

# Season's Greetings



**MxCC Foundation**  
Middlesex Community College Foundation, Inc.

DECEMBER 2017

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**MxCC**  
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
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Don't Forget!  
Winter Session Classes  
Start December 26

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## The MxCC Community Connector

News for friends and supporters of Middlesex Community College

### 10 New Day Fund Grants Boost Student Experience

The MxCC Foundation has approved 10 New Day Fund grants to be given during the 2017-18 academic year. Faculty and staff are notified at the beginning of each academic year that money is available for this purpose and are invited to apply.



These mini-grants of up to \$1,000 are made available to support a variety of faculty-inspired projects that raise the level of student experience at Middlesex. The list of projects is as follows:

- *Academic Support Group for Students of Color* – **Ricky Barrett**
- *Art Exhibition/Workshop on Origami/Paper Pattern Art* – **Matt Weber**
- *Art & Meditative Sound Healing Workshops* – **Judith de Graffenried**
- *CT Security Officer Certification Course* – **Rebecca Rist-Brown**
- *Experience College Day* – **Gayle Barrett**
- *MxCC Public Health Fair* – **Rebecca Loew**
- *Communication & Professional Skills Pilot Project* – **Chris Gargamelli**
- *Presentation on Teaching Strategies to assist students with special needs transitioning to college* – **Donna Bontatibus**
- *Rubik's Cube purchase to assist in teaching applied logic, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to students* – **Kegan Samuel**
- *SNAP Support Services and Training to assist students with "soft skills" training and support* – **Diane Bordonaro & Patrice Barrett**

The Foundation is also working to support faculty who are participating in the CLICK Initiative which provides international learning experiences for our students.

Congratulations to all!

No RSVP is required!  
Questions? Please [email us](#) or  
call 860-343-5719

## SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS COMING

Stay tuned for details  
coming in January or call  
Cheryl Dumont-Smith at  
860-343-5869 or Corey  
Martell at 860-343-5701.

## Fill & Fund the Food Bus



While the Magic Food Bus is closed for the intersession, Trent Wright established a [GoFundMe page](#) to support the food pantry with his attempt to set the world record for the "Most Miles Traveled on a Spin Bike for Two Hours."

[Click here to donate](#) and stop by Chapman 808 on Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m. to watch Trent break his six-hour record!

## ART EXHIBITS

Through January 3  
"WHERE I WANDER"  
Mixed Media  
by Kathleen Deep

Opening January 17  
"DISBELIEF PILLOWS"  
Sculpture & Interactive  
Projects  
by Melanie Carr

Pegasus Gallery

[Click here for more info](#)

## In the News

[Middletown Patch](#)  
[Middletown Press](#)  
[Psychology Today](#)

## Students Provide Valuable Feedback and Win!

In the past month, MxCC has been conducting student surveys to gain feedback and opinions in a number of areas related to MxCC's strategic planning focused on improving our student experience. Over 500 students took the survey and, as completers, all of them were entered into a drawing for four \$50 Follett Bookstore gift cards.

The lucky winners are **Yacine Beljoudi**, **Shakyrá Chaparro**, **Meaghan Morelle**, and **Ceara Wetteman**. Best wishes to our winners and thanks to everyone who participated in providing the College with valuable planning information!

## Perkins Grant Supports Two Technical Education Projects at MxCC

### Vet Tech Synthetic Canine

Middlesex veterinary technology students are some of the first technician students in the nation to practice clinical skills on a SynDaver canine educational device. **Chris Gargamelli, DVM**, the program's coordinator, recently introduced the lifelike model to the students in their clinical classroom at Pieper



Veterinary Hospital. The synthetic canine includes every anatomical component that is found in a living dog, including realistic skin, fat, bones, muscles, ligaments, joints, and bodily systems.

"We want our students to be proficient in hands-on clinical skills before performing them on a live animal," explained Professor Gargamelli. "With the synthetic canine, students can practice drawing blood, inserting IV catheters, intubation, taking X-rays, and much more."

Second-year student **Kayla Litke** and her classmates are enthusiastic about learning vet tech skills by using the sophisticated canine device. "I love it. I've never worked with anything like this before," she stated after taking its pulse and inserting an IV into the dog's front paw.

### 360-Degree Virtual Reality

Last month, more than 70 high school seniors visited the **Center for New Media** to engage in a half-day workshop called "360-Degree Learning: VR Video." The participants traveled from Nathan Hale-Ray (East Haddam), Portland, Valley Regional (Deep River), Vinal Tech (Middletown), and Westbrook high schools.



MxCC faculty and partners from CTGS Productions led three sessions that included: shooting video with 360-degree camera; video editing in Adobe Premiere Pro software; and a high-end VR experience segment. All the students interacted with hands-on access to the cameras, computers, software, and VR equipment provided by MxCC.

At the end of the workshop, each school was given a 360 camera with accessories for the students to take back with them and use their new skills to prepare a virtual reality video on their own. They will bring back their creations to the MxCC arts and media festival to be held next May.

## Consider a Gift of Education This Holiday Season

This is the time of year for giving and for some people that means charitable donations. You can help the MxCC Foundation and receive a tax deduction while the Foundation gets some

Do Good While You Shop



Look for MxCC Foundation on  
AmazonSmile



much-needed support for students at Middlesex Community College.

**Stock or Securities:** Make a gift of stock or securities to support the Foundation and avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation of your stock.

**Individual Retirement Account (IRA):** If you are 70.5 or older with an IRA, you can transfer a gift to the Foundation without incurring tax consequences.

**One-Time Gift:** A gift in any amount will help our students move forward.

We appreciate our donors and extend thanks on behalf of the grateful students we serve. Happy Holidays to all!

--Cheryl Dumont-Smith



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.

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