

## President's Report

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: September 23, 2025  
(Cape May County Campus)

### Featured Stories

#### *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War*

- The Vietnam Memorial Tribute took place at Atlantic Cape Community College from September 16–20, 2025, marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Highlights included the arrival of the 82-foot Tribute Wall, a Veterans Recognition Ceremony with the Navy Band Northeast, the film *A Place of Honor*, a Quilts of Valor presentation, a POW/MIA remembrance, and a concluding Mass by the Knights of Columbus. Throughout the week, visitors reflected at the Tribute Wall and Cost of Freedom panels.

#### *Kick-Off of the Fall Semester*

- Atlantic Cape kicked off the fall semester with a series of engaging events across its campuses to welcome both new and returning students.
  - On September 2, the Student Engagement team hosted a Welcome Back Coffee & Donuts event, offering information about upcoming activities, bus discounts, and campus organizations.
  - Welcome Back Week, from September 9-12, featured *the IMALIVE Mental Health Fair* with snacks, Games on the Quad, and a Club Recruitment BBQ showcasing live music and over 20 student clubs, including a tie-dye station and Rutgers' water ice.

### *Leadership Spotlight*

- **Leslie Jamison, Chief Financial Officer**, presented at the NACUBO Conference, September 8-12, on the *Planning, Budgeting, and Analytics Forum*, discussing the alignment of program costs and workforce demand for student success.
- **Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**, served as a panelist at the *Regional Foundation's Annual Peer Gathering*, an organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for children and families in low-income communities across Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware through resident-driven neighborhood revitalization and strategic grantmaking on September 19. The event featured Atlantic Cape's Inlet CDC program alongside other local CDCs and Jim Rutala, President of the Atlantic Cape Foundation, highlighting their expertise as action-focused community leaders.

### *Student Spotlight*

- **Sara One, a nursing student at Atlantic Cape and a former Executive Officer of the Student Government Association (SGA)**, was featured on the cover of *Going to College New Jersey* magazine. Sara will also promote the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) information to students across New Jersey this semester to keep them informed of what assistance is provided through financial aid. The magazine also highlighted a section to Atlantic Cape and its programs.



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

- The Inlet CDC, along with Dr. Gaba, hosted two check presentations. The first event was for The Cove at Gardner's Basin Homeowners Association. During the event, the Inlet CDC presented \$60,000 to assist in repairing homes within the community, specifically targeting residents with significant financial needs, including seniors and veterans.

- Additionally, the Inlet CDC provided the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City with \$57,124 to support three HVAC repair projects, further demonstrating its commitment to strengthening and supporting the Inlet neighborhood.
- The Inlet CDC team, consisting of **Dr. Devonish, Lizbeth Castro, Victor Moreno, and Mike Intrieri**, attended the *Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development 2025* at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City from September 16-17, 2025. This annual two-day event gathers leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to explore strategies for housing, community revitalization, and economic growth through workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities.
- The Inlet CDC hosted the second session of its Nonprofit Workshop Series on August 20, titled "Mastering Leadership: Strategies for Nonprofit Leaders, Part Two." This workshop was open to nonprofit organizations from Atlantic and Cape May Counties and was attended by over 20 participants.
- The Inlet CDC hosted its *Summer Send-Off Cruise* with Atlantic City Cruises, departing from Gardner's Basin on August 31. Guests enjoyed light refreshments and live music, and the event reached its maximum capacity of 120 participants. The cruise offered the Inlet community a wonderful opportunity to network and celebrate the Labor Day weekend.

### **Community Outreach – Atlantic County**

- Atlantic Cape took part in the Atlantic City Police Department's 3rd Ward Community BBQ held at Brown Park and set up an informational table for attendees.
- The Worthington Atlantic City Campus collaborated with the City of Atlantic City Office of Multicultural Services and the Consulate General of Peru in Paterson to host a *Peruvian Consular Services Day* on campus on August 23, assisting approximately 150 community members.
- Atlantic Cape continues its partnership with Jewish Family Services in hosting monthly food distributions this fall semester, providing students with free bags

of groceries. The food distributions will take place the last Thursday of every month at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus.

- The College held an information table at the *Latino Festival (HAAC)* at Bader Field on September 6. This event was sponsored by Atlantic Cape and the Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC), in support of this important community celebration.
- Atlantic Cape's Community Outreach team were a refreshment sponsor and hosted an information table at the Family & Friends event at Graves Temple Church of God in Christ in Egg Harbor Township.
- Atlantic Cape Community College proudly sponsored the annual *Out of the Darkness Walk* for Suicide Prevention. As part of its commitment to wellness and community engagement, the College provided fresh fruit for participants and actively participated in raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention.

#### **Community Outreach – Cape May**

- Classes for the Culinary Program, Nursing, and Science Labs are currently in session at the Cape May County Campus, which follows a traditional academic schedule starting on September 2. Additionally, more classes at the Cape May County Campus will begin on September 22.
- The Cape May County Campus and the President's Office sponsored the *Da Vinci Gala* at the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center. **Krista McConnell, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach**, attended the event. Atlantic Cape's Science program holds sessions at the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center as part of our continued partnership.
- **Krista McConnell** attended the Whitesboro Family Reunion on August 30, and held an information table sharing registration information, course programs, and resources at the Cape May County Campus.

### **Cape May County bizHub**

- The Cape May County bizHub attended the Airfest event at Naval Airstation Wildwood on August 28 to August 31. The bizHub provided information about its services, training opportunities, and other resources available for small business owners and entrepreneurs in Cape May County.

### **Athletics**

- The Women's Volleyball team at Atlantic Cape hosted the *2nd Annual High School Volleyball Showcase* at the Pitney Hall Gym at the Mays Landing Campus. This event brought together student-athletes from more than eight local high schools for a day of competition, skill-building, and community engagement in the college gymnasium.
- Atlantic Cape's Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, and Women's Volleyball teams have launched their seasons, showcasing student-athlete talent, teamwork, and the College's ongoing commitment to strong and sustainable athletic programs.

### **Student Engagement**

- Atlantic Cape Community College, a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. Events will include flag-raising ceremonies, Latin dance lessons, an interactive trivia game, and informational displays. A highlight will be the 20th-anniversary celebration featuring live music, dance lessons, food trucks, and a "Nacho Tuesday" event.

### **Recruitment**

- Atlantic Cape recruiters represented the College at community and school events, including back-to-school nights, career fairs, and events with partners like Enlightened Recovery. They organized campus tours for Vietnam War Memorial visitors, September 16–20, and prepared for the Buena High School Back to School Night and St. Augustine Prep College Fair, enhancing visibility and engagement for prospective students.