LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

Middlesex County College promotes lifelong learning to strengthen the economic, social and cultural life of the community. The five students profiled here represent the breadth of our educational programs and varied forms of service in the community. Like many of their classmates, these students learn and apply themselves in and out of our classrooms and laboratories. Their learning and service experiences are part of their preparation to be leaders in the future.

Our credit and non-credit programs, and our support services, all led by dedicated faculty and staff, prepare students for continued learning, advanced degrees, civic participation and rewarding careers. Our graduates are ready to remain on the cutting edge, to keep learning, to be leaders and to meet the needs of our ever-changing world.

Over five decades, tens of thousands of Middlesex alumni have gone on to earn advanced degrees, start careers and contribute to their communities. Many return to the campus to share their educational and career paths to help inspire students to reach for their dreams. Others come back for the new courses needed to maintain currency in their professions. Alumni also advocate for the College and provide financial support for students as others once did for them.

This year has been one of reflection while celebrating the College’s founding 50 years ago. We also have been preparing for the future with new buildings and strategic plans to assure that every student has the opportunity to achieve success in life: family, career and community. Many will realize their full potential based on what they learned at Middlesex. Our dream is for every student to have the opportunity to rise to be a leader who helps to move our society forward. We know that for our graduates, SUCCESS STARTS HERE.

Thank you for your interest and support of our students.

Joann La Perla-Morales, President

SUCCESS STARTS HERE

CONSIDER HELPING OUR STUDENTS

Your donation to the Annual Fund helps MCC students achieve their educational and career goals. Annual Fund donations - large and small - make it possible to help many deserving students with quality programs and services.

Please use the envelope included in this publication or make a gift online at www.mcc-foundation.org or call 732.906.2564. THANK YOU!
The following pages contain profiles of some extraordinary students. They excel in the classroom but also distinguish themselves by their commitment to the community. They represent the hundreds of MCC students who spend countless hours volunteering in organizations all over the area. Their deeds are inspirational.
She was a sure-handed, gutsy shortstop who could hit - and hit for power. She is now a sure-handed, gutsy guard who can shoot - and shoot from a distance. But there’s more to Jennifer Shereyka than star of the softball field and basketball court. She will be graduating this spring from the very-demanding Nursing program. She is a member of the South Amboy First Aid Squad. Oh, and by the way, she is also the JV softball coach of her alma mater, Cardinal McCarrick.

After graduating from high school in 2011, Jen took a softball scholarship to Queens College, where she was named to the East Coast Conference second team. She was planning to become a teacher, but soon discovered that nursing was her passion, so she transferred to Middlesex.

It was her high school basketball coach who first suggested Jen might enjoy working on the First Aid Squad.

“We do a lot of community events, so it’s not just about answering the emergency calls. It goes beyond that,” Jen said. “You actually get the chance to be part of the community. And you reach out to the youth, trying to educate them. It’s like with nursing. You get to teach your patients. I always wanted to be a teacher. I kind of get to do both now. It’s pretty cool.”

Jen will be graduating in May and plans to go on for a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing before starting her career. But she wants to continue with the squad.

“I enjoy it all, everything that I do, so it’s not like work,” she said. “I love being able to help someone. You get to see their face and understand you’re actually helping.”

Jen practices taking blood pressure at the South Amboy First Aid Squad.
Declon Friday started at MCC in the fall of 2013. He was making friends, enjoying his classes in criminal justice and earning a 3.99 grade point average. But something was missing. He didn’t feel complete.

“I just didn’t feel fulfilled,” he said. “I wanted to do something that would make me a well-rounded student. I saw the Democracy House program and it looked like exactly what I was looking for. It fit. It absolutely turned out to be the best thing I’ve done. Because now I feel complete as a student – well rounded; I feel like I’m giving back to the community. And I’m making a difference.”

Democracy House began in the mid-1990s as a way for students to engage in service and understand the needs of the community. Students perform hundreds of hours of service working with children and adults in local nonprofit organizations. Declon has volunteered with Elijah’s Promise, the New Brunswick soup kitchen, Better World Café in Highland Park, and the EMPOWER program, run by MCC’s New Brunswick Center, in which he mentors students from New Brunswick High School.

“I think Democracy House is awesome,” he said. “It’s almost like a family. You become very close. I love it. I absolutely love it.”

Declon came to the United States in 2000 soon after graduating high school in his native Trinidad. He was joining his mother who lived here; eventually his siblings would come as well. He worked construction jobs for 10 years and then enrolled at MCC in the fall of 2013. He will be a United States citizen in 2015.

Declon will graduate in May of 2015 and will most likely accept a full scholarship to enter the homeland security program offered on the MCC campus by New Jersey City University. He hopes to become a New Jersey State Trooper.

“Coming to Middlesex County College was the best decision ever,” he said. “And I really don’t want to leave.”

Declon and other Democracy House members help build a house with Habitat for Humanity in Perth Amboy.
She speaks softly, but with great determination. When Karla Oliva-Montiel talks about her plans in life, they include graduating in May with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts/Business, and taking her 3.9 grade point average to Montclair State or The College of New Jersey for Accounting.

She’d like to work as an accountant for a large corporation. But her plans also include making her community better.

When Karla was a high school student, she participated in EMPOWER, a mentoring program for college-bound Latino youth from New Brunswick. After enrolling at MCC, she became an EMPOWER mentor, tutoring the high school students three days a week and helping them prepare for college.

“I like EMPOWER; I love EMPOWER,” Karla said. “It helped me so much. I think EMPOWER is really helpful. It helps you learn what it is going to be like when you go to college. What I got from it is you learn you are not alone. That I had other people to help me.”

She said Evelyn Rosa, the director of the MCC New Brunswick Center, helped her as a high school and college student, and part of her desire to be a mentor was to repay her.

“Evelyn, she was always there,” Karla said. “When I came here, the one who always helped me, and was always looking out for me was Evelyn. I wanted to give back to her for everything she did. And because I like helping people.”

Karla also assisted local residents prepare their taxes through the VITA program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), prepared and served meals at Elijah’s Promise soup kitchen, walked to support domestic violence awareness, and did a day of service on Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. She plans to continue doing volunteer work for life.

“It makes you feel better,” she said. “The first time I went to Elijah’s I was cleaning tables, and two or three people said ‘thank you’ and it felt really good. My life is school, work, or giving back to the community. So if I’m not giving back to the community, I’m not doing anything. So that’s why it’s important to do it.

“If we don’t help the community, who’s going to do it? It gives a purpose to my life.”

Karla has assisted area residents file their taxes with the VITA program.
It was during the MCC Foundation’s 2013 Scholarship Reception that Fizza Sulaiman heard the call to serve the community. This annual event allows Foundation donors to meet and mingle with the students who have benefited. Fizza had been awarded a Foundation Scholarship and listened intently as Brian Daugherty, the chairman of the Foundation, spoke to the crowd.

“He talked about how it is important to give back,” Fizza said. “He made me realize that while I don’t have funds to donate now, there are other ways I can contribute – that somehow I should serve. And I took his words to heart.”

Indeed. Fizza joined the North Brunswick First Aid and Rescue Squad and spends 12 hours a week answering calls and assisting the crew chief. She has been active with Democracy House, MCC’s service learning program, helping with a coat drive to benefit Jersey Cares, and a food drive for Elijah’s Promise. She also assisted at a breakfast with Santa for children in Perth Amboy.

With a 3.99 grade point average, Fizza is planning to graduate in August and then attend Rutgers University. She hopes to become a physician’s assistant.

But her academic and career plans almost crashed during her first class at MCC: Chemistry 121. She did poorly on the first two tests.

“I thought, ‘maybe I’m not college material; maybe I’m not smart enough,’” she said. “So I asked the professor, George Pangalos, if I should drop the class and change my major. I was kind of hoping he’d say yes. But he kept saying ‘winners are not quitters.’ He said study more, stop complaining. He was the key for me. He pushed me to do well. I learned so much from that.”

Fizza sorts warm coats that were donated from the College community to the needy through Jersey Cares.
The Chris Pellegrino of today wouldn’t recognize the Chris Pellegrino of 15 years ago. He had graduated from Old Bridge High School, took some odd jobs here and there, and hung out with his friends.

“College wasn’t for me at the time,” he said. “I didn’t have the drive in me. When I was about 25, I decided I needed to do something with my life. And the Navy gave me that.”

He spent five years in the United States Navy as an avionics technician, doing electronics work on large aircraft.

“I loved it,” he said. “It’s a brotherhood. Ask any vet. No matter what they said about it when they were in, they loved it. I look back on it and I wouldn’t change a thing. It made me who I am today.”

He left the Navy because he wanted to come home and be with his family. This time, odd jobs were not enough; he wanted a career. Chris knew he needed a college education. He came to Middlesex because it was convenient; his father is an MCC grad (class of 1983) and his brother attended as well. Chris is a computer science major and plans to become an ethical hacker to protect the nation’s computer network.

“I love Middlesex,” he said. “It’s a great college. Small classes, small size. And it has the Center for Veterans Services.”

The Center helps veterans with their military entitlements and the transition from military to civilian life - “I probably wouldn’t still be in school if it wasn’t for that place,” he said. It is also home to the Veterans and Servicemembers Association, of which Chris is the president. A major plank of the association is community service. Members helped Habitat for Humanity build a home for a family in Perth Amboy. They visited the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home and socialized with veterans from World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. 

“It takes a special person to join the military in the first place,” he said. “You have to want to be able to give. The giving spirit: You have to have the will to give, and that’s what veterans do.”

Chris visits the Veterans Home in Edison and chats with residents. He brought letters of thanks from the children in the College Child Care Center.
MEET OUR NEW FACULTY

In the fall of 2014, 10 new faculty members joined Middlesex County College. They brought expertise, passion and a love of teaching to the classroom. All hold the highest degrees in their academic field from graduate schools as near as Kean University and as far away as the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. They are a diverse group joining us in our fifth decade. They will help us build upon our wonderful history as they all share a common goal: student success.

Terrence Corrigan
History and Social Science
B.A., Connecticut College
M.A. & Ph.D., Syracuse University
Specialty: History of Revolutions

Cristóbal Espinoza-Wulach
History and Social Science
B.A., University of Chile
M.A. & Ph.D., SUNY Stony Brook
Specialties: World History and U.S.-Latin American Relations

Kimberly Fouad
Natural Sciences
B.S. & M.D., University of Santo Tomas
Specialty: Anatomy and Physiology

Brian Lavey
Natural Sciences
B.S., Bates College
Ph.D., Dartmouth College
Specialties: Bio-Organic Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry
Melissa Luis
History and Social Science
B.A., Syracuse University
M.A. & Ph.D., Fordham University
Specialties: Rewards & Motivation for Learning; Education Law

Patricia Luck
Radiography
B.A., Douglass College, Rutgers University
M.A., Kean University
Specialty: Pediatrics

Crystal A. Quillen
History and Social Science
B.A., Lebanon Valley College
M.A. & Ph.D., Kent State University
Specialty: Experimental Health Psychology

Anna Sycamore DeMers
Visual, Performing, and Media Arts
B.A., Rollins College
M.F.A., Sarah Lawrence College
Specialties: Directing and Choreography

James A. Martiney
Natural Sciences
B.A., Princeton University
Ph.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Specialty: Microbiology

Richard Thompson
Visual, Performing, and Media Arts
B.A., Georgetown University
M.F.A., Catholic University
Specialty: Gaming and Animation
Middlesex County College’s Total Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14 was $78,774,662

The College continues to operate in a healthy fiscal position. County and state funding were level. A small tuition increase of $1 per credit hour was necessary.

More than 60 percent of expenses are related to student learning and leadership programs. This fulfills the College mission of providing access to affordable quality education for diverse students and strengthens the economic, social and cultural life of the community when they graduate.
The bulk of MCCF’s assets are in the form of endowed funds generating support for scholarships and academic programs in perpetuity. In addition, assets include restricted and unrestricted funds for distribution in the current or future fiscal years.

Endowed income includes new contributions to MCCF’s $8 million endowment, together with revenue the fund generates. Restricted income is contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations designated for a specific purpose. Unrestricted income is general contributions to the Annual Fund and special events net revenue, and also includes interest and realized gains from investments.

More than 492 scholarship awards totaling $553,039 were made this year. In addition, $248,717 was provided for academic programs and student services.
OVER THE YEARS, many MCC alumni, employees, retirees, trustees, students and their families have inspired us by establishing a scholarship fund in their name, or that of a loved one, colleague or friend. A named scholarship fund provides a lasting legacy of service and dedication to Middlesex County College.

The involvement and support of the entire College community—faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, as well as corporate and community neighbors and friends—are key to scholarship growth. In 2013-2014, 492 students received scholarships totaling $554,000. This year we are on track to award more than $750,000 to MCC students. With your support, these numbers will continue to grow and many more students will be able to achieve their educational goals.

**Scholarships and awards established by, or in tribute to, members of the faculty and staff include:**

- Mehar Nigar Anjum Annual Scholarship
- Baker Family Scholarship
- Debbie and John Bakum Endowed Scholarship
- Bio-Tech Annual Scholarship/Prof. Uma Narayanan
- Dr. Jamie Daley PTK Scholarship
- The Stephen ‘Pete’ Dalina Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Rose Channing Danzis Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Sidney Danzis Endowed Scholarship
- Ann Dobshinsky Memorial Award
- Dr. Margarete K.M. Driver Modern Languages Scholarship
- Dr. M. Eileen Hansen Award for Academic Excellence
- ESL/Languages and Cultures Award
- Excellence Endowed Scholarship for Part-Time Students
- Excellence in Technology/Finne Family Scholarship
- Foreign Language Scholarship Fund/In Memory of Georgina Lage-Gonzalez
- The Anjali Ghosh Memorial Scholarship
- The Dorothy I. Good Endowed Scholarship
- Ann Goodwin Memorial Scholarship
- Prof. Jeffrey Hochbaum Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- John J. Gutowski, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- Hispanic American Club Scholarship
- Timothy and Theresa Holt Annual Scholarship
- Thomas J. McCoy Scholarship
- MCC College Center Programming Board
- MCC – Faculty Endowment
- Damien Nuccio Memorial Award
- Harry Payne Annual Scholarship
- Nancy Yusko Peters Endowed Scholarship
- Psi Beta/PIE Clubs Annual Award
- Psychology & Education Department Annual Student Achievement Award
- J. Craig Putnal Memorial Masonic Annual Scholarship
- Ron Romano Academic Achievement Award
- Joaquin Rosa, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
- Steven B. Rosengarten Memorial Endowed Scholarship for Current MCC Students
- Steven B. Rosengarten Memorial Scholarship for Graduating Seniors
- Frank Schultz Scholarship
- Zoraida Calvo Scott Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Francis A. Spano Annual Scholarship
- Ian Smith Endowed Scholarship
- Student Success Research Poster Contest/Professor Christine Harrington
- Joan D. Sulva Endowed Scholarship
- Mary E. Trickel Endowed Scholarship
- Prof. Robert Urbanski Annual Scholarship
- Dr. Diane Z. Wilhelm Memorial Annual Scholarship
- Master Sergeant Franklin T. Wilson Memorial Annual Scholarship
Scholarships and awards established by,
or in tribute to, MCC alumni include:

- Gale Cooperstein Annual Scholarship
- The Csizmarik Family Scholarship
- Rosemary Esteves Memorial Scholarship
- The Arthur Goodman '68 and Alison Arnold Goodman '68 Endowed Scholarship
- David J. Lynch AXA Annual Scholarship
- The Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
- MCC Alumni Association Scholarship
- MCC Alumni Scholarship for Academic Excellence
- The Jimi Mikusi, Jr. & Fellow Innovators Fund
- The Theivakumar Family Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Betty Whalen, MPA, Health Technologies Scholarship
- Barbara and Stanley Wike Memorial Scholarship
- Shirley Zall Memorial Annual Scholarship

Scholarships and awards established in
memory of MCC students include:

- Bryan Breen Memorial Scholarship
- Vincent J. DeSario Scholarship
- Donta’ Jacquile Mickens Memorial Scholarship
- Daitaun Paradise Memorial Scholarship

Scholarships and awards established by,
or in tribute to, members of the Boards of
Trustees of Middlesex County College and
the Middlesex County College Foundation
include:

- Dr. Bori Berkow Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Bernard Family Scholarship
- Robert J. and Elaine L. Ciatto Endowed Scholarship
- Freeholder Director David B. Crabel Memorial Scholarship
- Jerome F. Katcher, CPA and Estelle Katcher Business Achievement Award
- Joseph Klegman Scholarship
- Sam Landis Endowed Scholarship
- The L’Hommedieu Family Scholars Program
- MCC Foundation Awards
- Anna Morgan Annual and Endowed Scholarships
- John P. Mulkerin Endowed Scholarship
- Frank D. Visceglia Endowed Scholarship

Barbara Bernard, left, first vice chair, MCC Foundation, with Christina Rios, recipient of the Bernard Family Scholarship.
Since its inception in 1966, the MCC Foundation has been the beneficiary of generous support from corporate and community friends and neighbors, including the establishment of numerous scholarships for MCC students, including:

- Affinity Federal Credit Union Scholarship
- Maris and Mary Alexander Endowed Scholarship
- Blaha Battaglia Family Scholarship
- Suseela D. Botlagadur, MD, Endowed Scholarship
- Mary Braun Memorial Annual and Endowed Scholarships
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Company Biotechnology Scholarship
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen Unity Square Scholarship for EMPOWER Students
- Margaret Chang Scholarship
- Bernie C. Cohn Memorial Annual Scholarship
- Larry C. Cohen Memorial Scholarship
- Costa Chica Mexican Restaurant EMPOWER Program Educational Scholarship
- Delta Delta Annual Award
- Joseph and Dorothy Doll Ann Scholarship
- Edison Chamber of Commerce/Annamae Baerenbach Business Scholarship
- EMPOWER Program
- ExxonMobil Chemical Company Murray Geltzer Memorial Scholarship
- GMB North America, Inc. Annual Scholarship
- Habib American Bank Endowed Scholarship
- Congressman Rush Holt & Dr. Margaret Lancefield Annual Scholarship
- JFK Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship
- Ernest A. Johnson Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Johnson & Johnson Health Technologies Award
- The Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation/Presidential Scholars Program
- Karma Foundation Endowed Scholarship
- MCC Retail Services Corporation/Blue Colt Bookstore Annual Scholarship
- Menlo Engineering Scholarship
- Metuchen Savings Bank/Annamae Baerenbach Memorial Scholarship
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- Alfred Miller/NJ Transportation Memorial Scholarship
- Robert Sydney Needham Memorial Scholarship
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- New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners Scholarship
- Northfield Bank Foundation Annual Scholarship
- The Old Bridge-Sayreville Rotary Endowed Scholarship
- Provident Bank Foundation Scholarship
- Prudential Endowed Scholarship
- The Carlos Sanchez Young Entrepreneur Scholarship for the EMPOWER Program
- The Gattupalli Sarojini and Kondapi Radhamma Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Goldelie and Stanley Schneider Scholarship
- Shailesh and Dr. Bharti Shah Endowed Scholarship
- Carol A. Siperstein Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Southpole Foundation Annual Scholarship
- Frank R. Steele/H.O.N.O.R Scholarship
- Anne Stevens Memorial Scholarship
- Walter and Louise Sutcliffe Foundation Scholarship
- Switzer Foundation Annual Scholarship
- The Marion and Norman Tanzman Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Telcordia Pioneers, Chapter 99 Endowed Scholarship
- Wells Fargo Regional Foundation Annual Scholarship
- Women’s Rehabilitation Group of New Jersey Annual Scholarship

Thank you for your support of past, present and future Middlesex County College students!

The Margaret Chang Scholarship was established in January 2014 with funding provided by the Margaret and Peter Chang Foundation. Chang Foundation representatives attended the November 2014 Scholarship Reception and met with recipients, Diana Diaz-Tapia (second left) and Uriel De La Cruz (front center).
MCC FOUNDATION CORPORATE MISSION PARTNERS

MCC Foundation corporate partners provide unrestricted funds to help the Foundation continue its mission to help MCC students achieve their educational and career goals. For a direct link to our partners’ websites, go to www.mcc-foundation.org and click on their logos on the main page.

The MCC Foundation is tremendously grateful for their loyal and generous support.

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Middlesex County College, the Middlesex County College Foundation and the Middlesex County College Alumni Association gratefully acknowledge those forward-thinking benefactors who have planned a deferred or estate gift to benefit Middlesex County College students. Their generosity will assist future generations of students in achieving their academic goals:

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For information on establishing a legacy gift to Middlesex County College, please contact Veronica Clinton, executive director, MCC Foundation at 732.906.4661, vclinton@middlesexcc.edu.
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