

President's Report

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: March 25, 2025
(Worthington Atlantic City Campus)



TEDx Event for Students on Resilience

- The Student Government Association (SGA), in collaboration with the Center for Student Success Department (CSS), hosted Rory Gardiner, TEDx speaker and folk music performer on March 4. Using a blend of music and humor, Gardiner spoke to students about resilience and embracing change in unplanned life experiences. Students appreciated his laid-back approach and had the opportunity to engage with him after the event.

Student Success Story

- **Het Parekh**, an Aviation Major and Phi Theta Kappa student at Atlantic Cape, was named the *2025 New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar* by the Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. As a *New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar*, Mr. Parekh will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and will be recognized at an event during the Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT) Leadership Congress, held from October 22–25, 2025, in New Orleans, Louisiana. His application also received the highest score for the State of New Jersey.

Black History Month

- The Cape May County Campus hosted a presentation "*Erasing Bias from the Classroom*" with author Janis Washington White on February 27. This

important event, sponsored by the *Coalition for a Safe Community*, fostered meaningful discussions on fostering self-awareness, open dialogue, and advocacy.



Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC)

- Atlantic Cape and the Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC) sponsored and supported the Community FoodBank of New Jersey at the *Captain's Table* fundraising event on February 27 at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- Atlantic Cape has partnered with The Jewish Family Services Mobile Food Pantry to offer free food distributions for students on the last Thursday of each month for the remainder of the semester. This initiative, which follows the success of the first food distribution event on February 27 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus, is crucial for supporting students in need, helping to alleviate food insecurity, and ensuring that all students have access to the resources necessary for their academic success.

Community Outreach – Cape May

- Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus hosted Junior Achievement on March 18 for *Career Exploration Day*. Thomas Wallace Middle School and Vineland High School students met with six local organizations and explored different careers, from engineering to accounting to education.
- The Cape May County Campus also hosted a week-long event for the *4-H Club* from March 17 to March 21. *The 4-H club* participants and their families heard student presentations on agriculture, farming, raising animals, and fishing and they got to see the resources we provide at our Cape May County Campus.

There were approximately 200 presenters, ranging from first grade to twelfth grade.

- Atlantic Cape hosted the *Cape May County Traffic Safety Seminar* on March 28. The seminar addressed the essential training courses for organizations in Atlantic and Cape May County, focusing on topics such as Traffic and Construction Safety, Shoring, Drenching and Drilling, Flagger and Work Zone Safety, and Safety Management. The event was sponsored by JA Montgomery Consulting Engineers.
- **Krista McConnell, the Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach, and Chris Stenger, the Director of the Cape May County bizHub**, participated in the “Game of Life” event at Lower Cape May Regional High School on March 21. During this event, students were given a goal and tasked with utilizing community resources to achieve it. The event provided an opportunity for students to interact with local organizations and learn about the resources available to them as they begin to consider their futures after high school.
- **Krista McConnell and Chris Stenger** presented at an AARP event hosted by the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce on March 21. Krista introduced the Senior Adult Gaining Education and Stimulation (SAGES) program, which allows senior adults to earn college credit or professional development through courses and workshops offered by Atlantic Cape. Chris highlighted the unique services provided by the Cape May County bizHub for business owners and entrepreneurs, which is located at our Cape May County Campus. He also showcased the ongoing speaker series offered by the bizHub in partnership with the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce.

Cape May County bizHub

- The Cape May bizHub hosted a two-part series on *Business Plan Development* from March 19 to March 20. This series taught attendees about various business strategies, how to create a realistic business plan, and how to gather and analyze information related to competitors, demographics, and industry trends. Throughout the sessions, participants worked on preparing a mission

statement, researched and developed a company name, created a budget, and learned the essentials of operating a small business.

Student Engagement

- Throughout March, Atlantic Cape's Student Engagement Department celebrated Women's History Month with a variety of events across all three campuses. The activities included a table display and a Women's Empowerment Gift Box giveaway, a Local Business Showcase featuring Atlantic Cape alumni, a Button Press Workshop, a Women's Health Event that included a Zumba exercise, and a Women's Appreciation Day event where students received chocolate flowers accompanied by an inspiring message.
- The Center for Student Success hosted the *IMALIVE Mental Health Fair* on Thursday, March 6. *IMALIVE* is an engaging and educational event aimed at raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention. Students participated in various "workstations," where they learned about warning signs related to mental health and suicide prevention, while helping to promote awareness on these important topics.

Athletics

- The Atlantic Cape Athletics Department team participated in "Vikings Day" at Atlantic City High School on February 27. The event aimed to provide students with valuable insights into collegiate sports, as well as various athletic and scholarship opportunities. In a panel format, presenters shared their professional experiences and offered pertinent information to students interested in pursuing careers in athletics or other fields.
- The Atlantic Cape Community College Baseball team debuted their new, state-of-the-art baseball field on March 10 at the Mays Landing Campus with an exciting 9-9 tie against Delaware County Community College. The next home game is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, at 3:30 p.m., where they'll face Manor College.

Recruitment

- Throughout March, Atlantic Cape's Recruitment Department hosted a variety of successful recruitment events both on and off campus. These included a Department of Children and Families Tour with application assistance, a Culinary Group Tour, a Lower Cape May Regional High School event, College and Career Prep Workshops at Atlantic City High School, the Atlantic City High School College Fair, and Atlantic Cape's Stop Drop Enroll event. These initiatives were well-received, drawing strong participation and fostering meaningful connections with prospective students.