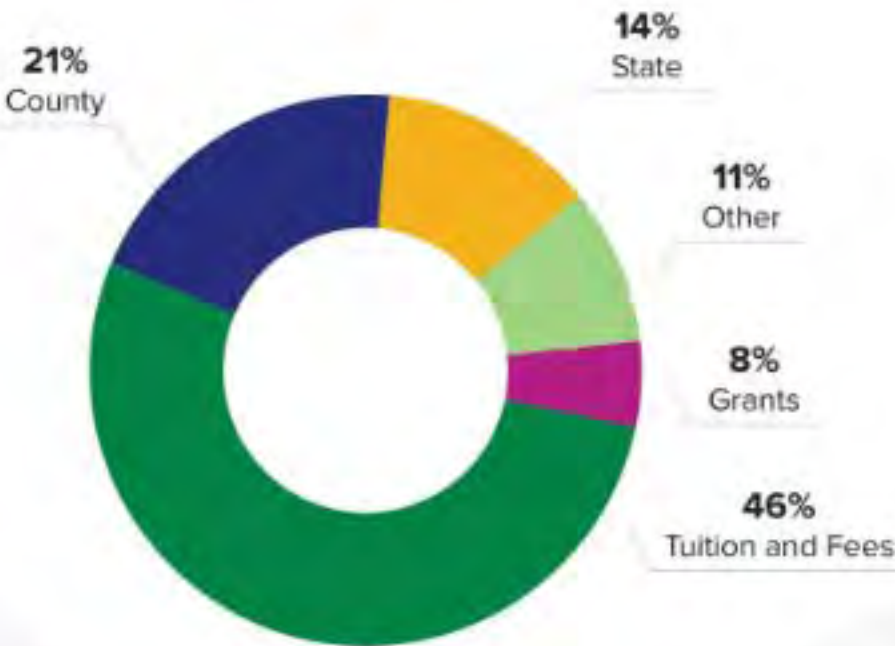
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COLLEGE BUDGET

Middlesex College's total operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was **\$74,107,650**



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 College Revenues



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 College Expenditures

FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

5%
Without Donor
Restriction

18%
With Donor Restriction

77%
With Donor
Restrictions
(Endowed)



2021-2022 Revenues

2021-2022 Revenues: -\$1,916,963

Reflects combined \$1,090,092 in fundraising revenue and -\$3,007,055 investment loss.

46%
Academic Programs
and Student Services

29%
Scholarship and
Financial Aid

25%
Administration



2021-2022 Expenditures **\$1,455,119**

13%
Without Donor Restriction

33%
With Donor Restriction

54%
With Donor
Restrictions
(Endowed)



2021-2022 Net Assets **\$19,605,245**

NOTE: Minor adjustments to % based on rounding.

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For more information, visit
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Edison Campus

2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08818-3050
P: 732.548.6000

New Brunswick Center

140 New St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901
P: 732.745.8866
E: infoNB@middlesexcc.edu

Perth Amboy Center

60 Washington St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
P: 732.906.7755
E: Perth_Amboy_Center@middlesexcc.edu

The mission of Middlesex College is to provide access to a quality, affordable education for a diverse population, to support student success for lifelong learning, and to strengthen the economic, social and cultural life of the community.