

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: April 26, 2022
(Mays Landing Campus)

Community College Month

- “*Community College Month*” is recognized annually in April to recognize the contributions that all community colleges make to the richness and accessibility of American higher education. The Atlantic County Board of Commissioners and the Cape May County Board of Commissioners passed resolutions this month recognizing April 2022 as “*Community College Month*” and praising Atlantic Cape for the opportunities we offer to our community.
- Maria Kellett, Dean of the Cape May County Campus, received the resolution of the Cape May County Commissioners on April 12th, and Dr. Josette Katz, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, received the resolution from the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on April 19th.

Campus Visits

Teen Summit

- Atlantic Cape hosted the Coalition for a Safe Community’s Teen Summit on March 25, 2022. More than 155 students from 12 high schools were on the Mays Landing Campus for the program. With the theme of developing coping mechanisms, sessions focused on diversity and inclusion, life after COVID-19, self-awareness, and violence.
- Attending were students from:
 - Absegami High School
 - Atlantic City High School
 - Atlantic County Institute of Technology
 - Buena Regional High School

- Egg Harbor Township High School
- Hammonton High School
- Ideal Institute of Technology
- Mainland Regional High School
- Oakcrest High School
- Our Lady of Mercy Academy
- Pleasantville High School
- Wildwood High School

NJ Makers Day

- Atlantic Cape was proud to serve as a *NJ Makers Day* site on Saturday, March 26 with over 20 activities, stations, exhibits, and events planned throughout the campus. *NJ Makers Day* is a non-profit initiative that started eight years ago as a means for New Jersey’s public libraries to raise STEM awareness through hands-on activities and exhibits. This year our application to serve as a site was accepted and we opened our doors to the community with events for people of all ages. This is the first time Atlantic Cape has been involved in Makers Day and reflects the community-based recruiting strategy that we are looking to implement.

Community Outreach

- Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Community Outreach, met with representatives from *All Roads Recovery Center* in Pleasantville on March 16, 2022 to discuss a potential partnership with Atlantic Cape to support their members with affordable educational opportunities in Atlantic County. *All Roads Recovery Center* is the community-based recovery arm of John Brooks Recovery Center in Pleasantville and Atlantic City, helps anyone struggling with substance use disorder navigate their next steps on the journey to recovery.
- Atlantic Cape participated in “*Good Morning Gorgeous*”, a special women’s empowerment and motivational event on March 19, 2022, presented in celebration of Women’s History Month at the All Wars Memorial Building in Atlantic City. This free community event featured motivational speakers and

community resources. Atlantic Cape was on hand to share educational opportunities available at Atlantic Cape with the community.

- Atlantic Cape held two presentations for the Dominican Home of New Jersey (La Casa Dominica) on March 23, 2022. Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Community Outreach, presented on Atlantic Cape's many educational opportunities and the continuation of the English as a Second Language credit offerings. La Casa Dominicana is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster and encourage the involvement and interest of the Hispanic-American community in New Jersey in civic, professional, social, educational, charitable, activities and take an active role in the sensitive problems of the community with a goal towards the betterment and enhancement of all members of the organization.
- Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, was interviewed on the radio by Marty Small, Mayor of the City of Atlantic City, on March 26, 2022 to highlight local female leaders for Women's History Month.
- Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff and Chief Advancement Officer, spoke to 25 representatives from Meet AC about the services the college can provide to conventions and other visitors to Atlantic City including:
 - on-campus conference space and meeting services
 - guest and spouse/companion programs available to convention attendees, including cooking classes, "Casino Play Night" at the Mock Casino, Careme's Restaurant, future tours of the Wind Training Center, and computer and other skills courses, and
 - the opportunity of using the college as a film location.
- This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the many unique services the college can provide to our community and visitors to our region.

College Community Engagement

- Dr. Gaba hosted “*Pizza with the President*” for students on all three campuses in April. These informal events give Dr. Gaba and the students an opportunity to connect and discuss the student experience at Atlantic Cape.
- Dr. Gaba also hosted “*Coffee with the President*” for faculty and staff at the Cape May County Campus and Worthington Atlantic City Campus in April, with Mays Landing’s session scheduled for May. These events give faculty and staff an opportunity to discuss college matters with the President in an informal setting, while also giving everyone the chance to connect with their colleagues.
- Finally, Dr. Gaba also hosted the “*College-Wide Meeting*” with faculty and staff in-person on the Mays Landing Campus and broadcast via Zoom on April 8th. With the theme of “**Moving Forward Together**”, Dr. Gaba welcomed new hires; discussed student support, enrollment, and community outreach; provided an update on college initiatives and accomplishments; and discussed the new Strategic Plan.

Foundation

Restaurant Gala

- The 39th Annual Restaurant Gala, held on March 31st at Harrah’s Waterfront Conference Center, was a huge success, raising **\$240,975** with over 800 people in attendance! These funds will support scholarships for students in the Academy of Culinary Arts, as well as Foundation initiatives, the Student Emergency Fund, and faculty special projects (new for this year).

Alumni Relations

Distinguished Alumni

- The 2022 Distinguished Alumni awards dinner was held on April 13th.
- The following alumni were honored for their significant professional, public, and community-based accomplishments.
 - Distinguished Alumni
 - Terry Budd ’78

- Chef William McCarrick '84
- Greg Lasher '97
- Young Alumni Achievement
 - Jerome Ingram '04
 - Taylor Henry '16
- These alumni represent our mission and serve as exemplary role models for our current and future students.

End of Year Ceremonies

- As we approach the end of the academic year, the following ceremonies are planned to celebrate the success of our students:
 - **May 16th**: Scholarship Awards Ceremony (6PM)
 - **May 18th**: Academy of Culinary Arts Awards Ceremony (11AM), and Nurses' Pinning Ceremony (5PM)
 - **May 19th**: Commencement (11AM)

Student Success Story

- Atlantic Cape alumna Gina Harvell is an incredible example of the success that comes with perseverance and education.
- Ms. Harvell enrolled at Atlantic Cape after years of addiction, imprisonment, and homelessness. After learning that her counselor did not have personal experience with addiction, she realized that she could use her painful history to help others. So she enrolled at Atlantic Cape. Her education was interrupted when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent treatment. After surviving the cancer, she finished her degree at Atlantic Cape. Then she went on to Rutgers Statewide, taking Rutgers classes at Atlantic Cape's campus and online. She is now graduating from Rutgers with a Bachelor of Science degree in social work, with a minor in drug and alcohol counseling. She achieved Summa Cum Laude with a 3.95 grade point average.

- We are incredibly proud of Gina's success and her ambition to use her education and skills to help others who are struggling.