

 **President's Report**

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**TO:** Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Dr. Barbara Gaba  
**DATE:** June 27, 2023  
(Mays Landing Campus)

### **One Stop Welcome Center**

- Construction of our One Stop Welcome Center is underway. In May, our One Stop offices (including admissions, advising, bursar, financial aid, and CFA) moved to the Student Center where they are assisting our students through the summer.
- The purpose of the One Stop Center is to provide a smooth enrollment experience for our students. The outdated first floor of J-building is receiving the much-needed renovations that will make it an attractive and comfortable space for our visitors, students, and staff; the physical renovation is the final step in adopting a One Stop model for student services.
- While we've made the operational changes incorporating the principles of the One Stop, which has significantly reduced the amount of time it takes for a student to complete the enrollment process, the space where our students receive these services now needs to be transformed.
- Once the new One Stop is complete, students will sign in to the One Stop at one central location, and then will be served by one member of staff who can assist them with their specific needs. With this model, students don't need to go from one department to the next.
- The cost of the project is \$1.6M, funded by Chapter 12, and is scheduled for completion on August 31, 2023.

## High School Partnerships

### *Aviation Day*

- Atlantic Cape hosted *Aviation Day* on May 24<sup>th</sup> on the Mays Landing Campus for approximately 50 students from Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County Institute of Technology, Lower Cape May Regional and Cape May Technical high schools.
- The students attended workshops and hands-on demonstrations that allowed them to get up close to the institutional knowledge and technology that is prevalent throughout the aviation industry today.
- The students heard from aviation professionals and professors, including:
  - Tim Cwik, Aviation Operations Chair for Atlantic Cape
  - Anthony Esposito, Assistant Professor, Small UAS Aircraft for Atlantic Cape
  - Janis Keown, Spirit Airlines Captain
  - Cheryl Lynn Simpson, United Airlines Pilot
  - Michael Priolo, Former US Navy Aviation Maintenance Administration Petty Officer and current General Aviation Maintenance Technician
  - Michael A. Konyak, program manager of the Innovation & Technology Advisory Council at the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) William J. Hughes Technical Center.

### *Cyber Day*

- Atlantic Cape hosted *Cyber Day* on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Mays Landing Campus for nearly 100 students from Atlantic City High School. The event offered diverse workshops and activities catering to different interests in technology and cybersecurity, including hands-on workshops on cryptography, gaming design, information technology systems, AI, esports, and cybercrime tools.
- Cyber Day also featured a panel of industry experts:
  - John Piazza, Chief Information Officer for Atlantic Cape
  - David Fiore, Corporate Director of Cybersecurity for AtlantiCare

- Michael Schillo, Jr., Computer Science Academic Advisor for Rowan University
- James Clark, Vice President of Information Technology for South Jersey Industries
- Nick Simonsen, Information Security Officer for Ocean Casino Resort
- The panel discussed various aspects of cybersecurity and provided valuable insights into the field.

#### *Junior Achievement of New Jersey*

- Atlantic Cape partnered with *Junior Achievement New Jersey* to host *INSPIRE* on June 6<sup>th</sup> on the Mays Landing Campus, where students from local high schools had the opportunity to explore unique career pathways. Over 150 students received a tour of the Mays Landing Campus in which they received presentations from faculty and staff on various academic programs. Students concluded their tour with a job fair with local businesses to provide career exploration demonstrations and information.

#### **University Partnerships**

- *South Jersey Climate News*, a publication of the Rowan University Journalism Department, was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the NJ Civic Information Consortium to provide local climate news coverage in southern New Jersey and to support local news organization capacity for environmental reporting.
- As part of the grant, Rowan is partnering with Atlantic Cape to give our students in Journalism classes, as well as student writers for the *Atlantic Cape Review*, the opportunity to contribute reporting and news stories for *South Jersey Climate News*. If the students' articles are selected, they will be compensated as freelancers at a rate of \$150-\$250 for each published article.
- Rowan University faculty will also serve as guest speakers and editorial advisors for the Atlantic Cape student reporters. Students will also be invited to attend events organized by *South Jersey Climate News*, including field trips to locations of environmental interest and training on environmental reporting.

## **Student Mental Health Support**

- Atlantic Cape is proud to announce our partnership, through the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), with *Uwill*, a first of its kind program in the U.S. that provides free around-the-clock online mental health services, such as therapy sessions, to college students. Student Affairs staff have begun planning for the statewide soft launch scheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **JOBS Program (Judiciary's Opportunities for Building Success)**

- As reported to the Board in March, Atlantic Cape has partnered with the Probation Division of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage of the New Jersey Courts and APEX Solutions to offer a Certified Associate Project Management program to a cohort of 25 Atlantic and Cape May county residents on probation.
- This initiative is offered through the *Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success* (JOBS) program sponsored by the NJ Department of Labor to support New Jersey residents on probation in attaining meaningful careers.
- The 10-week program was delivered at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus, and Trustee Sandson and Dr. Gaba spoke to the graduating class at the end of their course. A graduation ceremony was held on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Grants Update**

- The college's allocation by the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century (Perkins Grant)* for FY24 is \$736,714 to support our career and technical education programs.
  - Over the past 5 years (from FY20 through FY24), we have received \$3,615,504 in funding from the Perkins Grant.
- The College was awarded \$750,000 over two years from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOLE) for the Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLA) Program.

- The Atlantic Cape Foundation was awarded a grant of \$24,805 from the MGM Resorts Foundation to provide *ESL in the Workplace* and *Basic Computer Skills Training* to the immigrant community in Atlantic City. The Foundation will pass the funds through to the college for our Workforce Development department to conduct the training.
- In Fall 2022, the college was awarded a \$50,000 *Hunger Free Campus Grant* from the NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. OSHE recently awarded the college an additional \$2,500 for our Food Pantries to be expended by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Community Outreach**

#### *Atlantic City*

- Atlantic Cape partnered with AtlantiCare for *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The event included local law and public safety departments and was open to the community. Dr. Gaba was presented a *Community Appreciation Award* recognizing the College's continuous support to AtlantiCare and the Atlantic City community.
- Dr. Natalie Devonish participated as a guest speaker and panelist for a community event titled, "*Beyond the Rainbow: Building a More Vibrant Community*" on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this LGBTQ Summit was to recognize the importance of developing strong alliances in addressing challenging issues, promoting dialogue, and building a more vibrant Atlantic City in support of its LGBTQ community.
- Atlantic Cape's Community Outreach team participated in the annual *Juneteenth Cookout* at McClinton Park in Atlantic City on June 19th. Atlantic Cape manned a table which included outdoor games and college information. The College also provides Rita's Water Ice for the event.

#### *Cape May County*

- Krista Fitzsimons, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach, represented Atlantic Cape at the *Cape May County Chamber of*

*Commerce's annual Golf Tournament* that benefited scholarships for Cape May County students.

### **Community Partnerships**

- The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office hosted the *Atlantic County Interfaith Luncheon* on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing Campus in Careme's. The event brought together members of various religious communities, chaplains and enforcement officials to foster a greater understanding and appreciation between law enforcement and the faith-based community. Dr. Gaba provided welcoming remarks.

### **Student Engagement**

- The EOF Program took students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) hosted at the University of Maryland College Park campus from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The NCCWSL brought together hundreds of women from around the country for three days of leadership training, networking and inspiration, and exposure to STEM careers. This conference offered a wide variety of workshops geared towards leadership skills, strategies for thriving in an organization, gender equality, financial literacy, finding the right career, securing internships, how to cultivate a professional identity, and much more.
- Students had the opportunity to meet peers from colleges and universities from around the country, and the conference was transformative for our students. Here are few quotes from our students who attended the conference:
  - *"Attending NCCWSL definitely confirmed that I am on the right track and that I should start celebrating myself more as a young, black woman in college aiming for a degree within the STEM field which is not easy at all".*
  - *"It was life-changing".*

- *“I was very fortunate to get the number of the associate director of Planned Parenthood, meet the CEO of Undaunted women, and simply be able to be in the same room of so many successful women”.*

### **Faculty and Staff Engagement**

- Atlantic Cape was proud to host the annual **Employee Appreciation Days** on all three campuses. The events were held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus; June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Cape May County Campus; and June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Mays Landing Campus.
- This was a wonderful opportunity for all employees to come together as a college community to relax and have fun, reconnect with colleagues, and celebrate the excellent work we have done at the College over the past year.

### **Faculty and Staff Accomplishments**

- Congratulations to **Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**, on her induction to the *Atlantic County Women’s Hall of Fame* on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Devonish was honored for her service in the community, which includes leadership over the Youth Exposure Program, local civic and governmental boards and committees, and her efforts in helping local students earn over \$1.2 million in scholarships.
- **Laura Batchelor, Chief Marketing Officer**, has been appointed to the American Council of Education’s (ACE) Women’s Network of New Jersey (NJACE) Board of Directors. The ACE Women’s Network works with representatives in higher education institutions to develop programs that identify, develop, encourage, advance, link, and support women in higher education careers within that state.

### **Student Success Stories**

- **Chloe Cramutola**, Class of 2023, earned a full scholarship to Boston University where she will be majoring in journalism this fall. In her two years as a student at Atlantic Cape, Chloe was an active member in multiple student clubs and organizations, such as the *Atlantic Cape Review*, Communication Awards Club,

Asian Cultural Club, Radio Club, Pride Club, Archery team, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Educational Opportunity Fund Program, and NJ STARS.

- Chloe was also selected as one of only 15 students to receive Phi Theta Kappa's *2023 Hites Transfer Scholarship*, the Society's most prestigious and largest scholarship offering at \$10,000.