Faces of the Future is a national survey designed to assess the status of the student populations and explore the role community colleges play in the lives of students. Faces of the Future was created out a partnership between ACT and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Developed in 1998 and piloted in 1999, the first annual survey occurred in the fall 2000 semester. Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) was one of the 245 community colleges participating in this inaugural survey. The most recent administration (Fall 2005) marks the sixth anniversary of Faces of the Future and represents responses from the ACCC student body as well as 97 community colleges across the nation.1,2

The Office of Research added ten supplemental questions to the standard Faces of the Future questionnaire. These additional questions assess student experiences specific to ACCC. The combined questionnaire provides us with a portrait of our student body in the following areas:

- **Student Background.** Includes demographics, socioeconomic status indicators, life style characteristics, and personal goals.
- **College Experience.** Includes educational goals and factors contributing to enrollment such as financial support. Also assesses opinions relating to minority issues.
- **Satisfaction.** Includes impressions of programmatic quality, administration, and facilities and services. Also assesses sense of safety/security.

ACT reports annual survey results, with trends, by academic intent (credit vs. continuing education) at both the national and institutional level. The Office of Research also examines cross-campus differences (Mays Landing, Cape May, and Atlantic City). Survey results provide indicators of the ACCC student body comparable both across sites and to other community colleges participating in the Faces of the Future survey. The following are highlights of the 2005 Faces of the Future survey across the three major themes – student background, college experience, and satisfaction.

### Student Background

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1 More information on the background and methodology of the survey is available via the AACC website at [http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ResourceCenter/Projects_Partnerships/Current/FacesoftheFuture/Backround_Information.htm](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ResourceCenter/Projects_Partnerships/Current/FacesoftheFuture/Backround_Information.htm)

2 The study sample (N=495) was randomly selected from the entire ACCC student body. Fifty-six percent (n=278) reported they take courses only at Mays Landing, 8% (n=44) take course only at Atlantic City, 13.5% (n=67) report they only take courses in Cape May; 12% (n=59) reported taking courses at multiple sites; 9.4% did not respond (n=47). 96% of respondents were credit students; 4% were non-credit or continuing education.
The majority of respondents reported that they took courses only at the Mays Landing Campus (57%); 14% took courses only at the Cape May County Campus; 9% took courses only at the Atlantic City Campus.

Approximately 12% of respondents reported taking courses at multiple campuses.

One quarter (25%) of credit respondents reported between 13 and 30 earned credits (Figure 2.) Half of non-credit respondents reported between 1 and 3 earned credits. (Figure 3.)

Top 5 Goals of Respondents

**Non-Credit / Continuing Education**
1. To have a steady, secure Job
2. Time for personal/family interests
3. To be self-reliant
4. To make a lot of money
5. To help others in need

**Credit**
1. Time for personal/family Interests
2. To have a steady, secure job
3. To be self-reliant
4. To make a lot of money
5. To help others in need
Faces of the Future, 2005

Student Background

- Over half of respondents live and work in Hammonton (28.7%/23.4%), Atlantic City/Pleasantville (13.5%/19.4%), or Absecon (22.4%, 14.3%).

- Two-thirds of respondents (66%) reported they intended to remain in the Atlantic-Cape region; 8.5% intend to relocate to the Philadelphia/New York area; 21% intend to leave the area entirely.

- The majority of ACCC credit student respondents are 20 years of age or younger (60.9%); 58% percent are female; 63.6% are white. (Figure 4)

- Almost half of the ACCC continuing education respondents are 40 years of age or older; 53% are female; 60.5% are white. (Figure 4)

- Over one-third (40.8%) of credit respondents reported a total annual income of less than $10,000. Approximately one-third (34.7%) reported working 35 or more hours per week. (Figure 6)

- Approximately one-quarter (30.3%) of non-credit respondents reported a total income of at least $40,000. 42% reported working 35 or more hours per week; 14.3% work over 50 hours per week. (Figure 6)
College Experience

- Over two-thirds of respondents reported their declared major as either business/accounting (29%), nursing (17%) or general studies (17%).

- 14% on credit respondents reported having email addresses through school. The national average is 47%. (Figure 8). 87% of respondents report having internet access at home.

- Top 5 Reasons For Taking Courses at ACCC
  1. Occupation Requirements
  2. Personal Development
  3. Increase Earning Power
  4. Study New Topics/Subjects
  5. Career Change

- Financial barriers such as costs of tuition/books, and costs of child care were the highest ranked problems encountered while taking classes. (Figure 9)

- Top 5 Factors Contributing To Respondents Decision to Attend ACCC
  1. Cost
  2. Distance from Residence
  3. Availability of Scholarships/Aid
  4. Particular Program of Study
  5. Variety of Course Offerings
### Satisfaction

Figure 10  
*Figure 10: Instruction is of High Quality*

- Five items that respondents reported the *highest* level of agreement or satisfaction (4.08 or higher):
  1. Instructors treat students within my gender with respect
  2. Instructors treat students within my racial/ethnic group with respect
  3. I feel a general sense of safety/security while on campus
  4. I would recommend the college to family/friends

Figure 11  
*Figure 11: Courses are Available at the Times I Can Take Them*

- The five items that respondents reported they *lowest* level of agreement or satisfaction (between 3.65 and 3.41):
  1. I could not attend this college without financial aid
  2. Academic advising is of high quality
  3. Most instructors are available outside of class time
  4. Overall, my program of study at this college has been sufficient
  5. Concern for students is shown for students as individuals
Satisfaction

- Non-credit respondents consistently report levels of satisfaction within the national average; reporting that they are “satisfied” to “very satisfied” in 2005. (4.36 on a five-point scale) (Figure 13)

- Since 2002, credit respondents consistently report levels of satisfaction less than the national average. However, the overall satisfaction level in 2005 was 4.0 on a 5 point-scale; the national average was 4.6. (Figure 13)

- Credit 28% of credit respondents reported they were very satisfied (5 on a five-point scale) compared to 61.1% of non-credit respondents.

- Respondents generally agree that they would recommend ACCC to Friends and Relatives (Figure 14).