



Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
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Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023, 2023-2024

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Executive Summary

This Civic Action Plan formalizes existing initiatives across and throughout Middlesex College and extends those initiatives with deliberate planful new programming to further engage the college community in civic and democratic activity. It was developed by the Department of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships but encompasses work that spans the College community. Our first Civic Action Plan was constructed in partnership with the campus-wide Civic Engagement Subcommittee; that Committee is temporarily dormant. In its stead, the Department of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships took the lead in initiating collaborative efforts across and beyond the Middlesex College community. This Plan spans two academic years (2022-2023 and 2023-2024) and both serves to document areas of growth as well as formalizes initiatives intended to move the needle on civic learning and democratic engagement. This is a critical time for our democracy and for our communities, and the Plan has been created with the timeliness of these imperatives at the forefront.

The mission of Middlesex College is to provide access to a quality, affordable education for a diverse population, to support student success for lifelong learning, and to strengthen the economic, social and cultural life of the community.

In accordance with our Mission and the supporting strategic goals, in particular those following, the purpose of this plan is to further student involvement in democratic and civic actions to the betterment of themselves, their families and their communities

Goal B. Middlesex College Focused on Students

Strategic Initiative #1: Employ engaged pedagogy and provide stimulating learning environments that offer multiple approaches to learning

Strategic Initiative #2: Develop curricular and co-curricular activities and opportunities that expose students to new opportunities and horizons

C. Middlesex College Engaged with Our Community

The basis of the Plan is derived from the Department of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships' 2022-2023 Strategic Plan which has been approved by the Dean, Student Engagement and Executive Dean, Student and Enrollment Services.

Our history portrays a longstanding respect for democratic and community civic engagement. Middlesex College created the Department of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships and the position of Director, Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships in April 2019. However, the College's involvement in the voter registration drives started in the Spring 2004 semester with the EOF (New Jersey's Educational Opportunity Fund) Club. That year the efforts of the Club's executive club leaders assisted the College, the Office of Student Life and the student body with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) mandate. We joined the National Study of Learning,

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Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) in June 2020 to better inform our planning and decision-making, as well as to document student voter engagement.

The Director, Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships will collaborate with all stakeholders to plan, execute and assess the outcomes of the plan.

Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Leadership

Middlesex College created the Department of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships and the position of Director, Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships in April 2019. Earlier that academic year in November 2018, the Civic Engagement Subcommittee was founded and chaired by two faculty members with the stated objective of connecting individuals on campus doing civically-engaged work in order to share ideas, successes, contacts and “spurring collaborative activities that support civic and community engagement and student learning”. In Fall 2019, the Director of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships joined the faculty members in co-chairing the Civic Engagement Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee spans the college community and currently includes:

- L. Scherr, Vice President, Academic Affairs
- J. Altman, Faculty, History and Social Science
- A. Fields, Faculty, English
- O. Hoppie, Assistant Dean, Student Engagement and Director, Student Life
- M. Ochoa, Director, Library
- E. Rosa, Director, New Brunswick Center
- A. Abreu, Director, Perth Amboy Center
- A. Illa, Coordinator, Experiential Learning & Civic Engagement
- M. Tutalo, Coordinator, Student Life
- Coordinator, Democracy House Center for Civic Engagement*
- Coordinator, Coordinator of Military and Veterans Services*
- Students*

*NOTE: the Subcommittee has been temporarily dormant since June 2022

Student voice is always a driving one that guides our work. Once the Subcommittee can convene, student representation will solidified since, as a community college, we generally have a one-year commitment from a student and then they graduate and transfer. In the meantime, we have worked diligently to maintain outreach as will be discussed herein.

In addition, we are planning to implement Stanford University’s Hass Center for Public Service’ *Pathways to Public Service and Civic Engagement* survey to assess both our understanding of and student “interests and pre-dispositions regarding approaches to social change: community engaged learning and research, community organizing and activism, direct service, philanthropy, policy and governance, and social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility.”

(<https://haas.stanford.edu/community/pathways-public-service-and-civic-engagement-working->

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[group](#)) Originally planned for Fall 2020, the timing of the survey's administration is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2023.

Evidence of Commitment

Beginning with the College's Mission and Goals Statements (Appendix A) as prepared by the College community and approved by the Board of Trustees, the theme of engaging our students with the community through a variety of programming and opportunities, including civic and democratically purposeful ones, permeates Middlesex College's aim. In addition to being woven into the fabric of the Mission and its supporting Strategic Initiatives, Middlesex College's administration founded the Department of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships to aggregate, document, motivate and guide civically-engaged efforts already in existence in many areas of the College as well as to spearhead new initiatives. As evidence of both the existence of significant work already underway and of the value of a central focal point for civic engagement, Middlesex College has been a NASPA LEAD Initiative Institution for the since October 2019.

Democracy House (DH), Middlesex College Center for Civic Engagement, was founded in 1995 and has been functioning ever since. In 2010, 2011 and 2013 it was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. After residing in an academic department for several years, Democracy House was moved to report to Career Services within Student Affairs (Career Services became Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships in April 2019). Democracy House students commit to a minimum of 300 hours of community service each academic year at their assigned community partner site. Our DH program is affiliated with Bonner Foundation, one of the few community colleges within Bonner. In addition to the service commitment, DH Bonner Leaders meet weekly as a cohort with the coordinator for leadership development, guest speakers and other programming. For those students who cannot make the commitment to DH in terms of service hours, the Volunteers in Action Club (founded two years ago) provides students the opportunity to participate in events and service projects to the extent that their family, work and academic obligations allow.

As stated previously, we can document commitment to democratic and voter engagement since 2004. The EOF Club has engaged in civic opportunities to support their leadership growth. Off-campus our students have visited civil rights organizations and participated in civic engagement presentations. They participated in the HIP HOP SUMMIT II Youth Vote Conference in Trenton, New Jersey. At the summit students were able to hear former Attorney General Peter C. Harvey, HIP HOP mogul Russell Simmons and HIP HOP ACTION SUMMIT CEO and former NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Chavis speak on the importance of the electoral history. What stood out at the summit were poetic presentations by high school and college student artists, poets and speakers on the importance of the youth vote.

Each spring semester our students participate in the EOF Statewide Student Day in Trenton at the New Jersey State Capitol to advocate for higher education needs with key NJ State legislators. Outside of New Jersey our students have visited The Library of Congress, The Thurgood Marshall

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Institute and The Leadership Experience in Washington, DC to network with civic engagement advocates and other college peer leaders.

In Summer 2019, Middlesex College became a member of Campus Compact and the New Jersey Campus Compact chapter (NJCC) <https://www.njcampuscompact.org/>. In November 2021, the Director, Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships was named to the Strategic Planning Committee charged with redefining NJ Campus Compact into a new entity: EngageNJ. We hosted the EngageNJ THRIVE Student Conference on February 26, 2022. Participation in national Campus Compact and NJCC/EngageNJ affords access to a substantial amount of research and resources as well as collaboration with member colleges across New Jersey.

In June 2020, we procured TurboVote from DemocracyWorks as a tool for facilitating student voter registration, logistical voting data and candidate/referendum information.

In June 2022, we procured GivePulse “... a community of volunteers, professionals, civic leaders and service-learning students. GivePulse enables you to capture your impact in the community.” <https://www.givepulse.com/> In the Fall 2022 semester, we are in pilot mode, using GivePulse to record Democracy House Bonner Leader community service hours as well as to manage projects/impacts in two CEL (Community Engaged Learning, formerly service learning) courses. We are deeply in the throes of implementation decisions and logistics of GivePulse with the goal of full deployment for all students in Fall 2023. In addition to providing key data about impacts and engagements, GivePulse will provide students with an engagement “transcript” that officially records their impacts and activities.

Current Campus Landscape

Middlesex College’s main location is in Edison, New Jersey with two urban centers, one in New Brunswick and one in Perth Amboy. Based on the percentage of Hispanic Latino students enrolled, we are a designated Hispanic-serving Institution (HSI). According to Middlesex College’s Fall 2021 Fact Book, total enrollment was 9,483 comprised of 3,894 fulltime and 5,589 part-time students, the average age of students is 22.5 years.

<https://mymcc.middlesexcc.edu/institutionalresearch/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/02/fall-factbook-2021.pdf>

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Fall Semester Headcount by Race and Ethnicity Past Ten Years

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
International	264	263	283	274	246	222	226	288	268	303
American Indian	33	37	37	45	42	42	34	38	32	30
Asian	1,417	1,440	1,513	1,634	1,733	1,747	1,692	1,741	1,639	1,526
Black	1,492	1,380	1,365	1,314	1,308	1,358	1,314	1,303	1,178	1,146
Native Hawaiian	256	141	94	57	36	33	22	32	32	24
White	4,430	4,164	3,847	3,615	3,333	3,277	3,017	3,031	2,723	2,448
Hispanic	3,240	3,394	3,461	3,548	3,544	3,739	3,696	3,756	3,268	3,142
2 or More	331	303	327	319	315	288	274	349	346	315
Unknown	1,444	1,489	1,137	867	823	691	628	613	599	549
Underrepresented Students Total	6,769	6,695	6,797	6,917	6,978	7,207	7,032	7,219	6,495	6,183
Total Headcount	12,907	12,611	12,064	11,673	11,380	11,397	10,903	11,151	10,085	9,483
% Underrepresented Students	52.4%	53.1%	56.3%	59.3%	61.3%	63.2%	64.5%	64.7%	64.4%	65.2%

Underrepresented Students include: American Indian, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian, Hispanic and 2 or more

We also continue to see online options (Online, Hybrid and Remote Live) as the choice of significant numbers of students post-pandemic which plays into the need for changing methods for engaging them:

Total Headcount for Fall Semester by Location Past Ten Years

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Edison	11,954	11,683	11,189	10,758	10,433	10,436	9,897	9,975	265	3,279
% Change	1.0%	-2.3%	-4.2%	-3.9%	-3.0%	0.0%	-5.2%	0.8%	-97.3%	1137.4%
New Brunswick	746	725	797	787	776	829	676	713	0	96
% Change	17.7%	-2.8%	9.9%	-1.3%	-1.4%	6.8%	-18.5%	5.5%	-100.0%	
Perth Amboy	1,036	988	993	927	811	859	781	751	0	411
% Change	-6.9%	-4.6%	0.5%	-6.6%	-12.5%	5.9%	-9.1%	-3.8%	-100.0%	
High School*	92	78	0	0	27	10	64	194	423	650
% Change	-10.7%	-15.2%	-100.0%			-63.0%	540.0%	203.1%	118.0%	53.7%
Online	884	987	1216	1400	1518	1817	1970	2,259	6,264	4,682
% Change	8.1%	11.7%	23.2%	15.1%	8.4%	19.7%	8.4%	14.7%	177.3%	-25.3%
Hybrid	92					80	39	43	260	2,824
% Change	-10.7%						-51.3%	10.3%	504.7%	986.2%
Remote Live									8,069	5,549
% Change										-31.2%
Duplicated Total*	14,712	14,461	14,195	13,872	13,565	14,031	13,427	13,935	15,281	17,491
% Change	1.4%	-1.7%	-1.8%	-2.3%	-2.2%	3.4%	-4.3%	-0.7%	13.8%	25.5%
Unduplicated Total	12,907	12,611	12,064	11,673	11,380	11,397	10,903	11,151	10,085	9,483
% Change	1.3%	-2.3%	-4.3%	-3.2%	-2.5%	0.1%	-4.3%	2.3%	-9.6%	-6.0%

(Edison is our campus; Perth Amboy and New Brunswick are urban centers)

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Voting and Voter Engagement

Our student newspaper *Quo Vadis* ran articles about voting and issues of concern, including a front page feature story about **New Jersey Ballot Bowl 2022** run by the Office of the Secretary of State of New Jersey, and our participation in that event

https://www.quovadisnewspaper.com/edition/page-001/page_40f84370-41ef-5e45-b7d0-e0a9b7ba48ba.html

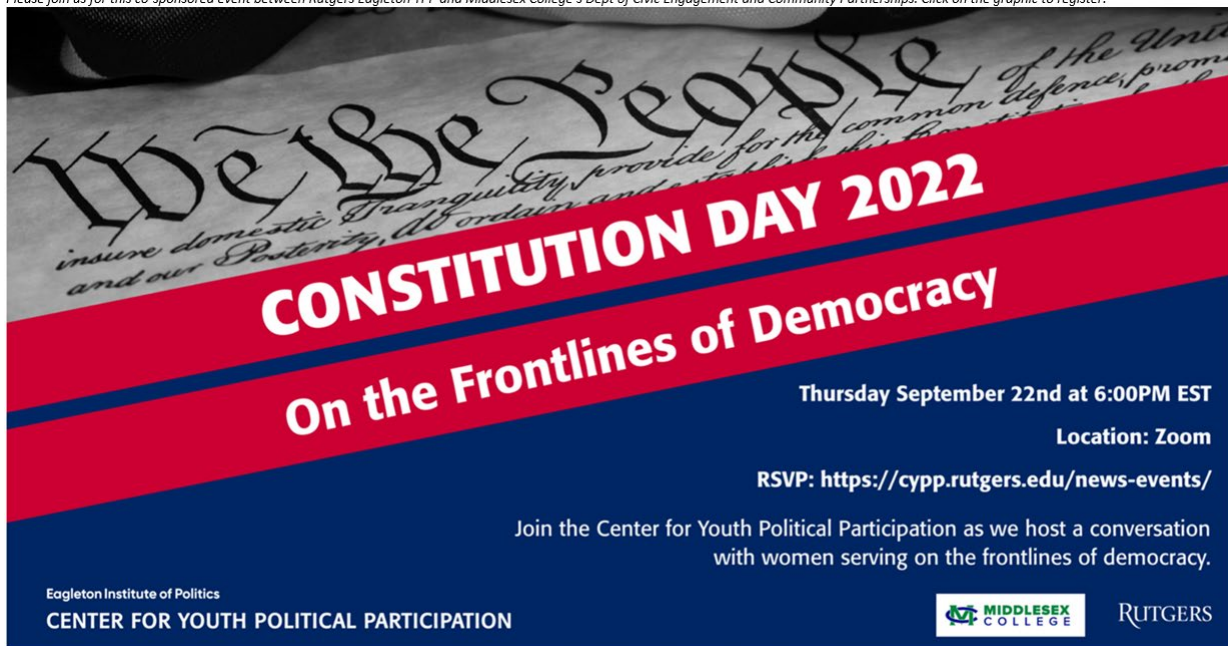


Constrained budget post-pandemic had to be a factor in our planning. To that end, we looked beyond our campus boundaries:

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- To-date, we have co-sponsored one program with Rutgers University-New Brunswick's Eagleton Institute of Politics for Constitution Day 2022 and discussed additional programming collaboration for the Spring:



Join the Center for Youth Political Participation as we host a conversation with women serving on the frontlines of democracy.

Join the Center for Youth Political Participation as we host a conversation with women serving on the frontlines of democracy.

Featured panelists include:

- **Secretary Leigh Chapman**, Acting Pennsylvania Secretary of State
- **Deputy Secretary Jordan Fuchs**, Georgia Deputy Secretary of State
- **Amanda Gonzalez**, Candidate for Jefferson County, Colorado Clerk
- **The Honorable Amber McReynolds**, United States Postal Service Governor and Former CEO National Vote at Home Institute

Opening Remarks to be provided by **New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way**

Cosponsored by the Center for American Women and Politics & Middlesex College, Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships

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- Omega Mu Zeta Alumni Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority came to campus to register voters on the last day of New Jersey Voter Registration



- We advertised the NJ Voting Summit held at Princeton University to our students and did have some students attend the event:

New Jersey Voting Summit

At Princeton University on Saturday, October 1st from 10:00am to 2:00pm



Open to all college students in the state!

Sponsors:



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Community-Engaged Learning

links classroom study to real-world problems. Middlesex College students taking Community-Engaged Learning courses are required to complete a designated class-wide project which requires volunteer service hours with a designated local, not-for-profit community partner. In Fall 2017, three (3) courses offered an optional opportunity for service learning at a partner site selected individually by each student from a list of approved partners. By Fall 2019, that number grew to thirteen (13) courses and the SL is more likely to be a mandatory component of the course with a specific partner/project connected to the course outcomes. In Fall 2021, service learning courses were designated with the “-SL” section code to allow students to locate courses with SL included; we have discovered that students who experience SL express the desire to continue their community involvement through continued enrollment in academic coursework featuring this form of integrated service.

For Fall 2022, community-engaged learning designation replaced service learning; courses were designated with the “-CEL” section code and a catalog search function for “Community-Engaged Learning” was added to the Search for Classes screen to allow students to more easily locate courses:

- English Composition I (4 sections)
- English Composition II (3 sections)
- United States History II
- Statistics II
- Basic Statistics for Business
- U.S. State and Local Govt
- Social Psychology
- Intro to Geology
- Introduction to Meteorology
- Climate Science
- Contemporary Social Problems (2 sections)
- Diversity & Multiculturalism

Spring 2023:

- Principles of Economics I
- Principles of Economics II
- English Composition I (2 sections)
- English Composition II (5 sections)
- Statistics II (2 sections)
- Basic Statistics for Business
- Portfolio Project for Paralegals
- U.S. State and Local Govt
- Intro to Geology

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- Essentials of Oceanography
- Climate Science
- Contemporary Social Problems (3 sections)
- Diversity & Multiculturalism

Faculty complete a mandatory set of trainings including project scoping and framing prior to being approved for CEL. It is inspiring to see the span of CEL projects across the disciplines as community-engaged learning has become a consistent offering and faculty members inspire each other with concepts and successes. We see demand from students for additional CEL opportunities especially after they have completed one such experience, and so we have begun discussing the possibility of a CEL pathway of courses for students who desire continued connection with the community.

Goals and Strategy for Student Learning and Institutional Civic Culture

Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships

“... working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.”
(Ehrlich, 2000, p. vi)

Mission

The Department of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships promotes a lifelong commitment to active citizenship and social responsibility among all students and members of the Middlesex College community in order to enhance students’ own academic experiences and career clarity while contributing to stronger communities and an ever more engaged College. The Department enacts programs and initiatives intentionally designed to engage students, staff, faculty and the Middlesex County community. Our mission is to:

- cultivate community-aware and civically-engaged students through volunteerism, service and experiential learning
- develop co-curricular service projects
- encourage civic leadership and community connections
- foster social responsibility and nurture a campus-wide civic ethos that is infused through academics and student affairs in order to promote understanding of our responsibility to our greater community
- promote students’ personal, leadership and career growth including workplace skills and competencies
- collaborate across the College and local community to forge effective and mutually beneficial relationships.

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2022-2023 Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships Departmental Goals

Goal 1: Connect Middlesex College students with experiential learning opportunities to cultivate community-aware and civically-engaged students through volunteerism, service and experiential learning. (Middlesex College Strategic Initiatives A1, A2, B1, B2, C1)

Outcome 1: Continue to increase the types of courses and number of course sections offering community-engaged learning.

Measure 1: Additional course sections offering CEL and additional types of courses offering CEL.

Outcome 2: Develop a multi-year initiative focused on voting and voter registration to educate and engage students in the importance of their voice in these processes.

Measure 2: Expand the usage of TurboVote by students; participate in Ballot Bowl 2022.

Outcome 3: Empower students' civic leadership and professional development.

Measure 3: Provide a weekend leadership development/civic engagement experience for Democracy House Bonner Leaders in Spring 2023.

Goal 2: Partner with employers and local organizations to provide leadership, career and employment opportunities to students and alumni while contributing to the viability of these partners. (Middlesex College Strategic Initiatives A2, B2, C1)

Outcome 1: Create community partner reception in Spring 2023 to recognize and honor those who have participated in our programs or offered opportunities to students.

Measure 1: Event is hosted and well-attended by partners.

Outcome 2: Market Middlesex College and our students/graduates to the local community in order to create pipeline of internships, apprenticeships and jobs in all career fields.

Measure 2A: Increased availability of internships and other experiential career opportunities in CCN/Handshake, job fairs and employer partnerships.

Measure 2B: Complete the implementation of Handshake with soft-launch to employers in March/April and full launch to students in July 2023.

Outcome 3: Collaborate with community partners to provide leadership and advocacy development for Middlesex College students.

Measure 3: Host workshops, training, information sessions and programming featuring community experts.

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Goal 3: Foster social responsibility and nurture a campus-wide civic ethos that is infused through academics and student affairs in order to promote understanding of our responsibility to our greater community. (Middlesex College Strategic Initiatives B1, C1)

Outcome 1: Survey the College community to assess existing activities within the realm of civic engagement.

Measure 1: Survey results.

Outcome 2: In partnership with Marketing Communications, update and develop Civic Engagement and Community Partnership functional webpages to inform students, the College community and members of the local community.

Measure 2: a) Redesigned webpages for career services-related functions housed within Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships.

b) New webpages for Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships functions and information.

Outcome 3: Deploy GivePulse for capturing student civic engagement.

Measure 3A: Utilize GivePulse for capturing Democracy House Bonner Leader impacts.

Measure 3B: Pilot GivePulse in 2-3 CEL courses in Fall 2022 by imbedding GivePulse into the courses' Canvas page for monitoring the CEL project participation, timelogs etc.

As each of these initiatives develops and grows, we continue to identify community partners with whom to collaborate. Our students are reading partners in afterschool programs in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick, work in a community soup kitchen in New Brunswick, partner with incarcerated youth in a local detention center, serve as mentors to high school students as part of the EMPOWER program, clean our communities, partner to provide specialized services (dental health, accounting and financial planning, financial literacy) and more. As our community partner collaborations mature and become more deeply entrenched, we have begun working the same partner across different programs and in different ways. For example, the *Middlesex County Center for Empowerment* started off as a general Democracy House partner for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (they approached us years ago looking for space and an audience) and eventually expanded to work with a few service learning classes. Now they are site for the DH Bonner Program and we work with them on a larger scale, offering space and resources for a variety of their initiatives and events. For example, we provided space for them to host a meditation workshop for survivors of sexual assault earlier this year, and they're currently planning a virtual Pride event in June with DH and Middlesex College's Student Life. This growing relationship demonstrates the College's larger commitment to true civic partnership and engagement beyond service-focused programming.

Middlesex County Center for Empowerment:

<http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/Government/Departments/PSH/Pages/Center-for-Empowerment.aspx>

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2023-2024 Conceptual Planning

With the Presidential election two years off and the New Jersey Gubernatorial election not until 2025, November 7, 2023 may not spark immediate interest. But stakes are high in New Jersey, when all 40 seats in the New Jersey State Senate and all 80 seats in the New Jersey General Assembly are up for election in 2023. (https://ballotpedia.org/New_Jersey_State_Senate)

Anecdotally, student understanding of the impact local officials have on every day life as well as on local community initiatives and programs may not sufficiently trigger a burning drive to become informed and vote. For this reason, the theme of our work leading to the 2023 elections will be “*Vote From the Bottom Up*” (<https://greeleygov.com/government/cmo/blog/city-managers-blog/2018/11/01/vote-from-the-bottom-up-for-local-issue>) Given the import of the 2023 election and the ongoing critical call for student involvement in the democratic process, we will create a series of events and outreach with the goal of 100% student voter registration and student participation in the voting process.

As part of our *Vote From the Bottom Up* initiative, we seek to provide programming that expands students’ understanding of:

- the roles and responsibilities of local officials in our daily life and governance
- New Jersey government, Middlesex County government, municipality government and the unique roles of each as well as how the intersect
- Who are the players in New Jersey, who is running and what issues do they profess to support
- How do we learn more about candidates, local referendums and more

The conceptual planning to date includes but will not be limited to

- Inviting candidates virtually or in-person to speak to students including a 2022 graduate of Middlesex College who ran for and won a seat on his local Board of Education
- Exploring issues of importance to students and providing non-partisan information about those issues in the platforms of candidates
- Q&A Info Sessions where students can ask questions of guest speakers
- Schedule a TurboVote rollout to new students through New Student Orientation and our annual QuestionMart (tabling in every classroom building for the first week of the Fall semester)
- Ask student clubs and organizations to fulfill their service obligation by coordinating with us on specific voting and voter registration service initiatives as well as participation in other programming.
- Continued collaboration with Rutgers-New Brunswick Eagleton Institute for Youth Political Participation,

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We will continue to utilize TurboVote for voter registration, voter registration status queries and updates, dates & reminders and candidate information. In addition, we will work with Student Government Association (SGA), our College Library, our student newspaper, Quo Vadis, and our two Centers (New Brunswick and Perth Amboy) to reach students.

Reporting: Sharing Accomplishments and Action

In Fall 2023, the survey of the College community's existing civic engagement activities (Goal 3, Outcome 1 above) will be distributed to faculty, staff, and adjunct faculty members through the College's Department of Institutional Research. Armed with the results, the Director of Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships, Institutional Research and the Civic Engagement Subcommittee will determine how to make information out of the collected data via a to-be-identified vehicle that enables all interested parties to access and update contacts, accomplishments, partners, initiatives and more. In addition, the information will be added to the College's assessment tool, TaskStream for reporting and broad accessibility. The goal of the information repository is to guide new initiatives, provide ready access to civic engagement data to the College administration, and identify gaps in our offerings where additional focus is required.

We also need information from our students. To that end, we intend to evaluate Stanford University's **Pathways of Public Service and Civic Engagement** tool in Fall 2023 as a vehicle to gauge interest areas and motivation of our students in order to further ensure that our initiatives and their interests align, and that we incorporate their interests in our ongoing planning.

In Fall 2022, we participated in the New Jersey Secretary of State's Ballot Bowl 2022 voter registration initiative as we did since 2018.

When we joined Campus Compact in summer 2019, we committed to participating in the Campus Compact 30th Anniversary Action Statement of Chancellors and Presidents by completing and posting our Civic Action Plan within one year's time. This Action Plan will be shared with Campus Compact in accordance with our commitment.

Evaluation of Impact and Progress

In addition to assessment metrics utilized internally to assess program efficacy, there are several national standards that are applicable. As part of our continued work, we intend to borrow and/or model additional assessments on these highly relevant standards in order to demonstrate to stakeholders that this Civic Action Plan and Civic Engagement and the Community Partnerships' Strategic Plan is making progress and reaching established goals.

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We have established a goal of applying for the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement during its next open application cycle. The framework of that application will undergird our work and planning.

Utah Campus Compact has identified several other standards that are applicable:

For campuses committed to engaging with their communities, several frameworks can be useful. Barbara Holland's Levels of Commitment to Community Engagement provides a vision of the engaged campus in which engagement is fully integrated as strategy to accomplish the campus mission and goals. The elective Carnegie Community Engagement Classification documentation framework can be used to help institutions identify specific strengths and areas for quality improvement as an engaged campus as you review your institution's community engagement commitments and activities. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary, impactful community service. Applying can be a useful learning process as campuses identify their work. The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education has developed a specific set of standards that should be considered in developing Civic Engagement and Service-Learning Programs, as well. The Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University has developed a set of public service pathways that are useful in exploring different forms of community engagement. Finally, if engagement is included as part of the campus core themes for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and University a campus should develop specific community engagement benchmarks.

<https://compact.org/resource-posts/civic-action-plan-engagement-assessment/>

As stated previously, we already intend to evaluate Stanford University's **Pathways of Public Service and Civic Engagement** tool in Spring 2023 and will augment the results of our analysis with additional metrics to ensure we understand progress or lack thereof as well as impact and gaps for future programming. The cycle of assessment will be ongoing.

Middlesex College has a rigorous assessment process utilizing TaskStream to document outcomes. In 2023-2024, we will assess the impact and outcomes of the *Vote From the Bottom Up* initiative through survey(s) and focus groups

Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023, 2023-2024

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Middlesex County College Vision and Mission

Vision and Mission

Middlesex County College puts learning first and measures its success only by the success of its students. All members of the College community contribute to student success.

Our Mission:

The mission of Middlesex County College is to provide access to a quality, affordable education for a diverse population, to support student success for lifelong learning, and to strengthen the economic, social and cultural life of the community.

Middlesex County College Strategic Plan 2018-2021

A. MCC Gateway to Success

MCC guides students through their transition to college, supports them in selecting and completing a pathway to achieve their goals, and prepares them for post-MCC success

- Strategic Initiative #1: Enhance support of the Guided Pathways to Success model
- Strategic Initiative #2: Build bridges between economic trends, demographic needs, and educational options

B. MCC Focused on Students

MCC promotes learning opportunities that broaden the boundaries of higher education and support access

- Strategic Initiative #1: Employ engaged pedagogy and provide stimulating learning environments that offer multiple approaches to learning
- Strategic Initiative #2: Develop curricular and co-curricular activities and opportunities that expose students to new opportunities and horizons
- Strategic Initiative #3: Undertake initiatives to support access and affordability

C. MCC Engaged with Our Community

MCC connects with employers, organizations, and individuals and establishes partnerships and collaborations that improve learning and services for students throughout the community

- Strategic Initiative #1: Broaden public awareness and support by expanding MCC's role in the region's educational and cultural landscape through comprehensive programming, marketing, and fundraising strategies
- Strategic Initiative #2: Expand community engagement through a Community Advisory Committee

D. Pride in Our Welcoming Environment

MCC offers a spacious campus and two well-equipped centers with facilities and technologies that support teaching, learning, and student success

- Strategic Initiative #1: Ensure that the College operates in an environment that is accessible to all
- Strategic Initiative #2: Update existing facilities to support pedagogical and academic needs

Appendix A: Middlesex College Vision and Mission

Note: this Strategic Plan has been extended through 2023

Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023, 2023-2024

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Appendix B: New Jersey Ballot Bowl 2021

Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023, 2023-2024

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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
P.O. Box 300
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA WAY
Secretary of State

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

November 29, 2021

Greetings students, faculty, and staff,

I am reaching out to say thank you! Each of you made a commitment to participate in the 4th annual New Jersey Ballot Bowl, and we are so grateful for your contributions to our state's civic health by engaging your fellow citizens. No matter where your team ranked in the final standings, everyone did their part to help more people become voters.


This year New Jersey voters had more options than ever to participate in our democracy. For the first time, nine days of in person early voting at 139 sites across our state occurred. Nearly one million New Jersey voters received a vote by mail ballot. And after 2020, when most New Jerseyans voted by mail, voters returned to in-person voting on Election Day. Voters cast ballots for governor, state senator, assembly members, county and local leaders.

2021 also marked the 50th anniversary of the 26th Amendment, which expanded the power of the youth vote by lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. You also helped build upon that legacy with your work during the 2021 election season.

Thanks again for showing up for yourselves, your communities, and our democracy. We are delighted to share this Certificate of Commendation, honoring your outstanding commitment to the promotion of voter and civic engagement in New Jersey. We hope you are as proud of yourself as we are. Moreover, we know that you will continue to be an active, engaged citizenry throughout the future years.

My best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,



Tahesha Way
Secretary of State

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Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023, 2023-2024

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Commendation and praise are extended to
Middlesex College

by the Office of the New Jersey Secretary of State
in recognition of your outstanding commitment to promote
voter and civic engagement through participation in the
2021 New Jersey Ballot Bowl competition.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Taitesha Way".

TAITESHA WAY
SECRETARY OF STATE

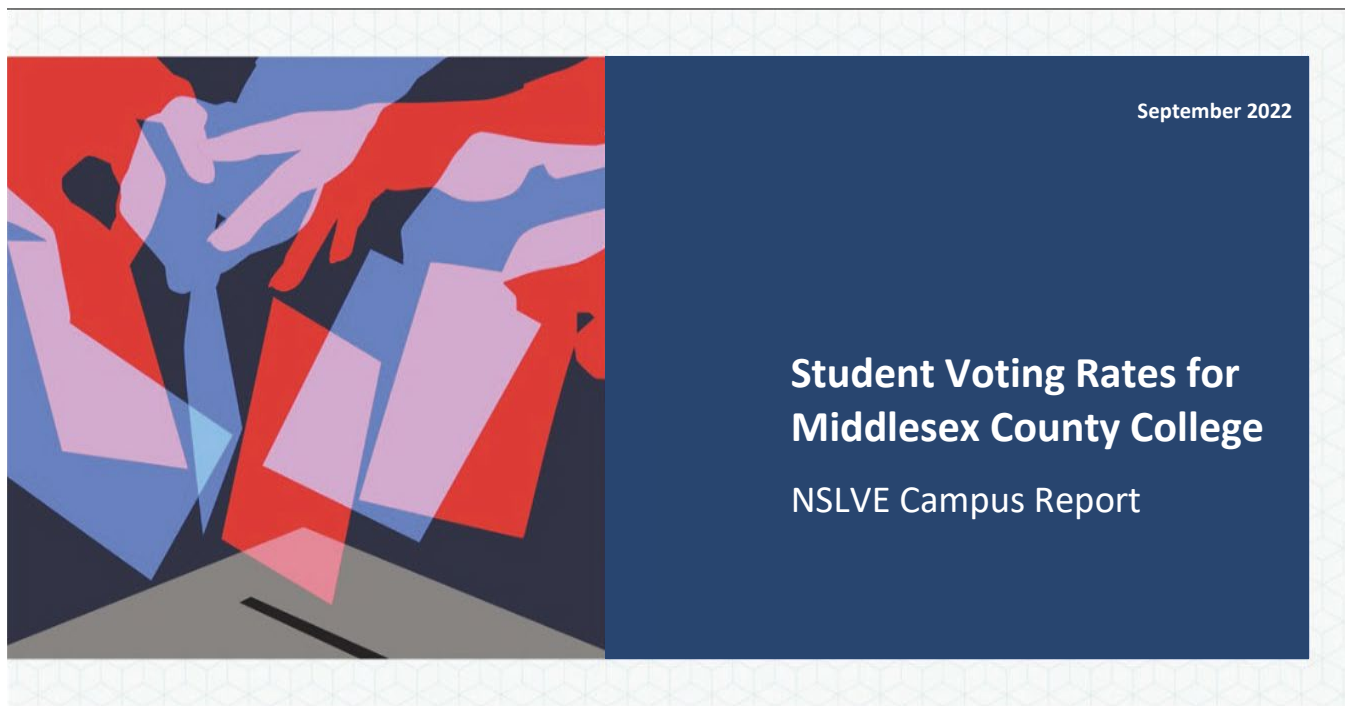


The NJ Ballot Bowl
is a joint project of the
NJ Department of State &
the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge



Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023, 2023-2024 ALL IN Challenge

Appendix C: NSLVE Report



Middlesex College Civic Action Plan 2022-2023, 2023-2024

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CAMPUS REPORT: Middlesex County College

Voting, Registration and Yield Rates

YOUR INSTITUTION

29.1%

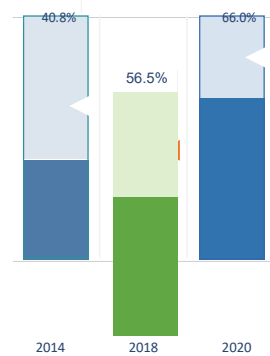
2018 Voting Rate

ALL INSTITUTIONS

39.1%

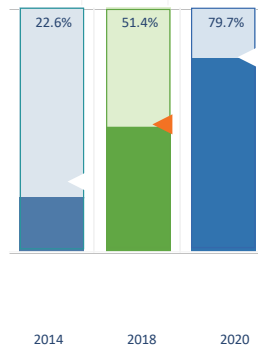
2018 Voting Rate

REGISTRATION RATE



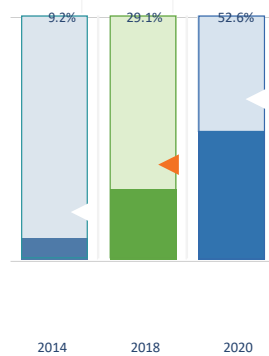
The **Registration Rate** is the percent of your voting-eligible

VOTING RATE OF REGISTERED STUDENTS



The **Voting Rate of Registered Students** is the percent of

VOTING RATE



The **Voting Rate** is the percentage of eligible

Election Day. We often refer to

Election Day. The voting rate is also the product of the registration and yield rates.

Middlesex College Civic Action Plan – 2022-2023, 2023-2024

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DRAFT