

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: April 25, 2023
(Mays Landing Campus)

Technology Upgrades

- The Information Technology Services (ITS) department, in partnership with a third-party cybersecurity company, conducted a formal *Network Penetration Test* focused on determining whether the college's internal systems and critical data could be breached from an external third party or hacker. The testing revealed that the college maintains significant cybersecurity strengths and that Atlantic Cape's security is outpacing organizations of similar size within higher education.
- The Email Domain Name change project, converting faculty and staff email accounts to @AtlanticCape.edu, has been completed.
- The Single Sign On (SSO) project has been completed focusing on Phase 1 applications (*CRM Advise* and *Recruit*).
- The *Laptop Loaner Program* has formally ended. The college distributed 3,000 laptops to students. The IT department maintains additional used laptops which are being dedicated to student emergencies.

Student Engagement

- Atlantic Cape partnered with *the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center* from Stockton University to host the "40th Annual Holocaust Awareness Program" at the Mays Landing Campus on April 18th. The program featured Rita Stromfeld and Blanche Powell, authors of *My Mother's Word*, and was facilitated by Peter E. Murphy, nationally recognized writer and educator from

Stockton University. This free program was designated for college and university students, educators, and community members.

- Dr. Gaba hosted *“Pizza with the President”* on all three campuses in March and April to give students an opportunity to ask questions and share their college experience. At the Cape May County Campus, the cohort of the Academy of Culinary Arts prepared lunch out of the food truck for their fellow students.
- Atlantic Cape’s Student Support Services Program (SSS) hosted the *First-Generation College Student Conference* on April 19th titled *“Maximizing Your College Experience.”* This event is designed to equip first-generation college students with the tools necessary to maximize their success on their journey in higher education with workshops focused on mental health, financial awareness, and academic success. Students from Camden County College and Rowan College of South Jersey were invited to attend as well.
- The Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Club Latino student organizations represented Atlantic Cape at the New Jersey Council of County Colleges’ *Student and Alumni Spring Convening, “Building the Future with Student Voices”* at Middlesex County College on April 15th. This event was led by students and alumni, whose voices are critical to the Council’s effort to build a more equitable and prosperous New Jersey.
- The *Muslim Student Association* held the first *“Iftar Party & MSA Student Panel”*. Students discussed their religion and the significance of Ramadan. Students from Stockton University attended as well.
- Women’s History Month events and activities included the inaugural *Women’s Entrepreneur Day* where nine Atlantic Cape student-owned and operated businesses were showcased. Stephanie Davies of *Saving Is Sexy* presented a workshop titled *“Make it Make Cents”* on savings and money management. Kelly Prevard, local artist, presented *“Telling Our Story through Art”* in which she displayed her past and current mural works, along with Atlantic Cape student Charlene Maycott who assisted on her current mural work in Atlantic City Hall.

- A weeklong *Festival of Arts* was sponsored by the Radio Club, which included arts, cultural foods, a transgender student/alumni panel discussion, and a “Fake News” workshop by the *Atlantic Cape Review* with featured alumni speaker and Rowan University professor, Taylor Henry.

Food Voucher Initiative

- During the pandemic, the college utilized Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) for a food voucher initiative in which students received vouchers for free meals at each of the campuses’ cafeterias. This initiative made such an impact on our students that now that the HEERF funds are not available, we are fundraising to continue the program.
- Through the Hunger Free Campus Grant from the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), we were able to host a “Pasta Dinner Fundraiser” through Careme’s for the food voucher initiative. The grant funds were used to purchase the food, and the Academy of Culinary Arts students donated their time to run the event. The fundraiser raised over \$2,000.
- A local group of women called *Happy Hour for Hunger* has been regularly donating to the college’s Food Pantries for the last several years (totaling approximately \$12,000), and they attended this event.

Recruitment

- Atlantic Cape hosted more than 100 local high school students at the Mays Landing Campus for “College Awareness Day” on March 31st. Students from Atlantic and Cape May County high schools (Atlantic City, Chartertech, Mainland Regional, Ocean City, Pleasantville, Covenant House, and Department of Children and Families (DCF) Regional School) took time from their normal day-to-day studies to get a closer look at college life. Students experienced a series of interactive workshops, including those on Allied Health, Aviation, and Culinary.
- Atlantic Cape relaunched the “Guidance Counselor’s Breakfast” on March 23rd in Careme’s. The event hosted 34 counselors from surrounding high schools in Atlantic and Cape May counties to join Atlantic Cape for a campus tour,

information session, and breakfast prepared by the Academy of Culinary Arts students. Atlantic Cape used this opportunity to inform and educate counselors on what's new at Atlantic Cape and how we can support their students.

- Open House events were held on all three campuses during the month of March. Visitors had the opportunity to meet with faculty, attend a financial aid workshop, enjoy the Academy of Culinary Arts food truck, connect with various academic and student support departments, and tour the campuses. 173 guests and prospective students attended these events.

Community Outreach

Atlantic County

- Atlantic Cape hosted the Atlantic County Coalition for a Safe Community's *Teen Summit* at the Mays Landing Campus on March 24th. More than 200 high school students from Atlantic County high schools (Atlantic City, Buena Regional, Egg Harbor Township, Oakcrest, Absegami, Cedar Creek, Hammonton, Mainland and Pleasantville) attended the event. The focus of the event was on mental wellness, and the students attended workshops and met with local community organizations that provide mental health services.
- Atlantic Cape partnered with Stockton University for their 2nd Annual *City-Wide Community Day Cleanup and Party at the Park* in Atlantic City on April 22nd. Over 50 Atlantic Cape staff and students participated. Atlantic Cape hosted two locations, Ward-3 Midtown at our Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Ward-1 Inlet through the Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC).
- Dr. Gaba spoke at Borgata's Women's Leadership Luncheon on April 19th. Borgata holds quarterly meetings for their women in leadership positions and annually hosts a guest speaker. Dr. Gaba spoke about her personal story of leadership in the workplace and advice for women leaders.

Cape May County

- The Academy of Culinary Arts conducted several community outreach events in Cape May County. The Culinary cohort at the Cape May County Campus

hosted 5 free events with the Food Truck at the Branched Homeless Day Center, Lazarus House Food Pantry, Cape Regional Medical Center, the County Administration building, and the County Commons and VA Clinic Center.

Worthington Atlantic City and Cape May County Campuses

- The Atlantic Cape *Nonprofit Resource Centers* at the Cape May County and Worthington Atlantic City campuses are offering a community workshop series in April and May to inform the community about the Foundation Directory offered at each of the Nonprofit Resource Centers, as well as developing grant budgets and writing successful grant applications.

BizHub

- The BizHub has begun serving our local Cape May County businesses, having served 10 clients over 22 total interactions. As one example of the services the BizHub offers, they are supporting a local coffee company's development of a business plan to expand into other areas of Cape May County with new partners and local investor support.
- To make the community aware of the BizHub, the staff have attended several local conferences supporting small businesses in New Jersey, and the Bizhub sign was installed outside the building on April 12th. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be planned for the near future.

Faculty and Staff Engagement

- In March and April, Dr. Gaba hosted "Coffee with the President" on all three campuses, to give faculty and staff an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions for the college. Dr. Gaba also hosted the "*College-Wide Meeting*" on April 21st where she provided an update on college initiatives.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Susan DePhillipis, Associate Professor of English as a Second Language (ESL)

- Susan DePhilippis, Associate Professor of English as a Second Language, was awarded a *Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award* by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) at their annual conference in

Denver, CO on April 3rd. She was recognized for her incredible impact inside the classroom educating students on English language and American culture and outside the classroom as Chair of the *Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence* where she provides professional development opportunities for the college's adjunct and full-time faculty. She was also a finalist for the *Faculty Member of the Year Award*.

Judith Otterburn- Martinez, Associate Professor of English as a Second Language (ESL)

- Judith Otterburn- Martinez, Associate Professor of English as a Second Language, was selected by the U.S. Department of State for a two-month English Language Specialist project, focusing on teacher training in Tanzania with the Tanzania English Language Teacher's Association (TELTA). Professor Otterburn-Martinez was part of a select group, as her project was one of approximately 240 that the English Language Specialist Program supports each year. She concluded the project in March.
- Professor Otterburn-Martinez delivered online and in-person teacher training workshops in Tanzania. She also supported the TELTA team in delivering their two-day annual conference in Zanzibar to over 300 English language teachers from the United States, Tanzania, and other African nations. At this conference, she was the keynote speaker, delivering a presentation titled, "Teaching in the 21st Century".

Student Accomplishments

New Jersey All-State Academic Team - 2023

- Atlantic Cape students **Harper Showalter '23** and **Alexis Cabrera '23** (graduating members of Phi Theta Kappa) have been named to the *2023 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.