Zeel Patel

Hometown: Lowell
Degree: Associate in Science – Biotechnology Technician
Year graduated: 2018

How did you become interested in MCC’s Biotech Program? • When I first began to take an interest in science, my grandfather told me: “You don’t need to be in a lab to be a scientist.” That early lesson fostered in me a general curiosity of the logic of discovery.

At MCC, I discovered the Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Pathway and began taking courses that fulfilled graduation requirements in a variety of programs within the STEM field. Eventually, I narrowed it down to the Biotechnology Technician Degree Program.

What did you like best about MCC? • I called Middlesex my second family. The professors, staff and classmates made the whole experience of learning very personal and comfortable. MCC gave me the best career opportunities and provided me with the guidance to understand the field of biotechnology.

How did Middlesex challenge you? • I am the only person who can communicate in English in my home, so all the responsibility of the household duties came on my shoulders. I had to constantly juggle maintaining my grades and fulfilling my duties as a daughter. When I moved to America, I was clueless and feared where to begin my career.

While enrolled in “English 102,” I was asked by my professor to present my research on women’s rights at a literary conference. The presentation went very well, and afterwards a professor said, “You could be a professor one day,” which I’ll never forget. Everything was upstream after that. My confidence was building and I began taking on leadership positions, like becoming president of Phi Theta Kappa and an Orientation Leader.

How has Middlesex changed you? • MCC changed my life. From starting out as a shy personality, to becoming an outspoken confident woman, I have not just grown as a student, but as a leader and a public speaker.

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