

President's Report

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: October 28, 2025
(Worthington Atlantic City Campus)

Featured Stories

20th Anniversary of the Cape May County Campus

- Atlantic Cape celebrated the *20th Anniversary of the Cape May County Campus* on October 11, an event that included members of the Board of Trustees, local dignitaries, residents, and College alumni, students, and employees, with co-sponsor Puerto Rican Action Committee (PRAC) in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event featured guest speaker **Congressman Jeff Van Drew**, who played a key role in the establishment of the campus. He presented **Dr. Gaba** with a proclamation celebrating the event, affixed with the great gold seal of the United States.
- In honor of the *20th Anniversary of the Cape May County Campus*, the Lower Township Chamber of Commerce recognized Atlantic Cape for our 20 years of service in Cape May County on October 14.

Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC)

- The Inlet Community Development Corporation is a recipient of the *2025 Business Excellence Awards* by the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce, along with the other three economic development corporations, for their hard work and dedication to revitalizing Atlantic City. The awards ceremony will be held on December 2.

MOA Civil Rights Compliance Review

- Atlantic Cape's submission of the Methods of Administration (MOA) Civil Rights Compliance Review, completed this past April, was reviewed by the State of New Jersey, and no significant findings were identified.

Resource Fair

- **Senator Andy Kim** hosted his second resource fair at Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus on October 24. The fair focused on helping residents navigate the current government shut down, and offered attendees the opportunity to meet with organizations on healthcare coverage, financial aid for higher education, applying for NJ FamilyCare (Medicaid), Disability, Veteran and Senior services, food assistance resources, and more.

Alumni Spotlight

- Atlantic Cape's advising team hosted a *Meet Your Major* event where students got to listen and ask questions to professionals in various fields to aid their understanding of job opportunities for their major. The event also featured three Atlantic Cape Alumni, **Professor Richard Russell (2020 Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient)**, **Ahmet Sahingoz (Foundation Board Member & President of the Alumni Council)**, and **Michael Andreini (Alumni Council Member)**.



- **Lizbeth Castro, Director of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Community Outreach**, completed the Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program through Rutgers University and the New Jersey Civil Service Commission. Her Capstone Project focused on expanding Atlantic Cape's community outreach across all 23 municipalities in Atlantic County.
- **Laura Batchelor, Chief Marketing Officer, and Chris Mularz, Associate Director of Advancement and the Foundation**, participated with other

marketers and advancement professionals from New Jersey's 18 community colleges in the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges' (NJCCC) "*Launching the Future Ready: New Jersey Coalition*." Specifically, Laura and Chris serve on the "Feed the Future" campaign, which is a statewide fundraising initiative to combat student food insecurity at New Jersey's community colleges.



Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC)

- The Inlet CDC team participated in the *Sustainable Health & Wellness Village Fest* and hosted an information table on October 4, distributing materials about Inlet CDC and Atlantic Cape Community College.
- The Inlet CDC hosted the *3rd Annual Inlet CDC Pumpkin Patch* at the Absecon Lighthouse on October 23. The event included train rides, inflatables, games, snacks, and pumpkin painting for families in the community. This event was presented in partnership with the Oceanside Family Success Center and the Absecon Lighthouse.

Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- The Community Outreach team set up an information table at the *Eagle Fest* event held at Egg Harbor Township High School on September 27, engaging students, families, and the community while providing resources about Atlantic Cape programs and services.
- The Community Outreach team also hosted an on-campus *JFS Food Distribution* at the Atlantic City Campus on September 25, where Jewish Family Services (JFS) provided free bags of groceries to students. A total of 49 students were served, continuing this great partnership that supports student well-being and access to essential resources.
- The College held a resource table for the community at the *Empanada Fiesta* at O'Donnell Memorial Park on October 4, providing information about Atlantic Cape programs and services while engaging with local residents.

- Atlantic Cape hosted a *Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat* at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on October 10, in partnership with the Atlantic Cape Education Association, Midtown CDC, AtlantiCare, Angels in Motion, Family Empowerment Associates, and Atlantic City Public Schools. The event offered a variety of community resources, giveaways, and other activities. Thanks to the collaboration with Atlantic City Public Schools, the event attracted over 700 attendees.
- The Community Outreach team, in partnership with Stockton University and the Inlet CDC, hosted two cleanup sites on October 25 as part of the *4th Annual Community Clean-Up and Party in the Park*. One cleanup site was located at the Atlantic City Campus, while the other was in the Inlet Neighborhood. Additionally, the team set up an information table at the park to provide attendees with resources and information about Atlantic Cape's programs and services.
- The College, in partnership with Midtown CDC, hosted a *Football Watch Party* in the Atlantic City Campus parking lot on October 26, creating an opportunity for community engagement and campus outreach.

Community Outreach – Cape May

- The Cape May County Campus also celebrated *Hispanic Heritage Month*, from September 15 to October 15, with various events at the college including cultural dancing sessions, live music, and food.
- The Atlantic Cape science department, in partnership with the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center, hosted *Environmental Science Day* for students from Cape May Technical and Lower Cape May Regional high schools on September 26. The event included workshops on beach combing, the use of drones in environmental science, career opportunities in environmental science, and much more. Keynote speaker **Toni Rose Tabulante** from the Jacques Cousteau Reserve emphasized the diverse habitats of South Jersey and their significance in long-term research and conservation efforts within the region's ecosystems.

Cape May County bizHub

- The Cape May County bizHub kicked off another semester of the *Small Business Seminar Series*, featuring an “Introduction to Business Ownership” seminar taught by Atlantic Cape Professor **Karl Giulian**. This nine-part seminar series offers participants the opportunity to learn about various aspects of entrepreneurship, including business plan development, identifying target markets, creating marketing plans, and the essentials of starting and running a business.

Athletics

- **Coach Wesley Taywood, head coach of the Women’s Soccer team**, attended the *Aspire Academic Global Summit 2025* on October 8 in Philadelphia. This annual event gathers collegiate athletic programs, coaches, and student-athletes to discuss leadership, professional development, and best practices in collegiate sports. During the summit, Coach Taywood had the privilege of meeting Carli Lloyd, a celebrated legend in women’s soccer, which enhanced the program’s visibility and strengthened connections within the sport.
- The Atlantic Cape Buccaneers celebrated *Sophomore Night* for both the Women’s Volleyball and Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams. On October 6, the Women’s Volleyball team hosted Raritan Valley Community College, and on October 7, the Men’s Soccer team hosted RCSJ-Gloucester. These events recognized our student-athletes for their contributions and achievements during their time with Atlantic Cape Athletics as they played their final home games.
- From October 9–12, the Atlantic Cape Men’s Basketball team competed in the *National JUCO (Junior College) Jamboree* in Orlando, Florida. This premier event provided student-athletes the opportunity to showcase their skills in front of Division I and II coaches, with potential recruitment opportunities. Notably, Atlantic Cape was the only Division III community college to receive an invitation to this event in the past three years.
- The *3rd Annual Buccaneer Madness* took place on October 23 in the Pitney Hall Gymnasium. This event united the community while showcasing Atlantic

Cape's athletic teams. Highlights included a student-versus-faculty game and various interactive activities that encouraged engagement and support for our student-athletes.

Student Engagement

- The Student Government Association (SGA) attended the *ASGA Leadership Conference* in Washington, D.C., covering advocacy, priority planning, networking, and relationship-building with administration from October 8–12.
- The SGA also hosted "Turn the Campus Pink," a Breast Cancer Awareness event, on October 2. During this event, students wore pink and were given a "Pink Smoothie" at the Maui Wowi Tiki Bar to support *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*.

Recruitment

- The Fall Open House on October 7 at our Mays Landing Campus was a great success, welcoming over 150 guests. Attendees explored the campus, engaged with faculty and staff, and learned about Atlantic Cape's programs and services, creating meaningful connections with prospective students and their families.
- The One-Stop and Recruitment teams hosted their first-ever *Counselor Cruise*, welcoming 23 counselors from 14 high schools in Atlantic and Cape May counties on October 22. This inaugural event offered a unique opportunity for local counselors to connect directly with department staff, learn more about Atlantic Cape's programs and resources, and strengthen relationships that support student pathways to higher education. Participants enjoyed a scenic nautical experience departing from Gardner's Basin in Atlantic City, making the event both informative and memorable.
- Student Engagement hosted a Domestic Violence Awareness event featuring *Avanar's Clothesline Project* and a discussion by Jordan Santana of Covenant House on "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Link Between Domestic Violence and Trafficking" on October 16.

- The Recruitment and Outreach teams maintained a strong regional presence through extensive school, community, and on-campus engagement. Staff participated in nine Back-to-School Nights, six college fairs, and several community events, including the One Stop Career Center, Cybersecurity Forum, and the Veterans Benefits & Health Fair.