

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: November 1, 2022
(Worthington Atlantic City Campus)

Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program Approval

- Atlantic Cape coordinated the application for a \$50,000 planning grant (awarded in November 2021 from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs) to develop the Inlet Neighborhood Revitalization Action Strategy. Atlantic Cape, in partnership with Rutala Associates, presented the final Inlet Neighborhood Revitalization Action Strategy for the Inlet section of Atlantic City in June. The planning process brought together residents, community groups, local institutions, non-profits, city representatives, and local businesses to discuss how they envision their neighborhood improving over the next decade, and how they can work together to achieve their vision.
- This month the Inlet Neighborhood Plan was approved by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for a 10-year period. With this approval, the college is now eligible for Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program funds for projects in the Inlet.
- Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, who led this initiative, and Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Campus Operations & Community Outreach, were central to the success of this endeavor.

Technology Upgrades

- The Information Technology department in collaboration with the Marketing and Communications department has successfully converted the Atlantic.edu website to a fully secured website (HTTP to HTTPS). In the past, the

Atlantic.edu website was only secured for confidential, critical or sensitive data. At this time, all data including public data is secured.

Grants

- The college recently received two grants from the State of New Jersey for our Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program.
 - The EOF program received \$39,598 to help offset the cost of textbooks and educational supplies for EOF students since textbook expenditures affect their time to graduate as well as their access to courses, especially in STEM fields.
 - The EOF program also received \$36,450 for a Retention Program designed to help students maintain full-time enrollment, successfully complete their classes, improve their GPA, retake classes that they received below a passing grade, and ultimately get back on track to completing their degree programs and graduating.

High School Partnerships

- Atlantic Cape is holding a 45-hour sUAS Operation-Multi-Rotor drones course for high school teachers on the Mays Landing Campus. Twelve (12) high school teachers enrolled in the course from six local area high schools. Once the high school teachers complete the course, their respective schools will be able to add a drone course as part of their traditional school curriculum. The course is being funded through the Atlantic Cape Foundation by a private trust.

Student Recognition

- The Academy of Culinary Arts held the Second-Year Coat Ceremony on October 18th to recognize the students who have persisted to the second year of the program. Thirty-seven (37) students were recognized.

Student Engagement

- The “Wind Down Wednesday” mental health and wellness series began with Yoga and Meditation led by Camille of the Leadership Studio of Atlantic City.

Student Support

- The student loaner laptop program is continuing to distribute laptops to students. As of October 2022, 2,600 laptops have been distributed to students and are expected to continue at a consistent rate into the Spring semester.

Athletics

- The first annual “Buccaneer Madness” event to celebrate our student athletes was held on September 30th, which included a Student vs. Faculty basketball game, introduction of the athletics teams, other basketball contests, and a scrimmage featuring the Men’s basketball team. Jamal Edwards, Director of Athletics, organized the event.
- New Jersey Hall of Fame basketball star Leonard Hayes came to speak to our student athletes and donated \$500 to our Men’s basketball team.
- The college’s Esports team has started their inaugural season, competing in tournaments for Super Smash Brothers, Mario Kart, and Overwatch. The team this year is comprised of: Carmine Cantwell (Super Smash Brothers/Mario Kart/Overwatch), Thomas Nguyen (Super Smash Brothers/Overwatch), Joseph Woodruff (Super Smash Brothers/Overwatch), Brian Fink (Overwatch), and Tyler Whaley (Overwatch).

Foundation

- Karen and Stephen Weiss recently donated \$30,000 to an endowed scholarship to support the American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Cape May County Branch's Marion MacEwan Second Chance Scholarship. A check presentation was held on September 29th.

Community Engagement

- The Atlantic County Division of Public Health held a Flu Clinic on the Mays Landing Campus on October 21st where both flu and COVID-19 vaccinations were offered to the public.
- The American Red Cross conducted a blood drive at the Cape May County Campus on October 24th.

Professional Development

- Active Shooter Training was included in Faculty Development Day on September 30th with approximately 120 faculty and staff in attendance. The guest speaker was Ed Moore, Trainer from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

Accomplishments

- Nancy Porfido, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advocate and Judicial Officer, spoke at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey's "Women Fighting Hunger Luncheon" about the college's Food Pantry program, along with Atlantic Cape graduate Charlene Maycott.
- Dr. Barbara Gaba was appointed to the Junior Achievement of New Jersey's Board of Directors. The JANJ will be focusing on supporting youth in the South Jersey region.
- Dr. Gaba and Trustee Ellen Byrne presented at the Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress on October 28th. They presented "Feeding Students Feeds Success: A Three-Campus Multi-Pronged Approach to Food Insecurity."
- Dr. Gaba and Trustee Byrne also served as panelists for the ACCT Pre-Congress Academy: "The Chair's Academy: The Leadership Team of the Board"
- Sherwood Taylor, Senior Director of Workforce Development, attended the *2022 Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development*, representing the Wind Training Center at Atlantic Cape. He was a panel member in the session on "Building New Jersey's Offshore Wind Workforce".
- A retirement luncheon for Maria Kellett, retired Dean of the Cape May County Campus and Senior Director of Resource Development, was held on September 28th with 60 people in attendance, including Trustees from the Board and the Foundation Board, community partners, elected officials, faculty, and staff. The Cape May County Commissioners presented Maria with a certificate of recognition.