

Every Vote Matters at Middlesex Community College

MCC provides access to affordable education for a diverse community from all ethnic backgrounds and identities, preparing individuals for success and lifelong learning. We promote academic excellence, provide workforce development opportunities, and empower all learners to become productive and socially responsible members of our local and global communities.

MCC was accepted in the inaugural Voter Friendly Designation process. MCC's Voter Friendly Coalition consists of campus members from diverse areas working to develop and support implementation of a campus wide effort to increase civic learning and participation. Middlesex continues to affiliate with the Campus Vote Project and the ALL IN Challenge to encourage and assist students as they establish participatory habits to last beyond their college experience.

While MCC abides by and exceeds the requirements of the Higher Education Act of 1965 that mandates availability of voter registration forms to all students, MCC is continuing to further democratic engagement into campus life as students explore their political beliefs and engage in the democratic process.

- MCC joins universities and colleges nationwide to commemorate the adoption of the United States Constitution on Constitution and Citizenship Day. In September 2017, Civil Rights pioneer and activist Joan Mulholland spoke about her personal experience to an overflow audience. Constitution and Citizenship Day 2018 is in the planning stage and will be held in accordance with the Federal requirements.
- The 60th Anniversary of Law Day was held on May 3, 2018. Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan's presentation focused *Constitutional Protections of Liberty and Justice*. Constitution and Citizenship Day. Law Day 2019 presenters will be selected to present on issues that raise awareness and impact local and global communities. Selection for 2018-2019 will be finalized as the semester approaches.
- The College has participated in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement Survey (NSLVE). This will continue to be of increasing interest as Massachusetts Legislators are in the process of passing legislation to strengthen and standardize K-12 civic instruction to offer students new kinds of civic learning opportunities.
- National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) is a national holiday on the fourth Tuesday of September and will be observed on Sept 25, 2018. Volunteers will be on both campuses to provide voter registration. MCC was recently ranked among the top 100 partners by National Voter Registration Day in registering voters in 2017. Updates of the EVERYVOTEMATTERS web site and increasing presence on social media will be developed and implemented to support voter registration and awareness.
- Information on DACA (Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals) is shared with students, faculty and staff through programming and workshops.
- Interdisciplinary Studies courses incorporate a wide variety of concepts and experiences and are meant to lead and support the overall First-Year Experience at Middlesex Community College. Interdisciplinary Weekend topics have included Immigration and Asian Connections. These experiences will continue to evolve as issues emerge.
- The annual Diversity Summit engages students in matters that affect their lives, school, workplace and communities. The Summit brings students together across race, ethnicity,

gender, religion, nationality, socio-economic status, ability, sexual orientation and other aspects of cultural identity.

- International Fellowships are an academic opportunity for MCC students to visit another country to study its history and culture. Since 1992, Middlesex has offered fellowships to China, Russia, Costa Rica, Spain, Ireland, Europe and Belize. Fellowships will continue and counties vary from year to year.
- For five years MCC's AmeriCorps VISTA have served at the Bartlett Community Partnership School in Lowell. MCC will be renewed for an AmeriCorps VISTA position to be placed in Admissions with a focus on MCC student retention.
- Within MCC's Student Affairs Division, the Office of Student Engagement coordinates the Faculty Engagement application process which supports faculty to embed co curricular engagement activities in their courses. Engagement promotes a sense of community, experiential learning, and meaningful conversations that shape the whole college student. Research shows that *"students who are actively involved in activities outside the classroom tend to do better academically than their uninvolved peers."* (Kuh,2001) Fifty faculty design out of classroom activities for over one thousand students focusing on correctional institutions, museums and community organizations focusing on the environment, education, history, theater, children immigration, hunger and homelessness.
- The Military and Veteran Centers provide advocates who assist military service members and their families in the transition from military service to higher education, by providing support and guidance during the application, admissions and academic process.
- Within MCC's Student Affairs division, the Office of Civic and Service-Learning is central to dissemination of voter registration information. New student emphasis on voting awareness will occur during Opening Day Orientation, classroom visits, Activity and Club Fairs, tabling, social media, posters, flyers and the EVERYVOTE MATTERS website. www.middlesex.mass.edu/everyvotematters Turbo Vote will continue to be a voter registration and awareness resource for the entire campus community.
- Service-Learning is a credit-bearing academic experience where students participate in an organized service project or activity that meets identified community needs. The academic portion of the project comes in the form of reflection assignments created by and assigned by the faculty. Service-Learning provides students with deeper understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility. Since 1992, hundreds of students in many academic divisions are continuing the tradition of choosing this option.
- In 2016 over one million Early Voting ballots were cast across the Commonwealth with more than 22% of registered voters participating. With the increased interest in both the 2018 midterm elections and local ballot questions, these numbers are expected to increase. Classroom outreach will include registration information available to all faculty for inclusion on Blackboard and E learning instruction methodology resources.
- MCC classes begin September 4, 2018 which coincides with the Massachusetts State Primary election. MCC will provide voter registration information until the voter registration deadline October 17, 2018. Commencing on that date and continuing until the

November 6, 2018 election, candidate information and local ballot questions will be available in multiple ways. At all events, pocket size copies of the United States Constitution, All Votes Matter stickers and giveaways will be distributed. Bill of Rights

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kiosks are available for each campus and will be used at appropriate events. Presidential life size cardboard cut outs, table cloths and retractable voting banners will be visible in many different venues across our Bedford and Lowell campuses.

- Office of Civic and Service-Learning staff will regularly reach out to Lowell and Bedford election officials. Regular contact with the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Election office provides registration forms and up to date information about changes to the voting process. Ballot question summaries will be available via links posted on the EVERYVOTEMATTERS website. Local community groups such as lowellvotes.org, the League of Women Voters www.lvwma.org will continue as resources. Students, staff and faculty will assist with voter registration.
- New Student Orientation, Opening Day activities, in classrooms and at campus events including Activity and Club Fairs will have voting registration and voting information available via tabling, posters and social media and on the EVERYVOTEMATTERS website. Emphasis on utilizing the Massachusetts Secretary of State's online voter registration link office and Turbo Vote will be supplemented by paper voter registration forms in multiple languages will also be available on each campus.
- MCC students will attend the Massachusetts Higher Education Advocacy Day in March and join hundreds of students meeting with representatives focusing on increased public funding for higher education and the issue of mounting student debt.
 - *"View 360 -Vital Conversations about Critical Issues"* offered by the Office of Student Engagement and Retention will continue conversations and provide opportunities for different perspectives. Issues in the past have included gun control and a *What Lives Matter?* presentation that included spoken word, poetry and audience participation to help attendees explore the conditioning, prejudices and stereotypes today. These programs are in the planning stages and will be one component to the success of raising voter awareness
- MCC's International and Multicultural Office will continue a schedule of events entitled *"International Peace Series,"* to promote understanding of different narratives and encourage dialogues in the college and local communities. The series culminates in the annual Social Justice in Action Conference.
- Middlesex will continue with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to establish a Public Humanities Center at MCC. Lowell's history of immigrant families led to an uncertain new industrial era. Nearly 200 years later with our shifting global economy, these same issues are pressing and are central to the College's immigration focus. The challenges still reverberate as a monument to the dynamic human story. With the diversity present in our student body and the communities we serve, these meaningful experiences for an ever widening audience will continue to be offered through curricular and co-curricular models and in conjunction with community organizations.

MCC's TEAM

- Office of Civic and Service-Learning staff
- Director of Office of Student Engagement and Retention and Staff
- MCC Web and Applications Manager
- MCC Library Staff
- Dean and Assistant Dean of Students
- Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities

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- Deans and Campus Managers
- Admissions Staff
- Advising staff
- MCC Honors Program
- Office of Marketing and Publications
- Student Government, Organizations and Clubs □
- Office of International and Multicultural Affairs □
- Program for Asian American Student Advancement □
- Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society
- Provost and Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs □
- Executive Director of Government & Community Relations

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