



President's Report

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: February 25, 2026
(Cape May County Campus)



Featured Stories

Grants Update

- Atlantic Cape was awarded \$3 million in Congressional Direct Spending for Education Appropriations from Congressman Jeff Van Drew's Office. This funding will be used to establish a Dental Hygienist Program at the College and will cover the costs related to the construction and/or renovation of a facility to house the program.



Trustee/Board Alumni Spotlight

- **Chairperson Daniel Money** is being honored with the *Lifetime Achievement Award* by the Cape May County NAACP on March 14, 2026 at their annual Freedom Gala.
- **Briar Rose Simons, formerly Briar Gibbons**, the Board Alumni Trustee for 2014-2015, had her memoir, *Love, Pueo*, published this past January. Her book is a grief memoir about the loss of her dog, Pueo, and the bond that shared during Pueo's life.

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Faculty Spotlights

- **Professor Richard Russell, an Associate Professor of English**, has been awarded the *Individual Artist Fellowship Award* in the prose category by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. This prestigious fellowship comes with a grant of \$19,500. The Individual Artist Fellowships are competitive awards to New Jersey artists, in 13 rotating disciplines, granted solely on independent peer panel assessment of work samples. The anonymous process is focused on artistic quality, and awards may be used to help artists produce new work and advance their careers.

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Leadership Spotlights

- **Stacey Zacharoff, Dean of Students**, along with **Eric Stewart, Student Service Navigator**, and **Rashawn Martin, Director of Student Support Services**, attended the Community College Transfer Pathways Convening at Princeton University. They gathered valuable insights to strengthen transfer partnerships and enhance student academic success and progression. During the event, they collaborated with academic advising professionals from all 18 New Jersey community colleges to discuss pathways for community college students to transfer to selective universities.
- **Jessica Reynolds, Assistant Director for the Center for Accessibility**, and **Nick Alexander, Senior Manager of Digital Accessibility**, delivered a Digital ADA Compliance workshop at Warren County Community College, equipping attendees with practical strategies to enhance accessibility and ensure compliance across digital platforms.

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Athletics

- Atlantic Cape’s Athletics Department, in conjunction with the Atlantic Cape Foundation, hosted an *Athletics Recognition of Excellence Award Ceremony* honoring **Nicholas Asselta, Men’s Basketball Head Coach (1978–1981), and Nancy Small Asselta, Cheerleading Coach (1978–1981)** on January 24. The ceremony recognized Nicholas and Nancy for their significant contributions and lasting impact on the College’s Athletics program.
- A second-year student athlete, Millinda Marigliano, on the college’s Women’s Basketball and Soccer team, was named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III and Region 19’s Woman Athlete of the Year for women’s basketball and soccer. Ms. Marigliano was recognized for her outstanding performance, leadership, and dedication on the field and the court at the NJCAA National Girls & Women in Sports Day – Region 19 Women Athletes of the Year luncheon.
- The Buccaneers men’s and women’s basketball teams were invited to participate in the historic **Battle by the Bay Tournament** at Atlantic City High School; the first time a community college team had ever been asked to join. During the weekend event, both teams competed against Northampton in Region 19 matchups, showcasing their skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

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More News

Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- Atlantic Cape partnered with Atlantic City Electric to host a *Free Energy Assistance Event* on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus on January 29. The event provided attendees with payment support, guidance on energy

assistance programs, including the Universal Service Fund (USF), practical energy-saving tips, and complimentary efficiency kits.

Community Outreach – Cape May

- The Cape May County Campus hosted *Career Day* for over 100 middle schoolers from Lower Cape May Regional, Middle Township, and Dennis Township on February 6. Students rotated through interactive workshops designed to ignite curiosity, connect classroom learning to real careers, and help students imagine their futures in college and the workforce.

Cape May County bizHub

- The Cape May County bizHub continues its Small Business Seminar Series this month by hosting an “Introduction to Business Ownership” workshop on February 25. The workshop will cover the very basic elements of small business start-up and ownership, developing cost estimates to open and operate a business, and discussing funding opportunities available to ensure their success as entrepreneurs.

Student Engagement

- The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted the *Spring Club Recruitment Fair* on January 29, showcasing 15 student clubs and organizations along with multiple campus partners. The event promoted student involvement, leadership opportunities, and community engagement, encouraging students to connect, explore, and get involved on campus.
- The Black Student Alliance and SGA hosted the *Pan-African Flag Raising Ceremony* for Black History Month at the Mays Landing Campus on February 3. The event included remarks from student leaders, a vibrant Kotchenga Dance performance, and a community luncheon celebrating culture and campus unity. It marked a memorable start to Black History Month, with ongoing events across all three campuses highlighting the richness of Black culture and history.

- The Black Student Alliance hosted its second annual Black History Month program, *Hair Me See Me 2: Loc'd In*, celebrating the cultural and historical significance of locs. The event featured a presentation and panel discussion with professional hairstylists, followed by a Q&A, networking, giveaways, and refreshments. The program provided an informative and empowering space that highlighted and celebrated Black hair and culture.

Recruitment

- Throughout February, the Atlantic Cape's Recruitment team engaged prospective students through campus tours, community outreach, high school and adult learner initiatives, application workshops, and collaborative webinars, strengthening Atlantic Cape's enrollment pipeline and fostering connections with diverse student populations.