

● Dr. Jason Abreu

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUGUST 18, 2026



President's Message

August 2026

As we prepare to welcome students, faculty, and staff for the Fall 2026 semester, I am pleased to share a report highlighting Atlantic Cape Community College's continued progress in advancing student success, strengthening workforce partnerships, and deepening our engagement across the communities we serve.

This month's accomplishments reflect our commitment to educational excellence and community impact. From celebrating graduates of our Practical Nursing Program and establishing Atlantic Cape as one of only nine New Jersey community colleges with a chapter of the national First-Generation Honor Society, to supporting enrollment growth through targeted outreach and student-centered services, our focus remains on creating pathways to opportunity and achievement.

We also continue to strengthen strategic partnerships that align education with workforce needs, expand access to higher education, and enhance the quality of life throughout Atlantic and Cape May counties. Through collaborations with community organizations, healthcare partners, industry leaders, and local governments, Atlantic Cape remains a vital resource and catalyst for regional growth.

The accompanying handouts provide additional insight into the College's achievements, priorities, and momentum as we begin a new academic year. I remain grateful to our faculty, staff, students, Foundation partners, and Board of Trustees for their dedication and shared commitment to our mission. Together, we are advancing Atlantic Cape's vision of transforming lives through inclusive access to education, workforce development, and community engagement.

Sincerely,

Jason Abreu, Ed.D.
President
Atlantic Cape Community College

Student Success and Academic Excellence

Practical Nursing Program Completion and Pinning Ceremony

On August 5, Atlantic Cape Community College celebrated 20 graduates of its Practical Nursing Program during the [Third Annual Practical Nursing Completion and Pinning Ceremony](#) at the Walter E. Edge Theater. The ceremony recognized students' successful completion of the College's rigorous three-semester certificate program and their dedication to compassionate patient care.

Graduates are now eligible to sit for the NCLEX-PN licensure examination and enter the healthcare workforce, while others plan to continue their studies through Atlantic Cape's LPN-to-RN pathway. The event reflects the College's continued commitment to addressing regional healthcare workforce needs through high-quality nursing education.

First-Generation Student Achievement

Atlantic Cape became an official charter member of Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha), the national First-Generation Honor Society, on August 10. Designated as the Omicron Sigma Chapter, Atlantic Cape is now one of only nine New Jersey community colleges to host a Tri-Alpha chapter. The initiative, led by Stacey Zacharoff, Dean of Students, will recognize and support first-generation students, with inaugural inductions beginning this fall.

Enrollment and Student Services

The Registrar's Office continued to support student progression and completion efforts by:

- Conducting more than 1,000-degree audits.
- Processing more than 120 transcripts.
- Completing 86 transcript evaluations.
- Awarding 60 articulation credits.

The Office of Student Engagement hosted New Student Orientation at the Mays Landing Campus, welcoming approximately 220 students and guests. Additional sessions are scheduled at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Cape May County Campus to support student readiness and engagement before the fall semester.

Scholarship and Basic Needs Support

Atlantic Cape continued to remove barriers to student success through scholarship administration and emergency assistance programs. During reporting period from June 23 to August 6, 2026:

- 25 OceanFirst Scholarships totaling \$25,000 were awarded.
- \$2,950 in Follett Emergency Funding supported 13 students.
- \$2,500 in emergency assistance was distributed to four students.

In July, the College's food pantries conducted a Cereal Food Drive, collecting 61 boxes of cereal on the Mays Landing Campus to help address student food insecurity and strengthen basic-needs support services.

Educational Opportunity Fund Summer Institute

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program hosted [its annual Summer Institute on July 29-30](#). The program provided students with opportunities to engage with peers, access campus resources, and prepare for academic success. The institute continues to play a vital role in supporting student achievement, personal development, and college persistence.

Enrollment Growth and Community Outreach

Stop, Drop, and Enroll

Atlantic Cape hosted its annual "Stop, Drop, and Enroll" event on August 5 across all three campuses.

Key outcomes included:

- 185 students served.
- 80 students enrolled in at least one course.
- 859 registered credits generated.
- Nearly 70% of attendees were walk-ins.

The event demonstrated strong effectiveness in reaching prospective students and advancing enrollment goals for the fall semester.



Early College and Pipeline Development

The College welcomed approximately 100 students from the GOAL/GEAR UP Program to the Mays Landing Campus. Students participated in hands-on experiences in culinary arts, healthcare, esports and game design, and college readiness activities designed to introduce academic pathways and future educational opportunities.

Regional Visibility and Recruitment

Recruitment and Community Outreach teams participated in National Night Out activities across 12 municipalities throughout Atlantic and Cape May counties. These engagements strengthened community relationships, increased awareness of Atlantic Cape programs and services, and reinforced the College's presence throughout its service region.

Workforce Development and Strategic Partnerships

Aviation Program Advancement

Atlantic Cape leadership participated in a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) visit to the William J. Hughes Technical Center and the Frank A. LoBiondo National Aerospace Safety and Security Campus. Discussions focused on emerging aviation technologies and potential opportunities to strengthen Atlantic Cape's Air Traffic Control Program through industry collaboration and workforce alignment. Attendees included: Dr. Josette Katz, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Tim Cwik, Professor of Aviation and Division Chair, and Sherwood Taylor, Dean of Workforce Development and College & Career Pathways.

Strengthening Regional Workforce Connections

The College continues to expand partnerships that support workforce development, career pathways, and economic growth across the region. Ongoing initiatives connect students with high-demand industries while reinforcing Atlantic Cape's role as a key workforce provider in southern New Jersey.

Community Engagement and Institutional Visibility

Regional Engagement and Community Partnerships

Atlantic Cape staff and leadership maintained a strong presence throughout the community, participating in numerous events that promoted educational access, health and wellness, civic engagement, and family support services.

Highlights included:

- Participation in Atlantic City's Annual Community Walk for a Safer Atlantic City.
- Sponsorship and participation in the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County's *Noche en Blanco* celebration.
- Hosting the Fifth Annual Daddy-Daughter Dance in partnership with the Family Success Center of Atlantic City.
- Participation in National Health Center Week events and health resource fairs with regional healthcare partners.
- Support of Back-to-School community initiatives throughout the region.

These activities reflect Atlantic Cape's commitment to building strong community partnerships and serving as a trusted resource throughout Atlantic and Cape May counties.

Cape May County Campus Highlights

Community Impact and Lifelong Learning

The Cape May County Campus continued to expand its role as a regional hub for education, workforce development, and community engagement.

Key initiatives included:

- Ongoing operation of the Cape May County Zoo Education Program, serving youth through interactive, hands-on learning experiences.
- Hosting NJ4S Camp Empower U, a five-week summer enrichment and social-emotional learning program for middle school students.
- Supporting community dialogue through regional media engagement highlighting the College's contributions to workforce development, entrepreneurship, dual enrollment, and lifelong learning.

Campus and Community Events

The Cape May County Campus hosted the Third Annual Jersey Shore 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon on August 9. The event attracted more than 400 participants while generating support for Atlantic Cape Athletics and increasing community engagement on campus.

Atlantic City and Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC)

Through its partnership with the Inlet Community Development Corporation, Atlantic Cape continued to support neighborhood revitalization, community engagement, and quality-of-life initiatives throughout Atlantic City.

Recent activities included:

- Community clean-up and beautification projects.
- Hydrangea Trail restoration efforts and enhancements to public spaces.
- Educational and recreational programming, including fishing lessons, Aquarium Day, Mini Golf Day, and youth-focused activities.
- Community tours highlighting neighborhood revitalization initiatives.
- The launch of a summer Jazz Festival series at Gardner's Basin.



These efforts continue to strengthen community connections, enhance neighborhood vitality, and reinforce Atlantic Cape's commitment to meaningful civic engagement and regional impact.

Closing Perspective

As the College prepares for the start of the Fall 2026 semester, Atlantic Cape continues to make measurable progress in advancing student success, supporting enrollment growth, expanding workforce development partnerships, and strengthening community engagement throughout Atlantic and Cape May counties. These efforts reflect the College's ongoing commitment to access, achievement, workforce alignment, and community impact while positioning Atlantic Cape for continued success in fulfilling its mission.

President in Action

Date	Event	Engagement
7/1/2026	First Day	Remarks
7/9/2026	Meeting – National Aerospace Research & Technology Park (NARTP) with Howard Kyle & Lauren Moore	Connection
7/11/2026	Inlet CDC Board Retreat – Worthington Atlantic City Campus	Participation & Remarks
7/13/2026	Introduction Meeting with Dr. Aaron Fichtner, President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges – Mays Landing Campus	Connection
7/14/2026	Coalition for a Safe Community Walk with Councilman Kaleem Shabazz – Atlantic City	Participation
7/15/2026	Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Stockton University	Participation & Board Inception
7/16/2026	New Jersey Department of Education/Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning's Summer Safety Symposium – Mays Landing Campus	Remarks
7/16/2026	Cape May County 4-H Fair – Rutgers Cooperative Extension/4H Fairgrounds	Speaker
7/17/2026	Hispanic Association of Atlantic County's <i>Noche en Blanco</i> – Resorts Casino Hotel	Remarks
7/20/2026	Worthington Atlantic City Campus Faculty & Staff Welcome Event	Remarks
7/20/2026	Inlet CDC Tour with Assemblywoman Maureen Rowan & Dr. Natalie Devonish, CDC Inlet President	Participation
7/23/2026	Cape May County Campus Faculty & Staff Welcome Event	Remarks
7/23/2026	Cape May County Chamber Meeting with Senator Michael Testa – Avalon Golf Club	Attendance
7/28/2026	Atlantic Cape President's Cabinet Retreat – Smithville Inn	Speaker
7/29/2026	Alumni Board of Trustee Orientation, Michael Heston – Mays Landing Campus	Attendance

Date	Event	Engagement
7/29/2026	Educational Opportunity fund Orientation – Mays Landing Campus	Remarks
7/29/2026	Greater Atlantic City Chamber Policy Impact Series Districts 2&8 – The Carriage House	Attendance
8/3/2026	Meeting with Senator Vincent Polistina & Assemblyman Don Guardian (2 nd District) – Egg Harbor Township Office	Endorsement
8/3/2026	Student Welcome visits to their homes (Mays Landing Area)	Endorsement
8/3/2026	Scott Cronick Radio Show Interview - Newstalk 1400-AM, 92.5-FM Radio Station	Speaker
8/4/2026	Meeting with NJ Reentry Corporation (Former Gov. Jim McGreevey) – Worthington Atlantic City Campus	Attendance
8/4/2026	Student Welcome visits to their homes (Cape May County Campus Area)	Endorsement
8/4/2026	Cape May County Campus Meet & Greet with Community	Speaker
8/5/2026	Worthington Atlantic City Campus Meet & Greet with Community	Speaker
8/6/2026	Collegiate Assembly Executive Committee Meeting – Mays Landing Campus	Remarks
8/6/2026	Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey's Congressional Action Series with Jeff Van Drew – Hard Rock Hotel & Casino	Attendance
8/6/2026	Mays Landing Meet & Greet with Community	Speaker
8/7/2026	Student Welcome visits to their homes (Worthington Atlantic City Campus Area)	Endorsement
8/7/2026	AtlantiCare Health Fair – Worthington Atlantic City Campus	Speaker
8/9/2026	Jersey Shore Summer Half, 10K, and 5K – Cape May County Campus	Speaker
8/10/2026	Atlantic County Commissioners Meeting with Dr. Abreu and members of the Board – Shore Diner	Attendance
8/10/2026	Federal Aviation Administration Tour; joined by Dr. Josette Katz, Sherwood Taylor, and Timothy Cwik – William J. Hughes Technical Center for Advanced Aerospace	Endorsement
8/11/2026	Athletic Department Coaches Orientation – Mays Landing Campus	Remarks

Date	Event	Engagement
8/12/2026	Cape May Herald Interview – Cape May Herald Office	Speaker
8/12/2026	MBCA Summer Mixer at Harrah's Casino and Resort	Attendance
8/17/2026	Meeting with Michael Charlton, CEO of AtlantiCare – AtlantiCare Health Park	Endorsement

MEDIA PACKET



Casino Reinvestment Granted \$1.8M to Atlantic City Community in First Half of 2026

Written by [Kathryn Evans](#) August 10, 2026

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approved 14 community grants totalling nearly \$1.8m in the first half of 2026.

According to a [release last week](#), CRDA directed funds to workforce development, food security, education, homelessness outreach and cultural programming in Atlantic City.

Funding Allocation

Largest single awards included \$300,000 to Atlantic Cape Community College to launch Phase 5 of Atlantic City Works. CRDA says this programme has trained about 850 residents and generated an estimated \$20m in economic impact.

The CRDA also granted \$231,150 to Communities Revolutionizing Open Public Spaces (C.R.O.P.S.) to continue its Food Security Plan, which runs community gardens, SNAP-accessible markets and the city's first Food Hub.

Literacy New Jersey Atlantic Cape received \$30,000 for adult tutoring and GED preparation.

CRDA also earmarked funding for arts and public events such as \$134,075 to the Atlantic City Arts Foundation for new murals and the 48 Blocks Festival.

The Atlantic City Marathon Race Series was awarded \$75,000; the Saint Patrick's Day Parade received \$30,000.

'Invest wisely'

CRDA emphasized grant monitoring: awards are reimbursable and released only after recipients submit documentation of eligible expenses.

“Our Board takes its responsibility to invest wisely in Atlantic City’s future very seriously,” said CDRA board chair, Modia Butler.

“From murals painted and meals grown to the number of students tutored, workers trained and jobs created, the work we are supporting through these grants illustrates the direct impact of our funding and what those dollars can really do – foster change, create a more vibrant community and make Atlantic City a place where folks want to live, work and be part of in a greater way.”

Executive Director Eric Scheffler described the funding as supporting both residents and tourism-driven activity as Atlantic City seeks post-redevelopment economic stability.

“From feeding families and training the next generation of workers to filling the Boardwalk with free music and more, every one of these organizations is doing impactful work to support our vibrant city – building a better, brighter community that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors for generations to come.”

Unite Here Local 54 recently settled with five of the city’s nine casinos on [one-year extensions rather than the longer contracts](#) that have typically brought labor peace.

The deals include a 2.5% wage increase, but the shorter term reflects a shared view that locking in multi-year terms now would be risky.

Topline Impact:

- 270 estimated views
- 9.3k potential reach
- \$86 estimated media value

<https://ggbmagazine.com/articles/casino-reinvestment-granted-1-8m-to-atlantic-city-community-in-first-half-of-2026/>



NJ Department of Labor awards \$6M to help narrow digital divide for residents

By **ROI-NJ Staff**(Trenton) August 11, 2026



The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development ([NJDOL](#)) announced Aug. 10 the awardees of \$6 million in funding through the Digital Literacy Training Grant aimed at helping to close the digital gap among Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) recipients.

WFNJ provides essential support to eligible New Jersey residents and their families, including cash assistance, childcare, job readiness, and short-term housing.

The FY26 awardees of the Digital Literacy Training Grant include Atlantic Cape Community College; Inspire U; Long Beach Island Community Center; Mercer Med Tech; New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT); and Workforce Development Board of Northwest New Jersey.

This announcement follows a successful inaugural round of funding through the program that enabled nearly 500 New Jersey residents to gain critical digital skills. The grant fosters public-private collaborations to increase participation in training and career opportunities

by WFNJ recipients, including those who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance (GA).

Launched in 2025, the Digital Literacy Training Grant provides funding to community-based organizations across New Jersey to offer WFNJ participants digital skills training, industry-recognized certifications and credentials, and connections to employment opportunities.

“We are deeply grateful to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development for its continued investment in digital literacy across Northern New Jersey,” said Dr. Michael Edmondson, associate provost of continuing learning at NJIT.

“A second year of support reflects the importance of equipping residents with the digital knowledge and skills needed to succeed in today’s workforce. Together, we’re expanding access to high-quality learning opportunities that strengthen workforce capability, promote economic mobility, and prepare individuals for lifelong career success.”

The first round of the Digital Literacy Training Grant supported 425 participants receiving digital skills training and 181 residents earning industry-recognized certifications and credentials. Through this program, 66 New Jerseyans secured unsubsidized employment.

The Digital Literacy Training Grant will provide New Jersey nonprofit, for-profit, governmental, and higher education institutions with funds to integrate digital training into existing workforce programs. Individual grantees can receive up to \$1 million over an 18-month period that runs from July 30, 2026, through Jan. 30, 2028.

Topline Impact:

- 5 online/radio new outlets covered the story verbatim
- 898 estimated views
- 211.4k potential reach
- \$511 estimated media value

<https://www.roi-nj.com/2026/08/11/politics/nj-department-of-labor-awards-6m-to-help-narrow-digital-divide-for-residents/>

The Philadelphia Inquirer

N.J. funds schools to build pipeline of air traffic controllers amid ongoing shortage

The national shortage of certified air traffic controllers has led to mounting safety concerns and flight delays.

by Dana DiFilippo, New Jersey Monitor. Published July 8, 2026, 3:05 p.m. ET



New Jersey officials have given three public colleges \$3.5 million in state funding to train aviation professionals, amid a national shortage of certified air traffic controllers that has led to mounting safety concerns and flight delays.

The state Office of the Secretary of Higher Education announced Tuesday that Kean University and Atlantic Cape Community College got \$1.5 million each, and Warren County Community College received \$500,000 under a grant program intended to grow New Jersey's pipeline of aerospace professionals.

Those schools offer curricula aligned with the Federal Aviation Administration's Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative, which gets graduates to on-the-job training faster by allowing them to bypass some standard FAA Academy requirements.

School administrators will use the money to expand aviation and aerospace programs.

Kean plans to create a new FAA-aligned bachelor of science degree in aviation management, expand its drone minor into a drone operations major, house a Center for the

Study of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, create a similar center focused on drones at its Skylands campus, and partner with K-12 schools to develop a pre-college aviation and drone pipeline program, according to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

Atlantic Cape Community College plans to expand its FAA-aligned curriculum, add advanced simulation training, and expand teaching staff. Warren County Community College plans to develop an air traffic control certificate program and add an airport management and operations course.

“By supporting institutions to build programs and enhance training opportunities that feed into FAA certification pathways, we are developing routes into well-paying, stable careers for residents who will serve New Jersey and the nation over the decades to come,” Acting Secretary of Higher Education Margo Chaly said in a statement.

The funding came from former Gov. [Phil Murphy](#)’s final budget and was distributed last month.

The Trump administration [announced](#) a plan last year to “supercharge” hiring to reduce a shortage of 3,000 air traffic controllers nationally. The move came after a deadly air crash in Washington, D.C., and chaos from coast to coast, including [at Newark Liberty](#) International Airport.

The number of applicants spiked, but the shortage persists due to an increase in flights, high workforce attrition, difficult and lengthy training requirements, and the lingering impact of pandemic and government shutdowns, the U.S. Government Accountability Office [found](#) in January.

This story originally appeared on [New Jersey Monitor](#).

Overview:

Coverage of Atlantic Cape’s \$1.5 million Air Traffic Control grant appeared across 12 online news outlets, generating significant visibility and estimated media value.

Topline Impact:

- 12 online news outlets covered the story
- 11,400 estimated views
- 43.7M potential reach
- \$395k+ estimated media value

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/new-jersey/funds-schools-pipeline-air-traffic-controllers-20260708.html>

Atlantic Cape invited to return to Metallica Scholars Initiative

Atlantic Cape Community College. July 16, 2026



MAYS LANDING, NJ – Atlantic Cape Community College is proud to announce it has once again been asked to participate in the eighth year of the prestigious Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI). Supported by a generous \$50,000 grant aimed at enhancing the College's Air Traffic Control and Professional Pilot students while on the path towards a rewarding career in the Aviation industry.

This program is available to Atlantic Cape students who are pursuing either the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Air Traffic Control, Associate in Science in Aviation Studies or Professional Pilot Degree. Students enrolled in at least six credits for the Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters may receive a \$500 scholarship, a dedicated success coach, and supportive services, as well as supplies and materials to help them succeed along this academic pathway.

“Atlantic Cape is thrilled to once again be chosen as a member of the Metallica Scholars Initiative, the workforce education program of the All Within My Hands Foundation,” said Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Josette Katz. “This Program will continue provide extra support to our Air Traffic Control, Professional Pilot, and Aviation students and we look forward to continuing our partnership with this impactful foundation.”

All Within My Hands (AWMH), the non-profit, philanthropic organization created by the members and management of Metallica, proudly announces the eighth year of its Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) with its largest grant to date: over \$3.3M. 18 new US schools will

join the returning 75 colleges in the fall for a total of 93 in the program. In addition, later this year, the Metallica Scholars Initiative will also expand to the United Kingdom in partnership with Capital City College Group in London.

Metallica's James Hetfield said, "This thing started as a dream. Now our program is changing lives. To expand our impact on a global scale and support even more students is so rewarding. We're so proud of all the Metallica Scholars who have come through it and all the ones who will participate in it. It's humbling to know we've been part of the journey of thousands of trade professionals doing good, hard work in the world."

AWMH continues to work closely with its long-time partner, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Launched in 2019 by All Within My Hands, MSI's core focus is supporting conventional trades, including welders, plumbers, and electricians, while also adding fields that will generate the jobs of tomorrow. The workforce initiative continues to evolve, supporting diverse fields for students interested in gaining the skills and training necessary to establish meaningful careers that provide family-sustaining wages. Year 8 includes a wide range of fields, including nursing and healthcare, optical systems technology, automotive repair, maritime manufacturing, firefighting and EMT, pipefitting, and agricultural pathways.

Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President and CEO, AACC, said, "The continued growth of the Metallica Scholars Initiative is a powerful testament to what's possible when visionary philanthropy and community colleges come together around a shared mission. Through this partnership, 13,000 community college students have already been supported across the country, earning the skills needed for in-demand careers with family-sustaining wages. This latest, generous investment by Metallica's foundation will reach more learners, while strengthening the workforce pipelines that power local economies. We are proud to partner with All Within My Hands to scale this impact, ensuring even more students have access to life-changing opportunities in the skilled trades and beyond."

The initiative's eighth iteration also marks the renewal of AWMH's partnerships with Carhartt, Wolverine, CNH Construction, and Upstaging, Inc., as well as the addition of the Foundation's newest partner, ServiceTitan. These corporate partners complement the Foundation's Executive and Advisory Board Members and the broader Metallica Family, all of whom have played a role in advancing AWMH's mission and driving its success.

Peter Delgrosso, Executive Director, AWMH, said, "Metallica Scholars Year 8 will see our largest-scale growth yet, as we anticipate supporting close to 4,000 new students in the United States and more than 1,000 learners in the UK. This represents an approximate 40% increase in our student body, something we are incredibly excited about. Supporting

people of all ages entering and ascending through trades is the right thing to do, not just domestically, but also abroad. Our Metallica Scholars have demonstrated resilience and a strong determination to succeed, which in turn motivates us to match their ambition.”

For a complete list of all 93 colleges currently supported by AWMH, visit allwithinmyhands.org/metallica-scholars.

About [Atlantic Cape Community College](#)

Established in 1964, Atlantic Cape Community College is a Middle States-accredited, Hispanic-serving institution proudly serving the residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties. As a comprehensive, two-year community college, Atlantic Cape offers more than 50 undergraduate degree programs and 34 certificate and workforce development professional series programs at its Mays Landing, Atlantic City, and Cape May campuses. Atlantic Cape is home to the renowned Academy of Culinary Arts, rated the top culinary school in New Jersey, and to its highly acclaimed Nursing program for more than 60 years. Atlantic Cape also partners with more than 30 colleges and four-year universities to offer students the opportunity to seamlessly earn a bachelor’s degree upon graduation.

About All Within My Hands

Established in 2017, All Within My Hands (AWMH) is a non-profit, philanthropic organization conceived by the members and management of Metallica and dedicated to creating sustainable communities by supporting workforce education, the fight against hunger, and other critical local services. Metallica covers all administrative costs, so 100% of donations go directly to the organizations supported by the Foundation. To date, All Within My Hands has provided grants of \$19M to career and technical education programs through its Metallica Scholars Initiative, \$8.8M to combat food insecurity, and \$6.2M to disaster relief and other critical local services worldwide. Visit AllWithinMyHands.org to learn more. And follow us on [Instagram](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

About American Association of Community Colleges

As the voice of the nation’s community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) delivers educational and economic opportunity for more than 10 million diverse students in search of the American Dream. Uniquely dedicated to access and success for all students, AACC’s member colleges provide an on-ramp to degree attainment, skilled careers, and family-supporting wages. Located in Washington, D.C., AACC advocates for these not-for-profit, public-serving institutions to ensure they have the resources and support they need to deliver on the mission of increasing economic mobility for all. <https://www.aacc.nche.edu/>

Overview:

The College's press release of the Metallica Scholars Initiative renewal announcement was picked up by 4 news outlets verbatim.

Topline Impact:

- 4 online/radio new outlets covered the story
- 1,400 estimated views
- 213k potential reach
- \$2k estimated media value

<https://atlanticcape.edu/news/2026/07/metallica-scholars2627.php>

Atlantic Cape Community College welcomes 10th president Jason Abreu

Atlantic Cape Community College. July 6 2026.



MAYS LANDING – Atlantic Cape Community College ushered in a new era of leadership on Wednesday, July 1, as board trustees, faculty, staff and students formally welcomed Dr. Jason Abreu, the 10th president in the college’s history, to the Mays Landing campus.

Dr. Abreu is a first-generation, visionary and student-centered higher education executive with more than 20 years of leadership experience across the K–20 continuum, including more than 15 years in senior-level higher education administration. He brings a deep, personal commitment to expanding opportunity and removing systemic barriers for historically underserved student populations.

“I am proud to be a part of the Atlantic Cape Community College family. I look forward to helping guide this storied institution forward and I am excited for the opportunities that await us in higher education today. All of us in the College community, from Mays Landing and Atlantic City to Cape May County, have an important role in ensuring that we are achieving the needs of our students,” Abreu said.

Board of Trustees Chairman Daniel Money believes that Dr. Abreu brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Atlantic Cape.

“Dr. Abreu’s years of work in higher education have prepared him for the position he is starting today. The Board of Trustees is confident that Dr. Abreu will work tirelessly in continuing to serve the residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties, as well as the residents of New Jersey. Atlantic Cape remains an affordable, accessible and flexible choice for higher education.”

Dr. Abreu believes in empowering each and every employee to meet all students where they are, and to make sure they are always seen, valued and heard. Dr. Abreu has vast experience working at multi-campus colleges and understands the diverse nature of the college’s student body.

“We need to be advocates for our students by telling the message of the value of higher education. Our students need safe spaces to learn, schedules that are convenience-focused and recognition for their academic achievements.”

In the coming months, Dr. Abreu will meet with fellow higher education partners; community leaders; college faculty, staff and students as he outlines his vision for Atlantic Cape now and into the future. Meet and Greet events will be held on Tuesday, August 4, at the Cape May County campus (lobby); Wednesday, August 5, at the Worthington Atlantic City campus (cafeteria); and Thursday, August 6, at the Mays Landing campus (STEM S-Building) from 4–5:30 p.m. All three events are open to the public.

Overview:

The College’s press release of Dr. Abreu’s first day at Atlantic Cape was picked up by 4 news outlets verbatim.

Topline Impact:

- 4 online/radio new outlets covered the story
- 1,300 estimated views
- 340k potential reach
- \$4k estimated media value

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/community/article_bdde587c-2d40-567d-ab66-8c6d99b0138c.html

PLEASANTVILLE-ABSECON

Your Local News for Pleasantville and Absecon, New Jersey

Atlantic Cape Community College Welcomes Its New President, Dr. Jason Abreu

Atlantic Cape Community College has formally welcomed Dr. Jason Abreu as its 10th president, with public meet-and-greet events planned at all three campuses in August.

Daily Voice 07/10/2026 5:51 p.m.



Abreu was welcomed Wednesday, July 1, by board trustees, faculty, staff and students at the college's Mays Landing campus.

According to Atlantic Cape Community College, Abreu brings more than 20 years of leadership experience across the K-20 continuum, including more than 15 years in senior-level higher education administration.

"I am proud to be a part of the Atlantic Cape Community College family," Abreu said. "I look forward to helping guide this storied institution forward and I am excited for the opportunities that await us in higher education today."

Board of Trustees Chairman Daniel Money said the board is confident Abreu will continue serving residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties, as well as New Jersey residents.

The college said Abreu plans to meet in the coming months with higher education partners, community leaders, faculty, staff and students as he outlines his vision for Atlantic Cape.

The public meet-and-greet schedule is:

- Tuesday, Aug. 4, at the Cape May County campus lobby
- Wednesday, Aug. 5, at the Worthington Atlantic City campus cafeteria
- Thursday, Aug. 6, at the Mays Landing campus STEM S-Building

All three events run from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

Click [here](#) to follow Daily Voice Pleasantville-Absecon and receive free news updates.

Overview:

The College's press release regarding Dr. Abreu's first day was modified to mention the August public Meet and Greet.

Topline Impact:

- 3,630 estimated views
- 1.1M potential reach
- \$10,200 estimated media value

<https://dailyvoice.com/article/atlantic-cape-community-college-welcomes-its-new-president-dr-jason-abreu/>



Leaders in Education July 2026

At *H.O.* we congratulate new education leaders that have embarked on the challenging but very rewarding journey of education leadership.

July 2026



Jason Abreu

Dr. Jason Abreu became the 10th President of Atlantic Cape Community College on July 1, 2026. A dedicated higher education leader with more than two decades of experience, he is committed to advancing student success, fostering community partnerships, and strengthening institutional excellence. Prior to joining Atlantic Cape, Dr. Abreu served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Tarrant County College's Trinity River Campus in Fort Worth, Texas. He has also held executive leadership positions at colleges and universities in South Carolina and Florida, where he led strategic initiatives focused on student engagement, enrollment, retention, and organizational effectiveness. In addition to his administrative leadership, Dr. Abreu has served as an adjunct faculty member for more than 12 years, including over a decade teaching in the community college sector. His commitment to student-centered leadership is complemented by a strong foundation in teaching, mentoring, and professional development. Dr. Abreu earned both his doctorate and graduate degrees from Nova Southeastern University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida International University. He is also a graduate of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Certificate in Student Affairs Law and Policy, reflecting his commitment to ethical leadership and sound institutional governance.

Peter Rodriguez

Peter Rodriguez is Wake Forest University's 15th president. He previously served as dean of Rice Business, which includes the Jones Graduate School of Business and the Virani Undergraduate School of Business. Before joining Rice University, Rodriguez was a professor, senior associate dean for MBA programs and chief diversity officer at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. He also served as associate dean for international affairs and director of the then Tayloe Murphy International Center (now Darden Center for Global Initiatives) at UVA, as an assistant professor of management at Texas A&M. Rodriguez holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University and a B.S. in economics from Texas A&M University.

<https://www.hispanicoutlook.com/education-magazine/july-issue-2026?fb3d-page=36>

Atlantic Cape grants president emerita title to Dr. Barbara Gaba

Atlantic Cape Community College. Jun 24, 2026



MAYS LANDING – Atlantic Cape Community College’s Board of Trustees, at its June 23 meeting, unanimously conferred the honorary title of president emerita upon Dr. Barbara Gaba, the first president in the college’s 62-year history to receive this honor. Gaba is retiring on June 30 after serving the college for the past nine years.

The Board recognized Gaba and presented her with a framed resolution commending her for “serving Atlantic Cape Community College with distinction as president, providing exemplary leadership marked by integrity, vision, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to student success, equity, innovation and academic excellence.”

Gaba, who announced on October 29, 2025, her intention to retire after a 40-year career in higher education, was honored to receive this designation by the Board.

“I am very honored for the recognition that you have given me. I really want to thank the Board for putting your support behind me and also for giving me the confidence to do this work. I have really enjoyed every minute of it, working with our students on our mission to transform their lives,” Gaba said. “I want to thank my staff who I have worked closely with. It has really been a team effort and I have learned a lot from them. We have done a lot to advance our mission in supporting the residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties.”

Gaba was officially hired as Atlantic Cape's ninth college president — as well as the first female and African American to hold that title — in January 2017. On October 27 of that year, Gaba was inaugurated during a ceremony where she stated that her mission was to "turn our challenges into opportunities, for our students and our community."

The honorary title of president emerita will be effective July 1, 2026.

Overview:

The College's press release regarding Dr. Gaba receiving emerita status was picked up by two media outlets verbatim.

Topline Impact:

- 2 online news outlets covered the story
- 1,100 estimated views
- 190k potential reach
- \$2,600 estimated media value

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/community/article_8fbab2aa-c45e-538a-961e-7421566ccfd2.html

Practical nursing program graduates 20 students at annual pinning ceremony

Atlantic Cape Community College. Aug 6, 2026



MAYS LANDING – Twenty Atlantic Cape Community College Practical Nursing (PN) Program students received their ceremonial pins for officially completing the three-semester certificate program at the 3rd Annual Practical Nursing Completion Ceremony on Wednesday, August 5, in the Walter E. Edge Theater on the Mays Landing campus before proud family and friends.

The PN Program allows nursing students to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge that are needed to help them jump-start their medical careers. With the completion of the program, each of the new graduates now may sit for the NCLEX-PN exam to enter the workforce, while others may wish to continue their studies by applying for an LPN-to-RN program at Atlantic Cape.

“Today is a celebration of accomplishment, perseverance, and service. Our graduates have completed a demanding course of study that required not only academic ability and clinical skill, but also patience, compassion, resilience, and teamwork. A nursing pin may be small, but what it represents is enormous. It symbolizes the knowledge these graduates

have gained, the responsibilities they are preparing to accept, and the trust and patience that families place in them,” said Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Josette Katz.

Throughout the course of his PN Program studies, graduate and Egg Harbor Township resident Jordan Camper overcame the loss of a close family member and is thankful for the bond he formed with his classmates.

“This has been a long year. I started this year with the passing of my aunt in the first semester, but I was very thankful that this program worked with me and helped me get through it. I'm also very thankful for all my classmates. I've been able to grow close with all of them, and we have all been able to depend and rely on each other,” said Camper. “I also want to thank my mom, dad, and my late grandmother, who also couldn't be here. She always encouraged me to keep going and she always knew that I would be able to achieve my dreams.”

Once he completes and passes his NCLEX exam, Camper will be working for AtlantiCare's Seven Harmony, which is an acute care and post-surgical nursing unit located in the Harmony Pavilion at the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City. Camper plans to continue his education by pursuing an RN degree.

Graduate and Somers Point resident Kayleigh Transue, who currently works at Shore Memorial Hospital in registration, is appreciative of the relationships and support she had along this journey.

“I made some great friends here and I had family support me the whole way. I didn't think it would be possible to be here graduating today. Now it's time to start studying for my NCLEX and then going for my RN,” said Transue.

The pinning ceremony dates back to the 12th century, when the Knights of the Order of St. John the Baptist were given a badge of the Maltese cross in recognition of their vow to care for the sick and wounded soldiers of the Crusades. The ceremony was then updated in the 1860s, when Queen Victoria honored Florence Nightingale with the Red Cross of St. George for providing care to the soldiers of the Crimean War. Nightingale then shared the honor by presenting medals to her nursing students. This ceremony honors the arduous education completed by the nursing students and serves as an induction and commitment to the nursing profession and the safe and competent care of others.

Atlantic Cape President Dr. Jason Abreu offered his congratulations to the program's newly pinned graduates.

“Today's an exciting day for our students after several months of studies, dedicating a lot of time, attention, and detail to your profession, to your passion and to your future patients.

For the families that are here today, this day is equally as important to you because of the sacrifices that you also made along this journey. So, to our graduates, congratulations and completing this incredible program, that you have strived and committed to achieving, but also remember the compassion, the professionalism and the resilience that define you as a student as you begin your journey,” said Dr. Abreu.

This year’s graduating class included: Judith Barka, Jordan Camper, Marie Celestin, Morgan Coulter, Kimberly Franck, Alexandra Gibbons, Erin Higgins, Sade Kirton, Paige Lacy, Ariel Lute, Mili Patel, Tionna Powell, Elizabeth Ruiz, Melissa Saravia, Elizabeth Sharpe, Riya Somaiya, Kayleigh Transue, Allison Van Vorst, Ashley Winkler and Miranda Ziegler.

Atlantic Cape’s PN Program began in 2023 with 13 students in the graduating class. Today, the program is fully accredited by the New Jersey State Board (SBON) and boasts an impressive state-of-the-art simulation and skills laboratory. The PN Program offers students a direct pathway to the LPN-RN Program, allowing them to obtain their RN. More than 3,000 nurses have graduated from both the PN and Nursing programs since their inception. Atlantic Cape’s PN Program is accredited by the New Jersey State Board through 2033.

View a Flickr photo gallery of this event at [flic.kr/s/aHBqjD1Rqx](https://www.flickr.com/photos/atlanticcape/albums/with/72157677210000000/).

Established in 1964, Atlantic Cape Community College is a Middle States-accredited, Hispanic-serving institution proudly serving the residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties. As a comprehensive, two-year community college, Atlantic Cape offers more than 50 undergraduate degree programs and 34 certificate and workforce development professional series programs at its Mays Landing, Atlantic City, and Cape May campuses. Atlantic Cape is home to the renowned Academy of Culinary Arts, rated the top culinary school in New Jersey, and to its highly acclaimed Nursing program for more than 60 years. Atlantic Cape also partners with more than 30 colleges and four-year universities to offer students the opportunity to seamlessly earn a bachelor’s degree upon graduation.

Topline Impact:

- 2 online news outlets covered the story
- 938 estimated views
- 142k potential reach
- \$1,300 estimated media value

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/community/article_a74b45d3-721d-5db1-9551-191b8d848a91.html

Fall semester registration and stop, drop, enroll event

Atlantic Cape Community College. Jul 28, 2026



MAYS LANDING – Summertime fun in the sun may be in full swing, but it's not too late to register for Atlantic Cape Community College's upcoming fall semester. Classes start Monday, August 31.

Keep your momentum moving forward. Don't let the progress you made during the previous fall and spring semesters go to waste. The credits you have earned prove that you are closer to earning your associate degree than you may think.

Atlantic Cape offers affordable, convenient and flexible classes that fit your busy lifestyle and schedule. Take classes when you want, where you want and how you want. Sign up for traditional in-person classes while enjoying the atmosphere of campus life. Or, learn off-campus with online, hybrid and remote class options.

The full fall semester at the Mays Landing and Charles D. Worthington Atlantic City campuses runs August 31 – December 19, while two eight-week sessions run August 31 – October 24 and October 26 – December 19. The 13-week fall seasonal semester at the Cape May County campus runs September 21 – December 19.

Visit our One-Stop Welcome Centers at the Mays Landing, Atlantic City and Cape May County campuses for in-person registration assistance Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Our campuses are closed Fridays for the summer through August 14. You may also register any time 24/7 online at atlanticcape.edu/register where you will find course schedules, important dates and contacts, hours of operation and more.

Register for classes August 5 at stop, drop, enroll event

Atlantic Cape is hosting a Stop, Drop, Enroll event at all three campuses on Wednesday, August 5, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Students may register for classes, get one-on-one assistance, take a campus tour, and learn about the programs and services offered at Atlantic Cape. [Register today for this Stop, Drop, Enroll event.](#)

At Atlantic Cape, you may earn your degree without the high student loan debt. Save 63% on tuition costs compared to a typical four-year institution of higher learning. Atlantic Cape offers 50 undergraduate degree programs, and 34 certificate and professional series programs as well.

Financial aid and Pell grants are also available for the fall semester. If you earn less than \$65,000, your tuition may be free through the Community College Opportunity Grant. Learn more at atlanticcape.edu/free-college. Flexible payment plans are also available.

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Topline Impact:

- 3 online news outlets covered the story verbatim
- 1,100 estimated views
- 153k potential reach
- \$1,400 estimated media value

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/community/article_7d3434f3-c2fb-5a40-9d84-a55aaef76dc5.html