Forging a Path Forward in the New Year

Middlesex Community College has many reasons to celebrate. In 2018, the college community continues its dedicated work toward the strategic goals of Rebooting Our Advising, Registration, and Retention System; Developing a 21st-Century Marketing Plan; and Declaring Our Academic Identity. The task force for each goal met during the fall semester and presented their findings in a campus-wide meeting prior to the staff holiday party on December 20. For more details on the task forces and their work, visit [http://mxcc.edu/strategic-priorities](http://mxcc.edu/strategic-priorities).

Everyone at MxCC is here to “serve better, work smarter, listen to our students, and listen to each other,” reminded MxCC academic dean, Steve Minkler, at the gathering. “We can take comfort in knowing that ‘The MxCC Way’ is the way of choice for our students, our community, and for us.”
With profits from yearlong fundraising efforts, the MxCC Computer Club gave away laptops to eight deserving fellow students, twice as many as last year. Student Peter Ereshena, the club’s president, along with Louis Sapia, associate professor of computer information technology, presented the computers to recipients at a December 15 ceremony in the Founders Pavilion.

Emira Martin who recently recovered from a debilitating bout of meningitis, is ready to challenge herself now that she has her own computer. “I come from a household that believes in education. Plus, my daughter will be jealous now that I have a new laptop,” said Martin, a part-time criminology student. She plans to specialize in forensic psychology and work with adolescent sex offenders.

Computer engineering technology student Jonathan Remanche beamed with happiness when he received one of the laptops. “This is so hard to believe,” he said. “I need to do a lot of computer work for my major, and now I don’t need to borrow a computer anymore.”

The other recipients are Mustafa Alsamirrale, Brittany Marshall, Antonio Ortega, Soufiane Sendi, and Alana Zartolas.

The MxCC Computer Club extends their thanks and appreciation to all those who donated to support special gift of technology and education.

### Bristol-Myers Squibb Donates Lab Equipment

Students in the MxCC veterinary technology program continue to benefit from donations, this time in the form of clinical and laboratory equipment worth almost $30,000 from Bristol-Myers Squibb. The drugmaker recently moved its Wallingford operations out of state and contacted MxCC to see if the equipment would be useful for our students.

The donated items include dissecting microscopes, an ultrasound system, biomedical freezer, veterinary anesthesia ventilator, dental prophylaxis unit, i-STAT blood analyzer, centrifuge machines, carts, scales, and other miscellaneous lab supplies and glassware. MxCC staff moved most of the equipment to both the clinical space at Pieper Veterinary Hospital and the Middletown campus in November.

"These donations have immediately impacted the program, with our students using the anesthesia unit and ultrasound machine in the VET 151 class as soon as they arrived last fall," said Assistant Professor Chris Gargamelli, DVM, "These units enhance educational opportunities and increase hands-on opportunities for our students."

Thank you Bristol-Myers Squibb. We’ll miss you!
On December 18, Trent Wright, coordinator of institutional advancement, challenged himself and others by attempting to set a world spinning record and raise funds for the Magic Food Bus at the same time. He completed two hours of spinning for a total of 74.37 miles, about 37.18 mph. Trent commented that although it was not as fast as he hoped, it could still be a world record.

The best part is that the challenge has raised at least $1,105. In addition, the food bus received food donations from individuals during both the MxCC holiday party and the 4Cs union party.

Many thanks to all of our generous donors for making the Magic Food Bus pantry such a great success. During the fall semester, it served 1,071 students and their families. Since the pantry operates without any direct allocation from the state or MxCC budget, its continued success depends on indirect support from volunteers, grants, and your donations.

You can still donate to this cause by visiting the GoFundMe page.

**MxCC Military Initiatives Honored for Being "Better for Veterans"**

Middlesex Community College has again been named a Silver Level Military Friendly® School Award recipient in the category of Small Community College-Connecticut for 2018. For more than a decade, these ratings have set the standard for colleges demonstrating positive employment and education outcomes for veterans and their families. MxCC has been recognized as a Military Friendly School since 2012 and currently enrolls about 175 student veterans.

"Middlesex is approved for the training of veterans and their families under chapter Title 38. Eligible students may use VA benefits to pursue a degree or certificate program. We also offer tuition waivers for veterans and reserve or active guard members," explained Peter Galgano, veterans outreach coordinator.

For more information about about these programs, please contact Peter Galgano at 860-343-5797 or visit the MxCC website.