

## 2012-13 Annual Report

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## From The President

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Middlesex County College continues its tradition of serving the community by offering quality credit and non-credit programs. Our partnerships with local agencies and other colleges are continually bringing new opportunities to those we serve. We have kept access affordable with low tuition of \$ 103 per credit and we have expanded high school student options to earn early college credit and develop adequate math, reading and writing levels before entering the first semester of college-level study.

As we continue to work to fulfill the goals and objectives of our 2012-2015 Strategic Plan and be responsive to long-range initiatives developed in our 10-year Master Plan, we are not able to predict everything that comes our way. Sometimes we are surprised with new opportunity. Other times we are challenged with little notice. During the 2012-2013 Academic Year, many challenges were brought by Mother Nature. The largest, Hurricane Sandy, closed the College for a week due to tree and power line damage in the area. On campus, we suffered the loss of many mature trees but very little other damage. The campus gymnasium became a mini-hospital for the region staffed by the U.S. Public Health Services, providing a real-world experience for our nursing and other students who assisted.

We have worked to develop funding sources for two new buildings on campus to serve the needs of current and future learners. The success of these initiatives now has us planning for a new science building that will replace many of the original chemistry and biology laboratories with state-of-the-art spaces and equipment. Plans are also underway for a new student services building to deliver student admissions, registration, advisement, student accounts and financial aid all under one roof in a more efficient manner.

We also began new efforts to keep our family members who are not on campus better informed and involved with our programs and services through our newly designed website. In an initial program, emeriti and retirees enjoyed a luncheon meeting on campus in the Corral Restaurant served by students in the Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Dietetics Department. New efforts to identify contact information and establish ongoing programs with alumni of the College have also been initiated.

Middlesex County College continues to serve about 13,000 students annually in our credit programs and another 10,000 in the non-credit area. Special initiatives to serve adults and veterans have resulted in more of those learners on our campus. The ethnic makeup of our students continues to reflect our county, and for the first time, our Hispanic student population exceeded 25 percent, designating the College as a Hispanic-serving institution, which brings additional funding opportunities for students.

We're building for the future in many ways, always mindful of our proud past. I invite you to review the success of our students and the other information shared in this Annual Report. Thank you for your interest and support of Middlesex County College.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joann La Perla-Morales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joann La Perla-Morales, President  
SUCCESS STARTS HERE

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## Profiles of Success

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The following pages contain profiles of some extraordinary students.  
They are leaders, intellectuals, joiners, mothers, military veterans, and caring individuals.  
These five represent the breadth and depth of our student body.  
Their stories will inspire you.

Profiles by Kim Silva  
Portraits by Tom Peterson  
Design by Damian Gonzalez

## Precious Japheth

The first thing you notice about Precious is her name, and it is no coincidence; neither are her siblings' names: Courage, Success, Prosper and Gem. Her mother, a traveling evangelist, assigned each name to her children with the hope they would be blessed by its meaning.

Precious is originally from Nigeria, a country she also considers "precious." This love of her birthplace inspired her to choose a career path in engineering science to become a petrochemical engineer.

Growing up in Nigeria, she remembers watching television as a 12-year-old, and crying at the news of another oil spill in her country that killed residents and sea life. It affected the crops, the land and the fishing regions, she said. Although the area was not close to where she lived, it generated an emotional response that led her to want to help her beloved Nigeria someday.

Precious thought she would go to Rutgers as a freshman, but with five children in the family, it was a challenge financially. Her mother asked her to consider other options, like MCC. Precious found success here, as a Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Government Association treasurer, president of the Educational Opportunity Fund and vice president of First World African Nations club.

She has been awarded scholarships from the MCC Foundation that have allowed her to continue her studies: the Frank R. Steele H.O.N.O.R Memorial Scholarship, which she received twice, as well as an MCC Foundation Award. She also was selected to speak at the

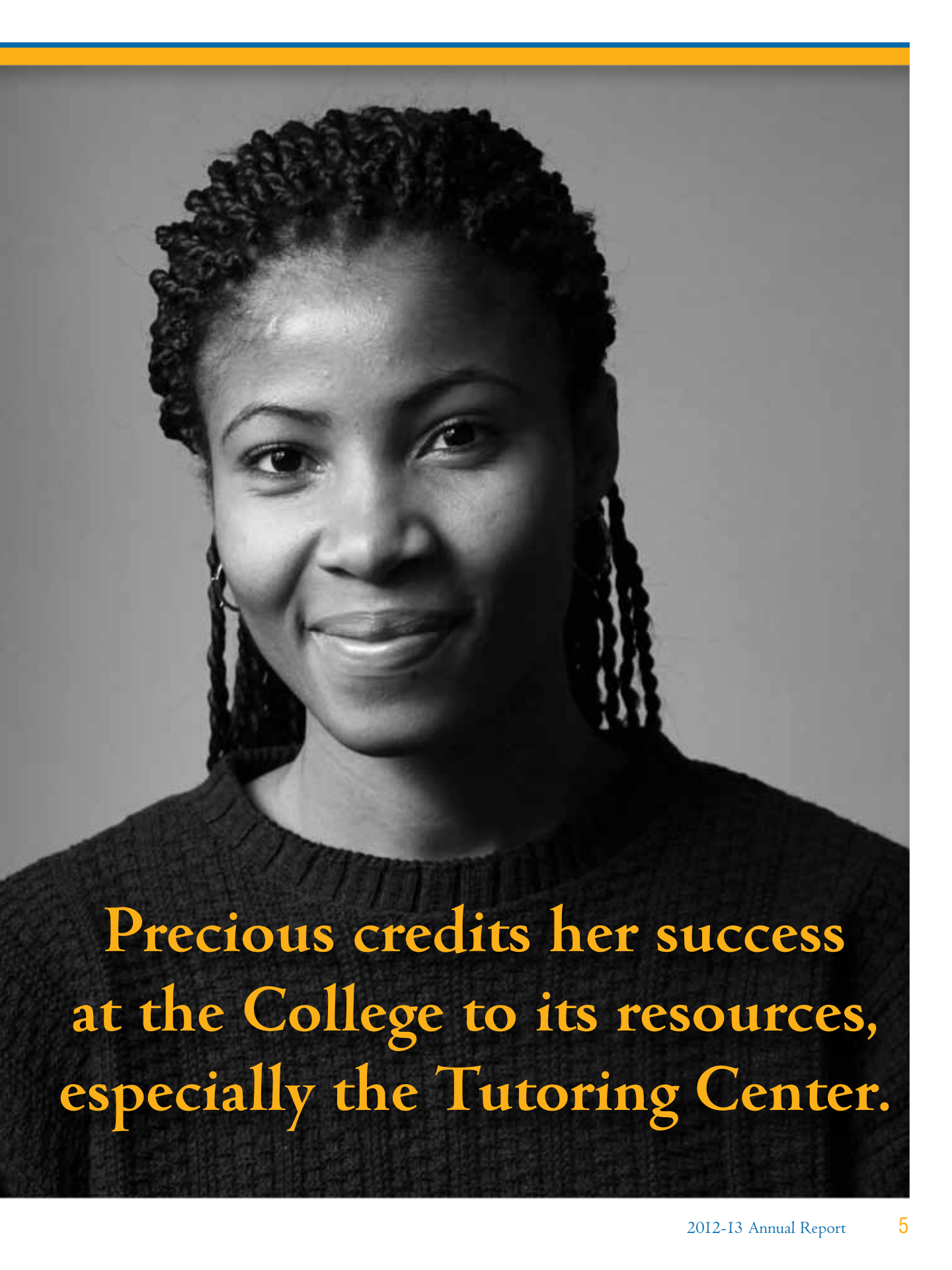
Frank Steele scholarship reception, as well as at the College Foundation's scholarship reception.

Precious credits her success at the College to its resources, especially the Tutoring Center. She also finds that the professors are accessible because of their convenient office hours. "I have benefitted from both of these," she said.

She plans to transfer to NJIT after graduating in spring 2014.



Precious Japheth represented all of the student scholarship recipients as she spoke at the Scholarship reception in November of 2012.



**Precious credits her success  
at the College to its resources,  
especially the Tutoring Center.**

# Jonathan Finnerty

When most 8-year-old boys were outside riding their bicycles, Jon liked to hang out in his grandfather's library. He had an eclectic book collection, which ranged from the classics, first editions, and books printed in the 19th century. This intellectual playground was where philosophy major Jon discovered Milton, Dante, Orwell and the Bible.

His grandfather was a hard-working mailman, who also had a second shift as a prison guard. Although not a college graduate, he received his education in this personal university, curious to absorb the knowledge of Plato, Socrates and others. Jon and his grandfather would have a discourse on topics, where Jon sharpened his debating skills at his grandfather's knee.




Jonathan Finnerty has participated in and moderated several debates on campus, including whether grades help or hinder the learning process and the role of religion in a public institution.

"Instead of watching cartoons," Jon said, "my grandfather encouraged me to read." With this early academic training, he became a natural and insatiable reader.

Jon may not have thrown a football, but he was throwing around rhetoric, along with memorizing the Latin genus class of dinosaurs. When he visited his grandparents on the weekends, they also read Bible stories to him, and he especially liked Noah's Ark. "It tickled my imagination," Jon said. He wondered, with all the animals on board, why God had failed to put dinosaurs on the ark. "I thought God did not like dinosaurs," he said. His grandfather would also take him to older, historic cemeteries where they studied the weathered headstones, and to Perth Amboy to discover the pirate lore of the area.

With his 4.0 G.P.A, he is a Phi Theta Kappa member and was just promoted to managing editor of the student newspaper, Quo Vadis. He maintains a full-time course load, along with working full time. He credits his success to the faculty.

"I have never had a non-personable professor and I am still in contact with many previous professors," he said. Jon would like to attend Columbia University and plans to become a professor of philosophy.

A black and white portrait of a young man with dark hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored collared shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a plain, light color. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

**“Instead of watching  
cartoons, my grandfather  
encouraged me to read.”**

# Lory Jackson

The first day of school is bittersweet for many mothers—happy for this milestone in their kids' lives, but saddened by the realization that they are growing up so fast. With tears in their eyes, mothers say goodbye, and watch as the little ones walk off with their teacher.

When Jason Jackson '10 pulled up to College Center with his mother, Lory, she too became teary-eyed as she said goodbye to her son. However, this was her first day at Middlesex, and Lory was so thrilled at the opportunity to continue her education. Jason watched his mother enter the building, knowing this was a milestone in her life. He was an integral part of this decision; Jason gave up his place in the course "The History of American Musical Theater" so Lory could take the class. He told his mother, "You need this course more than me." She paused as she remembered his words, her eyes filling with tears. She earned an "A" and decided to continue.

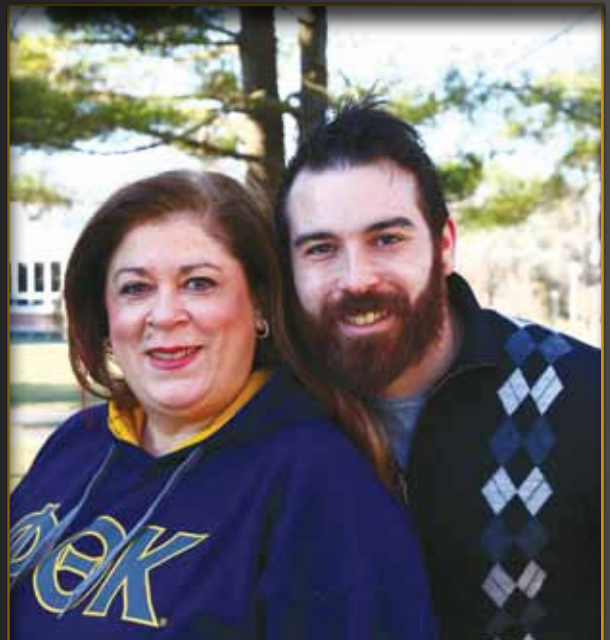
She reclaimed her first passion: performing, and became a theater arts, communications and art major. Her time at Middlesex has been filled with success. She has a 4.0 GPA and is an officer of the honor society Phi Theta Kappa. She became the promotions director for the College's Blue Colt Radio station and was also an on-air disc jockey and started a campus choir. Lory and Jason also performed together in a college production. Academically, she was awarded a prestigious Daley scholarship through PTK and an endowed scholarship from the MCC Foundation. Lory defines the College motto: "Success Starts Here."

Lory believes in the value of education, and when she graduates, her dream is to be behind

a podium, preaching this message. She said the professors at Middlesex have "opened her mind to a new way of thinking."

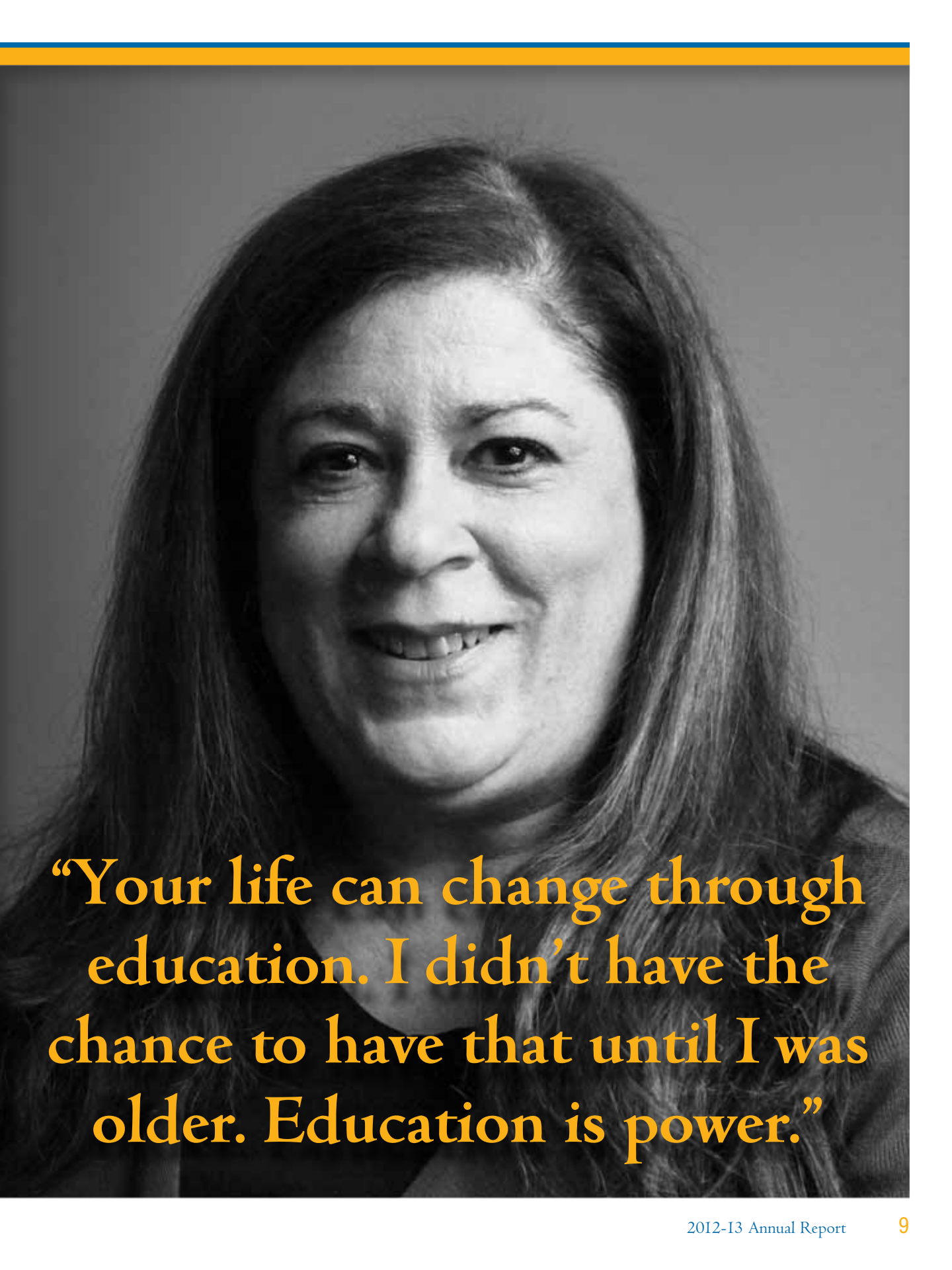
"Your life can change through education," Lory said. "I didn't have the chance to have that until I was older. Education is power."

It also helped to have such a loving son who allowed his mother the chance to fulfill her dream.



Lory Jackson with her son Jason.





**“Your life can change through education. I didn’t have the chance to have that until I was older. Education is power.”**

## Rigo Gutierrez

Rigo Gutierrez has led a full life already, even though he is only 23. He has defended his country in Afghanistan as a National Guard Army reservist, worked for Habitat for Humanity, earned membership in the National Honor Society Phi Theta Kappa, and led the Veterans' Club on campus as its president. Rigo would also like to set an example for others by acknowledging his own experience with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. Removing the stigma from this is a goal he has set for himself. With a self-sacrificing attitude, Rigo has demonstrated his leadership skills on campus.

"It shows strength to accept conditions," he said. Instead of being embarrassed or weakened by PTSD, Rigo would like veterans, or any of those suffering, to seek treatment. "By learning certain coping skills, PTSD is manageable," he said.



Rigo Gutierrez in Afghanistan.

He enrolled at MCC in 2009; it was close to home and a friend recommended the College. Although his parents did not attend college, they worked hard, and "emphasized education the best they could," he said. "I was motivated to continue to do better, when given the chance to seize opportunities."

After completing one semester, he left for a voluntary deployment to Afghanistan. Rigo returned to school in the summer of 2012.

The Army showed Rigo how to prioritize, and this has benefited him in his studies. He will need that skill to accomplish his goals to major in biology, and then neuroscience. He would like to be a neurosurgeon, and eventually become an officer in the Air Force medical corps. Special Forces or Special Operations are two other areas he is considering after he completes his schooling.

"Rigo is an absolute dynamo here on campus," said David Brimmer, director of the Center for Veterans Services at MCC. "He has a passion for life that one can only gain through overcoming hardship. I've been entirely impressed with his ability to lead people while accomplishing his own goals in the process. Some people have a little something extra, a little extra personal drive, a hunger for greatness. I see that drive in Rigo and I have no doubt that he is destined for great things."



**“I was motivated to continue to do better, when given the chance to seize opportunities.”**

## Roma Gandhi

Roma Gandhi thrives on her high-energy lifestyle; while most students may take on just one leadership position, she excels in several roles, including volunteering and working part-time, while maintaining a 3.60 G.P.A. If you need something done on campus, Roma is the “go-to” person.

She is a Phi Theta Kappa officer for the Honors in Action Committee, and coordinated a debate on the validity of grades, while participating on the panel. She also holds another leadership position with PTK, as vice president of scholarships. Recently elected as the vice president for programming for the Student Government Association, Roma reaches out to campus clubs to improve their membership and facilitate activities. And there’s more.

As a founder of the new Indian Student Association, Roma serves as its president. She also volunteers as a tutor at the College three hours a week.

Coming here from India at age 4, Roma’s family lived in several states over a short period of time including California, New York and Georgia. Even with a learning disability in ESL classes, she was not discouraged; it motivated her to read more.

“I hated toys,” Roma said. As a child, she was more inclined to read dystopian novels and do math. When finished with her regular homework, her mother would give her additional problems to work on. “It helped,” she said, “because I was in accelerated programs.” When faced with a challenge, she studies even harder. “I have to practice” is her mantra. And while her mother expected

Roma to behave a certain way based on gender roles, her father told her to dream big. With this encouragement, Roma has decided to go into pediatrics, and eventually get involved with a missionary program to help children.


“It’s definitely the professors here at MCC who have helped me to shine,” she said. “They guided me to become a leader.” Roma was impressed with the accessibility of the faculty and their willingness to support students.

“I think about the future all the time,” she said, relying on a five-year plan as a model.

She plans to attend the College of New Jersey for a bachelor’s degree when she graduates in May 2014.



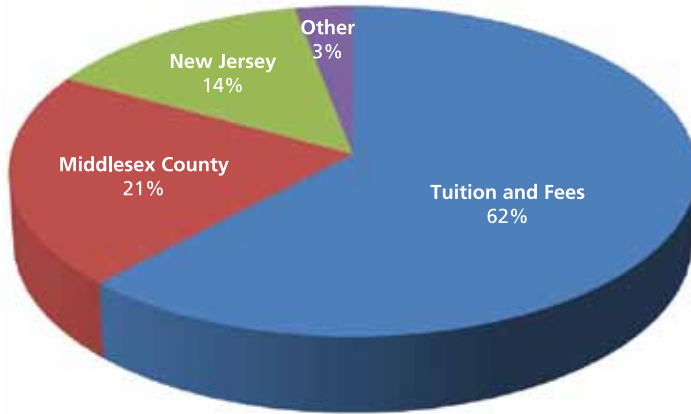
Roma Gandhi meets with fellow Student Government Association officers about future projects.



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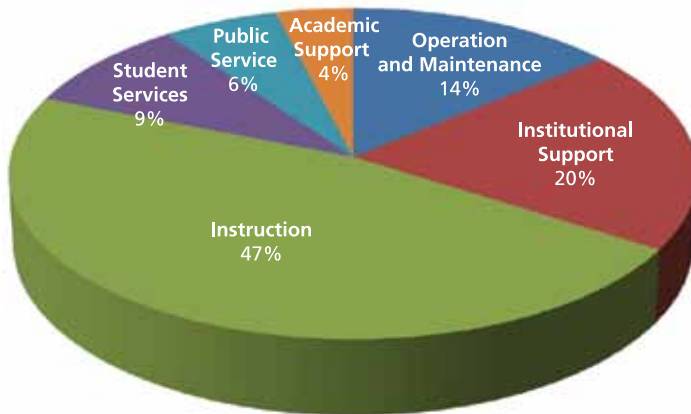
# Middlesex County College Finances

## FY13 Operating Revenue



The College continues to operate in a strong fiscal position. County and state funding were level. A small tuition increase of \$ 1 per credit hour was necessary.

## FY13 Expenditures

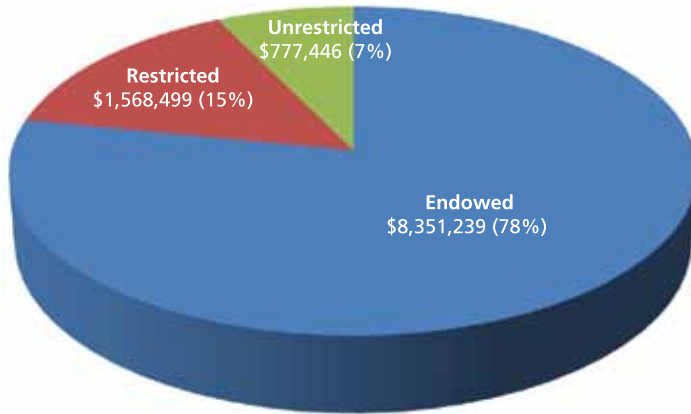


More than 60 percent of expenses are related to student learning and leadership. This fulfills the College mission of providing access to affordable quality education for diverse students.

**Middlesex County College's Total Operating Budget  
for Fiscal Year 2012-13 was \$ 79,347,495**

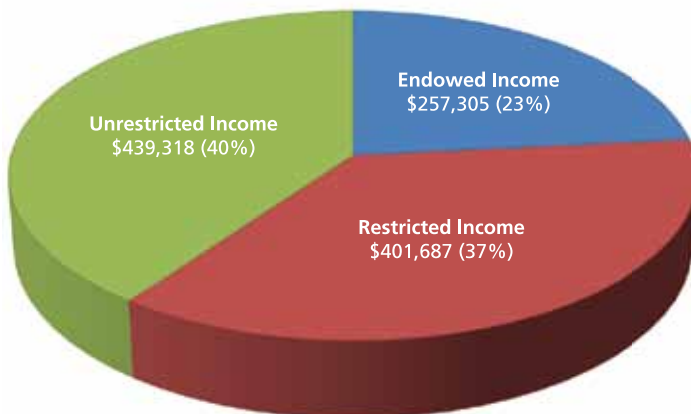
# Middlesex County College Foundation Inc.

## FY13 Net Assets \$ 10,697,184



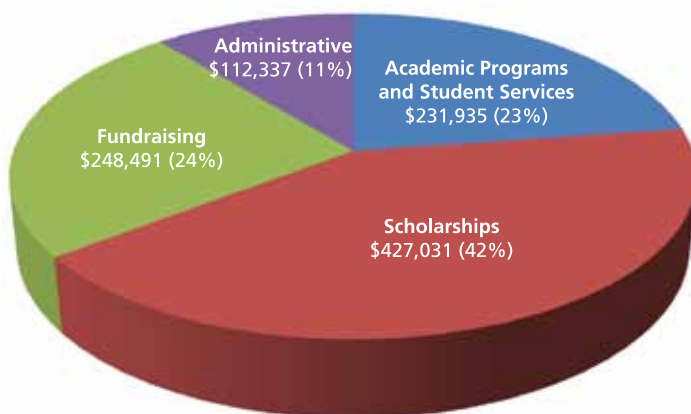
The bulk of MCCF's assets are in the form of endowed funds generating support for scholarships and academic programs in perpetuity. In addition, our assets include restricted and unrestricted funds for distribution in the current or future fiscal years.

## FY13 Revenue \$ 1,098,310



Endowed income includes new contributions to MCCF's \$8 million endowment, together with revenue the fund generates. Restricted income is contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations designated for a specific purpose. Unrestricted income is general contributions to the Annual Fund and special events, and also includes interest and realized gains from investments.

## FY13 Expenditures \$ 1,019,794



More than 340 scholarship awards totaling \$427,031 were made this year.

In addition, \$231,935 was provided to MCC for academic programs and student services.

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# Bristol-Myers Squibb Supports New Science Initiatives at MCC

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During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, Bristol-Myers Squibb provided two generous gifts to the Middlesex County College Foundation. The first was a \$20,000 gift for the **Improving Bioscience Education in Middlesex County NJ** initiative at MCC. Through this, two programs were developed and offered during the summer of 2013: a comprehensive hands-on Bioscience Summer Institute for high school students throughout Middlesex County; and an extensive workshop for secondary school teachers. The intent of both initiatives was to stimulate, enhance, and expand an interest in the biosciences. Pictured at left are (L-R) Chantal Greffer, biology teacher at Colonia High School, and Cheryl Laviola, biology teacher at Rumson Fair Haven High School, looking at their colonies developed during the workshop.

In addition, Bristol-Myers Squibb provided a grant of \$37,500 to support a Research in Science Education: Scientific Inquiry at Middlesex County College initiative during the 2013-2014 academic year. MCC places motivated students in external research appointments at colleges and universities to conduct research on topics ranging from animal sciences, ecology, entomology, genetics, molecular biology and immunology. These young scientists-in-training benefit from exposure to modern research methods. Bristol-Myers Squibb generously provided support to assist MCC in serving a larger and more diverse cohort of students and in providing in-house research training in challenging biological and chemical areas. As a two-year community college, the primary focus is to provide science foundation courses to prepare MCC students for successful academic and workplace careers.

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## MCC Foundation's Corporate Mission Partners Continue to Grow

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Investors Bank has joined the ranks of the MCC Foundation's Corporate Mission Partners, providing a gift of \$10,000. Additional partners include Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at the \$5,000 level, and Stewart Business Systems at the \$2,500 level. These partners provide unrestricted funds for the MCC Foundation to continue its mission to help MCC students achieve their educational and career goals. For a direct link to the partners' websites, go to [www.mcc-foundation.org](http://www.mcc-foundation.org) and click on their logos on the main page.

**The MCC Foundation is tremendously grateful for their  
loyal and generous support.**

### Corporate Mission Partners:

Investors Bank  
Johnson & Johnson  
The Provident Bank Foundation

### Mission Partner:

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

### Associate Mission Partner:

Stewart Business Systems

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# Middlesex County College Foundation Gratefully Acknowledges Its Generous Donors

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

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Johnson & Johnson  
The Willard T.C. Johnson  
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Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
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