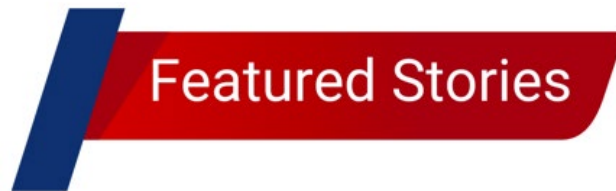


## President's Report

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: March 26, 2024  
(Worthington Atlantic City Campus)



### *Advocacy to Our State Legislators*

- Atlantic Cape was represented at the Assembly Budget Hearing in Trenton to advocate for reinstatement of \$20 million towards community colleges for Governor Murphy's FY25 State Budget Proposal. Attendees for the hearing included: **Dr. Vanessa O'Brien-McMasters, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Chief Strategy Officer, Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff,** Student Government Association (SGA) members, **Sultana Zakia, Juwan Torres,** and Men of Atlantic Cape (MAC) student, **Ibrihim Goodman,** who was one of eight students from the community colleges who testified at the hearing.
- Senator Vincent Polistina met with **Dr. Barbara Gaba** to discuss reinstatement of the \$20 million to the Governor's budget for community colleges on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Attendees for the hearing also included: **Jean McAlister,** and students, **Ibrihim Goodman, Sultana Zakia, Juwan Torres,** and **Sara One.**

### *College Leadership Spotlight*

- **Dr. Gaba** was honored as one of the trailblazers by the Junior Achievement of New Jersey during *Black History Month* for Celebrating Black Leaders for her appointment as the first female and African American President of Atlantic Cape Community College.

### *Trustee Spotlight*

- **Trustee Christina Clemans** was honored as part of the Harriet Tubman Award at the *NAACP Freedom Gala* at the Wildwood Convention Center on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - Also, in attendance at the *NAACP Freedom Gala* were **Jean McAlister** and **Krista McConnell, Director of Cape May County Campus (CMCC)** were they congratulated honoree **Assemblyman Antwan McClellan** from District 1 Legislature for the recognition of his commitment and dedication to Cape May County.



### **Community Outreach – Atlantic County**

- Atlantic Cape sponsored the “*Captains Table event*” on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. All proceeds will be equally shared by the *Community Food Bank of New Jersey-Southern Branch* and *Let Us Eat, Please, Inc.*, to support local hunger relief efforts. Atlantic Cape’s Academy of Culinary Arts also participated in this event.
- The College and the Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC) sponsored the “*Nature’s Best Hope*” event on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Atlantic City, Ventnor, Margate, and Longport Green Teams are working together to host a seminar on the impact of native plants and trees on our local environment. Both Atlantic City and Ventnor have major planting initiatives underway in the Inlet Community Development Corporation neighborhoods.
- Atlantic Cape participated in *The Coalition for a Safe Community* “*Expungement Power*” event in Pleasantville on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Our Community Outreach Office was on hand to share information about Atlantic Cape’s affordable academic programs as well as short term training programs available through our Workforce Development area.

- For the 4th year in a row, Atlantic Cape hosted the *Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia's Mobile Consulate* on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>. This two-day event is in partnership with Mexico's Government of External Relations and local grassroot non-profit organizations in Atlantic City.
  - Over 250 *appointments* were scheduled on these dates, which allowed Atlantic County Mexican nationals the ability to obtain vital documents such as passports, birth certificates, and consular IDs right in their own backyard.
  - Benefiting from this service are local community members, but also identified Atlantic Cape students or parent(s) of an Atlantic Cape student who have taken advantage of this great opportunity. With much success with this event in the community, we will be hosting the second Mobile Consulate date on our Cape May Campus on April 27<sup>th</sup>, for the second year in a row.

### **Community Outreach – Cape May County**

- Atlantic Cape and the *Cape May bizHub* sponsored and attended the *Women in Business Conference* at the Flanders Hotel in Ocean City on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The conference provided a wonderful network opportunity for the college and the *bizHub*, and attendees got to hear from the keynote speakers, such as Cape May County Surrogate E. Marie Hayes and Commissioner Melanie Collette, about their journey as a woman in business in celebration of Women's History Month. Attendees for the event included: **Krista McConnell, Director of Cape May County Campus (CMCC) and Community Outreach, Chris Stenger, Director of the bizHub, Kristi Collemacine, Assistant Director of CMCC Student Affairs, and Suzanne Haggerty, Advancement Database Manager.**
- The Cape May County Campus hosted a week-long event for the *4H Club* from March 11<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>. *The 4H club participants* and their families heard student presentations on agriculture, farming, raising animals, and fishing and they got to see the resources we provide at our Cape May County Campus.

- **Krista McConnell** met with the Puerto Rican Action Committee (PRAC) on March 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss partnership opportunities including hosting events and collaborate in the outreach to Hispanic students living in Cape May County.
- As we continue to encourage enrollment at the Cape May County Campus, **Krista McConnell** was also the guest speaker at *back to school night* events at Wildwood High School and Cape May Technical School on March 19<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> to inform parents about what the college has to offer and specifically what we offer at our Cape May County Campus.

### **Student Engagement**

- For the month of March, Atlantic Cape’s student engagement department is celebrated *Women’s History Month* throughout this month-long celebration. Special events such as movie screenings, guest speakers, information tables, and workshops were planned on all three campuses.

### **Athletics**

#### *Basketball*

- Congratulations to our Men’s Basketball team on a successful season as their season ended in the quarterfinals against Montgomery County on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Buccaneers won 21 games this season making that the most wins since joining Region 19.
- Student Athlete, Christopher Parker, received second team All- Region honors for his exceptional play on the basketball court. This is the third year in a row that a Buccaneer has received this award.

#### *Volleyball*

- The Atlantic Cape Buccaneers Men’s Volleyball team enters the 2024 season with an exciting roster dominated by enthusiastic, high-energy freshmen.
- For the first time in Atlantic Cape’s volleyball history, our Men’s Volleyball has been invited to participate in this year’s *National Championship* in Dupage, IL from April 12<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Student Success

- As we continue with our efforts to increase enrollment, over the past year, Atlantic Cape's Recruitment Department under the direction of **Tasha Rivera, Director of One Stop and Recruitment** have led program specific recruitment webinars and information sessions.
  - Some of the programs include Cybersecurity, Respiratory Care, Practical Nursing & Allied Health, and Aviation/Drone to name a few. Upcoming for 2024 webinars include Criminal Justice, Esports, and multiple 3+1 Programs.
- The College's Call Center, also led by **Tasha Rivera**, has successfully transitioned from Academic Affairs to Enrollment Services. This transition has allowed Atlantic Cape to address over 40% of calls by providing "on-the-spot" service. The remaining calls are transferred to departments for specialized assistance.
- *The Campus Closet* received a generous donation of gently-worn men's and women's professional business attire from representatives of the *South Jersey Democratic Women's Forum* (SJDWF) Atlantic-Cape Chapter on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The Student Support Services (SSS) Program held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *First-Generation College Student Conference* on our Mays Landing Campus on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. This conference is designed to give students resources to maximize their college experience. This conference included workshops focused on mental health, financial awareness, and personal perseverance. The event also held a student panel discussion and keynote speaker to share other First-Generation colleges experiences where incoming students can gain valuable knowledge and insight to their studies. Attendees included: Stockton University, Pleasantville High School, Rowan College of South Jersey, Atlantic City High School, Camden County College, and our EOF and SSS programs.
- The Center for Student Success (CSS) Department under the direction of **Stacy Zacaroff, Senior Director**, facilitated a Mental Health Program titled, "We Don't Play with Mental Health" on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Students

and staff had an opportunity to learn more about mental health through hands-on activities and games.

### **Cape May Bizhub**

- *The Cape May Bizhub* and Atlantic Cape sponsored the Middle Township Chamber of Commerce State of the Township dinner on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mayor Chris Leusner and Police Chief Jennifer Pooler of Middle Township presented topics including the current status of ongoing projects and improvements in the Township, an update on community safety and emergency management, as well as the new business registration requirement and business development opportunities within the Township.

### **Workforce Development**

- We continue to work with our industry partners to provide incumbent worker training. Atlantic Cape's Workforce Development program held an English as a Second Language (ELS) workshop for Tropicana employees from January 33<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 through February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Center for Accessibility**

- The Center for Accessibility, directed by **Nora Keenan**, has formalized partnerships with *Atlantic City Courthouse and Judge Joseph Kane* to continue delivering ADA awareness and education workshops, which serve as professional development for regional judges and additional court staff.

### **Foundation**

- **Chris Mularz, the Assistant Director of Advancement and the Foundation**, attended the *Lower Township Chamber of Commerce* luncheon on March 12<sup>th</sup> and promoted the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Restaurant Gala on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center.