

**THE BILEZIKIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION**

ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

Legal name of organization applying: Middlesex Community College Foundation

Executive Director: James C. Mabry # Years as Executive Director: 1.5

Address: 591 Springs Road; Bedford, MA 01730

IRS 501(c)(3), non private foundation tax exempt? **Yes** **No** Please attach copy of IRS Determination Letter

State your organization's mission.

Middlesex Community College (MCC) provides affordable access to higher education and prepares students to earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a baccalaureate program, or enter or advance in the regional workforce. MCC's mission includes a charge to, "educate, engage, and empower a diverse community of learners. Through transformative opportunities, we challenge and support every student to succeed and lead."

The Middlesex Community College Foundation (MCCF) was created in 1988 as a 501(c)(3) to enlist private sector support "in furtherance of the educational and charitable purposes of Middlesex Community College." It is the vehicle for fundraising from individuals, corporations, small businesses and private foundations.

Has your organization been visited by a Bilezikian Family Foundation Trustee? **Yes** **No** When? 2006

Total board members: (MCC): 11 **Volunteers:** 430+ (advisory boards) **FT Staff:** 375 **PT Staff:** 500

Total board members: (MCC Foundation): 15 **Volunteers:** 15 **FT Staff:** 0 **PT Staff:** 0

Total annual organizational budget: MCC: \$79,000,000; MCC Foundation \$570,000 Fiscal Year End 6 /30 /17

List dates, project name and amounts of Bilezikian Family Foundation support in the last five years.

N/A (last grant in 2006)

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ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Contact person: Maria Cunha

Title: Associate Dean

Phone: 978-656-3104 Fax: 978-656-3150 E-mail: cunham@middlesex.mass.edu

Amount requested: \$ \$21,520 Period covered by grant: 10/1/16 to 6/30/17

Type of request (operating, project, capital or other): Operating

Project or capital budget (if applicable) \$31,277 Date of Request: 9/22/16

Summarize your proposal in four sentences or less. (Include the name of the project or capital campaign)

Middlesex Community College (MCC) seeks funding from The Bilezikian Family Foundation for a part-time case manager, transportation, and snacks and supplies to benefit youth served by the Latino Connections program. For over a decade, Latino Connections had received annual funding from the Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board (now Development Board), however, with changes in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, funding for this program was dramatically reduced and the part-time case management position ended. MCC now seeks funding from the Bilezikian Family Foundation to hire a part-time case manager to provide intensive bilingual/bicultural case management, leadership and character education, and college and career exploration for approximately 30 at-risk Latino juniors and seniors at Lowell High School to assist them in completing high school and progressing to postsecondary education and careers.

List the proposal's target population, constituents and geographic communities as well as proposal's

outcome. With this funding, Latino Connections will serve 30 Lowell High School juniors and seniors of Latino heritage who exhibit one or more of the following risk factors: failing two or more courses; achieving low or failing results on MCAS; and/or having a history of poor attendance, exceeding eight days a semester. According to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education 2015 Report Card for Lowell High School, 24.1% of the school's students are Hispanic/Latino. The 2013 five-year high school completion rate for Hispanic/Latino students was only 64.9%, the lowest of any racial/ethnic group.

Latino Connections will have a significant impact on the educational outcomes of the Latino students served. Many of the youth aspire to be the first in their families to attend college, and their ability to improve their economic circumstances has a magnifying effect on their families and communities.

The following are anticipated outcomes and benefits of the program for the 2016-2017 academic year:

- 85% of the students will improve a grade or test score during their academic year.
- 90% of the juniors in the program will progress to the next grade level.
- 90% of the seniors enrolled in the program will receive their high school diploma.
- 90% of graduating seniors participating in the program will be enrolled in post-secondary education, employed, in the military.

What other organization(s) is funding your project? MCC has received funding in the recent past from The Parker Foundation, Eastern Bank Foundation, and the Greater Lowell Workforce Development Board. MCC provides funding for the salary of Maria Cunha, who leads the program. Additional funding will continue to be pursued to allow the program to serve additional students.

Are there other organizations that offer the same or similar services? There are multiple programs in the Lowell area serving at-risk youth. MCC's program is distinct in that it 1) targets at-risk Latino youth specifically; 2) offers bilingual/bicultural case management; and 3) is administered by a college, facilitating opportunities for students to be immersed in a postsecondary environment and supporting efforts to help them envision their futures beyond high school and later transition from high school to college.

Number of people being served by this program? 30

Profile of your organization and of your request

- ***Please provide information for the project and describe your organization's overall programs and activities.***

Middlesex Community College was established in 1969 as an open-access institution and opened its doors to its first class of 570 students in September, 1970. Today, MCC offers more than 75 certificate and associate's degree programs as well as non-credit courses. Students may choose from short-term employment focused programs or long-term degree programs to prepare for either the workforce and/or for transfer. MCC also operates two one-stop career centers, The Career Place in Woburn and Career Source in Cambridge, which provide area residents with career planning and job search skills and referrals to education and training programs. MCC draws students primarily from Middlesex County.

Since 2005, MCC has operated Latino Connections, a program at Lowell High School that provides bilingual/bicultural case management services to at-risk Latino juniors and seniors while also actively engaging their parents. The Latino Connections program aligns with the College's mission and efforts to promote access and pathways to education to individuals of all backgrounds.

1. Describe the goals and objectives, along with a budget of expenses and sources, or potential sources, of other funds needed. Note the percentage of the project that will be funded by the Bilezikian Family Foundation, if the grant is awarded.

With this grant funding, in the 2016-2017 academic year, Latino Connections will provide services to 30 at-risk Latino youth to support them in progressing through high school and aspiring to college and careers. The overall goals of Latino Connections are to: 1) promote skill attainment in students resulting in better grades and test results; 2) promote students in progressing to the next grade level or attaining a diploma; and 3) promote students in entering post-secondary education or employment. The following are proposed objectives.

- 85% of the students will improve a grade or test score during their academic year.
- 90% of the juniors in the program will progress to the next grade level.
- 90% of the seniors enrolled in the program will receive their high school diploma.
- 90% of graduating seniors participating in the program will be enrolled in post-secondary education, employed, in the military.

2. List the specific activities and timetable for meeting your stated objectives.

The following are the specific activities that will take place:

- **Intensive Case Management:** The part-time bilingual/bicultural case manager will meet with students at the beginning of each semester to review transcripts, ensure that academic schedules are accurate and appropriate for meeting goals, and review attendance records, coursework and deadlines. The case manager will also assist with SAT registration and waivers, college scholarship applications, college applications, the FAFSA, letters of recommendation, resumes, and college essays. Parents will receive regular student attendance updates and be invited to participate in bilingual workshops focused on completing the FAFSA and other documents needed for students to apply to college.
- **Career & College Exploration:** Monthly after-school workshops will be offered. With assessment tools, students will identify their academic strengths and career interests and be matched with academic or training programs available. Students will participate in job training. Additionally, all students will complete a one-day job shadow of someone employed in a professional or technical area during the February or April school vacation. The Latino Connections program has established contacts with area employers and mentors. Students seeking part-time summer employment will also participate in the Lowell High School Job Fair held in the spring.
- **Character and Leadership Development:** Sessions, held monthly, will address the following topics: confidence, motivation, effort, responsibility, initiative, perseverance, caring, teamwork, common sense, conflict resolution, problem solving, focus, developing goals, and time management. Students will also

participate in service-learning projects such as clothing and food drives to benefit the Lowell community and build leadership skills. Female students will attend the Women's Leadership Conference in Boston.

- Tutoring and Study Skills Training: Students will receive academic tutoring and MCAS test preparation through referrals to Lowell High School and/or MCC tutors.

Students served by Latino Connections benefit from MCC's well-established relationships with other youth-serving agencies, including The Career Center of Lowell, City of Lowell, Girls, Inc., International Institute of Lowell, Lowell Community Health Center, Boys and Girls Club, the YWCA, and the shelters in the area serving teenagers, including Brigid's Crossing and My Father's House. We have a strong network of professional Latino women and men who serve as mentors, including former Latino Connections students. Additionally, representatives from the Lowell Police Department and Enterprise Bank have assisted with job shadow day. Employees from Jeanne D'Arc have provided workshops on financial literacy.

The following is a program timeline based on an anticipated notification date of October 2016.

Oct 2016/ongoing:	Recruit Lowell High School youth for participation. Conduct intake interviews and one-on-one orientation. Provide intensive, individualized case management. Conduct career and leadership development workshops each month on early release days. Refer students to support services; monitor participation.
Nov 2016:	Conduct bilingual Latino Parent Night to engage parents in the college and financial aid application processes.
Dec 2016:	Engage students in service-learning project with community organization.
Jan 2017-Apr 2017:	Continue to recruit Lowell High School youth for participation. Conduct intake interviews and one-on-one orientation. Provide intensive, individualized case management. Conduct career and leadership development workshops each month on early release days. Refer students to support services; monitor participation. Assist seniors with college enrollment, financial aid and/or employment applications, as well as scholarship inquiries. Coordinate Latino parent nights.
Feb 2017:	Engage students in Job Shadow Day.
Spring 2017:	Coordinate enrollments in summer school, as needed; MCAS review; college testing; college visits and workshops; and employment applications.
Apr 2017:	Engage students in the summer employment job fair at Lowell High School.

The following testimonials from students who have participated in the past indicate the personal benefits of Latino Connections: *"Latino Connections is an amazing program that provides students with the tools they need to achieve their dreams. Today, I can say I attend Brandeis University greatly in part to the guidance this program provided me."*

"In 2009, I started attending Middlesex Community College. . . The experience and lessons offered by the mentors were crucial during the transition from high school to college."

"[Latino Connections] inspired and motivated me to graduate high school with a 3.0 GPA. . . I was also accepted to almost every college where I had applied. . . . The confidence they have built in me has allowed me to overcome my day-to-day struggles and have also allowed me to continue to work hard and achieve all my goals."

Attachments

1. Current board list with relevant background, affiliations, town residence and number of times a year it meets

MCC Foundation Board (Meetings are held four times a year).

Name	City of Residence	Other Affiliations
James W. Henderson, Chair	Concord	Retired
Lois A. Alves	Chelmsford	Retired, MCC
The Honorable Robert A. Barton	Bedford	Retired
David Basile	Lynnfield	Senior VP - Financial Advisor - Wealth Management at Janney Montgomery Scott
John P. Chemaly	Chelmsford	Co-Owner and President of Trinity EMS
William J. Chemelli	Belmont	Retired
John Cogliano, Jr.	Westford	Retired
Carole A. Cowan, Ed.D.	Manchester-by-the-Sea	Retired, MCC
Samir Desai	Lincoln	CEO - Aditi, Inc.
James M. Geary, Jr.	Boston	Retired
Mr. Timothy Glaser	Wilmington	Alumnus of MCC
Eric (Rick) W. Hanson	Hollis, NH	Chairman and CFO of Klin Groupe
Abbey L. Henderson	Concord	President and Owner of Abaris Financial Group
Lura Smith	Lowell	Assistant to the President, MCC
Duane Taylor	Littleton	Software Engineer at MITRE Corporation

MCC Board of Trustees(Public meetings are held six times a year).

Name	City of Residence	Other Affiliations
James J. Campbell, Trustee Chairman	Lowell	Client Relations Advisor, Tentindo, Kendall, Canniff and Keefe
Alec A. Belanger, Appointed Alumnus	Westford	Appointed Alumnus
Stephanie J. Cronin	Dunstable	Executive Director, Middlesex 3 Coalition
Oscar S. DePriest IV	Bedford	Senior Technology Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton
Tami M. Dristiliaris	Dracut	Owner, Law Offices of Tami M. Dristiliaris, LCC
James G. Hicks	Framingham	Natick Police Chief
Cheryl E. Howard	Reading	Vice President of Marketing, Simmons College
Steven C. Iem, Elected Alumnus	Lowell	Tax Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Bopha Malone	Waltham	Vice President, Enterprise Bank
Annie O'Connor	Lowell	Principal, Center for Negotiation and Mediation
Alexander Gounaris, Student Trustee	Westford	MCC Student

2. Most recent independent audit or account review (as required by law). See attached.
3. A copy of Applicant's most recent Form 990 filed. See attached.