

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba

DATE: January 29, 2026

(Mays Landing Campus)



## Faculty Spotlights

- **Professors Lee Collins, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, and Claude Fortune, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Engineering,** teamed up with other researchers to examine public perceptions about nonhuman primate species in a zoo setting and whether the way they are presented to the public influences their suitability/desirability as domestic pets. Their findings were published in the *Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research*.



## Leadership Spotlights

- **Stacey Zacharoff, Dean of Students,** was appointed the Board Chair of the South Jersey AIDS Alliance, which is a caring, compassionate Organization dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS.



## Student Success Stories & Celebrations

## *Student Success*

- **Tracy Parker, a current Atlantic Cape student,** was honored at the inaugural *Atlantic City Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame* event on December 11 at their Teen Center. During the ceremony, **Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**, presented Tracy with a well-deserved award, recognizing her remarkable achievements and contributions that led to her induction into the Hall of Fame.

## *Athletics*

- A first-year student athlete, **Rainelle Blocker**, was named *NJCAA National Player of the Week* for Division III women's basketball, marking the first time in recent years that an Atlantic Cape player has received this national recognition.

## More News

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

- The Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC) held its annual Holiday Bash on December 11 at the Showboat Lucky Snake Arcade. The event provided games and festive activities for children and families in the Inlet neighborhood, showcasing the CDC's dedication to community engagement and creating memorable holiday experiences.
- Atlantic Cape staff, students, and Inlet CDC board members participated in the *City of Atlantic City's Winter Wonderland Parade* on December 13 aboard a holiday float. This event showcased the partnership between Atlantic Cape and Inlet CDC, highlighting their commitment to community engagement, student leadership, and civic involvement while spreading holiday cheer throughout the City.

## Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- Jean McAlister and Lizbeth Castro attended a graduation for students attending Casa De Americana, which is for students learning English as a Second Language. Trustee Torres originally brought this group to us 10 years ago.
- In December, the Center for Accessibility (CFA) hosted *the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025* on December 4. The event featured a panel of five speakers, including a student, alumnus, faculty member, CSS staff, and a community partner. A resource fair showcased internal and external support services, including students from the Atlantic County Special Services School District's Transitions program, focusing on accessibility, inclusion, and community resources.
- **Lizbeth Castro, Director of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Community Outreach**, attended *the ESL Program Credit Graduation* hosted by Gwen McIntyre on December 10, celebrating 13 international Atlantic Cape students completing their final Academic English Language Program (AELP) course.
- The Community Outreach team supported holiday giving initiatives across all three campuses by assisting with an on-campus toy drive, hosting the *Toy Wrapping Event* in our cafeteria, and sponsoring the annual *Hope for the Holidays* event on December 12 and 13, respectively.
- The Community Outreach team also participated in the *Winter Wonderland Experience Community Event* in Pleasantville on December 23, providing appetizers and hosting an Atlantic Cape/Workforce Information table to share resources with attendees.
- Atlantic Cape's Community Outreach team and the President's Office participated in and sponsored the *Three Kings Day* events hosted by the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County (HAAC), supporting toy distribution and children's activities while celebrating the cultural traditions of faith, family, generosity, and giving within Hispanic communities.

- In partnership with Jewish Family Services Food Pantries, the Community Outreach reach hosted an on-campus JFS Food Distribution on January 22, providing free grocery bags to students in need and supporting food security on campus.

### **Community Outreach – Cape May**

- The Cape May County Campus, in partnership with the Cape May Council for Young Children, hosted a Fire Safety and Touch a Truck event on November 14 that discussed fire safety with children and their families. Attendees got to discover the Cape May County Campus, meet local firefighters, and explore a fire truck.

### **Cape May County bizHub**

- The Cape May County bizHub will continue its *Small Business Seminar Series* starting in February, featuring seminars on business ownership, business plan development, target market and marketing plan development, starting and running a business, financial resources and small business lending, and more.

### **Student Engagement**

- In December 2025, Atlantic Cape's food pantries and student support programs implemented several initiatives to combat student food insecurity. These included a free turkey giveaway, made possible by the donation of 100 turkeys from Bally's AC, with assistance from the Academy of Culinary Arts. Additionally, there was a pantry giveaway featuring gift cards and spice kits donated by the Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ). Throughout all three campuses, the Food for Finals program provided meals using funding from the Hunger Free Food Grant. Lastly, a Fresh Produce Market was sponsored by the Atlantic Cape Community College Educational Association (ACCCEA), with volunteer support from the Center for Student Success.
- During the months of November and December, Atlantic Cape students, staff, and community members donated over 200 pounds of pasta across all three

campus sites through the Pasta Food Drive, with contributions benefiting the College's campus food pantries.

- Throughout December and January, Atlantic Cape's Center for Student Success hosted several mental health workshops and wellness events, including "Let's End the Stigma," "Mental Health & Social Media," "Final Stretch Celebration," and "Beating the Winter Blues." These events aimed to reduce stigma, promote healthy online habits, provide stress relief during finals, and offer coping strategies for seasonal depression, all while supporting students' emotional well-being and academic success.
- The Student Government Association (SGA) teamed up with Stockton University for a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 19. Students participated in community service by assembling care packages, creating thank-you cards, and honoring local first responders, all while promoting civic engagement and teamwork.

### **Recruitment**

- Atlantic Cape's divisions of Student Affairs, which includes Athletics, the Center for Student Success, and One-Stop, and Academic Affairs, including the Academy of Culinary Arts, participated in *Viking Week* at Atlantic City High School from November 17 to 20, 2025. During this event, they offered workshops focused on college preparation and the DREAMERS program, provided financial aid guidance, highlighted various academic programs, and facilitated career readiness experiences titled "A Day in the Life." Additionally, there was a session for student-athletes aimed at promoting college access and enhancing recruitment partnerships.