

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: January 25, 2022
(Cape May County Campus)

COVID-19 Update

- The college continues to offer COVID-19 testing at all three campuses for faculty, staff, students, and members of the public.
- In our efforts to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, the start of the semester was pushed back one week to start Monday, January 24, 2022. Drop/Add will be January 24-29, 2022; Spring Break will continue as scheduled; the Cape May classes will end one week later on April 30, 2022; and the end dates of the full semester at Mays Landing and Atlantic City will remain as scheduled.
- In response our continuing efforts to ensure academic and business continuity in the current pandemic environment, a temporary remote work plan was implemented for staff who provide services that are critical and/or time sensitive to the operation of the college and the success of our students.
- To support our students, the college is continuing to offer a 3-credit tuition waiver and a free laptop for our students through Spring 2022.

Grants

Highlights from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

- Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, Atlantic Cape has been awarded **\$15,708,231** in HEERF Institutional Funds and **\$11,489,560** in HEERF Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students for a total of **\$27,197,791** in HEERF allocation. Funds must be obligated by 5/11/2022.

HEERF Institutional Funds

- HEERF Institutional Funds expended to date total **\$10,458,357**.
- **Major Initiatives include:**
 - Three credit waiver engagement / re-engagement initiatives (Fall & Spring FY22)
 - Debt amnesty – Over 1,250 students received debt amnesty for balances accrued during the pandemic for terms 2020SP through 2021SP totaling over \$1,075,000
 - Loaner Laptop Programs
 - The student loaner laptop program is continuing to distribute laptops to students. As of January 20, approximately (1600) laptops have been distributed to students and distribution is expected to continue at a consistent rate over the Spring and Summer semesters.
 - Student and academic services temporary staff hires
 - Recovery of Tuition and Fee revenue losses
 - Numerous software purchases for academic and student services and supplemental resources for students (e.g. Zoom licenses, etc.)
 - Implementation of Health and Safety Protocols
 - COVID and vaccination awareness and information initiatives
 - Food voucher programs for students at all three campuses

HEERF Student Emergency Funds

- Atlantic Cape's total HEERF – Student Emergency Awards allocation is **\$11,489,560**. Cumulative to date, Atlantic Cape has disbursed **\$7,554,150** to 5,913 unduplicated students with 10,279 individual awards (most students received more than one award).
- For Fall 2021, **\$3,543,300** in HEERF Student Emergency Funds was disbursed to 2,801 students as of 12/14/21. These funds provide direct financial support to students for any component of their cost of attendance and/or assistance with emergency costs associated with the Coronavirus.
- Students will have the opportunity to receive HEERF Student Emergency Funds for Spring 2022 (upon receiving their attestation).

NACUBO Grant

- The College has been selected to participate in a grant by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) to strategically finance sustainable, equitable student outcomes. This is a three-year grant, not to exceed \$35,000. This is an exciting opportunity to work with other selected colleges and universities to develop a national budgeting model. Leslie Jamison, Chief Financial Officer, will lead this initiative.

Wind Training Center

- Construction on the Wind Training Center addition to the Worthington Atlantic City Campus is scheduled to start the week of February 7.
- On December 12, 2021, the Atlantic City Council authorized the lease of dock space at Gardner's Basin to Atlantic Cape for the Basic Safety and Sea Survival training.

Workforce Development

- The Atlantic City Free Public Library has contracted with Atlantic Cape to provide 10 Computer Basics workshops (4.5-hour sessions) and 10 Computer Basics 2 Workshops (3-hour sessions) for citizens of Atlantic City to help minimize the digital divide.
- The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program is scheduled to start at the Cape May County Campus on January 29.

Technology Upgrades

- The Information Technology department has recently addressed a critical Cyber Security concern in the industry called Log4J. The vulnerability enables a hacker to take control of devices on the internet if the device is running certain versions of Log4J. The ITS team responded immediately using recently developed Incident Response procedures and resolved all known critical, high and medium level issues in the Atlantic Cape Community College environment within the first 2 days of the issue.

- The Disaster Recovery project is currently underway. The Board of Trustees will be asked to approve all required Disaster Recovery Software and Hardware components (see Resolution #48 – Award of Bids). The site is expected to be completed with basic recovery testing by June/July 2022.

Community Outreach - Cape May County

First Responders Training Course

- The Cape May County Campus hosted an *Active Threat Integrated Response Course* presented by the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office and Louisiana State University’s National Center for Biomedical Research and Training from December 13-17, 2021. Thirty (30) first responders from Cape May and Atlantic Counties attended the course. Administered by the Department of Homeland Security and conducted by LSU in conjunction with FEMA’s National Training and Education Division, the course helps first responders build the critical skills they need when faced with mass-consequence events and is designed to improve the integration between law enforcement, fire, and the EMS during active threat incidents by setting up emergency scenarios and allowing the teams to role play their responses integrating with all departments. Ultimately, this training helps first responders save more lives.
- Lt. Jeffrey Laag of the Cape May Fire Department thanked Atlantic Cape for allowing the course to run on the Cape May County Campus, stating it’s a “benefit to use our local resources” instead of having our first responders traveling to locations that may require overnight stays. Bill Kline of the Galloway Township Police Department agreed, stating, “Having the use of a local building helps with getting used to bigger and varied locations.”

Community Outreach – Atlantic City

ESL Workshop at the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City

- Atlantic Cape and the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City partnered to offer a five-week English as a Second Language (ESL) workshop for club parents at the Boys & Girls Club’s Chelsea location. Fifteen parents were recognized on December 14 for completing the workshop, “Preparing English Language

Learners for Successful Employment in the Workplace,” which was funded by a \$9,500 grant from Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa. Atlantic Cape will continue to offer these workshops in the community throughout the spring semester at other community-based locations.

Hope for the Holidays

- More than 350 wrapped gifts were distributed to children and teens in Atlantic City at Brown’s Park on December 18 at Atlantic Cape’s Hope for the Holidays event. The event was organized in partnership with Angels in Motion, the Matthew Bee Memorial Fund, and Atlantic County Hope One. Gifts were collected at various locations in Atlantic County and were also provided by the Atlantic County Toys for Kids Program, PetSmart, and many other donors.

Foundation

Naming Opportunities

- The Foundation regularly solicits potential donors to leave a legacy through the naming opportunities campaign. Most recently, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Caporilli have pledged to purchase the naming rights for a teaching kitchen on the first floor of M-building in the Academy of Culinary Arts on the Mays Landing Campus (see Resolution #49, endorsed by the Ad-Hoc Naming Committee). The value of the space is \$25,000, as previously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Giving Tuesday

- Giving Tuesday was held on November 30, 2021. In total the event raised \$6,000 from 58 donors. Donors were able to designate their contribution for student scholarships, the Food Pantry, the baseball field renovation campaign, or other areas of greatest need.

OceanFirst Bank Scholarship Donation

- OceanFirst Bank generously donated \$40,000 to the Atlantic Cape Foundation for student scholarships. A check presentation was held on the Mays Landing Campus on December 22, 2021, attended by Jeff Ropiecki, Vice President of

Commercial Lending, as well as Dr. Robert Previti, a member of the OceanFirst Foundation Board of Directors as well as Atlantic Cape's Board of Trustees.

President's Holiday Reception

- On December 1st, Dr. Barbara Gaba and the Atlantic Cape Foundation Board of Trustees hosted the President's Holiday Reception in Careme's Restaurant.
- The purpose of the Holiday Reception is to thank the major donors to the Atlantic Cape Foundation, which provides scholarships to our students, including those students attending the Academy of Culinary Arts. This year's event was held in Careme's in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Academy, which we are celebrating this year.
- The event was not only an expression of appreciation to the donors for their support but also a showcase of the talents of our Academy of Culinary Arts faculty and students, who provided delicious food and desserts. It was clear that the Academy does an incredible job of educating our students in every facet of the culinary industry, and guests at the event came away with the knowledge that their donations positively impact our students.
- Live musical entertainment for the event was provided by the talented 5-piece band, "Bo Knows" & The Educators, featuring our very own Professor Bo Zilovic.

Commencement Update

- Plans for the 55th Annual Commencement Ceremony, to be held May 19, 2022, are underway. Mr. James Allen, Chairman of Hard Rock International and Chief Executive Officer of Seminole Gaming, has been selected as the Keynote Speaker. With the Board's approval, Mr. Allen, an alumnus of Atlantic Cape, will be awarded an Honorary Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Hospitality Management in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and commitment to the Atlantic City region and Atlantic Cape Community College's students (see Resolution #51).

Athletics

Men's Basketball

- Atlantic Cape Men's basketball team is now ranked #15 in the country for the first time in recent years. The Buccaneers have a 12-3 record (as of 1/14/2022) in Region 19 and currently sit in third place.

David Coit, Men's Basketball Player

- Atlantic Cape Buccaneers Basketball player David Coit committed to NCAA Division I college, Northern Illinois University, during a signing ceremony on December 18, 2021, at the Mays Landing campus.
- Coit was an early standout for the team and had already received scholarship offers from Division I schools, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Northern Illinois University, and North Carolina A&T, by September of this year.
- Coit graduated from Princeton Day School in 2019 and went on to attend Scotland Campus Sports for a year before coming to Atlantic Cape this year where he is studying business. He will transfer to NIU in the fall.

Staff Accomplishments

- Michelle Perkins, Director of Instructional Technology; Dr. Augustine Nigro, Associate Professor of History and Government; Laura Batchelor, Executive Director of Marketing and College Relations; and Stacey Zacharoff, Senior Director, Center for Student Success, graduated from the Chair Academy Leadership Development Program held at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The Chair Academy is a leadership development organization that focuses on developing transformational leaders.

Communicator

- The Communicator, the internal college newsletter, has been reactivated and is being published monthly, spearheaded by College Relations. This is a useful way for faculty, staff, and Trustees to stay informed of all the great work being done at the college and to spotlight our employees.