



Click image for interview with English Professor Christine Ruggiero and student poet Mari Spallone on Middlesex Moments. Come to the poetry reading on March 28 at 4 p.m. in the library (postponed from March 8).

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MARCH 2018

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**BUSINESS
PARTNER**

The MxCC Community Connector

News for friends and supporters of Middlesex Community College

Phi Theta Kappa Earns Multiple Regional Awards

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Beta Gamma Xi Chapter at Middlesex Community College, received several awards at PTK's New England Regional Convention held in Manchester, Conn., on March 9 and 10, 2018.



Messanvi Amenounve, Laura Schneider, and York Clement, with PTK Coordinator Michelle Coach

On behalf of the chapter, MxCC PTK students **York Clement** of Berlin and **Laura Schneider** of Middletown accepted the awards. The chapter earned the Most Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award (First Place), the Most Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award (Second Finalist), the Most Distinguished Chapter Award (Second Finalist), the Honors in Action Distinguished Theme Award (Peace and War), and the Five Star Level Award.

"PTK opens doors to many scholarships for students who are recognized by their higher achievements, and it gives access to a variety of tools that, if well used, engenders phenomenal results for the participants," said MxCC student **Messanvi Amenounve** of Meriden. Amenounve was honored with an award for his service and dedication to the region, having served as the Central New England Regional Officer for 2017-18.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved! [Click here to read more about the MxCC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society awards.](#)

[Ophthalmic Design Donations Span the Globe](#)

BREAKFAST

Thursday, March 22
Chapman Hall, Room 808
Middletown Campus
8 to 9:30 a.m.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW](#)

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP TRAINING AT MxCC



Learn about cost-effective training solutions such as time management, customer service, and working with teams. Stay for a free class in The Power of Social Media from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m.

For more information, email DBordonaro@mxcc.edu or call 860-343-5716.

ART EXHIBIT



Broken Barriers

"BENDS AND SHADOWS" Ben Parker

March 26 to May 4, 2018
Pegasus Gallery
Opening reception April 2
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

[Click here for more info](#)

Donate Life



Tuesday, April 19
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stop by the cafeteria to find out how to sign up as an organ donor.

Professor Emeritus Ray Dennis recently gave a \$1,000 gift to the MxCC Foundation to use for the purchase of 900+ pairs of eyeglass lenses. Professor Dennis and Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing (OD&D) students will take them on a humanitarian trip to Riobamba, Ecuador in May and to the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota later this year. These donations, and the volunteer work that he and his students provide, assure free eye exams and glasses to many individuals in need throughout the world.



Professor Dennis' gift was accompanied by an additional donation of 900+ pairs of eyeglass frames he recently received from VSP Vision Care, a multinational corporation providing vision health insurance.

The OD&D associate degree program prepares students for future work as licensed opticians working to help others through the design and dispensing of eyeglasses, contact lenses, and low-vision aids. For more information about the program, please visit the [MxCC website](#).

Thanks to all of you for giving others the gift of sight!

MxCC@Platt in Meriden Spotlight

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

Debra "Dee" Kennedy gets emotional remembering when she first entered a Middlesex class in Meriden at age 58. "Middlesex is a wonderful school," she said while discussing her college experience in an interview last fall. "There's no excuse for anyone not to do well here. People reach out to you from the counselor's office to your teachers. The bonds here are amazing."



Dee Kennedy

Dee is studying human services with a focus on substance abuse. Even though she also travels to the Middletown campus for classes, she likes the small size of classes in the Meriden Platt High School location. The separate wing at Platt that is dedicated for Middlesex use, along with the media center, are great assets for the Meriden campus. "It is a very intimate environment, and I have not met anyone at the College who did not care," she added.

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

Alumni Spotlight

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

When **Ryan Nicholson** graduated from Xavier High School a few years ago, he first headed for the University of Connecticut to study biology. While there, he felt the bio route didn't really work for him, so the Middletown native enrolled at Middlesex Community College to explore other educational options.



Ryan Nicholson

As a full-time MxCC student and while working full-time, Ryan took general studies classes and eventually landed in an art class with **Professor Judith DeGraffenried**. During this period, he discovered a genuine interest in graphic design. Little did he know at the time that this would become the point where his future career and his lifelong enthusiasm for baseball would intersect.

In his final semester at Middlesex, Ryan accepted a graphic design internship with the locally popular sports team, the New Britain Bees. The Bees organization is a member of the independent Atlantic League of Professional



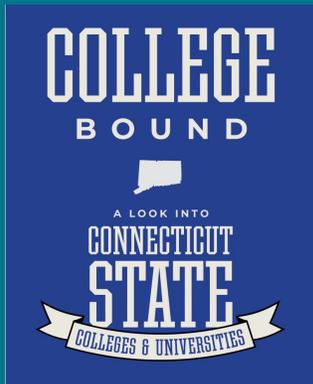
Cap and Gown Run/Walk

Friday, May 11, 2018

Kids Fun Run 5:30 p.m.

5K 6 p.m.

[**CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP NOW**](#)



[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the CSU "College Bound" documentary and discover the many benefits of Connecticut's public higher education system.

IN THE NEWS

- [Hartford Courant](#)
- [Middletown Patch](#)
- [Middletown Press](#)
- [Middlesex Moments](#)

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Baseball and hosts 72 home games during the season.

Meanwhile, despite some initial doubts from his family about his choice to study art, Ryan went on to graduate from MxCC with an associate degree in graphic design and new media in 2017.

[Click here to see where Ryan is today.](#)

How to Be an Alumni Mentor to MxCC Students

Middlesex Community College alumni have become productive and successful members of their respective communities in fields ranging from law enforcement to broadcast communications to allied health, business, and much more. This year, organizers from the MxCC alumni planning network created an avenue for alumni to mentor and encourage current students and other alumni as a way of paying it forward.

Alumni are invited to step forward if they are interested in being part of a particular panel discussion, a shadowing opportunity, and/or an informational interview with students who may have professional questions. The MxCC Marketing Office is gathering information to be given to the Career Counseling Department for future use.

If you are interested in joining other alums who wish to pay it forward, [please click here.](#)

Prospective Students Explore Experience College Day

Experience College Day, held on March 15, was a useful, informative, and enjoyable event for 122 high school students and 24 counselors who took a closer look at MxCC academic programs while getting a feel for campus life.



MxCC faculty also led classroom presentations in accounting, computer information technology, early childhood education, new media, and veterinary technology for the visiting students.

"I really like the atmosphere of this campus. The presenters were easy to understand and kept it real," said **Jalene Ford** of Meriden, who is also looking into taking a course at MxCC@Platt.

Rebecca Davis, MxCC enrollment management coordinator, said 15 students have already submitted applications after their visit, and several high school counselors remarked that they will definitely attend next year.

The students came from 10 high schools in the towns of Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, Haddam-Killingworth, Meriden, Middletown, Wallingford, and Westbrook. [Click here for more photos.](#)

Get Health Tips at the Public Health Fair on April 5

Learn about ways to support your individual and community health at the MxCC Public Health Fair on Thursday, April 5, 2018, from noon to 3 p.m. in the Founders Hall Pavilion. Organized by **Professor Rebecca Loew's** public health class, the fair will provide



important information on topics such as the opioid epidemic, sleep health, alcohol abuse, diabetes, anxiety, heart disease, stroke, and the impact of air pollution. The event is supported by a New Day Fund grant from the MxCC Foundation.



Middlesex Hospital Heart Event Held at MxCC

On February 28, MxCC hosted Middlesex Hospital's Women's Wellness Fund Heart-to-Heart event. **Denise D'Ascenzo** of WFSB, right, welcomed hundreds of women for a talk on women's heart health by **Dr. Rekha Mankad**, cardiologist with the Mayo Clinic. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the United States, and this conversation focused on how heart disease affects women, and how it can be prevented and treated. [Click here for more photos.](#)



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 60 degree or certificate programs at the main 38-acre campus in Middletown, MxCC@Platt in Meriden, and online.