

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: September 26, 2023
(Mays Landing Campus)

Welcome Back for the Fall Semester

- Atlantic Cape students and faculty were welcomed back this month for the Fall Semester on all three campuses!

Student Engagement

- Student Engagement hosted its annual Welcome Back Club Recruitment Fair on September 19th and 20th. The event featured information on 24 Atlantic Cape clubs, along with food, COVID-19 and flu vaccinations by Southern Jersey Family Medical Center, voter registration and information on the voting process, and giveaways.

Welcome Center Ribbon Cutting

- Atlantic Cape held the Welcome Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the college community on August 31st. Trustees, faculty, and staff were on site as the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management division officially opened its doors to the Welcome Center on our Mays Landing Campus.
- While visiting campus, Commissioner John Risley, Chairman of the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners, received a tour of the Welcome Center by Dr. Gaba.

BizHub Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

- Atlantic Cape hosted the Cape May County bizHub Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 6th at the Cape May County Campus. The bizHub is a small business resource center that was developed to address the unique needs of

Cape May County residents, as well as others interested in exploring opportunities in a pro-business community offering a great quality of life.

- Those in attendance included Congressman Jeff Van Drew, Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, Assemblyman Erik Simonsen, Cape May County Commissioner Will Morey, Atlantic County Commissioner John Risley (Chairman), and Cape May County Surrogate E. Marie Hayes. Members of the Board of Trustees in attendance included Trustees Christina Clemans, and Thomas Dawson. Members of the Foundation Board of Trustees in attendance included Trustees Terry Budd, Rebecca Guerrasio, Trina McSorley, Robert Mullock, Zack Mullock, Roman Osadchuk, Ryan Smith, and Jim Rutala.

Legislature Breakfast

- The Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ) recently hosted US Senator Cory Booker at their Legislative Breakfast. Dr. Gaba personally thanked Senator Booker for, his support of the college for funding of our Cape May County BizHub (\$212,000), a resource for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Additionally, the CCSNJ sponsored the attendance of Student Government Association (SGA) President and Officer, Sultana Zakia and Michael Heston, along with Ibrihim Goodman, Men of Atlantic Cape (MAC) member. These student leaders were also able to meet Senator Booker and network with many of the businesses that were represented.

Technology Upgrades

- We have converted the Cape May and Atlantic City campuses from Coax cabling to Fiber with our third-party vendor, Windstream. Fiber will improve phone connectivity issues until the phone system is upgraded and migrated to the cloud. The Mays Landing Campus will be converted in late Sept or October.

Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- Councilman Kaleem Shabazz invited Dr. Gaba to speak at Lt. Governor's Shelia Oliver's Memorial Service at the Second Baptist Church in Atlantic City on August 31st. Dr. Gaba spoke about the legacy of Lt. Governor Oliver, noting

that she was a champion of the underserved, a champion for Atlantic City, a champion for New Jersey and a champion for Atlantic Cape Community College.

- Dr. Gaba spoke at the Atlantic City NAACP's meeting, hosted at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus, on September 11th. Dr. Gaba spoke about the college, focusing on affordability, flexibility, convenience; and the myriad opportunities available to our students and community. The Worthington Atlantic City Campus is proud to host the Atlantic City NAACP's meetings for the rest of the year.
- Atlantic Cape sponsored the "Out of the Darkness Walk" presented by the American Association for Suicide Prevention at the Atlantic City boardwalk hosted by Hard Rock Casino & Hotel on September 9th, 2023. Over 750 community members participated to create awareness around suicide. Atlantic Cape's community outreach team was on hand to share college information and resources as well as water and fresh fruit for walk participants.
- Atlantic Cape partnered with the City of Atlantic City to co-sponsor the *Peruvian Consulate* at our Worthington Atlantic City Campus on September 9th, 2023. The Peruvian Consulate provided services to 250 families that included Passport, DNI (National Identification Documentation), and Public Notarizations of deeds. The City of Atlantic City presented the college with a certificate of appreciation for our partnership.
- Atlantic Cape invited the *Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City* to the Mays Landing Campus for an event to celebrate the annual Boys and Girls Club National Day on September 9th, 2023. The Atlantic Cape recruitment team held tours, refreshments, and games. Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a national, nonprofit organization which provides programs and services to promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.
- The *Coalition for a Safe Community* hosted a community walk in partnership with FBI agencies (Atlantic City and Newark offices), the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, and local and state law enforcement. The purpose of the walk is to bridge communications and support between residents and law

enforcement. The Coalition for a Safe Community is a body of community members and organizations dedicated to improving and empowering residents to sustain safe communities in Atlantic City and Pleasantville. Members of this Coalition include Dr. Gaba and Trustee Dawson.

Community Outreach – Cape May

- Atlantic Cape participated in the *Cape May County Unity in the Community* event at the Cape May County Park & Zoo on August 28th.
- Atlantic Cape participated in SOAR Church's Back Pack Giveaway at Woodbine Elementary School on August 23rd.

Athletics

- AtlantiCare's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) partnered with AtlantiCare Resident Physicians to provide physicals to our student athletes at Atlantic Cape.
- Members of the Atlantic Cape Buccaneers Athletics teams volunteered at the Ironman 70.3 mile Atlantic City race from September 8th-10th. By volunteering, the athletes raised money for their teams.

Student Success Stories

- Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff and Chief Advancement Officer, and Chris Mularz, Advancement Officer, met new student, Todd Tuck, who is experiencing his first time in college after many years out of high school. His short-term goal is to earn an Addiction Counseling Specialist Professional certificate (and college credits) leading to a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC). His next goal is to earn an associate's degree. When asked why he wanted to earn both the credential and associate degree, he responded, "So I can be a role model for my children."

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

- **Lizbeth Castro-James**, Director of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Community Outreach, was honored on Front Runner New Jersey's *Class of 2023 "30 Under 40 Top Young Latinos of South Jersey."*