

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: May 24, 2022
(Cape May County Campus)

Student Accomplishments

Commencement

- The 55th Annual Commencement Ceremony was held on May 19, 2022. For the first time, the ceremony was held in the quad of the Mays Landing Campus.
- The Class of 2022 is composed of more than 804 graduates, ranging in age from 17-57, and nearly 400 graduates walked in in the Commencement Ceremony. Of all Commencement ceremonies in the college's history, the Class of 2022 represented the highest number of graduates walking across the stage.
- James Allen, Chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, delivered the Keynote Address. The student speakers, SGA President Caesar Sanchez and 4.0 High Honors student Fredy Flores, had inspiring remarks for their fellow graduates. Trustee Thomas Dawson delivered the Invocation and Benediction, the Color Guard was provided by the Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT) Airforce JROTC Unit, and Assistant Registrar Robyn Berenato sang the National Anthem.

New Jersey All-State Academic Team - 2022

- Atlantic Cape students Megan Kazier and Madelyn Sacco (graduating members of Phi Theta Kappa) have been named to the 2022 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.

End of Academic Year Student Recognition Events

- Several events to celebrate the success of our students have been held in April and May.
 - The Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society held their annual Induction Ceremony on April 26th.
 - The 15th annual Communication Awards was held on April 29th recognizing the efforts of the students in the Communication program. One hundred (100) awards in more than 40 categories including journalism, public relations, public speaking, performing arts, film and television were presented to students, alumni and faculty.
 - Atlantic Cape's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society (the Alpha Delta Mu chapter) held its 43rd induction ceremony on May 3rd with thirty-nine (39) students being inducted at the event. PTK recognizes the academic achievements of students and provides opportunities to advance skills in education and leadership.
 - In the 2021-22 academic year, 174 Atlantic Cape students joined PTK, bringing membership up to 215 active members.
 - Men of Atlantic Cape (MAC), a retention program for Black and Latino students, hosted a jacket presentation ceremony on May 4th for students who have shown dedication to the program and educational success at the college.
 - The Center for Student Success held the Graduate Awards Ceremony on May 6th to recognize the work of graduating students who participated in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), Center for Accessibility (CFA), New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS), Men of Atlantic Cape (MAC), and Student Support Services (SSS), as well as veterans and military members.
 - The Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held on May 17th to recognize our donors and scholarship recipients.
 - The Academy of Culinary Arts Awards Ceremony was held on May 18th to recognize 24 students with medals and certificates for completing their programs.
 - The Nurses' Pinning Ceremony was held on May 18th for the approximately 100 nursing graduates who received their pins, took a

vow to care for the sick, recited the Florence Nightingale pledge, and received awards and honors.

Greater Atlantic City Chamber Business Excellence Awards Recognition

- Atlantic Cape was honored at the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce's *Business Excellence Awards* on May 17th with a special recognition for those organizations that collaborated and operated the Atlantic City COVID-19 Vaccination Mega-Site at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The college's nursing students performed clinical rotations at the mega-site, diligently administering doses of the vaccine and caring for the recipients.

Grants Update

FY23 Perkins Allocation

- The college's allocation for FY23 from the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins Grant) is **\$781,592**. This is the largest Perkins allocation the college has ever received. Over the last 5 years, the college has received \$3,340,347 in Perkins funds (FY19-FY23).
- Perkins V is a federal education program that invests in secondary and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs, helping to ensure that CTE programs across the country meet the ever-changing needs of learners and employers. It is dedicated to increasing learner access to high-quality CTE programs of study with a focus on program improvement; alignment across secondary education, postsecondary education, and workforce needs; and economic development.
- Much of our Perkins funding has been used to purchase equipment, technology, and other initiatives for our nursing, aviation, culinary arts, media studies, computer systems support, and other CTE programs.

"Perkins 101" Presentation at National Conference by Assistant Director of Restricted Accounting

- Jeff Wenzel, Assistant Director of Restricted Accounting, presented "Perkins 101" at the National Association for Career & Technical Education Information (NACTEI) conference in Savannah, Georgia on May 10, along with Jeff Gove, Ohio Department of Higher Education and Dr. Jeffrey Fletcher, Iowa Department of Education.

Technology Upgrades

- The Information Technology department is working on several major technology upgrades, including Single Sign-On with Multi-Factor Authentication; Disaster Recovery hardware and software; a new registration system for Workforce Development; and installation of advanced audio/video technology in existing and new classrooms to support and expand hybrid and online learning. Several of these projects will be implemented over the summer months with other projects to be completed in the upcoming academic year.

Community Engagement (Atlantic County)

- Atlantic Cape proudly supported the NAACP of Atlantic City's Freedom Fund Breakfast on April 30th.
- Atlantic Cape hosted La Casa Dominicana's ESL spring graduation ceremony at our Worthington Atlantic City Campus on April 4th. Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Campus Operations and Community Outreach, provided welcome remarks to the graduates and information regarding Atlantic Cape's credit ESL program offerings, admissions, financial aid, and registration.
- Atlantic Cape participated in the *Coalition for Change Community Impact 2* event at the Old Soldier's Home in Atlantic City on April 11th. This event provided community resources, health screenings, and dinner for event attendees. Atlantic Cape was on hand to provide information on our college offerings and programs, the Atlantic Works Training Program, as well as our Tuition-Free College (CCOG) opportunities.
- Atlantic Cape's Office of Community Outreach and the Student Government Association (SGA) collaborated and sponsored the *Friend's in Action* annual Easter Egg Hunt and Community Event at O'Donnell Park in Atlantic City on April 16th. College information and items sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA) were provided.
- Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Campus Operations & Community Outreach, hosted and presented a 30-minute presentation to John Brooks Recovery Center supervisors on April 21st regarding Atlantic Cape's Tuition-Free College (CCOG) program, the Atlantic City Works Training Program, and Workforce Development educational opportunities. The goal is to build a better connection with recovery participants in the Pleasantville and Atlantic

City area who are looking for educational opportunities as they embark on their recovery journey and build a bridge with Atlantic Cape and John Brooks Recovery Centers.

- Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Campus Operations & Community Outreach, represented Atlantic Cape and provided remarks at the “Pride in Homeownership” event hosted by the Chelsea Neighborhood Association and DO AC on April 22nd. The goal of this LGBTQ+ community event was to encourage potential homeownership in Atlantic City by showcasing the best things Atlantic City has to offer including the educational opportunities available at Atlantic Cape.
- Atlantic Cape participated in Stockton University’s “Community Day Clean Up and Party” at the O’Donnell Park in Atlantic City on April 23rd. The Office of Community Outreach & Recruitment Department hosted a college information booth. Information about our Tuition-Free College (CCOG) program, the Atlantic City Works Training Program, and educational opportunities available through Workforce Development were shared with the community. Our student athletes also joined the volunteer efforts and helped clean the Inlet Neighborhood section of Atlantic City.
- Atlantic Cape once again partnered with *Angels in Motion* to host a COVID-19 Vaccine Pop-up Clinic in Atlantic City on April 27th as part of our weekly outreach efforts for the most vulnerable populations in Atlantic City. The Southern Jersey Family Medical Center was on hand to provide free COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots. Atlantic Cape provided 100 hot meals as an incentive. Funding was provided by the Federal Government’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).
- Atlantic Cape partnered with *Organization Azteca & El Pueblo Unido* of Atlantic City to host a “Children’s Day Festival” at the Parish of St. Monica in Atlantic City for the Latino Community on April 30th with over 300 attendees. Atlantic Cape provided a COVID-19 Vaccine Pop-up Clinic with the Southern Jersey Family Medical Center on hand providing free COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots. This event was free and open to Atlantic Cape students and the public. A college information booth was on site to highlight the Tuition-Free College (CCOG) program, the Atlantic City Works Training Program, and Workforce Development educational opportunities. Funding for meals and incentives was

provided by the Federal Government's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

Community Engagement (Cape May County)

- The Cape May County Campus hosted a six-part workshop series, “Veterans Views,” from April 7 – May 20 in partnership with the Veterans Administration covering a variety of topics of interest to veterans, including how to access medical, education, and housing benefits.
- Workforce Development held a Career Exploration Fair at the Cape May County Campus on May 20th to help the 6th graders learn more about their future career interests. Dean Maria Kellett spoke to the pupils from Wildwood Middle School about Atlantic Cape during their visit to the campus.

Spangler Dedication

- A plaque recognizing the contributions of William Spangler, Atlantic Cape's first library director, was installed in the entryway to the library named in his honor during a ceremony Tuesday, April 26th on the Mays Landing campus. The plaque dedication fell in line with the 30th anniversary of the library being named for Spangler on April 28, 1992 and the 56th anniversary of the library building being named for Daniel Leeds.
- The plaque was donated by the Atlantic Cape Library with the support of the Spangler Beautification Committee. Prior to his death in 1988, Spangler donated a sum of money to Atlantic Cape to establish a fund for campus beautification.
- Several campus beautification projects have been completed with these funds, including several landscaping projects, the Japanese garden by the Academy of Culinary Arts, outdoor patios and tables, and artwork.

Professional Recognitions

- Dr. Gaba was recognized as the 2022 Candace Women of Achievement Honoree in the area of education by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women-Southern New Jersey Chapter for her years of exemplary service and dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field of education. She was recognized at a Jazz Brunch on May 15th.

- Dr. Gaba was also the 2022 recipient of the Rutgers Graduate School of Education Distinguished Leader in Education Award. She was selected for this award from her Alma Mater by the Graduate School of Education faculty who recognize individuals demonstrating passion, dedication, and excellence in leadership in the profession of education in New Jersey and beyond. She was recognized at the Graduate School of Education's Commencement on May 18th.