Thanks to the unique MCC Barbara B. Saloom four-year scholarship opportunity, recent Middlesex graduate Michael Calarese is able to continue his education at UMass Amherst this fall.

Designed to support and inspire bright and deserving high school students who show great promise, the scholarship was established by former Middlesex Trustee Dr. Joseph Saloom, a pioneer in the development of high-power microwave tubes, and his late wife, Barbara.

The Saloom Scholarship is the only award given by Middlesex to a high school student. It is administered through the MCC Foundation and gives up to $5,000 annually to a high school graduate who attends Middlesex on a full-time basis. It is renewable for attendance at a four-year college after graduation from MCC, based on continuous academic commitment and merit.

A graduate of Stoneham High School, Calarese is the first member of his family to attend college. Although he always wanted to continue his education after high school and was a good student, personal circumstances would have prevented him from attending without a substantial scholarship. Calarese majored in Criminal Justice at Middlesex and plans to major in legal studies at UMass.

He credits MCC Assistant Dean for Education & Public Service Michelle Bloomer, who also is the Criminal Justice Program Advisor, and Associate Dean of K-16 Partnerships Kimberly Burns, who serves as advisor for the Saloom Scholarship, with helping him reach his goal.

“Middlesex was a great school for me,” said Calarese. “I received incredible personal attention and loved my classes. Professor Bloomer, my advisor, and Dean Burns really helped me stay on track.”