

LATINO OUTREACH SUMMIT

JANUARY 2013

Student Success and Engagement

Tell a story about an experience you have had at MCC where you felt most successful as a student and/or as a member of the college community. What about this experience makes it memorable and made you feel engaged and excited about being a college student? What was happening at the time? What were you feeling? Who else may have contributed to the experience? Describe it in detail.

Table 1

- Acceptance – Being from somewhere else
- Don't judge a book by its cover – The student had different expectations of Middlesex Community College; it turned out to be better than they expected
- Learning
- All accomplished goals on different levels
- Support that specific person gave
- Higher expectations from staff/faculty than he had for himself
- The student improved their English at Middlesex Community College
- Enjoyed meeting friends
- Being involved – clubs, activities, events
- Making own choices, adult responsibilities
- Step closer to career
- Being involved with local community, folk festival, fashion show

Table 2

- Ability to interact with others through student volunteer activities and increased opportunities
- How great it was to have multicultural center where you could meet others and have a place to feel welcome plus get great support from staff there
- Student activities such as clubs volunteer opportunities and multicultural center enabled you to be engaged with the college. Encourage more participation

Table 3

- Social life improved, feel like they belong and are connected here
- Social life exploded when we came here – it feels like we belong here, going to clubs and group meetings
- Multicultural center really helps him feel like a part of them, not just a student. Help is given
- Counselor a great help to her transition here because she was able to understand her needs as Hispanic student, because she was Hispanic also
- It is good to be able to meet another student, share experiences and simply get to know each other's point of view. It is important to have someone like a special Latino advisor there to help students. He fills in the gaps, because he doesn't assume you know

something. Counselors may use terms (like g.p.a.) but student feels uncomfortable asking the counselors what they mean.

- When first came, there was no one to socialize with or tutoring at night. Then changed to day classes and felt more a part of school. Got a job offer as a tutor that made him feel good about himself
- Took night classes because she was working the night shift, she went to class and left – the students at night were older than her. No tutors were found. So, she changed her work schedule, started day classes, and got tutoring. She got an A in Statistics after a difficult time with both the subject and the professor. She got tutoring and worked hard; this taught her how to prioritize and boosted her confidence. She got help from tutors and her friends with the subject and boosted her confidence.
- Relationships – forming friendships
- Evening classes limit opportunities to connect
- Success after struggles
- Links to the transition to college

Table 4

- Dual Enrollment student – taking English Comp class – helped her to explore some of her emotions – after having her father pass away helped to re-connect with father’s side of family. Because of experience in the class she was very successful
- Human Services class: She was a minority in the class – but when her mother was a Middlesex Community College student who presented in the class years ago, the student was there with her mother. Because of that experience as a little girl, the student was able to gain confidence in the class and the presentation that she had to give. As a result of the faculty member’s flexibility about student being there with her Mom in the past, it made a difference for the student’s current classroom experience.

Table 5

- TRIO
- Career Opportunities
- Goal – Achievement
- Transfer Opportunities
- Issues around College Placement Test Testing
- Feeling forced into ELL (English Language Learner) curriculum
- Helpful Professors
- The special Latino advisor has been a great mentor
- College Placement Test – having opportunity to pass it after enrolling in developmental courses
- Recycling initiative
- Enhance English
- Language Assessment
- Testing/Process
- Had great experience with Business professor (strong professors overall). Impressed with instruction and dedication of professors at MCC

Table 6

- Sacrifice
- Managing time and workload

- Job in field and job at MCC
- Language support
- Adult student
- Transportation/sacrifice and struggle
- Advising/teachers and counselors are very supportive
- Schedules are flexible

Table 7

- Student was shy, with no social life, no outlets, and no activities
- Had to be independent
- Academic challenges at a four year school, had no connections there
- Made connections here
- Likes on-line courses here and is more successful academically here
- Not well prepared for college, did poorly on College Placement Test at first. English Language Learner classes helped a lot and became an A student
- She felt isolated until she discovered the multi-cultural club. She has stronger friendships and connections because of the club
- Having connections and being closer to home results in much better grades than at previous institution.
- Feels that other students can be judgmental and they don't join the multicultural club because they think it's only Hispanic and Asian

Table 8

- Leadership opportunity – (elected Vice President MAC)
- Empowerment (asked facilities to add foot opener in bathrooms)
Speak up
- Participation in college activities
Participate in Latinos Unidos – sense of belonging
- International travel opportunity - to travel and see places never saw before

Three Wishes

If you had three (3) wishes about how to create the best possible environment that would contribute to success for Latino and Hispanic students at MCC, what would they be?

Table 1

- More help from advisors
- School gives more support to clubs
- Care about Hispanic complaints and opinions (like this summit)
- More Hispanic food in the cafeteria
- More field trips
- Track and field outdoor activities
- More activities
- Food in cafeteria: Better, more variety, Hispanic, cheaper
- Have a seminar about disconnecting from social media
- Staff and students should smile more
- Better access to scholarships (announcements/classes)

- Since students don't look at email, have other outreach methods – texting (optional/periodically)
- Make books cheaper – less updates for books
- Transportation from Lowell to Bedford
- More mandatory enforcement of email
- Better communication about class cancellations

Table 2

- Do not assume any reading and writing difficulties are due to speaking another language – do not automatically put in ESL classes
- Increased bi-lingual tutoring and do not treat us like six year olds
- Increased ability to interact with other cultures
- Encourage more club participation
- Allow students in ESL classes to progress faster at own pace
- Expand space for multicultural center
- Increase Latino faculty and staff
- Have more Latino faculty available in reading lab and more room
- Create a peer support network so you can call someone if you need help

Table 3

- Bookstore had cheaper books including rental cost
- More flexible and organized teachers – negative impact
- Lowell campus as active as Bedford campus, clubs, activities, gym
- More group meetings/activities for (Latinos) like this and for all races
- Less expensive food
- Parking more and organized in Lowell and Bedford
- Better computer system
- Assistance for night students so they don't have to come in the afternoon
- Better help with first year transition for students /comp/terminology/gpa)
- More flexible in schedule of humanities, i.e., art, etc. (beyond English Composition I&II)
- Be notified if there were to be teacher changes at the beginning of semester so faculty is very under-prepared. He/she would prefer to drop that class than to have an unprepared faculty – has happened twice
- Evening tutoring sessions, sometimes has too many classes and could also use evening tutoring
- Shuttle busses between Lowell and Bedford
- More office hours from Professors because their hours weren't convenient for her
- If faculty can also tutor their students

Table 4

- More communication (reaching out) to Latino students for events like this. Phone call worked!!!! This event allows me to think about my positive experience-learning of this class
- More Multicultural events (seminars, events, clubs)
- More opportunity and events for dual enrollment students. Wants to become more involved. More familiar with college and resources available

- More Latino guest speakers (graduation and/or other college events, classrooms. Don't have to be famous! More resources, role models
- More recognition of Hispanic Holidays, *Three Kings
- More consistent cultural representation for opening day – have a diverse representation
- College tuition more affordable – more resources for students who work
- More work-study jobs and funds available
- More elevators – very crowded between classes
- Have more Latino students more involved in events like this
- More Math tutors – with more flexible hours
- Would feel more welcoming if college had more Latino Professors

Table 5

- More advising around program selection (Majors)
- Revamp ELL (English Language Learner) curriculum
- Allow for students to accelerate through ELL courses
- More/better advising for first semester students
- Better overall advising/career planning for students
- More advisors/mentors like a special Latino advisor to guide Latino students through MCC experience
- Cost per credit to remain affordable
- Bigger workout/athletic facilities in Bedford and provide similar perks in Lowell
- Enhance facilities overall/classroom quality/intra-campus transportation.
- More career advisors in Bedford

Table 6

- More times for sports/activities, those only offered in evening won't allow evening workers to participate.
- More tutoring assistance for Science/Health Majors
- Books stipend, or coupon expense off each book
- Smaller classrooms and class size
- Tutoring to have more availability
- More offerings for language courses
- Faculty/student mentor programs for ESL (English as a Second Language) learners
- Multicultural should be supportive of all cultures
- Book discounts offered during events as an incentive reward
- More social professional development activities
- More understanding from professors
- More information about financial aid and how to afford college
- More advising and assistance about job/career placement
- More variety of food in the cafeteria and longer hours
- More programs to help orient English language learners
- More mentorship and guidance from Latino/and faculty/staff

Table 7

- More cultural activities
- More on-line courses available

- Better communication/access to information on activities
- More affordable food
- More affordable books
- Better math tutoring
- Students of other cultures to join the multicultural club
- Transportation between both campuses
- More efficient access to internet

Table 8

- Recognition of Latino/Hispanic student events like this
- Access by Latino students to administration
- More Hispanic students would get involved in activities at the college
- More programs focusing on Hispanic students
- Celebrate/recognize Independence Day of country or origin – flag
- ESL (English as a Second Language) tutors – Need more than correcting, they should tell the student why. Help with communication. Help is too quick and short – the student needs to understand why it was fixed
- There should be a symbol for Hispanic students to feel safe about their immigration status. They want to feel welcomed and feel a sense of belonging and acceptance
- Orientation night for Hispanic parents, introduce them to college
- More opportunities to learn English. Not a lot of opportunities for students to speak in ESL courses
- Opportunity to speak to native English speakers
- ESL students need other classes aside from ESL something more interesting
- Classes – Latin American dance forums
- More events for Latinos (like this one) to motivate engagement