



**MIDDLESEX**  
**COLLEGE**

ANNUAL REPORT ■ 2024-2025



MOVING FORWARD  
**WITH PURPOSE**







## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Navigating life and a myriad of obstacles to achieving their goals, students who graduate from Middlesex College move forward in their academic journey—and do so with purpose. Every course they complete, every challenge they surmount, and every goal they achieve is a step toward something greater. They immerse themselves in the opportunities and guidance provided by members of the Middlesex College community to make informed decisions and shape successful futures.

The Middlesex College spirit of achievement is on display every day as dedicated faculty members go above and beyond to champion our students, supportive staff members uplift our students every step on their journey, and generous alumni provide networking connections and vital financial support through scholarships.

A community that collaborates can produce incredible results. For example, our Fall 2024 enrollment was the largest of any community college in New Jersey for the first time in our history. Our year-to-year student retention rate remained strong at 70%, one of the highest in the New Jersey community college sector.

Stories of our amazing graduates demonstrate how our focus on helping students achieve their goals makes a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and their communities. From Dhruv Sethi '25, who fused technical skills with compassion to imagine new uses for computer science in healthcare, to Alexandra Badaway '25, who turned her adversity into advocacy and achieved her dream of serving as valedictorian of the Middlesex College Class of 2025—every graduate's story reflects not only the student's hard work and perseverance but also the spirit of living up to and leaning into our mission that permeates the Middlesex College community.

At Middlesex College, moving forward is about transforming dreams and momentum into opportunity and impact, and that reality was on full display in Academic Year 2024-2025. When students graduate from Middlesex College, they are ready to lead, serve, and shape a better future for themselves and their communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' and 'C' followed by a flourish.

Mark McCormick  
President, Middlesex College

## MISSION STATEMENT

*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.*





# ALEXANDRA BADAWAY

From her very first day at Middlesex College, Alexandra Badaway had two goals: maintain a 4.0 GPA and graduate as class valedictorian. But in her pursuit of those goals, Badaway achieved so much more.

After overcoming a health crisis, financial struggles, and personal loss, beginning her academic journey at Middlesex College offered Badaway a fresh start. In her time at Middlesex College, Badaway maintained a 4.0 GPA, held leadership roles in a number of student organizations, and was named the Class of 2025 valedictorian. The North Brunswick native credits programs like the Equal Opportunity Fund for providing her with the resources to not just survive, but thrive.

"I needed a place to heal and grow. Middlesex College offered me more than academics; it gave me a sense of belonging and a community that believed in me," said Badaway. "It was here that I found my purpose and started rewriting my story."

As Badaway became more comfortable in the college environment, she found herself falling into a "big sister" role for her peers. She served as president of the Juvenile Justice Reform Club and as a Bonner Leader, ESL Tutor, and resource for students who faced language and academic barriers as she herself had faced.

While juggling work, classes, and mentoring fellow students, Badaway continued to strive for more. She is a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, America Needs You Fellow, 2024 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar, and a semi-finalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

Badaway is attending Rutgers University, where she plans to use her education to become a changemaker in law, public policy, or higher education. She hopes to one day return to Middlesex College as a mentor or educator, to give back to the institution that played such a pivotal role in her life.

"Middlesex College gave me the tools and the clarity to chase a future where I can shape systems, fight for justice, and empower the next generation."

# DHRUV SETHI

Nurtured by the small class sizes and devoted faculty at Middlesex College, Dhruv Sethi is now thinking big.

The Class of 2025 Salutatorian moved to Middlesex County from New Delhi, India, when he was 16. During his time at Middlesex College, Sethi achieved academic and extracurricular success.

In addition to serving as president of the Computer Science Club, Sethi organized workshops to help his peers obtain computer science certifications. Sethi credits Computer Science Professor and Computer Science Club Advisor Dhruv Chunawala with igniting his passion for learning outside the classroom.

Sethi was recognized as a national Terry O'Banion Student Technology Award winner and for winning first place with his team for Best Overall Hack at HackTCNJ 2024. He also participated in the Princeton Transfer Scholars Initiative. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA and is fluent in three languages.

Sethi is interested in studying practical uses for artificial intelligence in the medical field. He tells the story of a friend's father who was diagnosed with a tumor. Upon hearing the news, Sethi wondered if there was a way to tweak the diagnostic technology to find markers for such things sooner.

Sethi is currently attending Rider University studying computer science.

"If you give 100 percent to an opportunity, it all happens for a reason. I think I'll look back and see Middlesex College as one of my dots that led me to a brighter future," said Sethi.







## AVA YAP

At only 19 years old, Ava Yap is about to begin her full-time career as a Registered Nurse.

“The challenge of everyone around me being so much older, I feel a great insecurity from that. But I think Middlesex College definitely matured me a lot and gave me the ability to take care of patients,” said Yap.

Yap began her collegiate journey immediately after graduating from Edison High School in 2023. She made the decision to attend Middlesex College because it was affordable, in close vicinity to her job and home, and offered the quickest way to jumpstart her future.

School and work would be enough for many students, but Yap aspired to achieve more. In the Fall of 2024, Yap was selected by her peers to represent the 2025 Association of Middlesex College Nursing Students as class president. The responsibilities for this role included organizing fundraisers, events, food and clothing drives, and representing the students of the program.

Yap says that the Middlesex College Nursing Program was the perfect choice for her as it gave her perspective on getting serious about her future.

“Not having the traditional student age demographic like I would have had at a university really exposed me to different perspectives and opinions. Some of the people in my classes had other careers or families to raise. I think that really broadened my perspective as a person,” Yap said.

Thanks to Middlesex College’s partnership with Hackensack Meridian Health, Yap is starting a job through the healthcare system’s New Graduate Nursing Residency Program.

# RICARDO NAZAIRE

For many veterans re-entering civilian life, the transition from a highly-structured environment can be challenging. For Ricardo Nazaire, civilian life meant returning to his education with a renewed focus on his goals.

Nazaire served in the United States Navy for 13 years. Prior to joining the military, Nazaire briefly attended Middlesex College looking for a path to the future. Once he returned home, he made it a priority to continue his education.

“It was important to me to finish what I started at Middlesex College after my transition,” said Nazaire.

This is not to say that this change was easy—Nazaire notes that maintaining a healthy work-life balance as a full-time student with a family was quite a challenge. But the Navy taught him the importance of time management, networking, and being resourceful. One resource that Nazaire took full advantage of during his time at Middlesex College was the Military and Veterans Services office.

“Learning alongside fellow veterans in the student veterans lounge made for memorable experiences at Middlesex College,” said Nazaire. “But I easily owe the most to Middlesex College’s Veteran Services administrators, people like Yovanka Rajkovic and Michelle Rubio Rincon.”

In addition to his involvement with fellow student-veterans through the Military and Veterans Services office, Nazaire was active in a number of student organizations on campus including the Blue Colt Radio, the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, and the National Society of Leadership and Success. In December 2024, he earned his associate degree in communications and media studies and graduated with a 3.9 GPA.

“As a veteran, there are many things that you have already accomplished, so using that same proactive mindset at Middlesex College will take you a long way,” said Nazaire.

Nazaire is currently studying communications with a specialization in media and film at Kean University.



# STUDENT BODY

1,428

Students Graduated  
in 2024-2025

12,059

Students Enrolled in Fall 2024 Credit Courses

1,918

Workforce Development and  
Lifelong Learning Registrations

3,195

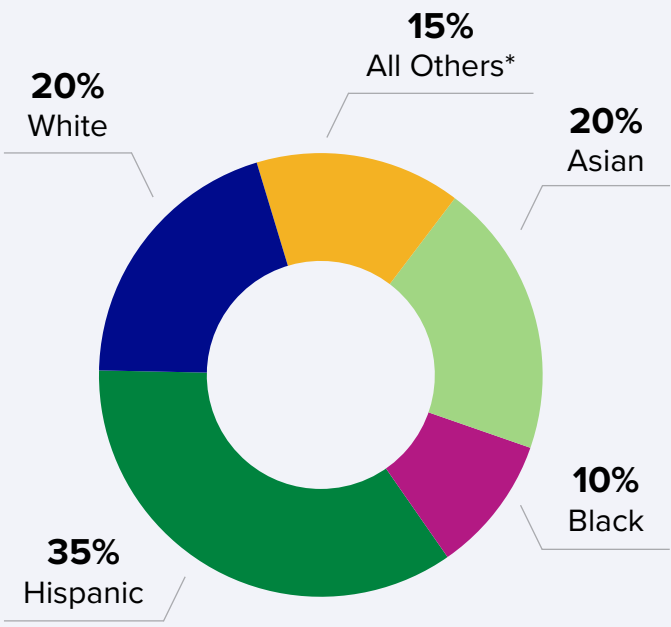
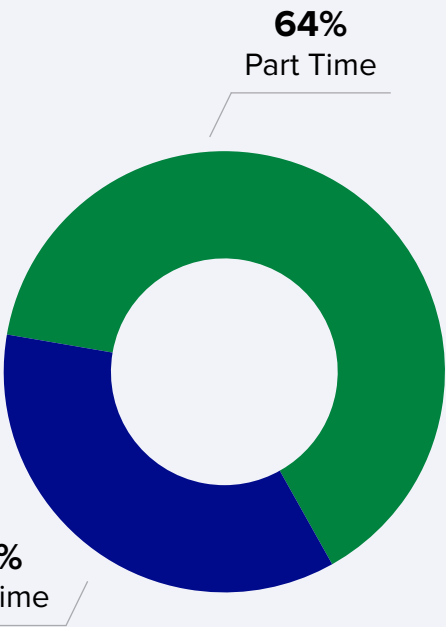
Additional High School Students  
Taking College-Level Courses in Fall 2024

492

International Students  
Representing 58 Countries

21

Average Age



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



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**66,648**

Total Alumni / Students Graduated Since 1968

**43,333**

Alumni in New Jersey

**24,613**

Alumni in Middlesex County

**3,760**

Hours of Community Service Performed by Students

**35%**

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

**\$37.9 million**

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

**58%**

Students Transferred to a Four-Year Institution



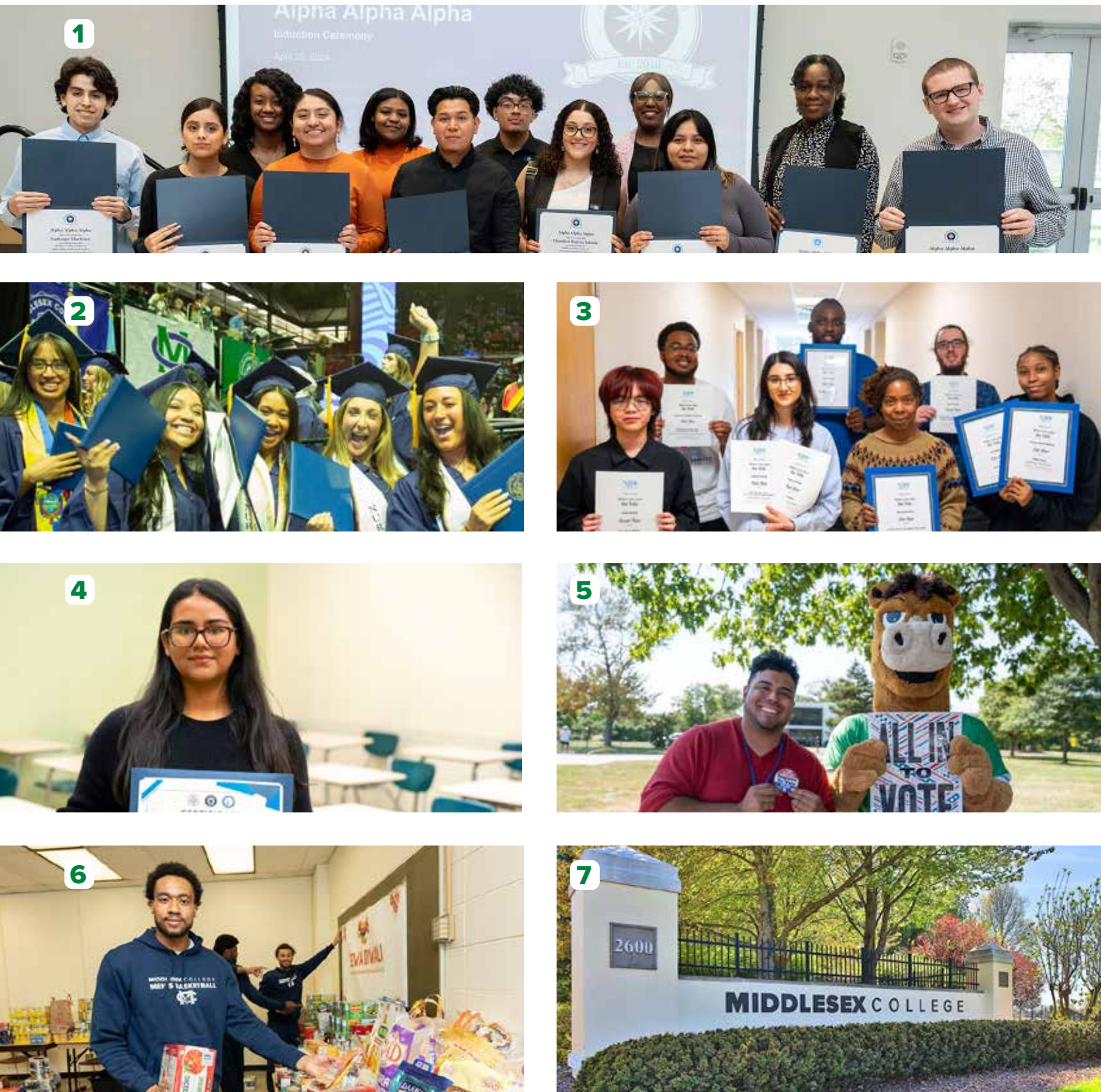
### TOP ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Business Administration  
Allied Health Pre-Professional  
Liberal Arts – General Studies  
Computer Science  
Psychology  
Biology  
Criminal Justice  
Education  
Engineering Science

### TOP TRANSFER PARTNERS

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

# HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS





## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

### 1. 2024-2025 FirstGen Forward Network

Middlesex College has been named a member of the 2024-2025 FirstGen Forward Network, a national initiative that supports first-generation student success in higher education. The College is an institutional member of **Alpha Alpha Alpha** (Tri-Alpha), a national honor society for first-generation students, and has partnered with the **America Needs You Fellows Program** and **FirstGenU**, which provides career development, networking, and support for low-income, first-generation college students as they work toward graduation.

### 2. Celebrating the Accomplishments of the Class of 2025

The Middlesex College community celebrated its 58th commencement on May 13, 2025, at Jersey Mike's Arena. The 1,583 members of the Class of 2025 ranged in age from 17 to 75. Ten graduates were military veterans. Thirty-three graduates were student-athletes, representing every athletic team. Fifty-five graduates were high school students who graduated with an associate degree before receiving their high school diploma.

### 3. Quo Vadis Newspaper Earns 15 Awards

The Middlesex College *Quo Vadis* student newspaper staff earned 15 statewide awards, including five first-place honors, in the 2024-2025 **New Jersey Press Association** College Newspapers contest. Included in the list of awards was first place for the prestigious general excellence award, first place in layout and design, and second place for the paper's website. Middlesex College graduate **Trinity Dunn** earned or shared nine different awards in a variety of subjects.

### 4. Student Awarded Second Place at KeanUHackThis 2025

**Ananya Roy** of Middlesex College, along with her two teammates from other institutions, created an app to help improve local animal control efforts that won second prize at the Kean University event in March.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### 5. 2024 ALL IN: Middlesex College Designated Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting

Middlesex College has been recognized by the **ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge** as a 2024 ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting. The College joins a group of 471 colleges and universities from across the country recognized for outstanding efforts to increase nonpartisan student voter participation.

### 6. Middlesex College Receives Grant to Combat Food Insecurity

Middlesex College was awarded a **Hunger-Free Campus Act Grant** from the **New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education** to help alleviate food insecurity among students. Funds from the grant were used to purchase food to stock the Community Resource Hub and Food Pantry shelves, purchase grocery store gift cards to distribute to students experiencing food insecurity, support office operations, and access software to manage pantry data and programming. An average of 180 students visited weekly during the Fall 2024 semester.

### 7. Center for Justice-Impacted Students Receives Grant for At-Risk Students

The College's Center for Justice-Impacted Students was awarded a \$39k grant from the **Middlesex County Office of Human Services, Division of Children's Services**, to launch a Rising Scholars Program for at-risk high school students. The Program launched at the start of the Fall 2024 semester and offers a first-hand college experience for juvenile probationers from Middlesex County. Students are recruited through local community organizations that serve court-involved youth and juvenile probation officers.

## The College Partners with Indeed to Launch Job Search Academy

Middlesex College has partnered with **Indeed** to offer the Job Search Academy – a free, virtual career development program to help students and alumni excel in their job search. Through this partnership, students and alumni have access to on-demand career development content and Indeed support resources to make the job search more accessible.

## Middlesex College Joins NJBioFutures Coalition to Advance Workforce Development in the New Jersey Cell and Gene Therapy Industry

The **New Jersey Council of County Colleges**, with support from **Johnson & Johnson** and other industry partners, launched NJBioFutures, a groundbreaking workforce development coalition aimed at creating a sustainable, skilled talent pipeline to support New Jersey's rapidly expanding cell and gene therapeutics sector. Middlesex College, along with Mercer County Community College and Raritan Valley Community College, are providing training and certification programs on cell and gene therapy biomanufacturing, biotechnology, and biopharmaceuticals.



## COMMUNITY, INNOVATION, AND OPPORTUNITY (CIO) PROJECT

Middlesex County's **Community, Innovation, and Opportunity (CIO) Strategic Investment Plan**, first announced in Fall 2022, marked several significant developments during the 2024-2025 academic year, including:

- County leaders, state and federal officials, and community partners gathered at Middlesex College on January 21, 2025, to celebrate the groundbreaking of two new buildings that will change the landscape of the College's Edison campus. The buildings – an open-air, multipurpose community venue and a new student center – will provide new spaces for education, sports, and entertainment for Middlesex County residents.
- Middlesex County and the Middlesex County Magnet Schools celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Innovation Magnet School on the College's Edison campus on March 3, 2025. This second Magnet School on the College campus will offer programs related to high-demand, high-wage jobs in Middlesex County that align to associate degree programs offered by Middlesex College such as in biotechnology and information technology.



## RECOGNIZING COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS



**Natasha James-Waldon** was appointed as executive director of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning.



**President Mark McCormick** was named to the NJBIZ Education Power 50 list as one of the leaders in his field in New Jersey for the second year in a row.



**Dionne Miller** was appointed as vice president for Academic Affairs.



Long-time employee and cancer survivor **Lafayette Smith** was honored at the College's 2025 Pink Night to raise awareness about cancer and cancer research.



**José Laureano**, vice president of Student and Enrollment Services, was awarded the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators 2025 Mena Valdez Community College Award.



Trustee **Mark Finkelstein** was awarded the Ronald D. Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.



**Nadine Thompson**, professor of dental hygiene, was awarded the 2025 Mary Jane Kellogg Dutton Faculty Mentorship award by the New Jersey Dental Hygienists' Association.

## ALUMNI NEWS



### Bhavishya Chittala '24

was elected by her fellow classmates from the 2024 graduating class as graduating student representative to the Board of Trustees for academic year 2024-2025.



### Angela Cruz '86, Global

Campaign Enablement Lead for Sales Excellence at Accenture, was named 2025 Alumna of the Year, and addressed the graduating class at the College's 58th Commencement Ceremony.

### Lobby and Scholarship Dedicated to Late Alumnus

**James J. Mikusi, Jr.** was a Middlesex College '00 engineering science alumnus and successful IT entrepreneur who passed away in 2014. In May, family, friends, and college leadership gathered at the unveiling event, celebrating both the James J. Mikusi, Jr. Lobby and the James J. Mikusi, Jr. Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship will provide financial support to Middlesex College students pursuing their academic and career goals—extending Mikusi's legacy in perpetuity.



## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Middlesex College **Athletics Hall of Fame** inducted five new individual members this fall, along with the 1981 Softball Team. The distinguished Class of 2024 includes baseball coach **Mike Lepore Sr.**, wrestling national champion **Steve Bonsall**, soccer All-American **Woody LaPointe**, basketball star **Angela Bradley**, and three-sport standout **Melissa Gromek**.

- The men's and women's soccer teams finished second in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 District Tournament—the first time in Middlesex College history that both programs advanced to the championship game in the same year.
- The NJCAA ranked the Middlesex College Baseball (#7), Softball (#8), and Men's Basketball (#23) teams in their National Poll.
- Baseball pitcher **Ryan Rzepinski**, the Colts first All-American player since 2006, was the first Colts player ever to be named Region 19 Pitcher of the Year.
- Softball pitcher **Madison Rackett** was named the NJCAA National Pitcher of the Week.
- Wrestler **Jon Braun** won a Region 19 championship and qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa.
- A total of 12 former Colts were on active National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) level rosters last season, including four who competed at scholarship-level schools.
- The College honored former Head Coaches **Mike Lepore Sr.** and **Jim Muldowney**, both of whom passed away, with banner ceremonies with their friends and families.
- The Men's Volleyball team competed in the NJCAA National Invitational at Finger Lakes Community College, finishing seventh overall.



# SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

## RECOGNIZING DIVERSE NEED



**\$478,157**

In 2024-2025 Scholarships from  
the Middlesex College Foundation



**360**

Scholarship  
Recipients



**743**

Scholarship Awards from the  
Middlesex College Foundation

# MIDDLESEX COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## A Record Year of Giving, Growth, and Gratitude

The 2024-2025 academic year marked a defining chapter in the story of the Middlesex College Foundation—a year fueled by unprecedented generosity, meaningful partnerships, and unwavering belief in the power of education. From the extraordinary \$2 million gift from the Dalal Family Foundation to the life-changing support of scholarships, emergency aid, and digital access, our donors show what's possible when a community comes together to invest in students. Every gift helps remove barriers, spark confidence, and open doors to brighter futures. Together we inspire transformation across campus and throughout Middlesex County.

Students supported by the Foundation share messages with common threads—motivation to succeed, hope for a brighter future, relief from financial burdens, and gratitude. When students feel seen, valued, and inspired to work harder, they reflect a deep sense of personal empowerment. The Foundation takes pride in showing them that someone believes in their dreams.



## Scholarship Assistance

Access to education is the bedrock of opportunity. However, open access and governmental supports do not entirely address the significant financial challenges that some students face. Since 1966, Middlesex College Foundation's mission has been built on a tradition of enhancing access through scholarships, distributing over \$21.7 million to students since its inception. In the 2024-25 academic year, through compassionate donors and diligent stewardship of our endowment, 360 students received 743 awards totaling \$478,157.15.



## Program Excellence and Inclusion

The Middlesex College Foundation's support to programs offered by Middlesex College provides opportunities to students through piloting or scaling up programs and initiatives that hold the promise of helping students achieve their goals. The Foundation and its funding partners recognize that students' dreams are as diverse as their backgrounds, interests, and abilities. Generous donors directly impact student experience and enhance their opportunities to grow and thrive through high-quality, challenging curriculums and innovative, specialized programs. In fiscal year 2024-2025, program support totaled \$2,634,681.52.



## Inspired Leadership Gift

The \$2 million gift from the Dalal Family Foundation is the largest single gift the Middlesex College Foundation has ever received. This gift, establishing the Nayan and Bindu Dalal Center for the Arts, will renovate and enhance the theater experience at Middlesex College, creating a revitalized performance and creative arts venue for the Middlesex College community and the greater Middlesex County community.

## Digital Empowerment

Digital equity is a unique challenge, one that the College has been addressing in stages even before the pandemic struck. The College continues to invest in connectivity and infrastructure. This year the Middlesex College Foundation continued to partner with the Middlesex College Resource Hub to provide Chromebooks to students facing technology challenges.



## Measurable Impact

Donors to the Middlesex College Foundation help to remove obstacles to educational persistence for students such as food and housing insecurity and lack of access to transportation or technology. Middlesex College and the Middlesex College Foundation are grateful for the support of generous donors to address students' basic needs. In 2024-2025, the Foundation received 312 gifts for student basic needs programs like the Food Pantry, Student Emergency Fund, Bridging the Digital Divide, and Save Our Seat assistance program. Of the \$42,078 contributed for holistic student support programs, \$37,978 represented cash donations and \$4,100 was in-kind donations. The gifts ranged from \$5 to \$5,900.

*To all of our donors we say: thank you for standing with us in this important work. Because of you, we continue to build a legacy of impact—one student, one dream, and one future at a time.*



# THANK YOU DONORS

**FOUNDER’S CIRCLE**

\$100,000+

- The Dalal Family Foundation
- Estate of Richard Howard Lane
- Johnson & Johnson Foundation

**LEADER’S CIRCLE**

\$50,000+

- Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

**BENEFACTOR’S CIRCLE**

\$25,000+

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**TRUSTEE’S CIRCLE**

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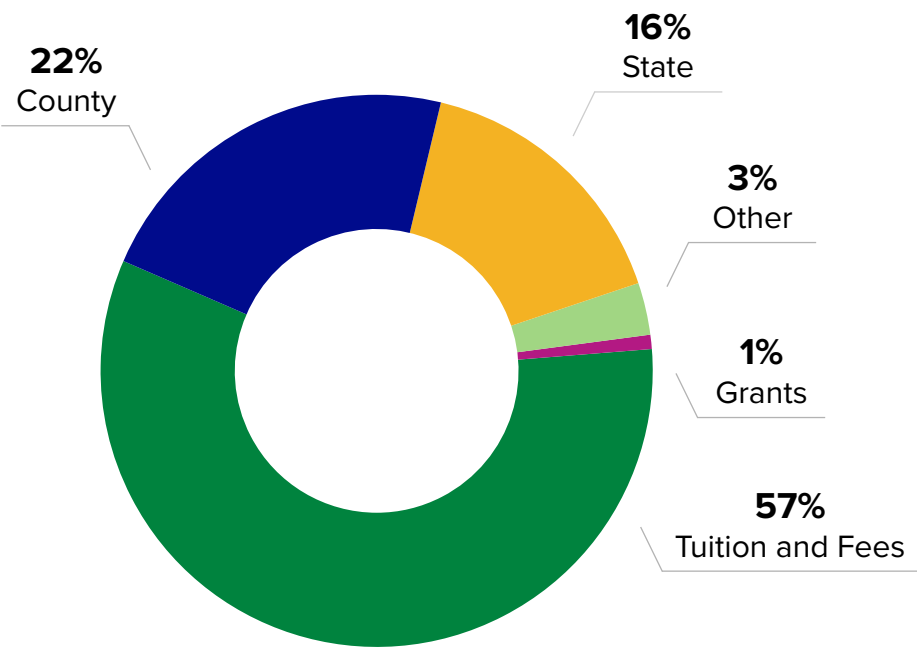
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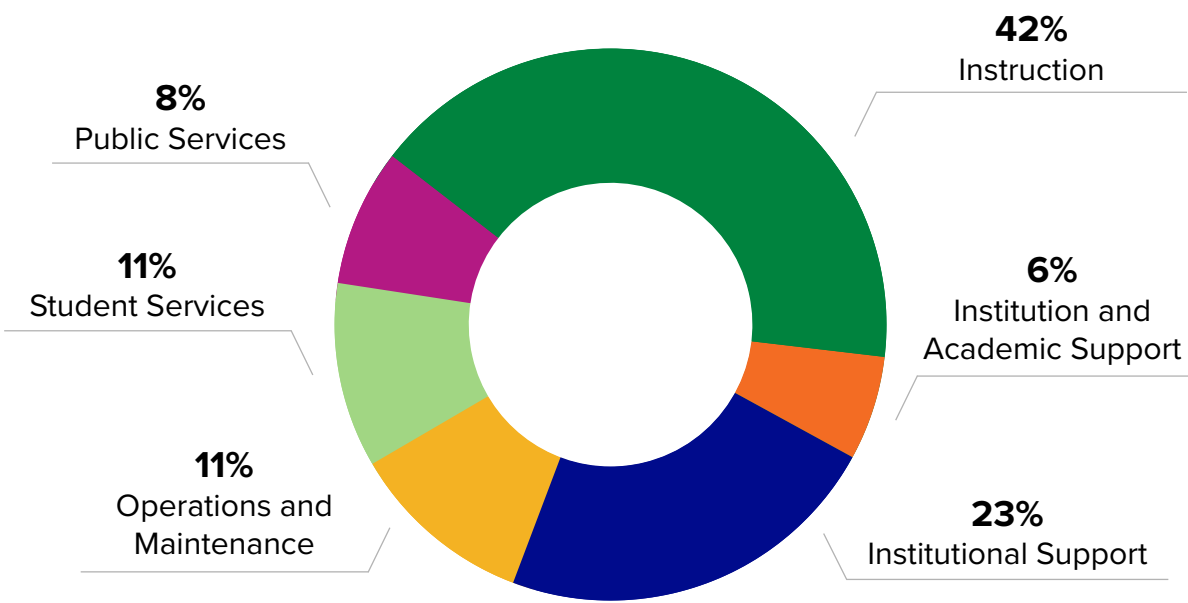
Lynn Davis

# COLLEGE BUDGET



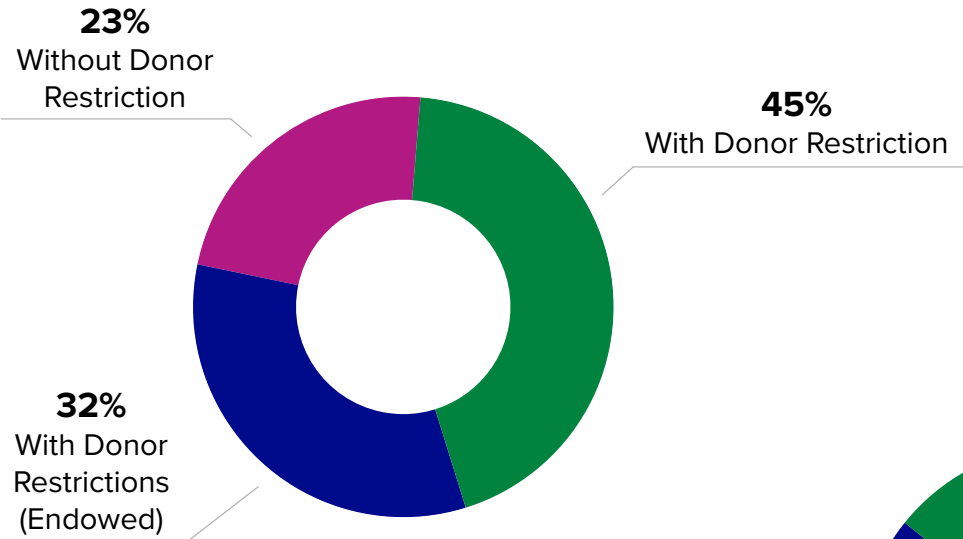
Middlesex College's total operating budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was **\$80,048,682**

## FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 COLLEGE REVENUES

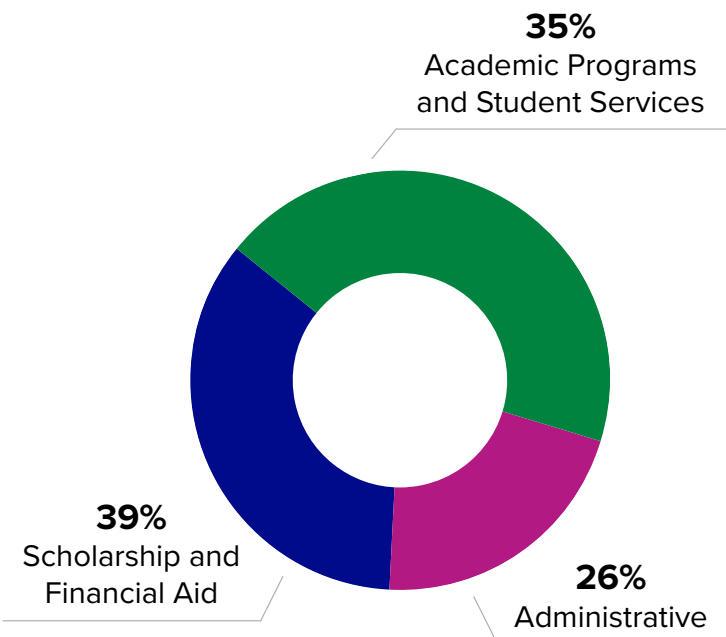


## FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 COLLEGE EXPENDITURES

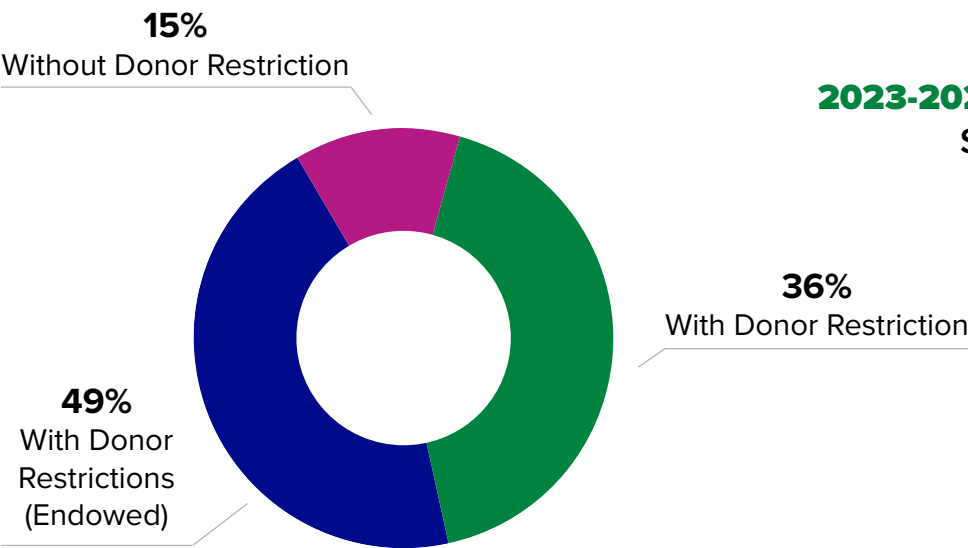
# FOUNDATION FINANCIALS



**2023-2024 REVENUES**  
\$3,584,468



**2023-2024 EXPENDITURES**  
\$1,468,744



**2023-2024 NET ASSETS**  
\$22,474,996

**NOTE:** Minor adjustments to % based on rounding.



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