

 **President's Report**

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: November 24, 2020  
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

### **Community Partnerships**

#### *South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership*

- Atlantic Cape is a partner with the newly formed Atlantic City cohort to the South Jersey STEM & Innovation Partnership (SJSIP), a community of collaborative partners seeking to improve science, technology, engineering, and math education and career pathways for people across southern New Jersey. This partnership is focused on providing a STEM pathway for Atlantic City students.
- Other partners include the Atlantic City School District, Stockton University, Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City, Our Lady Star of the Sea Regional School, and Ideal Institute of Technology. The industry partners include AtlantiCare, Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Industries, Exelon Corporation, Ørsted, the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board.

### **Grants**

#### *Foundations for Success Program*

- Workforce Development has received \$194,321 to provide a Foundations for Success Program for the Atlantic County WorkFirst New Jersey participants. The Foundations for Success Program will have six modules covering a variety of topics that meet the Work Verification Plan Requirements.

### *COVID-19 Relief Funds*

- Workforce Development has been allocated \$40,000 of grant funds through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to assist people who have been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The funds are for participants who are dislocated workers, long-term unemployed, laid off, and those self-employed who have become unemployed. Workforce Development is offering a selection of thirteen workshops, including Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills; Certified Front Desk Representative; Blackjack and Roulette; ServSafe Manager Certification; and Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

### *COVID-19 Dislocated Worker Grant, NJ Endures*

- Workforce Development has received \$342,047 to train dislocated workers in Atlantic and Cape May counties. The program is designed to provide 66 participants with certification training. The training programs include Certified Clinical Medical Assistant; Certified Front Desk Representative; Certified Fundamentals Cook; Culinary and Cooking Professional Training Program; Emergency Medical Technician; Phlebotomy Technician; and Table Games Dealer.

## **Community Relations – Atlantic City**

### *Atlantic City Halloween Parade*

- Atlantic Cape participated in the first annual Atlantic City Halloween Parade on Friday, October 30, 2020. The event was hosted by several city council members in Atlantic City. Congressman Jeff Van Drew and many local organizations participated in this event. Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, delivered candy to several trick-or-treaters around different neighborhoods in the Atlantic City area using the college van.

### *Atlantic City Arts Foundation*

- Atlantic Cape's Worthington Atlantic City Campus hosted an "Atlantic City Drive-Thru Safari Theatre" sponsored by the Atlantic City Arts Foundation on November 14 and November 15, 2020. The event featured five 10-minute

original one-act plays from local playwrights and were showcased in five locations around our parking lot facilities.

#### *Angels in Motion-Atlantic City*

- Atlantic Cape supported Angels in Motion’s weekly outreach initiative on November 11, 2020. Atlantic Cape donated desserts, prepared by the Academy of Culinary Arts, as well as logo imprinted bags. Angels in Motion-Atlantic City is a local non-profit organization that is changing the way those suffering with the disease of addiction are treated.

#### *Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City*

- Atlantic Cape began offering a “Hands-On Financial Aid Workshop Series” at the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City Teen Center on November 12, 2020. The goal of these workshops is to assist local students and their parents/guardians through the financial aid process.

#### *El Pueblo Unido of Atlantic City*

- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, represented Atlantic Cape at El Pueblo Unido’s information session on driver licenses for undocumented individuals in New Jersey on November 12, 2020. He presented information on the College in Spanish and provided Admissions bags with college information. El Pueblo Unido of Atlantic City is a local organization that provides support to the migrant community in Atlantic City.

#### *Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia*

- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, represented Atlantic Cape at the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia to share college information in Spanish to the community. The information session discussed Atlantic Cape’s educational opportunities and services offered to the Latino/Mexican community in the South Jersey area. The Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia provides services to Mexican nationals that reside in Atlantic and Cape May counties, from recent high school graduates to adult learners.

### *Atlantic City Police Department*

- The Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Clifton Sudler, Director of Public Safety & Security, welcomed the Atlantic City Police Department's Captain Rudy Lushina and the Neighborhood Coordination Officers Bethea and DuBose on November 19. The officers provided insight on college safety and security, as well as addressed community concerns.

### **Community Relations – Cape May**

#### *Computer Skills Training for Veterans*

- The Cape May County Campus hosted basic computer skills training classes for veterans in the county. This successful program is funded by the Civilian Veterans Advisory Committee of Cape May County (CVAC). The college's Workforce Development Department created the program in collaboration with CVAC to ensure it met the needs of local veterans.

#### *Cape Assist and the Cape May County Healthy Community Coalition*

- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, in conjunction with Dr. Tammy DeFranco, Director of Student Affairs Cape May County Campus, recorded a 20-minute virtual presentation "See Where Atlantic Cape Can Take You, Getting Started with an Affordable Degree & Career Path" for Cape Assist and the Cape May County Healthy Community Coalition's annual Peer Leadership Conference on November 18. This virtual conference is a county-wide event for local middle school and high school students. The conference is a platform for teens to participate in learning activities which aid in the development of leadership skills, promote responsible citizenship, positive lifestyle, and healthy relationships. Students attend a variety of interactive workshops taught by community leaders, educators, and some high school peer leaders' groups.

### **Public Relations**

- Dr. Gaba was a panelist on the Greater Atlantic City Chamber's "Leadership Series: Creating an Innovative Workplace through Diversity and Inclusion" on October 28. She spoke about Atlantic Cape's commitment to diversity, equity

and inclusion, and strategies the college undertakes to create a more equitable institution for the entire college community.

- Dean Kellett was a speaker on the “*Promise of Economic Development Opportunities with Medical Marijuana*” panel held on November 12. The panel discussion was facilitated by INSA, a cannabis company seeking to build a facility in Middle Township that will provide up to 100 new year-round jobs for Cape May County residents. Dean Kellett's comments were quoted in [The Press of Atlantic City](#).

### **Professional Studies Advisory Board**

- Dr. Gaba welcomed the Professional Studies Advisory Board at their meeting on November 13. The Advisory Board is comprised of a diverse group of representatives from partner K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, as well as leaders from local businesses and industries. She spoke about the college’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic; financial aid opportunities for students, including Tuition-Free College through the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG); and the value of the input garnered by the advisory board participants on college programming.

### **Student Support**

#### *“Turkey in a Box” Food Giveaway*

- The college provided 62 complete turkey dinners for our students at all three campuses. This was a joint community effort, bringing together the college’s Food Pantries, Student Engagement Department, the Atlantic Cape Community College Education Association (ACCCEA), the Community FoodBank of South Jersey, and ShopRite of Middle Township, to bring much-needed holiday cheer to our students in need.

#### *Student Government Association (SGA) - New Initiatives 2020*

- In response to COVID-19 and transitioning student engagement activities to a virtual environment, the Student Government Association began a new series of “Let’s Talk Tuesdays”. These virtual discussions focus on topics impacting

students such as diversity, social issues, professional networking, careers, and campus life.

- Faculty, alumni, or campus community members facilitate these open-forum style discussions to provide students with information and engaging dialogue.
- Student Engagement has hosted two sessions:
  - “Mental Health Check In: Living in A COVID World”, Facilitated by Professor Kenyatta Collins with 80 students in attendance. Key topics included: COVID-19 stress - ways to cope and how to deal with the loss of a loved one; political tensions - before and after the VOTE; virtual classroom stressors; anxiety and fears; triggers; what should students know/do to stay healthy and focused; and where do we go from here - finding help.
  - “VOTE, Why Though?”, Facilitated by Professor Augustine Nigro with 40 students in attendance. Key topics included: the importance of voting; how to register to vote; how to vote (mail vs in-person); and sharing resources (useful websites, etc.).

### **Foundation**

- While the annual Scramble 'Fore' Scholarships Golf Tournament was cancelled due to inclement weather, the 50/50 and Merchandise Raffles were still held on October 29. The raffle pull was videotaped and was posted on the college and Foundation Facebook pages. The raffles raised \$2,360, which contributed to the overall success of the tournament and the final total of \$48,740.