

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: April 28, 2020
(Conference Call)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

CARES Act

- The United States Secretary of Education has allocated \$3.9M to Atlantic Cape for student and institutional support for expenses caused by the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19.
- Fifty percent (50%) of the college's total CARES Act relief funding (\$1.98M) will be distributed to eligible students in the form of emergency relief grants to be used to cover expenses such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.
- The remaining 50% (\$1.98M) has been allocated to Atlantic Cape to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the Coronavirus.

Academic Continuity

- The Information Technology Services (ITS) Department distributed approximately 120 computers to students in need so they could complete the semester.
- Instructional Technology held 117 one-on-one appointments (face-to-face and virtual) with faculty in order to ensure a smooth transition to online instruction. Additionally, Instructional Technology has delivered 15 training webinars, which were attended by 243 faculty.
- A Pass/Withdrawal grading option was created for students due to the challenges of moving from face-to-face instruction to online instruction.

- Donna Vassallo, Dean of Professional Studies, High School Initiatives and Internships, continues to work with high schools offering dual enrollment courses this semester. All of our college faculty teaching concurrent courses are teaching the high school students remotely.

Student Support

- The Testing Office acquired the appropriate equipment and completed the training necessary to administer the Accuplacer Placement Test remotely.
- Students can now make appointments from the website for appointments to meet with Admissions, Testing and Advising representatives. There have been over 600 appointments scheduled for advising.

Business Continuity

- Pursuant to Governor Murphy's Executive Order on March 16, non-essential employees began working from home on Wednesday, March 18. In order to ensure that staff had the tools they needed to continue working from home, 75 staff members were provided with remote access (VPN) capabilities.

Communication

- Marketing and College Relations built a Coronavirus hub on the college's website – atlantic.edu/coronavirus, which initially communicated the Center for Disease Control and New Jersey Governor's direction regarding the early stages of the pandemic. Since then it has evolved into a student's one-stop page for completing their courses online. We continue to add to this content as new information becomes available.
- The Marketing and College Relations team has also begun video communications in earnest. Dr. Gaba has released two videos this past month, and Marketing is developing guidelines for the college community to produce videos for the college's website and social media.

Marketing

- Videos are being developed to promote summer and fall enrollment. Media options are being reviewed for streaming TV, Google, and Social Media buy to raise community awareness of the college's degree and non-degree options.
- April is Community College Awareness month. In conjunction with the Atlantic Cape Foundation, College Relations pitched local media about student alumni who are #NJCCCHeroes and supported it with posts on social media. We are currently working with our Nursing Department as several of the faculty are actively "re-enlisting" in the fight against Coronavirus.

Recruitment

- The Admissions office posted a Virtual New Jersey STARS Information Session on the website.

Fundraising

- This year's Restaurant Gala has been officially cancelled. However, The Resource Development Department has contacted all purchasers of Gala tickets and tables as well as all sponsors and asked them to donate those funds to the Student Emergency Fund. In addition, Constant Contact messages have been sent to nearly 3,000 individuals and companies asking for donations in support of the Student Emergency Fund.
- As more nurses and healthcare workers are needed on the front lines in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic, the Foundation established a separate emergency fund to support our nursing and healthcare studies students in an effort to ensure they have the financial means to continue and complete their degrees.

Community Relations

- The Fellowship of Churches, in partnership with Atlantic Cape, hosted a free food giveaway for families in Atlantic City at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on Saturday, April 11. Three hundred fifty (350) 30lb boxes of food were distributed.

- On Tuesday, April 21, Atlantic Cape supported the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County (HAAC) on their first of two food distributions in Atlantic City at the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City Chelsea Club Unit site. Victor Moreno, Community Outreach Manager, wrote and obtained a \$40,000 grant for the Hispanic Association from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) to make this project possible. The first distribution gave 500 families basic food necessities. The total goal is to feed 1,000 local families, in addition to distributing 500 \$30.00 food vouchers redeemable at local grocery stores. Atlantic Cape donated 500 reusable grocery bags. The next distribution is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020 at our Lady Star of the Sea Church, with a goal of feeding another 500 families.
- In support of our nursing and healthcare alumni, trays cookies were delivered to local area hospitals on behalf of the Atlantic Cape Alumni Association. AtlantiCare's Mainland and Atlantic City Hospitals, Shore Medical Center in Somers Point, and Cape Regional Medical Center all received cookies. Roseann Kobialka, AVP Organizational Development at AtlantiCare, Atlantic Cape Alumna and Foundation Board member said, *"On behalf of all of us at AtlantiCare, please know that kind gestures like these really lighten the stress and anxiety a bit!"*
- Atlantic Cape donated several boxes of gloves to the Hamilton Township Police Department. The gloves will be distributed to their patrol officers to help continue to keep them safe during the pandemic.
- Atlantic Cape donated over 45 pounds of food from our perishable storeroom to the Community Food Bank in Egg Harbor Township.
- The contents of the Cape May County Campus food pantry were donated to churches affiliated with the Cape May County Coalition for a Safe Community. Atlantic Cape staff helped box, bag, and load the food into trucks.

Student Accomplishments

- Annually, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) organizes the *New Jersey Community College Scholars Celebration*, which honors the outstanding academic achievements of the top community college students in

the state who are members of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. Two Atlantic Cape PTK students (Alpha Mu chapter), Desi Berardo and Kalissa Krapf, were selected to be honored at this event for the 2020 NJ Academic All-Star Team. Although the ceremony was canceled, they will receive medallions and NJ Governor resolutions.

- Richard Russell, Assistant Professor of English, is collecting audio recordings from students receiving Communication Awards in writing and those accepted to present work at the NJ Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Colloquium. These recordings will be used to create an online Writers' Colloquium IX in lieu of the usual on-campus event.
- Forty-one (41) students have been newly inducted into Sigma Kappa Delta, the English Honor Society. This was an increase of almost 50% from last year.

Events

- Richard Russell, Assistant Professor of English, and Elinor Mattern, Adjunct Instructor of English, hosted the Community of Poets (1+1 Reading) on Thursday, April 23 virtually through Zoom.