

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: February 23, 2021
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

Grants

- The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approved funding for a grant of \$492,778 to Atlantic Cape Community College to provide training programs under the “Atlantic City Works Program,” which addresses the training needs of Atlantic City residents who are unemployed or underemployed. The program will assist Atlantic City casino employees by expanding their training to help ensure continued employment and access to promotion opportunities.

Legislative Advocacy

ACCT National Legislative Summit

- Dr. Gaba, Trustee Clemans, and Trustee Furman participated in the Association of Community College Trustees’ annual National Legislative Summit (NLS) last week. There were 80 participants of presidents, trustees, and students from New Jersey to advocate for the state’s community colleges.
- The New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) coordinated visits with the New Jersey Congressional Delegation. These meetings expanded our relationships and informed the members of our Congressional Delegation that New Jersey’s Community Colleges, the essential partner in this urgent time, provide open and affordable access to all New Jerseyans and offers all residents the tools to transform their lives. New Jersey’s Community Colleges are critical in solving the state’s challenges, in rebuilding the economy, and in offering degrees, credentials, and critical workforce training to close the skills gaps.

- During these meetings, community college representatives focused on the following objectives:
 - building a strong relationship with members of our Congressional Delegation;
 - briefing the members of the Delegation on our strategic approach to the delivery of education and workforce training, our bold state legislative agenda, and ACCT’s national legislative agenda;
 - informing members of the Delegation and their staff of the many programs, services and opportunities offered by Community Colleges to residents and the business community; and
 - showcasing the impact of our New Jersey’s Community Colleges on CCOG students.
- Dr. Gaba led the meetings scheduled with Senator Booker and Congressman Van Drew, who were represented by their legislative aides. Trustee Clemans and Trustee Furman also attended the meetings. Atlantic Cape student Paula Martin Vega effectively spoke about the impact of CCOG.

Technology Upgrades

- Plans are underway to upgrade our outdated Comcast legacy intra-campus network connectivity technology. The upgrade will enhance the connectivity between each of our campuses.
- With rapid advancements in internet bandwidth, we will be able to increase our bandwidth, reduce costs, and create redundancy of service in case of an emergency.
- As a result of utilizing lower-cost internet bandwidth for campus connectivity, Atlantic Cape is expected to save \$1,600 per month. Additionally, along with cost savings, the technology management of the future configuration will be simplified and require fewer technical skills, such as a network engineer, to support and maintain.

Retention Initiatives

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

- Atlantic Cape has achieved a REACH award from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the official and only honor society for two-year colleges. The REACH Rewards

Program celebrates PTK chapters excelling in membership development, achieving or exceeding 15 percent for their membership acceptance rate. Thank you to the faculty co-chairs of this student organization, Professor Effie Russell and Professor Richard Russell.

Athletics Progress Reports

- The Athletics Department developed a process to get regular feedback from faculty on student athletes' academic progress. Reports are requested bi-weekly from all faculty that have student athletes enrolled. This information is used by the Athletic Advisors to aid in student success.

CCOG Navigators

- Two new part-time CCOG Navigators were hired to aid in the retention of CCOG students. They will reach out to students to inform them of college resources and assist with registration.

University Partnerships

- "Transfer Tuesdays," a weekly Facebook and Instagram post that highlights our transfer agreements on social media, has been launched, spotlighting our relationship with Rutgers University. Other agreements will be featured regularly to inform students of the many transfer pathways available when they are students at Atlantic Cape.

Community Outreach

- Atlantic Cape, the Culinary Student Association (CSA), and Culinary Chef Educators supported Angels in Motion's Valentine's Day feeding outreach initiative in Atlantic City on February 13, 2021. Three (3) Culinary Chef Educators and two (2) Culinary students volunteered their time to feed the less fortunate on a cold Saturday morning, and donated delicious hot chili and rolls. Over 80 individuals were fed during this event.
- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, has been invited to participate as a member in the Atlantic City School District's Early Childhood Advisory Council. The goal is to strengthen the Early Childhood Program, as well as continue to build family and school partnerships. In an effort to attain

this goal, the Early Childhood Department enlisted the support of our community leaders, businesses, parents, and staff.

Community Engagement

- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, has been elected to serve as the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County's Executive Board Secretary for another year, 2021-2022.

Student Support

Food Pantry

- The Food Pantry continues to assist students with food insecurities on all campuses. The Atlantic Cape Community College Education Association (ACCCEA) continues to partner with Student Engagement on this mission and has planned a number of events for this semester.

SNAP Benefits Expanded for NJ College Students

- The NJ Department of Human Services is now accepting SNAP applications from college students who may need help paying for groceries. Due to the pandemic, eligibility for SNAP benefits has been expanded to include part-time college students who have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of zero dollars, as well as students approved by their institution for federal work-study, even if they aren't actively participating in a work-study job.

Student Success Stories

Yudelka Columna, MSW, LCSW

- Yudelka Columna, MSW, LCSW is a former Atlantic Cape ESL student who has made an incredible impact in her community and the counseling field. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Motivational Speaker, she has over 15 years of experience helping children, adults, and families overcome the difficult aftermath of mental, physical, and emotional trauma.
- Focusing on helping disadvantaged groups with mental health issues, she leads a counseling practice, Healing Road Counseling Services, in Hackettstown, NJ and a non-profit organization, Healing Partners Counseling.

- Most recently she has published her first book, *Emotional Resilience: Practical Solutions for Overcoming Challenges to Thrive in Life*.

Mae Tietje, APN

- Mae Tietje, APN (Advanced Practice Nurse) is an alumna of Atlantic Cape's Nursing Program, class of 2010, and Rutgers' RN-BSN Program, class of 2012. Mae continued her education, and in November 2020 became a licensed Nurse Practitioner. Mae is now practicing Family Medicine in Atlantic City. Mae is the daughter of Scott Tietje, an Atlantic Cape employee in Security.

Construction Update

- The Public Safety Building on the Mays Landing Campus was demolished on February 8, and construction of the new building started on February 10.