

President's Report

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: October 29, 2024
(Worthington Atlantic City Campus)

Featured Stories

Cape May County Campus and the Cape May BizHub

- Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus and the Cape May BizHub was awarded the *2024 Business Partner of the Year Award* from the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce and the Business Community of the Wildwoods for our outstanding service and partnership in the Wildwoods. **Krista McConnell, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Outreach, and Chris Stenger, Director of the Cape May BizHub**, accepted the award on the behalf of the College and the Bizhub respectfully.

Grants Update

- Atlantic Cape was awarded \$37,500 for the *Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program* initiative from the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE). The grant funds help address basic food needs on all three campuses, raise awareness of campus services that address food insecurity, and continues to build strategic partnerships at the local, state, and national levels to address food insecurity among students.
- The College was also awarded \$44,100 for the *Educational Opportunity Fund's Special Projects* grant initiative also from the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE). The grant funds support services to help students complete their first year at Atlantic Cape.

Faculty & Staff Spotlight

- **Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice-President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**, was a panelist in the Women’s Conference on “Building Community and Nurturing Relationships,” sponsored by Stockton Women’s Leadership Council at Stockton University’s Atlantic City Campus on October 25.
- **Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff and Chief Advancement Officer**, was inducted into the Metropolitan Business and Citizens Association (MBCA)’s Executive Board on October 10 at their 33rd Annual Installation and Awards Gala in Atlantic City.
- **Krista McConnell** was inducted into the Cape May County Chamber Board of Directors on October 16.
- **Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Special Projects**, attended a *Hispanic Heritage Month* celebration at Drumthwacket in Princeton that featured Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady, Tammy Murphy, to aid advocacy of the Latino Community in New Jersey.



Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- The College’s recruitment and community outreach team participated in several Back to School nights in Atlantic and Cape May County during the months of September and October. It’s an event where parents and guardians are invited to visit their child's school. Providing an opportunity for them to meet teachers, learn about the curriculum, and understand classroom expectations, as well as provide us with the opportunity to meet with parents and teachers directly, sharing all that Atlantic Cape has to offer. The College was on hand at the following high schools:

Atlantic County:

- Absegami
- Atlantic City
- Buena Regional
- Cedar Creek
- Chartertech
- Mainland
- Oakcrest
- Pleasantville

Cape May County:

- Cape May Tech
- Lower Cape May Regional
- Middle Township
- Ocean City
- Wildwood

- Atlantic Cape's recruitment team also hosted its signature *Stop, Drop, and Enroll event* on all three campuses. During our One-Stop Enrollment Days, prospective students received one-on-one help with admission applications, class rosters, and financial aid.

Community Outreach – Cape May

- The College hosted their *Middle School Career Exploration Day* at our Cape May County Campus on October 11. Middle and Dennis Townships middle school students from 7 to 8 grade got to explore Atlantic Cape and all the different career options available to them as they begin to think about their future.
- **Krista McConnell, and Chris Mularz, Associate Director of the Foundation and Advancement**, attended the tenth annual Cape Assist Fundraiser on September 26 to support Cape Assist's mission of reducing substance misuse and addressing mental health issues in Cape May County.
- The Cape May County Campus outreach team and the Cape May bizHub attended the *La Fiesta Hispana* event in Wildwood on September 28. The College and the bizHub held an information both that detailed the services Atlantic Cape and the bizHub offers to residents in Cape May County.
- In celebration of *Hispanic Heritage Month*, the College partnered with the Puerto Rican Action Committee (PRAC) to host the *Hispanic Heritage Family Fall Festival* at the Cape May County Campus on October 26.

Cape May BizHub

- The Cape May bizHub hosted various seminars throughout the month of October that began on September 26. Small business owners, employees, and entrepreneurs learned about business ownership, business plan development, target market and marketing plan development, and much more to help residents of Cape May County make their business goals a reality.

Student Engagement

- The Student Engagement Department in collaboration with the Student Government Association (SGA) concluded Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations by hosting *National Taco Day* on all three campuses on October 4.
- *Your Future, Your Voice, Your Vote!* was an open discussion event on our Mays Landing Campus, facilitated by Professor Augustine Nigro and the SGA, which covered the history of voting, why YOUR vote does matter, how to research the candidates, the deadline to register to vote, and more.
- The month of October is a designated history, heritage, and awareness month for various honors or causes, such as *Hispanic Heritage Month* or *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. Atlantic Cape's Student Engagement Department and the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted an array of events honoring the numerous causes and heritages celebrated every October.

Athletics

- The Athletics Department hosted their 3rd annual *Buccaneer Madness Spirit Day* on October 24. This event held a student versus faculty basketball game and other fun activities, while introducing our student athletes to the college community and encouraging school spirit.