



Attendees hear about MxCC's training offerings at the Business Partnership Breakfast on March 29

MxCC Foundation
Middlesex Community College Foundation, Inc.

APRIL 2018

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**ELECTRONICS
RECYCLING**

The MxCC Community Connector

News for friends and supporters of Middlesex Community College

Local Businesses Learn About Partnerships and Training Offered by MxCC

Middlesex Community College welcomed area business representatives to a complimentary Business Partner Breakfast event on Thursday, March 29, 2018. More than 60 companies, nonprofits, and individuals came to the Middletown campus to learn about cost-effective training solutions offered by experts at MxCC.



The program offers customized training to both private and public employers. Skilled instructors can work with local companies to design workshops and classes specific to their needs. Common topics include building effective working relationships with teams, time management to boost productivity, and customer service. By taking MxCC on the road, faculty can provide training workshops at company facilities or in MxCC's cutting-edge classrooms.

"The response from the business breakfast has been excellent," said **Diane Bordonaro**, director of noncredit programs at MxCC, who also organized the event on behalf of the College's workforce development efforts. "People were interested in many types of subjects, from human resources to YouTube training."

[Click here to read more about business partnership event](#) or contact Diane to set up a workshop at dbordonaro@mxcc.edu.

State Poetry Winners Reading at MxCC

Thursday, April 26

Lower Parking Lot
Middletown Campus
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

eCYCLING ON CAMPUS!



In celebration of Earth Week, the MxCC Computer Club is partnering with Green Monster e-Cycling of West Hartford to sponsor the annual electronics recycling event. Drop off your used computers, printers, fax machines, radios, TVs, etc. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase computers for MxCC students in need.

For more details, please visit the [MxCC website](#).

SAVE THE DATES

Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

April 20, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Chapman Hall, Room 808

Academic Convivium

April 27, 2018

Founders Hall

Keynote by Merle Harris,
Board of Regents

Academic Awards

May 4, 2018

6 p.m.

Chapman Hall, Room 808

51st Commencement

May 24, 2018

6 p.m.

Middletown Campus
Address by
Christopher Kukk, PhD,
WCSU Political Science
Professor

**Register Now for
Summer and Fall
Classes**

MxCC student **Mari Spallone** of Clinton was selected as a 2017-18 Connecticut Student Poet by the Connecticut Poetry Circuit. Mari joined the other college student winners from Yale, Wesleyan, Trinity, and Quinnipiac, for a poetry reading on Thursday, March 29, 2018, in the library's periodicals room.



Mari Spallone, second from left, with student poets from Connecticut

"It's very surprising to receive this honor, especially since this is my first time writing poetry," said Mari, who is pursuing a liberal arts degree. "After a career in accounting and financial management, I was looking for a change and enrolled in a creative writing course at Middlesex. The first section of the class focused on poetry, and my professor encouraged me to enter my writing into the Connecticut Poetry Circuit competition."

[Click here to read more about the poetry reading.](#)

MxCC@Platt in Meriden Spotlight

Each month we will bring you highlights from the MxCC Meriden campus at Platt High School.

When **Carolyn Innocenzi** took the reigns as the MxCC@Platt evening coordinator last fall, she observed how some students had challenges getting to and from class or had car repairs. In addition, some students didn't have their own computers and relied on the media center's technology to complete their homework.

Carolyn mentioned these stories to her husband, Ken, who serves on the MxCC Foundation board. The two then decided to create a Meriden-specific scholarship. "These students work hard to balance family and school, and they also know how important it is for them financially to get their degree," Carolyn said.

Each year, the Carolyn and Ken Innocenzi Administrator-at-Platt Scholarship will provide \$500 to a female student and \$500 to a male student who qualify academically (2.0 or above). Applicants also must submit an essay and two references from professors.

"We see their passion and eagerness in wanting to be successful in what they do, and this is our small way of helping these students have less of a burden," added Ken.

[Click here to find out more about Meriden classes.](#)



Ken and Carolyn
Innocenzi

Alumni Spotlight

Each month, we shine the light on MxCC alumni who are making a difference and reaching for their dreams.

In 1966, the Savastra family settled in Middletown, arriving as immigrants from Italy. Because of Middletown's large Italian community, it wasn't long before **Salvatore Savastra** displayed his soccer skills with fellow athletes from the area.

As a founding member of the Middletown High School soccer club, Sal led the team in winning the Mid-State League Conference Championship in 1972. He was also an All-State pick as a senior, graduating in 1975.



Sal Savastra

When it was time to apply for college, Sal followed



Summer classes begin on May 29. Fall classes begin on August 28.

[Click here for more information on how to register.](#)

Questions?
Call MxCC Enrollment Services at 860-343-5719 or [click here to email.](#)

ART EXHIBIT



Broken Barriers

"BENDS AND SHADOWS" Ben Parker

Through May 4, 2018
in the
Pegasus Gallery
Chapman Hall

[Click here for more info](#)



ART & MEDITATION WORKSHOP April 14, 2018

Noon to 2 p.m.
Hosted by
Judith de Graffenried,
Professor of Fine and Graphic
Arts

Snow Hall, Room 409

a friend and ended up at Eastern Connecticut State University. It turned out not to be the school for him, although he did take some general courses with a goal to eventually study business and accounting.

Another friend and Italian compatriot, Edward Zim mitti, was coaching at Middlesex Community College in the early 1970s, so Sal enrolled at MxCC to play organized soccer in his hometown again.

[Click here to read how Sal's goals reached beyond the soccer field.](#)



Certified Nurses Aide students completed all of their classes and clinical training on April 3, 2018, and passed the State of Connecticut CNA certification exam with flying colors. The Meriden students were recognized in a special graduation ceremony (above) at MxCC@Platt in Meriden. Congratulations to all!

PTK Students Selected to the All-Connecticut Academic Team

MxCC students, **Brittney Cotrona** of Meriden and **Alan Marshall** of Middletown, were recognized for their academic achievements and leadership accomplishments on Friday, April 6, 2018, at the State Capitol during the annual All-Connecticut Academic Team awards ceremony. Brittney and Alan are members of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society of two-year colleges.



Brittney Cotrona and Alan Marshall

Nineteen students from 10 Connecticut community colleges received certificates and medallions and were recognized with official statements by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. Congratulations to Brittney and Alan!

Cap and Gown Walk/Run is Coming up Soon! Middlesex Y and MxCC Team Up

Local runners (and walkers!) are invited to participate in the 15th Annual Cap and Gown 5K Run/Walk to be held on Friday, May 11, 2018, at the MxCC Middletown campus.



This year, the Middlesex YMCA is partnering with the MxCC Foundation to present the event along with the College. The road race is open to the public with a free Kids Fun Run starting at 5:30 p.m. The USATF certified 5K will begin at 6 p.m.



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Register now at <http://mxcc.edu/5k/>. Enter before April 15 to qualify for the early-bird raffle. Enter by May 8 and pay only \$20. After May 9 through race day, the entry fee will be \$25. MxCC student fee is \$15. Prizes will be awarded to overall champions (men and women), alumni, students, faculty/staff winners (men and women), and the top three men and women in each age division of the 5K.

"I run because it makes me feel strong and healthy and clear-headed, and because there are so many great people in the running community," says MxCC faculty member **Christine Witkowski**, who helps organize the event with fellow runner and MxCC staff member, **Yvonne Rubin**.

The scenic 5K run/walk (3.1 miles) follows along beautiful tree-lined roads near the reservoirs behind the Middletown campus.

There's still time to sponsor and participate. Questions? Call **Cheryl Dumont-Smith** at 860-343-5869.

MxCC Faculty Earn Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to **Donna Hylton**, computer information technology professor, for being selected to receive the 2018 Educational Excellence and Distinguished Service Award at MxCC, and to **Andrea Levy**, social services professor, for being chosen as the recipient of the Board of Regents Teaching Award for MxCC.



Donna Hylton and Andrea Levy

Donna was nominated for excellence in teaching, leadership, and administration; for continually evolving her program's curriculum; for connecting students with employers; for creating the on-campus Tech Center; and, for developing the STEAM Train organization which is making such a positive difference in our community. The award program recognizes one member in the 4C's bargaining unit at MxCC each year.

Nominated by her colleagues, Andrea was selected by a system-wide committee for the BOR Teaching Award. She will be honored for her teaching excellence during the BOR Faculty Advisory Committee's Annual Conference on Friday, April 13, 2018, at Southern Connecticut State University. This award is given to recognize faculty who have distinguished themselves as outstanding teachers and have a track record of promoting instructional improvements for their programs.

Congratulations, Donna and Andy, on your well-deserved recognitions!

Since 1966, MxCC has provided high-quality, affordable, and accessible education to a diverse population, enhancing the strengths of individuals through degree, certificate, and lifelong learning programs that lead to university transfer, employment, and an enriched awareness of our shared responsibilities as global citizens. Part of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, MxCC offers more than 65 degree or certificate programs at the main 38-acre campus in Middletown, MxCC@Platt in Meriden, and online.