

January 18, 2023

## **NURSING PROGRAM: PREPARING GRADUATES FOR SUCCESS**



For the past sixteen years, Middlesex College has operated a highly-regarded Nursing program in partnership with Hackensack Meridian Health Raritan Bay Medical Center. The Nursing program undergoes regular accreditation review by the Accreditation Commission for Education Nursing. The most recent ACEN accreditation site visit occurred in the Fall, and the College expects to learn of the determination by ACEN this summer. While the Commission has not yet acted, the members of the visiting team commended the College for its program and student outcomes.

Indeed, the first-time pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX) for the Class of 2021 was 95.77% (second highest in the state of New Jersey) and for the Class of 2022 (pictured) was 92%, both well above state and national benchmarks.

The Middlesex College-Hackensack Meridian Health Nursing Program is led by Program Director Kara Kaldawi, and includes faculty and staff who are employees of Hackensack Meridian Health Corporation (HMH).

The highly-selective program admits 90 students every Fall and is designed to be completed in four semesters as a full-time day program.

In addition to their course-embedded clinical work, many students gain additional clinical experiences by working in hospital settings with partner organizations such as HMH and RWJBarnabas.

Students entering their second and final year of the program are encouraged to apply for the HMH Summer Nurse Externship program, which offers a paid summer program where students work together with a Registered Nurse and have opportunities to practice tasks such as physical assessment, wound care, and patient education. Program graduates are eligible to apply for Nurse Residency positions as they transition from students to practicing as registered nurses.

A notable new opportunity for Middlesex College Nursing graduates is a new Nurse Residency Program at the Jack and Sheryl Morris Cancer Center that the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey will establish later this year. All graduates are encouraged from the first day of the program through graduation to continue their nursing education to promote lifelong learning.

The program's current facilities in L'Hommedieu Hall will be enhanced with the addition of a \$1.5 million, faculty-designed renovation that will feature a new, state-of-the-art Nursing simulation suite in which students will be able to practice their skills in a setting that they will encounter in a hospital, including Medical-Surgical, Maternity, and Pediatrics hospital rooms, a Behavioral Health setting, and a fully-equipped Nurse's Station. Renovations are expected to be completed in Fall 2023.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

### A GENEROUS DONATION OF FOOD ARRIVES DURING A SEASON OF THANKS AND GIVING



As the Thanksgiving break approached, the Middlesex College Community Resource Hub and Food Pantry (formerly, the Basic Needs Center) received a generous donation of over 5,000 pounds of food and other basic needs items from Sewa Diwali, a local Edison initiative of Dharmic communities, individuals, and organizations who subscribe to the philosophy that service to humanity is a service to divinity. This year's donors included Sai Datta Peetham, Subodh Yoga Inc., Art of Living, Hindu Sindu Swayamsevak Sangh, BAPS Edison, and Sri Radha Gopinath Temple, India Heritage Foundation.

### BATTER UP! COLTS STAR IS POISED TO PLAY DIVISION I BASEBALL



It was the realization of a dream come true for 19-year-old Braden Ramirez. The standout outfielder will continue his baseball and academic career at the University of Dayton next year. Ramirez set multiple school records at Middlesex College last year and is the first Middlesex College athlete in a number of years to sign a Letter of Intent with a Division I institution.

"The opportunity to play Division I baseball is something I really wanted and I was able to attain it," Ramirez said. "If I didn't go to Middlesex College, that might not have happened. Middlesex gave me the chance to open up more opportunities for myself."

### EDUCATION HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

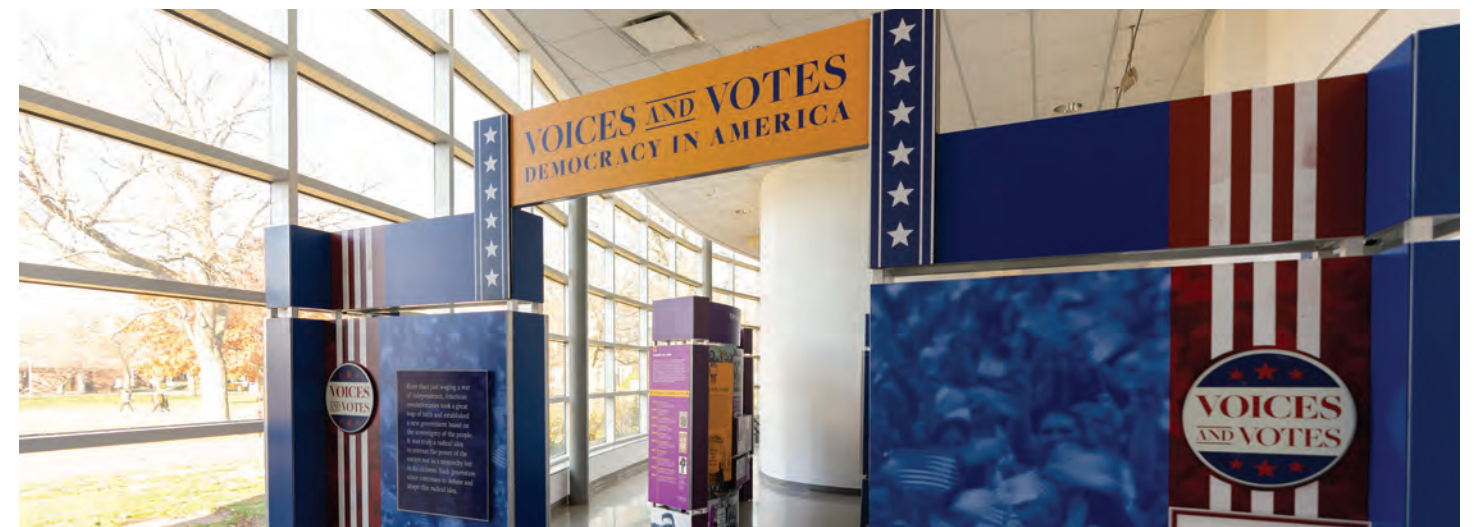


Kappa Delta Pi held an induction ceremony on December 10 for new members (Dzulieta Ismaili-Jean, Olga Quintana, Gina Scalero, and Gabriel Soto) and an award ceremony recognizing Winter graduates (Batoul Almoki, Gina Kish, Khristy Rivas, Gabriel Soto, Sharon Torres, and Nicole Turner) and outstanding members (Nicole Turner and Gina Kish were recognized as Outstanding Member and Emerging Leader, respectively). Kappa Delta Pi members are shown here with faculty sponsor Patty McMahon.

### NATURAL SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT RESEARCH



The Natural Sciences Department held its biannual Natural Sciences Symposium on December 16. Nine students presented on research in Biology, Chemistry, and Sustainability. In addition, several external speakers, including from RWJ Barnabas and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provided insight for Middlesex College students regarding internship opportunities and potential career paths.



### THE SMITHSONIAN COMES TO MIDDLESEX COLLEGE

The College's adaptation of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America* was open to the public from December 1, 2022 to January 6, 2023, and featured historical and contemporary photos, educational and archival video, engaging multimedia interactives with short games and additional footage, photos, and information, and historical objects like campaign souvenirs, voter memorabilia, and protest material.

Dunellen Public Schools	President McCormick, Vice President Scherr, Executive Dean Laureano, and K-12 Partnerships Director Hooper	Met with Superintendent Ross to explore opportunities for collaboration
Edison Township Public Schools	President McCormick, Vice President Scherr, and Executive Dean Laureano	Met with Acting Superintendent Aldarelli and team to explore opportunities for collaboration, including expanding Dual Enrollment
South Plainfield Public Schools	President McCormick, Vice President Scherr, Executive Dean Laureano, and K-12 Partnerships Director Hooper	Met with Superintendent Lishak's team to explore opportunities for collaboration, including expanding Dual Enrollment
Thomas Edison Energy Smart Charter School (Somerset)	President McCormick, Vice President Scherr, Executive Dean Laureano, Acting Dean Howell, Acting Assistant Dean Rodriguez Gregory, and K-12 Partnerships Director Hooper	Toured the school and met with leadership team to explore opportunities for collaboration, including expanding Dual Enrollment
Vantage Apparel (Avenel)	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Explored needs for employee training

Wednesday, December 14	JP Stevens High School Admissions Presentation	Edison
Thursday, December 15	Dunellen Rotary Club	Dunellen
Friday, December 16	South Brunswick High School Presentation on Apprenticeships	South Brunswick
Thursday, December 12	Edison High School Parent Night for Parents of High School Juniors	Edison
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Paying for College Info Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Health Programs Information Session	Virtual events
On an ongoing basis	Live chat appointments*	Via the web

\*in English and Spanish

Wednesday, February 8*	Board Committee meetings	via Zoom
Wednesday, February 15 8:30 a.m.	Board meeting	West Hall, Parkview Room and via Zoom

\*All morning (to be determined)