

## President's Report

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: November 19, 2024  
(Mays Landing Campus)



### Student Success Story

#### *2024 Summer Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Field Study*

- Four Atlantic Cape Physics and Engineering students, **Chris Walia (PHYS)**, **Brandon Tauscher (PHYS)**, **Michelle Esochagi (ENGR)**, and **Dylan Joseph (ENGR)**, along with the faculty lead, **Dr. Francis Toriello, Assistant Professor of Physics and Chemistry**, presented their field study on “*Lateral Intent Error of Air Crafts*” to the Federal Aviation Administration Tech Center on August 15. Lateral Intent Error is when an aircraft deviates from its flight plan often due to weather/air traffic. The students analyzed one day of lateral intent error flight data for all flights in the United States to build a predictive model that can be used to assist air traffic control and increase safety. They also correlated their findings with weather data. Through *The New Jersey Space Grant Consortium* the students were compensated for their efforts.

#### *Voice of Selma*

- The Office of Student Engagement and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion sponsored an event featuring civil rights icon, **Bettie Mae Fikes**, known as the “Voice” of Selma. Ms. Fikes shared her personal story of the Civil Rights marches, captivating an audience of over 85 students, faculty, and staff.

She presented a powerful account of the struggle for justice, the right to vote, and the physical and emotional toll the Freedom Marchers endured (left many in attendance deeply moved). The rawness of her testimony—describing the suffering, death, and perseverance of those who fought for equality—served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in the pursuit of civil rights.



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

- Atlantic Cape partnered with local community organizations to sponsor the inaugural *Día de los Muertos* celebration in Atlantic City on November 1. Held at the Arts Garage of Stockton University, over 400 attendees participated in an evening of vibrant cultural festivities. *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) is a cultural celebration observed by many Latino families to honor and remember their loved ones who have passed away. Atlantic Cape’s Latinos Unidos student organization was also on hand to volunteer, hosting a craft table for children and contributing to the event's lively, family-friendly atmosphere.
- Atlantic Cape’s Worthington Atlantic City Campus partnered with Midtown Community Development Corporation (CDC) and hosted the Midtown Football Watch Parties at our Atlantic City Campus. These events, held in the parking lot of the campus, were designed to bring together members of the local community for a fun and engaging atmosphere centered around the Philadelphia Eagles football games. They were a vibrant, inclusive community gathering, showcasing the partnership between Atlantic Cape and Midtown CDC in supporting local initiatives that foster community engagement and well-being.
- **Lizbeth Castro-James, Director of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Community Outreach**, was invited by the Superintendent of Greater Egg Harbor School District to speak with multilingual/English as a Second Language

(ESL) teachers from Oakcrest, Absegami, and Cedar Creek High Schools in Mays Landing on October 18. During the meeting, Lizbeth coordinated dates for an ESL shadow day to see our program at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus, followed by an ESL parent information workshop at the high schools.

- The College partnered with the Oceanside Family Success Center to host the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Resource Fair and Mini Stand Down* and welcomed over 300 veterans at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The event offered veterans a variety of services, including healthcare navigation, enrollment assistance, and a veterans' brunch. It provided an opportunity for veterans to connect with essential resources, access benefits, and network in a supportive environment.
- Atlantic Cape's Science Department held its third annual *Star Party* event on the Mays Landing Campus on November 8. The event welcomed over 100 people to campus, gathering in the STEM Building, for an information session before star-gazing out in the quad.

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

- The Inlet CDC also held the *AC Inlet Homebuyer Information Session*. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the *Home Buyers Grant*, the *Home Buyers Incentive*, and participate in an Inlet Home Tour on November 16. The event provided valuable insights into available financial assistance programs and homeownership opportunities in the Inlet neighborhood, helping prospective buyers navigate the process and explore available properties firsthand. This information session was open to Atlantic Cape faculty, staff and the community at large that are interested in purchasing a home in the inlet section of Atlantic City.
- Atlantic Cape's Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC) hosted the *2nd Annual Inlet Pumpkin Patch* at the historic Absecon Lighthouse on October 24. This free community event offered pumpkin picking, hayrides, live music, fun family activities, seasonal treats, and local vendors. It was hosted in partnership with the Oceanside I Family Success Center and Hot Bagels & More.

- The Inlet CDC sponsored *The Small Business Government* event, which provided valuable resources and networking opportunities for local small business owners and entrepreneurs on October 29. The event connected businesses with government agencies and support services to help them navigate funding, regulations, and other available resources. **Lizbeth Castro-James, and Mike Intrieri, the Inlet CDC Project Lead**, representatives of Atlantic Cape's Inlet CDC, were on hand to host an Inlet CDC/Atlantic Cape information table. They shared information about the various educational programs, resources, and services that Atlantic Cape offers to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in the region.
- Atlantic Cape's Inlet CDC hosted the unveiling of the new wrap-around mural at Hot Bagel, "*Beneath the Waves*," on October 31. The mural adorns the exterior of the popular local eatery and was created to enhance the community's visual appeal while celebrating Atlantic City's rich maritime culture. The event brought together local artists, community members, and supporters to celebrate unveiling this stunning piece of public art.

### **Community Outreach – Cape May**

- Atlantic Cape STEM Professors Dr. Chris Carbone, Ken Cabarle, and Richard Perello presented a *Guided Beachcombing Walk* at the Cape May Point Science Center on October 26. Thanks to the generosity of Robert Mullock, a Foundation donor, over thirty participants, using microscopes and magnifying glasses, explored the Cape May Point Science Center after their guided beachcombing walk, where they examined the natural treasures they found on the Jersey Shore.
- Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus held an *American Red Cross Blood Drive* on October 29. To thank donors for their contributions to this life-saving initiative, all donors received a \$10 Amazon gift card.
- The Cape May County Campus hosted a *World Kindness Day* on November 13. The event featured giveaways and random acts of kindness cards for students to take and give to their friends when they noticed someone displaying an act of kindness around campus.

### **Cape May County BizHub**

- The Cape May bizHub hosted an *Organizational Planning, Leadership, and Motivation* seminar at the Cape May County Campus on October 31. Business entrepreneurs and small business owners learned about organizational planning, leadership skills, and motivation of their business goals to help their small business or business plan grow and flourish within our region.
- The Cape May bizHub also held a *Small Business Planning and Tax Accounting* seminar on November 7. Local small business owners and entrepreneurs learned about making a business plan and tax accounting to help them navigate their business journey and utilize all the available resources to grow a successful business.

### **Student Engagement**

- The Student Government Association (SGA) in collaboration with the Student Support Services Program participated in the *First Gen Conference* on November 7. The event was designed to create a fun and welcoming atmosphere for first-generation college students, offering a chance to connect with peers and celebrate their achievements. The event was an exciting part of the First Gen Conference, offering a blend of community-building and entertainment for students navigating their academic journeys.
- The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted the *November Men's Mental Health and Wellness* event, aimed at raising awareness about mental health issues affecting men and promoting wellness on November 14. The event featured Lamont Moore as the guest speaker, who shared valuable insights on mental health challenges and coping strategies, particularly for men. AtlantiCare was also present, providing attendees with important health screening information to encourage proactive health management. Additionally, Counseling and Student Services (CSS) offered resources on campus mental health support, ensuring that students were aware of the counseling and wellness services available to them.

## **Athletics**

- Atlantic Cape hosted Stockton University, Rowan University, and Camden County College for the Garden State Esports League (GSE) November Circuit matches in both *Rocket League* and *Super Smash Bros* video games on November 12. Several local high schools, including Cape May Tech and Barnegat High School, were also in attendance to witness the action. The event saw over 75 attendees, including players and spectators, who gathered to cheer on their teams in an exciting day of collegiate esports competition.

## **Recruitment**

- Atlantic Cape's One Stop Enrollment and Recruitment team held Open House events at all three campuses. The Mays Landing event welcomed 96 attendees, and 67 identified potential students at the event. The events featured campus tours, which provided a firsthand look at the resources available to students. This year's Open Houses were a great success, allowing prospective students and their families to get valuable information and take the next step in their educational journey at Atlantic Cape.