

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: February 22, 2022
(Mays Landing Campus)

Atlantic Cape Recognized as “Leader College”

- Atlantic Cape was selected by Achieving the Dream (ATD) for recertification of *Leader College* status effective February 15th for a term of three years. ATD is a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of equity and mobility in their communities to improve outcomes for all students. ATD recognizes exemplary institutions that have identified and implemented strategies that have proven successful over time in fostering student success and closing equity gaps.
- In order to qualify for *Leader College* status, institutions must demonstrate a three-year upward trend on two success metrics for students overall, in addition to the narrowing of an equity gap on at least one student characteristic on one or more metrics.
- The College’s application successfully met these criteria by demonstrating that the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) has helped increase the number of new students who have completed the Gateway English course by five (5) percentage points from 2017 to 2019.
- Additionally, through its programming and services, Atlantic Cape has narrowed or eliminated equity gaps for Hispanic students on multiple measures. Notably, the College eliminated the equity gap in English proficiency between Hispanic and White students during those years, and the four-year degree completion rate between White and Hispanic students has narrowed from 15 percentage points to one (1) percentage point between 2017 and 2020.

- Achieving the Dream uses lessons emerging from the work of the Leader Colleges to help inform and inspire other colleges in the ATD Network and the higher education field.

Cape May County High School Superintendents Meeting

- Dr. Gaba and members of her leadership team met with the Cape May County High School Superintendents for a productive discussion about the college enrollment patterns of Cape May County high school graduates and how both the high schools and Atlantic Cape can better meet their needs. The group discussed ways to promote Atlantic Cape to these students more effectively and increase their enrollment at the college. This meeting was coordinated by Dr. Judith DeStefano, Interim Executive County Superintendent for Cape May County.
- Dr. Vanessa O'Brien-McMasters and Dr. Josette Katz reviewed the enrollment patterns and demographics for Cape May residents at Atlantic Cape, including the data on Atlantic Cape enrollment by Cape May County high school graduates; dual and concurrent enrollment; and the programs and services offered by Atlantic Cape, including enrollment incentives.

Legislators on Campus

Southern New Jersey Development Council "Meet the Legislators"

- The Southern New Jersey Development Council (SNJDC) hosted their "Meet the Legislators" event on January 26th at Careme's. Elected officials from the 1st and 2nd districts in attendance were: Senator Michael Testa, Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, Assemblyman Erik Simonsen, Assemblywoman Claire Swift, and Assemblyman Don Guardian.
- Dr. Gaba delivered welcoming remarks, and each legislator presented their priorities regarding business and the economic development in South Jersey.
- With over 60 people in attendance, this was an excellent opportunity to showcase the college to the South Jersey business community.

Academy of Culinary Arts Food Truck

- Atlantic Cape has entered into a cooperative agreement with “Let’s Chow” for a food truck for the Academy of Culinary Arts. “Let’s Chow” is an organization that trains veterans and their spouses on food truck management and gives them a truck to operate. Through this agreement, we will develop a comprehensive program in mobile retail food operations, and we will use the food truck for instruction and community events at minimal cost to the college.
- The Academy of Culinary Arts conducted a recruitment event at Gloucester County Institute of Technology on February 16th featuring our new food truck, which is branded with the Academy of Culinary Arts logo. Culinary students prepared and served food to a long line of GCIT students. We will continue utilizing the food truck for our recruitment events to engage prospective students and showcase the work of our talented culinary students.

Community Relations – Cape May County

Cape May County Chamber Membership Meeting

- The Cape May County Chamber’s monthly membership meeting on February 17th was sponsored by Atlantic Cape with the theme of “*Career and Technical Education Benefits the Business Community: Exploring Career and Technical Education Opportunities at Atlantic Cape Community College*”. Speakers included Myrna Morales-Keklak, Assistant Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences; Tim Cwik, Department Chair, Aviation Studies; Chef Tim O'Donnell, Director of the Academy of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management; and Dr. Karl Giuliani, Area Coordinator of Professional Studies and Assistant Professor of Business.
- This event was an excellent opportunity to showcase the college to the business community of Cape May County.

COVID Vaccine Events

- Atlantic Cape, in partnership with the City of Atlantic City, Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, Johnson’s Popcorn and Steel Pier hosted a drive-

through vaccination and booster clinic on February 5th at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The clinic offered free Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, as well as booster shots and COVID testing. Participants received Johnson's popcorn and Steel Pier tickets for children ages 5 and up. With a steady line, the event served 125 guests. The event was [featured](#) in the *Press of Atlantic City*.

- A “Snack and Vac” event was held at the Cape May County Campus on January 27th; students were informed about our vaccination clinic on campus to help serve them better. Eight students were vaccinated and received light snacks after their vaccination.
- Student Engagement hosted a “Take a Bite out of COVID - Get a Shot and a Slice” event for students, faculty, and staff to receive COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots on January 26th. The Vaccination Pop Up Clinic was provided by Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers. Eleven people were vaccinated and received pizza after their vaccination.

Workforce Development

- Atlantic Cape has entered into an agreement with the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board to provide Job Readiness training. The 18-month agreement ends on June 30, 2023 and will provide foundation job readiness and job search skills to 350 participants. The program also includes a laptop loaner component to assist in the success of the participants. Participants in the program will be assigned to a Success Coach that helps them complete their required modules.

Student Engagement

Black History Month Events

- In honor of the start of Black History Month, the Pan-African Flag was raised in the quad of the Mays Landing Campus on February 1st. The flag-raising was part of a “Day of Unity” event to celebrate campus unity and diversity, presented by Student Government, Student Engagement, and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

- Several events have been held on our campuses throughout the month of February to celebrate Black History Month. The travelling exhibit “Talking About HER Story” highlighted African American women and icons in history, including the contributions of South Jersey women like Dr. Barbara Gaba, Rita Mack, Dr. Vera King Farris, and Sister Jean Webster. A “Black History Trivia Bowl” was held for students on February 8th & 9th at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus, and the Cape May County Campus held “The Poetic Words of Amanda Gorman” on February 9th. Other events included film screenings, guest speakers, and a virtual vegan soul food cooking demo.

Athletics

- The Men’s Basketball team has become the 2021-2022 **Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) Conference Champions!** The Buccaneers finished 15-5 in the GSAC and 18-6 overall. The Region 19 playoffs will begin on February 19th, where the Buccaneers will have a bye for the first round. On Tuesday, February 22nd, they face Brookdale for the quarterfinals.
- Isabelle Felix, of the Women’s Volleyball team, was selected as a Garden State Athletic Conference Woman of the Year by the New Jersey Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. NJIAAW honors 1 female student athlete at each level (high school, 2-year college and 4-year college) in NJ every year on *National Girls and Women in Sport Day*.

Staff Accomplishments

- **Dr. Natalie Devonish**, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, has been appointed by Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver as the State Commissioner for the Atlantic City Housing Authority (ACHA). The goal of ACHA is to help low-income families improve their quality of life, awaken or renew self-esteem, while empowering all participants to recognize and utilize available resources from the community. This appointment will be crucial in the College's efforts of connecting individuals to both credit and non-credit educational programs. ACHA serves over 1,500 families in need of both academic and workforce resources, and Atlantic Cape will serve as a major resource.

- **Maria Kellett**, Dean of the Cape May County Campus, became a member of the Cape May County Economic Recovery Advisory Committee. Funded by the Southern New Jersey Economic Development District, consultants from Econsult Solutions, Inc. (ESI) are researching the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Cape May County businesses, institutions, and individuals and are tasked with developing solutions to help Cape May County recover and become more resilient.

Technology Upgrades

- The Information Technology department, in conjunction with a faculty focus group, is currently developing an upgraded and improved Audio and Video configuration for future classrooms. The first phase of the project will be focused on Morse Hall (B-1), Boyer Hall (B-2), Richards Hall (B-3), and various selected classrooms across the three campuses. The B Building renovations include the new *Innovation Center*, classrooms and labs, which shall be outfitted with cutting edge technology. This new technology is critical to support both in-person and remote students.