

## President's Report

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: August 20, 2024  
(Mays Landing Campus)

### Featured Stories

#### *Grants*

- Atlantic Cape was awarded a \$551,818 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The project, "*Preparing Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Data Technicians*," addresses the evolving technology landscape in the field of small unmanned aircraft systems. This includes advancements in miniaturized sensors, development specialized data processing software and the use of machine learning for analysis. The industry is poised to see another round of significant growth, driven by the impending additions to regulatory frameworks that will increase the opportunities for sUAS operations.

#### *Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC)*

- Atlantic Cape's Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC) held its Inlet Board retreat, hosted by Ocean Casino Hotel, in Atlantic City on July 20. This retreat served as an opportunity to focus on strategic planning, team building, and deeper discussions about the Inlet CDC's FY25 goals and priorities.
- During the month of July, the Inlet CDC partnered with the Atlantic City Arts Foundation, the Hydrangea Trail, and Atlantic City's Gardner's Basin to create the Inlet Hydrangea Planter Pot Project. Over 60 artists applied, and 22 were selected to beautify the community while supporting small businesses.

Twenty-two planters were distributed throughout local businesses in the Inlet neighborhood.



### Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- Atlantic Cape partnered with South Jersey Aids Alliance and sponsored snacks for the Community Health Fair, HIV Testing, and Health Screening event that took place at Worthington Atlantic City Campus on June 25.
- The College collaborated with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to host an Offshore Wind open house on June 26. Over a hundred guests attended the event, where they learned about New Jersey's growing Offshore Wind Industry.
- Atlantic Cape's Recruitment and Community Outreach Teams participated in *National Night Out* across Atlantic & Cape May Counties on August 6. *National Night Out* is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, and more caring places to live.
- The College hosted AtlantiCare's Community Health Fair for the third year in a row on August 16 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. This event has been held in support of AtlantiCare's HealthPlex Center for National Health Week. The HealthPlex Center cares for approximately 10,000 unique individuals a year. **Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff and Chief Advancement Officer**, provided welcome remarks on behalf of the College to over 400 attendees, including 40 agencies that provided healthcare, housing, health insurance enrollment and financial assistance, and other programs and support services.
- Atlantic Cape partnered with the Atlantic City Board of Education and OceanSide Family Success Centers in their annual *Back to School Event* held at

the Uptown School Complex in the Inlet Neighborhood of Atlantic City. Over 300 participated in this event and our Outreach department was on hand with a college information booth.

### **Recruitment**

- **Lizbeth Castro-James** hosted an Atlantic Cape information session that consisted of Financial Aid, Admissions, International Students, Early College, and Workforce topics at the Puerto Rican Action Committee (PRAC) office in Hammonton on July 31. The information session was held in Spanish.
- The College also hosted Stop, Drop and Enroll events to encourage students interested in Atlantic Cape or recent high school graduates to enroll in Atlantic Cape in one day on August 13. There were 117 potential students who participated in these events across all three campuses.

### **Summer in Cape May**

- **Krista McConnell, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach**, attended the Cape May County 4H Fair at the Fairgrounds at the Rutgers Complex next to Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus. Krista hosted an information table about the College and the degree programs and offerings at the College's Cape May branch.
- This summer Atlantic Cape's Cape May County branch participated in hosting the New Jersey Statewide Student Support Services Camp, *EmpowerU*, a free camp geared towards strengthening skill sets and life lessons for students entering the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. This five-week camp ran from July 16 to August 15. This camp provided an excellent opportunity for Cape May County middle school students, who might otherwise spend their summer indoors, an opportunity to interact with peers, and enjoy a dynamic learning experience. Topics covered include *Goal Getters*, *Strive to Thrive*, *Safety Stars*, *Do You Mind?*, and *Epic Farewell*.
- The Cape May County Campus also hosted the Cape May County NAACP branches' Summer Reading Program on July 11 and July 23. Children from ages 3 to 17 and their parents explored the campus as they picked out free books to

promote summer reading while promoting educational opportunities in the community for underprivileged youth.

- There were over 220 runners, ranging from 14 to 74 years old, who signed up for Cape May's 5K, 10K, or half marathon that started and finished at the Cape May County Campus Sunday, August 11. The net proceeds benefit Atlantic Cape's athletics department. **Shane Ritchie, Manager of the Cape May County Campus and Campus Operations**, and the Coach of the new Cross-Country team, coordinated this run at the Campus as he promoted the first Cross Country team at the College and the Campus. Runners had an opportunity to go inside the College and tour the building as they waited for their race.
- The Cape May County Zoo hosted its first *Zoo Education Program* this summer at Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus from July 17 to August 14. The program hosted two classes each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Twenty-two students, ranging from 5 to 17 years of age, per class, interacted with the animals on our Cape May County Campus and participated in the Zoo's education program.
- The Cape May County Campus also partnered with Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional to host their staff trainings at the College, utilizing our nursing lab in Cape May. Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional will utilize the Cape May Campus from August 19 to September 20.

### **Student Engagement**

- Atlantic Cape's Student Affairs hosted New Student Orientations (NSO) throughout the month of August on all three campuses. The events included breakout sessions for students on Self-Care, and informative sessions for parents on financial aid and other resources available at the College. Over 330 students participated in the events across all three campuses.
- The Athletics Department hosted their annual Athletics Orientation and Physical Day on August 8. During new student orientation, the Athletics' staff and coaches held two sessions. In the first, students met the staff and coaches and asked about the college's sports teams. In the second, new student athletes met with current athletes and coaches to discuss eligibility paperwork

and athletic logistics. In partnership with AtlantiCare, student athletes and nursing students also had a **free physical exam** on the same day to meet their athletic and degree requirements to be eligible to play an Atlantic Cape sport and enter the Nursing Program.

### **Student Success**

- Thirteen Atlantic Cape Community College nursing students received their pins during the **Inaugural Practical Nursing Completion Ceremony** on August 7. These students are the first to complete the three-semester certificate program, which has provided them with the required skills and knowledge needed to start their careers in nursing. Trustee Bey, Trustee Kyle, and Trustee White attended the event.

### **Athletics**

- Atlantic Cape's Men's Basketball head coach, Allen Ragland, was appointed as third Vice-President to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (D.E.I.) Committee for the NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association. The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), founded in 1938, is the governing association of community college, state college and junior college athletics throughout the United States.
- The Women's Volleyball team hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual High School Volleyball Tournament in our Pitney Hall Gymnasium on August 14. All local high school volleyball teams in the area were invited to participate. High schools that participated included Absegami, Cedar Creek, Egg Harbor Township, Oakcrest, and Pleasantville.

### **Leadership Spotlight**

- **Dr. Gaba** has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The AACC is the primary advocacy body for the nation's more than 1,000 two year associate degree granting institutions for nearly 12 million students. While serving on this board, Dr. Gaba will contribute to the national voice and advocacy for the community

college mission. She will also co-chair the AACC Commission on Economic and Workforce Development.

- **Leslie Jamison, Chief Financial Officer**, was a panelist at the annual National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) conference in Chicago. She presented on “*Building Better Budgets: Connecting Resources, Stakeholders, and Student Success*” that examines how better budget building impacts better input from college stakeholders. Ms. Jamison, along with other grant recipients, received an acknowledgement from NACUBO for their exceptional work for employing financial practices that are student-centered, and optimizing resources for positive impact on students in higher education.
- **Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**, was the keynote speaker for the Atlantic County Youth Corps graduation ceremony on our Mays Landing Campus on June 27. The New Jersey Youth Corps program is a statewide initiative to assist out-of-school youth ages 16 to 25 that need to complete their high school education, gain necessary work skills for employment, increase their academic performance levels, and want to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others in their community.
- **Lizbeth Castro-James, Director of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Community Outreach**, was recognized by Masterpiece Advertising Design, located in Atlantic City, as part of their *Women Power Wednesday* campaign on August 7. Masterpiece Advertising Design recognizes local women who play important roles in the region. Lizbeth was recognized for her work at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and the Inlet Neighborhood district in Atlantic City.

### **Faculty & Staff Spotlight**

- Jeff Cupo, President of the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), visited the Spangler Library on Wednesday, July 24 as part of the Unsung Libraries Initiative, which highlights libraries that exemplify this year’s NJLA themes of Simple Kindness and Breaking Barriers. The outstanding service provided by these libraries will be recognized, with one of the twelve libraries visited over

the next year receiving the NJLA President's Award. During his visit, Cupo met with the full-time library staff to discuss the innovative and compassionate work being done to support student success at Atlantic Cape's Library. The discussions focused on the continuous improvement of services, expansion of the textbook reserve collection, provision of calculators and anatomy models, and offering snacks to students in the library.

- **Victor Moreno, Senior Manager, Special Projects**, will be recognized with the *Higher Education Excellence Award* by the Atlantic County Puerto Rican Parade at their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Roots Awards VIP Black Tie Reception ceremony on August 23. He is being recognized for his exceptional dedication and commitment to the community and as a role model for many students at the College.
- **Atlantic Cape Alumni, Angeliza Disla**, will be also recognized with the *2023 College Student Athlete of the Year Award* for her merits on the Women's Volleyball Team by the Atlantic County Puerto Rican Parade. Ms. Disla was honored by the Board last November for her appointment to the Region 19 Division III All-Region Volleyball Team.