

Many Points of Pride: What Middlesex Means to Our Community and Beyond



During the 2016–17 academic year, Middlesex Community College celebrated 50 years as the college of our community in Middlesex County and the Meriden/Mid-State area. We also proudly serve all of Connecticut and beyond, through unique programs and distance learning opportunities.

As we celebrate our history, we recognize that students are at the center of Middlesex Community College. By creating meaningful relationships with our diverse population of students and providing high-quality, affordable, and accessible educational experiences, we help students achieve their individual goals and become productive, engaged global citizens. Here are some examples:

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS WITH STRONG LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Center for New Media

Funded by a \$2.5 million USDOL grant, the Center opened in 2014 as one of the most advanced media production facilities at any community college—anywhere.

- Academic programs meet the workforce needs of digital media industry partners such as ESPN, NBC Sports, WFSB, and many other production companies and broadcasters.
- The Corporate Media Center provides customized, creative production services to CSCU institutions, state agencies, nonprofits, and area businesses, generating more than \$100k per year in revenue while offering students valuable hands-on experience.
- MxCC recently hosted the first virtual reality media showcase in the state, highlighting this emerging and innovative production field.

Diagnostic Imaging Programs

MxCC offers primary certification in Radiologic Technology, and post-primary certifications in Computed Tomography and Mammography.

- Evolved from a traditional hospital-based program in 1965 to an innovative community partnership between the College and Middlesex Hospital in 1970.
- In 2015, MxCC became the only Connecticut higher education institution to offer post-primary certifications, increasing employment options and salaries for graduates.
- 100 percent pass rate on national credentialing exams.
- 100 percent post-graduation employment rate.
- 66 percent of Middlesex Health System diagnostic imaging staff are MxCC graduates.
- The associate degree program is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.

Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing Program

MxCC has the only ophthalmic associate degree program among Connecticut's public colleges and universities.

- Created in 1998 and recognized by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation since 1990, it is among the best-equipped and most up-to-date program, according to the 2017 accreditation team.
- 100 percent post-graduation employment rate.
- Annual student-led free eye care clinics have helped thousands of community members in need for 24 years.

Middlesex Accelerated Program (MAP)

Launching in July 2017, MxCC is the first community college in the state to offer concentrated five-week, online mini-semester year-round, leading to a 13-month associate degree in Criminal Justice or General Studies. Other academic programs will be added in 2018. Pending transfer agreements may make it possible for students to complete their associate + bachelor's degrees in three years.

Middlesex in Meriden

Our 20-year history of providing college access to students in Meriden remains strong—enhanced by partnerships with high schools recently renovated as state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces.

- MxCC @Platt—The MxCC Meriden Center will relocate to Platt High School in August 2017, and offer nearly 50 college courses per semester in the late afternoon and evening. More than 400 seats per year will be available *free of charge* to academically qualified high school students and Meriden Public Schools' employees. In turn, MxCC will save \$500k annually in rent and overhead.
- MxCC @Wilcox Tech—Our Advanced Manufacturing Program is located at the modern, high-tech facilities of Wilcox Technical High School. Enrollment has nearly doubled since the program moved there in Fall 2015, saving the College \$15k annually in rent and overhead compared to the leased space used previously.
- Bridge to College—Since the fall of 2015, high school seniors at Maloney and Platt have taken MxCC developmental English and Math courses on their own campuses. These count toward high school graduation and serve as eligibility to enter college-level courses at whichever institution they choose to attend.

Veterinary Technology Program

- Created in 2013 in response to high workforce demand.
- 100 percent post-graduation employment rate.
- Strong student demand (44 applicants for 24 seats).
- Clinical instruction hosted at Pieper Memorial Veterinary Hospital, which built an education wing for MxCC students and veterinary doctoral program residents *using only private funds*.
- Solid partnerships with 10 farms and 22 veterinary hospitals as clinical externship sites, and Yale University's research labs.
- Accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.

PROGRAM INNOVATIONS & SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Prison Education Partnership and Second Chance Pell Pilot

In 2016, Wesleyan University and MxCC formed the Prison Education Partnership to further develop a privately-funded program begun by Wesleyan in 2009. Men and women incarcerated at Cheshire and York Correctional Institutions have the opportunity to take college-level courses from both institutions. In turn, they may apply their credits towards an MxCC associate degree in General Studies, while continuing to expand and deepen their Wesleyan transcript. The U.S. Department of Education selected the Prison Education Program as one of four in Connecticut, and one of only 67 nationally, to participate in the Second Chance Pell Pilot, which allows the use of federal financial aid dollars to support incarcerated students taking college courses in prison.

New Streamlined Enrollment Services

In Fall 2016, the Office of Enrollment Services was created to provide a streamlined enrollment experience for new, continuing, and readmitting students in degree and certificate programs as well as non-credit opportunities.

Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education (MILE)

MILE was established in 1973 to provide stimulating lifelong learning opportunities for adults age 50 and over, at the very reasonable cost of \$60 for two semesters.

- Membership reached an all-time high of 352 adults from approximately 30 Connecticut towns.
- MILE curriculum is viewed as a model for other similar programs.
- 30 percent of MILE revenue goes to MxCC.
- MILE started an immediate response fund (the "Extra Mile Fund") to assist MxCC students in need.

Transitional Year Program (TYP)

TYP is a cohort program that provides one-on-one support to 24 first-year students through an honors program model.

- TYP is the only program of its kind in the state serving students who place into developmental English.
- TYP students have accelerated college success and graduation rates, compared to statewide averages.

Working Cities Challenge Initiative

MxCC is a core team partner of the Working Cities Challenge for the city of Middletown. The city was awarded \$15,000 for the design phase of this community initiative to help single-parent households gain economic empowerment.

2017 Military Friendly® Schools and Employers Silver Level

MxCC earned the 2017 Silver level award in the category of "Community College with outstanding programs and support for the nation's veterans and their families," given by militaryfriendly.com.

Internships in the Community

- MxCC partners with community businesses for internships and employment (ex. Liberty Bank, Global Help Desk Services, Inc.).
- Business Administration, Accounting, and Marketing programs have strong and continuing internship relationships with Brown & Brown Insurance, with offices in Connecticut and nationwide.

NOTABLE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK)

PTK is the international honor society for two-year college students. Its mission is to recognize academic achievement of college students and to provide opportunities for them to grow as scholars and leaders. Chartered in 1986, the Beta Gamma Xi PTK chapter at MxCC was recently awarded Five Star Level status for the second year in a row. PTK officers also received three regional awards for being among the most distinguished and engaged officer teams in 2016–17.

The Center for Civic Engagement

The Center supports the College's mission as a force for positive social change. By expanding opportunities for community-based learning and the exchange of ideas on critical social justice issues, the Center strengthens mutually beneficial relationships among faculty, staff, students, and partners in our local, national, and global communities. Guided by democratic principles, the Center for Civic Engagement encourages everyone to be active citizens and to work together for the common good.

- Approximately 300 students per semester participate in community-engaged learning.
- Monthly college community gatherings called "Courageous Conversations" are held to discuss relevant issues of the day.
- Magic Food Bus food pantry served nearly 700 MxCC households since it opened in September 2016.

Computer Club Technology Center

The MxCC Technology Center is supported by the MxCC Computer Club. Student members provide hands-on technical expertise and information sharing to the college community.

- Electronics recycling program held during Earth Week.
- Fundraising for laptop giveaways to needy students each year.
- Hosts Tech Fest and networking events to showcase and share the latest innovations.
- Conducts special projects such as refurbishing computers for local autism center.



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