

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: June 23, 2020
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

Campus Reopening Plan

- The Coronavirus Task Force has developed the *Campus Reopening Plan*, which will take place in three phases.
 - *Phase I:* Return of staff. The Phase I Reopening Plan has been developed and lays out guidelines for reopening the College's campuses and safely bringing staff back to work on-site in a gradual, phased-in approach. Phase I is complete with the development of protocols for cleaning and sanitizing based on CDC guidelines. Additionally, the CDC guidelines of social distancing and implementation of personal protective equipment protocol are in place.
 - *Phase II:* Return of students and faculty. Academics is working on the Fall plan based on the guidelines from the Governor and Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE). Student Services is currently working on a plan that encompasses admissions, registration, testing, advising, and counseling services in tandem with financial aid, as well as student engagement activities such as athletics, and the Student Government Association (SGA).
 - *Phase III:* The future plan will provide the "new normal" of college operations in the post-COVID-19 landscape.

CARES Act

- Through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, to date the college has disbursed \$1,082,250 in Student Emergency Relief Grants to over 1,300 students for the Spring semester.

- Applications for the Summer Sessions have been sent to students and a review of responses is in progress for awarding Summer Student Emergency Relief Grants.
- Atlantic Cape's grant application for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, authorized by the CARES Act, was submitted timely to the Office of the Secretary for Higher Education (OSHE) for possible additional funding to help with costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Legislative Advocacy

- Dr. Gaba met with Assemblymen John Armato and Vince Mazzeo to thank them for their support; discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the college and the unprecedented challenges faced by students; and advocated for additional state financial assistance needed because of COVID-19. While we are very grateful for the CARES Act funding, it carries with it many restrictions that do not fund the gap we expect in our operating budget due to lower than budgeted enrollment and reduced State funding expected for next year.

Statewide Marketing Initiative

- The New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) is organizing a "One Voice Marketing Campaign". All community colleges are submitting information and marketing materials to continue the marketing campaign process.

Technology Upgrades

Wireless Internet Upgrades

- An upgrade to the college's wireless internet is underway for all three campuses to be complete for the Fall Semester. The new upgraded wireless infrastructure will provide higher bandwidth and performance and will allow students, faculty and staff seamless access to the internet without the need to continue to authenticate to the wireless system.

Atlantic Cape Mobile App

- *Atlantic Cape Connect*, the Ellucian mobile application, is live for all students, faculty and staff. This provides an enhanced process for registration, financial

transactions, and other tasks. To date there have been over 1,800 downloads of the app.

IT Upgrades through CARES Act Funding

- As part of the Cares Act funding, the IT department is working on plans to enhance the following technology areas:
 - Zoom enterprise site licensing. This will cover for all staff, faculty and students.
 - The upgrade of (100) laptops in classrooms and labs across the (3) campuses.
 - The upgrade of (176) laptops for faculty and staff.
 - The upgrade of Webcams for student use online.

Student Laptop Loaner Program

- The *Student Laptop Loaner Program* has been extended for students who are continuing to register for classes as an incentive for enrollment. The number of computers available will be expanded through the utilization of classroom computers and additional purchases.

Enhancements to Remote Operations

- Cell phones were provided to specific staff members for answering critical phone calls. Office desk phones and college main lines were redirected to cell phones in order to provide the same level of service while staff are remote.
- The IT Department implemented unified communications between office voice mail and email. This will allow staff members to receive telephone voice mail messages on their computers via an email application.

Student Accomplishments

- The New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) has appointed Joelle Motley, our Student Government Association President, to serve as an alternate member of the 2020-2021 Student Advisory Committee.
- In this role, Ms. Motley will have input in the development of our state's student assistance policy and the opportunity to run for the position of Chair

and Vice Chair for the Committee, which have voting rights on the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority Board.

Virtual Coffee with the President

- Dr. Gaba hosted a virtual *Coffee with the President* on Thursday, June 18. Over 130 faculty and staff participated. Dr. Gaba provided an updated on the plans for reopening the college campuses; the college budget; Commencement; Chapter 12 construction projects; technology upgrades; marketing and community outreach efforts; CCOG and CARES Act funding for students; and Foundation fundraising activities. A robust Q&A with faculty and staff followed.

Workforce Development

New Programs Approved for Federal Financial Aid

- Three Workforce Development programs have been approved by the New Jersey Department of Education for Federal Financial Aid:
 - Paramedic Science Program
 - Certified Clinical Medical Assistant CCMA
 - Certified Fundamentals Cook CFC
- This approval will allow students the opportunity to apply and receive financial aid funds as well as earn both a credential and college credits toward technical degrees. Strategic marketing efforts are underway to advertise these programs.

Cape May County Out-of-School Youth Program

- The Cape May County Out-of-School Youth Program grant has been extended through June 30, 2021. The program focuses on providing youth pathways to the workforce while earning certifications. The Hospitality program will include both the Guest Service Gold certification as well as the Certified Front Desk Agent credential. Participants will be provided an internship experience at a Cape May County hotel or motel.

Community Relations

- The Worthington Atlantic City Campus will host a Food Drive Giveaway on June 24 in partnership with the Atlantic County Fellowship of Churches and the Atlantic County Pan-Hellenic Council (Divine 9 organizations / African American Sororities and Fraternities). On a first come, first serve basis, local residents will be provided with 30lb food boxes.
- In addition to the food giveaway, the group will also host a voter registration drive in the parking lot.

Community Engagement

- The New Jersey Cannabusiness Association offered a webinar called, “Infusion 101: Culinary and Cannabis” on June 5. Chef Kelly McClay, Dean of the Academy of Culinary Arts, was one of three experts conducting the cooking demonstration.