

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: June 28, 2022
(Mays Landing Campus)

Community Engagement

Inlet Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan

- Atlantic Cape coordinated the application for a \$50,000 planning grant for the First Ward neighborhood in Atlantic City. It was awarded from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs in November 2021 to develop the Inlet Neighborhood Revitalization Action Strategy. Atlantic Cape demonstrates its commitment to supporting the needs of our local residents and students by leading this effort. The college has been an integral partner in the Atlantic City community, and the Inlet Neighborhood specifically, and maintains a strong and involved presence in Atlantic City.
- Atlantic Cape hosted the second public meeting for the Inlet Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan in conjunction with the Inlet Neighborhood Community Advisory Committee and the 1st Ward Civic Association at the Uptown School Complex in Atlantic City on June 8th. Over 80 neighborhood residents attended this meeting. Atlantic Cape, in partnership with Rutala Associates, presented our final Inlet Neighborhood Revitalization Action Strategy for the Inlet section of Atlantic City.
- Over the past year, the process has brought together residents, community groups, local institutions, non-profits, city representatives, and local businesses to discuss how they envision their neighborhood improving over the next decade, and how they can work together to achieve their vision. This Strategy represents countless hours of work volunteered by resolute residents

and stakeholders wishing to make the Inlet a better place to live, learn, play, and do business.

Community Events

- Atlantic Cape partnered with *El Pueblo Unido* of Atlantic City and supported their community town hall meeting by sponsoring a COVID-19 Vaccine Pop-up Clinic on May 9th. With over 150 attendees, the Southern Jersey Family Medical Center was on hand to provide free vaccines and booster shots. Atlantic Cape provided fresh produce boxes as an incentive. This event was free and open to our Atlantic Cape students and the public. The Office of Community Outreach hosted a college information booth where information about our English as a Second Language (ESL) offerings, our tuition free college program (CCOG), and the Atlantic City Works Training Program were shared. Funding was provided by the Federal Government's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).
- Atlantic Cape sponsored and participated in the *Hamilton Township School District Resource Fair* at the George L. Hess Schools in Mays Landing on May 14th. Information about our tuition free college program (CCOG), the Atlantic City Works Training Program, and our educational opportunities available through Workforce Development were shared with the community. The Student Government Association (SGA) co-sponsored an inflatable obstacle course for this event.
- Atlantic Cape sponsored the *Absecon Lighthouse Spring Festival* in Atlantic City on May 21st. Information about our tuition free college program (CCOG), the Atlantic City Works Training Program, and our educational opportunities available through Workforce Development were shared with the community.
- Atlantic Cape hosted *Oceanside Family Success Center's* first annual Daddy Daughter Dance at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on May 21st. Over 60 dads and daughters attended this free community event with activities, arts and crafts, refreshments, and live music.
- Atlantic Cape sponsored the *Atlantic City Police Athletic League (PAL)* community events at the Old Wars Memorial Building and at Brown's Park in

Atlantic City on June 1-2. Information about our tuition free college program (CCOG), the Atlantic City Works Training Program, and our educational opportunities available through Workforce Development were shared with the community.

- The first Atlantic City Leisure Grant-funded *Culinary and Cooking Professional* class ended on June 14th with a luncheon on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus. Area employers attended the event where the students prepared all of the items on the menu to showcase their new skills. The grant, funded by the NJ Department of Labor, provided culinary training for eligible participants through the One Stop Career Center. Nine students completed the program and are on their way to employment in their new career.

High School Partnerships

Teen Tech

- The Foundation funded, thanks to a sponsorship through South Jersey Industries and the American Association of University Women of Atlantic and Cape May counties (AAUW), a “*Teen Tech*” event on May 25th for nearly 100 girls from local high schools (grades 9-12) who are interested in STEM programs.
- Students spent the day learning about a variety of programs in aviation, nursing, physics, biology, media studies, and computer science. Dr. Kalpana Jain, Dean of STEM, and faculty came together to plan these fun and engaging sessions for the girls.

Atlantic County Academic Excellence Recognition Program

- Dr. Gaba spoke at the *Atlantic County Academic Excellence Recognition Program* on June 1st to congratulate the 125 students being honored as the top academic achievers of the year (90 8th graders and 35 12th graders) from the various schools in the Atlantic County school districts.

Ideal Institute of Technology Graduation

- Dr. Gaba spoke at the Ideal Institute of Technology's Graduation Ceremony on June 22nd where graduating students earned certifications in computer repair, Microsoft Office, construction trades, entrepreneurship, and more, while overcoming obstacles to achieve their goals. Dr. Gaba offered the graduates congratulations and advice for moving forward, encouraging them to dream big and continue their education, and spoke about the opportunities open to them at Atlantic Cape.

Campus Events

- *Employee Appreciation Day* was held on June 15th on the Mays Landing Campus. The event included a dessert contest, games, door prizes, food which the leadership cooked and served to the faculty and staff. The weather for the event was picture-perfect and team members enjoyed the social experience that has been missing during the pandemic years.

Smithsonian Voices and Votes Exhibit

- Atlantic Cape is proud to host the Smithsonian Institution's traveling "*Voices and Votes: Democracy in America*" exhibition at the Mays Landing Campus this summer, July 11-August 13. A reception opening the exhibit will be held on July 7th.
- Atlantic Cape was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities to host the exhibit, which is based on a major exhibition currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. The exhibition explores the origins of American democracy, the struggles to obtain and keep the vote, the machinery of democracy, the right to petition and protest beyond the ballot and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

President's Distinguished Foundation Board Member Award

- Dr. Gaba presented the *President's Distinguished Foundation Board Member Award* to Mr. Ed Blake at the Atlantic Cape Foundation Board of Trustees meeting on June 22nd.

- Mr. Blake served on the Foundation Board from 2006-2008 and the Restaurant Gala Committee from 1956-2020, and continues to be an impactful supporter of the Foundation, especially of the annual Restaurant Gala, where he is the top seller of 50/50 raffle tickets.
- Mr. Blake's philanthropy, volunteerism, and advocacy makes a difference in our community, especially at Atlantic Cape and the Atlantic Cape Foundation where his support over the years has benefited our students in need.

Student Success

- The 2022 Radiology Program graduates all achieved a passing score on their board exam as first-time test takers. Thirteen students graduated and passed the board exam, so they are now qualified to start their careers as Radiologic Technologists.
- The Radiologic Technology Associate in Applied Science degree program is a cooperative program designed with the Shore Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology (SMCSRT). The program meets the needs of those students desiring certification and employment in the community as a Radiologic Technologist.

Wind Training Center

- Construction of the Wind Training Center addition to the Worthington Atlantic City Campus is progressing well with substantial completion expected in mid-August.
- For the structure at Gardner's Basin for the Sea Survival portion of the training, we are working on our regulatory application to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Army Core of Engineers.