

November 14, 2022

## COLLEGE'S VETERANS SERVICES CENTER HELPS FORMER MARINE FIND A HOME AND THRIVE

Eun Lee '20 came out of the Marines in 2017 not knowing what to do next.

He now credits Middlesex College for putting him on the path for success.

"I have to give credit where credit is due," said Lee, now 28. "Middlesex was the foundation of where I was able to build my habits. All my experiences there made me into the student that I am, one who was capable of graduating from an Ivy League school."

Lee encountered passionate professors at Middlesex College that helped inspire him. He found a school that expected accountability from its students, which helped him mature. He discovered his military background was embraced and Middlesex College gave him the resources to move forward.

"I walked into the Veterans Services Center and honestly, I was blown away," Lee said. "It felt familiar to the military. The conditioning process from military life to academic life was very comfortable and that was one of the primary reasons I did so well academically."

Originally from South Korea, Lee was raised in Chicago. He struggled in high school and joined the Marines looking for a new opportunity.

He did a five-year hitch in the Marines, working in San Diego and Florida as an aerial observer assisting pilots on missions. While staying with family in New Jersey, he found Middlesex College.

"When I googled military friendly colleges, Middlesex came up," Lee remembered. "I chose it because of its strong military connections."



Lee got his associate's degree in education from Middlesex College thinking he might like to teach. Then he was accepted to Columbia University where he developed an interest in political science.

He graduated from Columbia in May and has applied to work in the diplomatic security force.

Lee recalls his time at Middlesex College fondly and would recommend it highly to other recent military veterans.

"I think it's hard to swallow for some that Middlesex is a community college, but I think Middlesex is fantastic," Lee said. "I had some great professors, and with the small classroom settings, you knew every professor would meet with you before or after class. The resources available, especially for veterans, are top-notch. Plus, you can get practical work experience while you're going to school; and you find a family, so you never feel alone in your academic journey."

# WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

## HARVESTFEST 2022: AN ANNUAL RITE OF FALL RETURNS TO CAMPUS

A picture-perfect fall day greeted hundreds of visitors to this year's HarvestFest to our Edison campus. Attendees of all ages picked pumpkins, enjoyed delicious food and live music, took photos with Bolt the Colt, and learned about College programming and services during the autumn festival. Visitors also enjoyed the staff and faculty art exhibit, "Reboot: 2022," and the fall theatre production of "Night of the Living Dead."



# GOAL! MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAMS MAKE THE PLAYOFFS



The women's and men's teams qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIX playoffs. After going 11-3-1 and being ranked in the top 10 in the nation this season, the men's soccer team earned the #3 seed in an upcoming tournament with Brookdale Community College.

The women's soccer team enjoyed a remarkable turnaround after not fielding a team in 2019 or 2020. The Colts returned last season winning two games and qualifying for the playoffs as the #5 seed.

Unfortunately, the season ended for both teams after losses against Brookdale Community College. Congratulations to head coaches Javier Velasco and Adrienne Giordano for a fantastic season



## CURTAIN CALL: 'NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD'

The faculty and staff of the Visual, Performing and Media Arts Department staged four performances of "Night of the Living Dead." Helmed by Middlesex College alumnus Calvin Nemeckay, this theatre adaptation of the 1968 film by George Romero tells the story of how "a ragtag group of Pennsylvanians barricade themselves in an old farmhouse to remain safe from a horde of flesh-eating ghouls that are ravaging the East Coast of the United States."

## CONNECTIONS

External Partner(s)	Middlesex College representatives	Action
All State Plastics (South Amboy)	Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning staff	Discussed training needs for All State Plastics employees
ARC of Middlesex County	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Discussed training needs for ARC supervisors
Google	Workforce Development Director Montani	Explored offering Google Career Certificate training
Junior Achievement of New Jersey	President McCormick, Vice Presidents Campbell and Scherr, and Executive Dean Laureano	Met with leadership of JANJ to explore ways to collaborate in helping youth to succeed

## OUTREACH

Date(s)	Outreach Activity	Location or Means of Access
Thursday, October 20	HarvestFest	Edison campus
Sunday, October 23	American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk	Edison campus
Tuesday, October 25	J.F. Kennedy High School Admissions Presentation	Edison
Tuesday, October 25	South River High School Instant Decision Day	South River
Wednesday, October 26	Spotswood High School Admissions Presentation	Spotswood
Thursday, October 27	Dunellen High School College Fair	Dunellen
Friday, November 4	New Brunswick Health Science High Admissions Presentation	New Brunswick
Wednesday, November 9	Sayreville High School Admissions Presentation	Sayreville
Wednesday, November 9	Triple C Housing Community Fair	North Brunswick
Monday, November 14	The Center School College Fair	Somerset
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Paying for College Info Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Health Programs Information Session	Virtual events
On an ongoing basis	Live chat appointments*	Via the web
On an ongoing basis	Admissions Applications Assistance appointments*	Via the web

\*in English and Spanish

## COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location or Means of Access
Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25	College closed in observance of Thanksgiving	
Wednesday, December 7*	Board Committee meetings	via Zoom
Wednesday, December 14 8:30 a.m.	Board meeting	West Hall, Parkview Room and via Zoom

\*All morning (to be determined)