

 **President's Report**

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: April 27, 2021  
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

### **Grants**

#### *NJDCA Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program*

- Atlantic Cape was awarded the \$50,000 planning grant which was submitted to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program to develop a 10-year plan to revitalize Atlantic City's Inlet Neighborhood (Ward #1).
- The development of the plan will incorporate a shared vision for the future revitalization of the Inlet Neighborhood, driven by residents and community stakeholders.
- Our neighborhood partners include the City of Atlantic City, Atlantic City Housing Authority, Atlantic City Board of Education, Absecon Lighthouse, North Beach Homeowners Association, Boraie Development, AtlantiCare, Jewish Family Services, Volunteers of America, Stockton University, Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City, Police Athletic Association, and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA).
- The plan will include physical, social, and economic activities that address the growth, stability, and health of the Inlet Neighborhood. Quarterly meetings of key stakeholders and review of neighborhood assets, regional assets, neighborhood revitalization priorities, vision, and proposed strategies.

## University Partnerships

### *Rutgers University–Camden Scholarship at Atlantic Cape Community College – Mays Landing Campus*

- Rutgers–Camden is extending their scholarship program specifically for graduates of Atlantic Cape Community College who transfer to Rutgers-Camden, which has a site at our Mays Landing Campus.
- The Rutgers–Camden Scholarship at Atlantic Cape Community Colleges provides Atlantic Cape graduates with merit-based financial support. Combined with need-based state and federal aid, this award presents the opportunity for Atlantic Cape Community College graduates to earn a world-class Rutgers degree at a greatly reduced tuition rate.
- Sixty-one (61) Atlantic Cape graduates received a total of \$190,857 in support from this scholarship when they enrolled at Rutgers University–Camden for the 2020-21 academic year.

## Recognitions for Accessibility

- Atlantic Cape has been recognized many times for our implementation of Blackboard Ally, which enhanced the accessibility of the college’s online education, and for our great strides in making Atlantic Cape accessible to all students.
- Blackboard recently debuted *The Book of Ally: Discoveries Along the Journey of Inclusion*, an e-text summarizing accessibility trends, case studies, and the Ally Tour visits, which features Atlantic Cape and quotes from students, faculty, and staff.
- Atlantic Cape was Blackboard Ally’s first stop on their “Inclusive Learning Tour” in February 2019; in March 2019 Blackboard published their blog and podcast regarding their Atlantic Cape visit called “Atlantic Cape Community College - Rising Up to the Challenge”; Instructional Technology and Center for Accessibility staff led a webinar for Blackboard’s “Global Accessibility Awareness Day” in May 2019 entitled “Atlantic Cape Community College: A Journey to a More Inclusive Campus”, which attracted over 800 individuals

internationally; and finally, in May 2019 Instructional Technology and Center for Accessibility staff were interviewed for an article in *Inside Higher Ed* for a story about Atlantic Cape's journey to a more inclusive campus, entitled "ADA Lawsuit Prompts Institutional Change, Draws More Students."

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

- The Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee hosted "Brave Enough to Speak It," an event moderated by Professor Effie Russell on March 23, 2021. Professor Jay Peterson, Professor Heather Boone, Mr. Michael Forrest, and Black Student Alliance President Heleena Hendricks presented poetry and literature on themes of racial justice and equity.
- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, participated as a panelist in AtlanticCare's Young Professionals webinar series on "Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace" on April 8, 2021.

### **Community Relations**

- Atlantic Cape partnered with the Fellowship of Churches and the City of Atlantic City Mayor's Office to carry out a community food distribution at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. Seven hundred (700) meal kit boxes were distributed in coordination with the Easter holiday event on April 3, 2021.
- Atlantic Cape supported Recovery Force's Easter Holiday event at Brown's Park on April 3, 2021. Over 150 children enjoyed games, prizes, and Easter activities.
- Atlantic Cape, along with the Culinary Student Association (CSA) and the Professional Chefs Association of South Jersey, supported Angels in Motion on a community feeding on April 10, 2021 at Center City Park in Atlantic City. They donated food and made over 200 grab and go meal kits which included sandwiches, condiments, water, and dessert.

### *Jersey Shore Science Fair*

- Atlantic Cape faculty and staff came together to support the annual *Jersey Shore Science Fair*, which was held virtually this year. This annual event

provides an important opportunity for local students to develop their interest in STEM and apply the knowledge they have acquired in the classroom to real-world problems. This effort was coordinated by Rosanne Weiss, Senior Adjunct, Information Systems and Aviation Studies.

- The following faculty and staff served as judges:
  - Rosanne Weiss (Chief Judge); Linda Benner; Karen Brundage-Johnson; Erika Chu; Dr. Denise Coulter; Tim Cwik; Erin DeLong; Loretta Gris-Dicker; Sandra Harris; Toni Lehman; John Livezey; Dr. Jolie Master; Nicholas Nazzario; Judith Otterburn-Martinez; Brendan Santangelo; Christina Savich; Bo Zilovic.

### **Faculty Accomplishments**

- Tim Cwik, Department Chair of Aviation Studies, has been reappointed as the Coordinator and Deputy of the Cape May County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (R.A.C.E.S) through 4/30/2024. He has been the county R.A.C.E.S. officer (a volunteer position) for about 25 years.
- The Cape May County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (R.A.C.E.S) group provides communications support using amateur radio and other resources to state, county, and local emergency management. They provide systems to augment or, in extreme cases, to replace normal communications and typically deploy or standby for weather events and other incidents.

### **Student Accomplishments**

#### *New Jersey All-State Academic Team - 2021*

- Atlantic Cape students Lily Chowdhury and Rose Melanie Shaw (graduating members of Phi Theta Kappa) have been named to the *2021 New Jersey All-State Academic Team*. This group of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) students, from each of the state's 18 community colleges, represent the very best that community colleges have to offer in academic excellence, leadership, and community service.

- The New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) is honoring the 2021 New Jersey All-State Academic Team for their talent, innovation and dedication, and is recognizing their outstanding achievements and exceptional service to their communities and colleges as members of Phi Theta Kappa.

*New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Colloquium*

- Atlantic Cape students Jamie Frederickson, Jessica Scull, and Rhys Ancheta presented work at the New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Colloquium hosted by Drew University on April 9, 2021. Professor Rich Russell and Professor Heather Boone represent the college on the New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium.

### **Alumni Accomplishments**

*Distinguished Alumni – 2021*

- This year, Atlantic Cape will be honoring four outstanding alumni with the “Distinguished Alumni Award.” The recipients will be recognized at a virtual ceremony on April 28, 2021.

*Overall Distinguished Alumni Award Category (open to all graduates):*

- Madeline Quinn Seidenstricker, Class of 1971, Liberal Arts – Education Option, A.A.
  - 25-year career in the U.S. State Department; international teaching and public service
  - Volunteer work at HEARTS Therapeutic Riding Center and Hammonton Arts Center
  - Atlantic Cape Adjunct, English Department
  - Bachelor’s degree from Montclair State University; Master of Arts in Teaching from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University)
- Donna Vassallo, Class of 1985, Hospitality Management, A.A.S.
  - Extensive career in hospitality, tourism, and human resources management

- Current Dean of Professional Studies, High School Initiatives, and Internships (retiring June 30, 2021)
- Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation Board member, 1998-2004
- Lindback Distinguished Teaching Excellence Award (2009)
- Bachelor's degree from Widener University; Master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University; mid-career fellowship program at Princeton University

*Young Alumni Achievement Award (graduates 40 years of age and younger)*

- Pamela Shute, Class of 2006, Liberals Arts – Education Option, A.A.
  - Currently Instructional Supervisor at Middle Township Elementary #1
  - Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Drexel University; Master's degree from Rowan University; currently in doctoral degree program at Drexel University
  - Capstone Achievement Award in 2010 for Excellence in Student Teaching from Drexel University
  - Volunteer work at Middle Township PTO; Whitesboro Recreation Center; Matt's Stocking
- Harry Walk, Class of 2009, General Studies, A.S.
  - 14-year career at AtlantiCare; currently Corporate Director of Customer Experience
  - Previously Patient Care Associate; RN - Progressive Care Unit (PCU); Clinical Nurse Manager - Medical Surgical Unit, Atlantic City
  - Bachelor's degree (Rutgers University); Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Walden University

*Nate Evans, Jr., '15 – Alumni Success Story*

- Nathan Evans earned an Associate in Arts degree in Communication from Atlantic Cape in 2015, and graduated from Rowan University in May 2019 with a B.A. in Liberal Studies. Nathan formed his own business in the

fitness/wellness industry and has served as a youth empowerment speaker and coach.

- As a mentor and mental health advocate, Nathan has focused his attention on bringing awareness and developing solutions to mental health issues in African American and under-served communities.
- In October 2020, Nathan joined the team at the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City as the organization's Teen Center Director at the newly opened MGM Resorts International Teen Center for Economic Youth Development and College Readiness. This role gives him the opportunity to connect with young adults and develop college and career readiness programs aimed at assisting Atlantic City teens in achieving their full potential.
- In October 2020, Evans published a book, *I Love You, Letters of Love from Black Men to Black Boys*.
- Nathan was named one of Atlantic Cape's 2019 President's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients in the "Top Four Under 40" category.