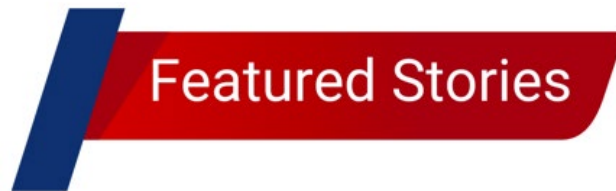


President's Report

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: May 21, 2024
(Cape May County Campus)



Commencement

- Atlantic Cape celebrated its 57th Annual Commencement Ceremony on our Mays Landing Campus on May 16. Over 900 students were eligible to graduate this academic year, and 923 credentials were awarded. In attendance at the ceremony were 416 graduates and their families who celebrated their academic accomplishments.
- Dr. Brian Bridges, the Secretary of Higher Education from the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), delivered the Keynote Address, advising graduates to use their education as a tool to overcome the challenges they may face in order to create the change they would like to see for their lives and the world around them. The student speakers, SGA President Sultana Zakia and 4.0 High Honors student Abigail Tomasso, had inspiring remarks for their fellow graduates. Trustee Rev. Dr. Thomas Dawson delivered the Invocation and Benediction, and Registrar Robyn Berenato sang the National Anthem.

End of Academic Year Student Recognition Events

- Several events to celebrate the success of our students were held in April and May.

- Rising Atlantic Cape graduates gathered together for the *2024 Grad Fair* on April 25 at the Mays Landing Campus to celebrate their academic accomplishments.
- The Student Government Association (SGA) recognized the contributions of its many diverse student clubs and advisors on May 2 at the *Annual Club Recognition Program Ceremony*.
- The *57th Annual Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation Scholarship Recognition Ceremony* acknowledged the unwavering generosity and continued support of the college's sponsors and donors. The Foundation also recognized the tremendous academic achievements of Atlantic Cape's students by awarding 351 individual scholarships worth \$366,504 to 211 students on May 13 on the Mays Landing Campus.
- Our Athletics Department hosted its *Annual Athletics Banquet* on our Mays Landing Campus on May 14, where they honored our student-athletes and coaches for their commitment to their teams and education during the 2023-2024 season.
- The *Academy of Culinary Arts Awards Ceremony* was held on May 15 to recognize students with medals and certificates for completing their programs.
- The *Nurses Pinning Ceremony* was held on May 15 for the nursing graduates who received their pins, took a vow to care for the sick, recited the Florence Nightingale pledge, and received awards and honors.

Zoo Education Program Ribbon Cutting

- The Cape May County Campus and Cape May County Commissioners hosted the ribbon cutting ceremony for the *Dr. Alex Ernst Memorial Education Center*, home of the Cape May County's Zoo Education Program on May 10. Housed at the Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus, the center features three animal holding rooms for small mammals, reptiles and aviary; two classrooms, three offices and one conference room. The Zoo currently offers a

Zoo Camp with 900 registrants, a Zoo to You program, animal encounters and guided tours, and a Docent and Littlest Explorers programs.

60th Anniversary Celebration

- Atlantic Cape celebrated the 60th anniversary of its establishment on May 4 with a *Party in the Quad* at our Mays Landing Campus. Local attendees, including students, alumni, staff, faculty and residents of its surrounding communities, enjoyed a day filled with food, live music entertainment, games, a campus tour and so much more.

40th Anniversary of Worthington Atlantic City Campus Celebration

- The College celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Charles D. Worthington Atlantic City Campus by hosting a free and open-to-the-public *Block Party* on May 1 with a tremendous turnout from the community. Atlantic City's 3rd Ward Councilman Kaleem Shabazz recognized Atlantic Cape's efforts in Atlantic City through a resolution presented on this day.



Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- The College partnered with Stockton University at their 3rd *Annual Community Clean Up and Party in the Park* in Atlantic City. Our Atlantic Cape students and staff were on hand to commemorate earth day through community service.
- Atlantic Cape was one of the sponsors of the Organizacion Azteca and El Pueblo Unido's *Dia del Niño Festival* at Pete Pallitto Field in Atlantic City on May 4 with over 1,000 children and their families in attendance to recognize the importance of children in our society and promote their well-being. This free event open to the public held a wide array of activities, such as door prizes, entertainment, refreshments, but most importantly vital resources and health screening for their families.

- The College also was a sponsor of the *Hamilton Township Spring Carnival & Community Resource Fair* on May 18. Our Community Outreach team was on hand to also share our education opportunities and resources with the community.

Community Outreach – Cape May County

- For the second year in a row on April 27, Atlantic Cape hosted the *Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia* on our Cape May County Campus. This event was able to service 200 local community members from Cape May County and assist them in obtaining vital documents, such as passports and birth certificates needed to be active members of our society in the U.S. Many attendees included Atlantic Cape's students and their families with dual citizenship.
- Throughout the month of May, Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus hosted *Career Experience* events for the Wildwood Middle School, where students from 6th to 8th grade got to explore Atlantic Cape and all the different career options available to them as they begin to think about their future. The event incorporated tables of regional industry leaders that allowed the students to talk with current professionals about different career fields.
- The Cape May County Campus also hosted a *Campus Experience* for Wildwood High School culinary students on May 8. **Chef Joe Sheridan, the Director of the Academy of Culinary Arts**, presented the students with the resources and information on the Culinary Certificate program offered in Cape May, as well as further opportunities in the culinary field Atlantic Cape has to offer. The experience included a campus tour, highlighting our culinary kitchens in Cape May.

High School Partners

- Atlantic Cape and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Atlantic and Cape County branches hosted *TeenTech* on May 10, an event for high school teenage girls to explore career fields in STEM. Students came to the Mays Landing Campus from the surrounding high schools in Atlantic and Cape May Counties, participating in educational sessions provided by college faculty,

Rowan University, and Atlantic Shores. Various topics were covered, including nursing, e-gaming, aviation and aerodynamics, wind technology, energy, and the environment, mathematics, hands-on biology, and more. *TeenTech* was sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) New Jersey and South Jersey Gas.

Student Engagement

- The College proudly celebrated *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* with our annual flag-raising ceremony hosted by The Asian Cultural Club and Student Government Association (SGA) on May 7. The Asian American and Pacific Islander flag will wave in the Quad on our Mays Landing Campus throughout the month of May.

Athletics

Volleyball

- The Atlantic Cape's Men's Volleyball team was awarded the Garden State Athletics Conference (GSAC) Champions! In their first varsity season participating in the Region 19 GSAC Conference, the Buccaneers finished with a 9-1 record putting them in first place in the conference. The first-place team in the conference is considered the champions for that season.

Athletic Events & Partnerships

- The Athletics Department hosted its *Annual Signing Day Celebration* at our Mays Landing Campus on May 17 where we recognized some of our new student athletes who have committed to attending Atlantic Cape in the Fall.
- Atlantic Cape's Athletics Department has partnered with *Skyhawks Sports Academy* to host a youth summer camp on our Mays Landing Campus. The camp will consist of six sports where the participants will learn the fundamentals of the games: flag football, volleyball, soccer, track and field, lacrosse, and golf that are highlighted in this camp experience.

Student Success

- Atlantic Cape's *Men of Atlantic Cape* (MAC) recognized the academic accomplishments of six of its members, **Chance Brown, Ger'Vaughn Jones, Ihsan Moore, Nyamse Obot, Navin Patterson, and Ibrihim Goodman**, during the club's *Annual Jacket Presentation Ceremony* on the Mays Landing Campus on May 1. MAC plays a crucial role in promoting equity, fostering success, and empowering our students. Students are equipped with essential tools such as networking, time management, mental health first aid, mentorship, and educational success strategies.
- The College received a donation from the *Girls Helping Girls Period* organization of feminine hygiene products. These are well needed supplies that will be available to the students on all three campuses. Elise Joy, co-founder and Executive Director of *Girls Helping Girls Period*, is a long-standing donor to Atlantic Cape.

Cape May Bizhub

- *The Cape May Bizhub* presented to Wildwood High School's business, finance, and economic classes to inform high school students about owning and managing a business, and the resources the BizHub provides in navigating this journey to Cape May County residents as the students begin to think about what's next after high school.