

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: January 23, 2024
(Cape May County Campus)

Recruitment

- Atlantic Cape offered two (2) Counselor's Breakfast events this past fall semester that invited local high school guidance counselors to our Mays Landing and Cape May Campuses. Counselors got a chance to tour our campuses and learn about our new academic programs and offerings. In total, 38 Counselors attended the event compared to last year, where we had 25. We had 12 who attended at Cape May and 26 in Mays Landing. High Schools that participated included: Ocean City, Lower Cape May Regional, Cape May Tech, Middle Township, Atlantic City, Oakcrest, Absegami, Cedar Creek, CharterTech, Buena, Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT), St Joseph, Egg Harbor Township, Mainland, and Eagle Academy.
- The College hosted its fall Open House on December 7th, 2023. This evening event offered campus tours/demos, the ability to chat with faculty to learn more about programs of interest, and additional academic options. Financial Aid was also in attendance to assist students with their questions about available aid and scholarships. A total of 103 people attended the event, and 83 were potential students.
- Atlantic Cape hosted 51 Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT) Health Science students who attended the Mays Landing Campus for a tour, visited our nursing simulation labs, and attended our information session on December 18th, 2023. The ACIT Health Sciences program is designed for students to pursue the rigors of higher education in the medical/science fields of study. The program prepares and gears students to enter many medical careers. Students who complete four years are equipped with practical skills

and in-depth knowledge of biology, anatomy, physiology, and medical terminology that will help prepare them to continue their education in a chosen medical field, academia, or enter directly into a health science career.

Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- Atlantic Cape brought joy to hundreds at its Hope for the Holidays event in Atlantic City's Brown's Park on December 16th, 2023. Over 300 toys collected from our successful Toy Drive in the community were distributed to local children in Atlantic City. The Atlantic City Fire Department brought a special guest, Santa Claus, to the park amidst much merry enjoyment as the children patiently awaited his arrival. The spirit of the holidays was seen in the park through various activities provided by the College and its sponsors. Festivities included Atlantic Cape's Student Government Association decorating Christmas stockings, the Atlantic City Arts Foundation creating chalk art, Midtown in Motion Community Development Corporation (CDC) feeding everyone with its AC Food Truck, the South Jersey Cultural Alliance bringing its Paper Posy Peddler-Paper Poinsettia, and the Angels in Motion providing winter hats and gloves for teenagers and adults.
- Atlantic Cape's Holiday drives were a huge success. Our office of Community Outreach partnered with our Psychology & Circle K clubs and hosted a successful personal care and sock drive on our three campuses during the months of November and December to benefit Friends of Sister Jean Webster's soap and clothing closet programs. The Friends of Jean Webster is an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and poverty in Atlantic City.
- Atlantic Cape sponsored the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County's 3 Kings Day Event on January 6th, 2024, with our Community Outreach team on hand to support the event. With more than 700 families registered, the event featured folkloric dances from different Latin American heritages, free toys for infants to teens, free coats and winter apparel, and a variety of other goodies and resources to organizations with information tables.
- The Student Engagement and Community Outreach office sponsored the first Atlantic Cape Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 15th, 2024. Student

organizations, faculty, and staff volunteered at Sister Jean's Kitchen and the Rescue Mission in Atlantic City. Students, faculty, and staff met at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus, where they were provided breakfast and transported to volunteer locations across Atlantic City.

Cape May County bizHub

- The BizHub hosted a free beginner Excel course through Atlantic Cape's Workforce Development program that had 11 Cape May County Small Business owners and employees in attendance on December 7th, 2023. Participants learned the basics of operating and utilizing Microsoft Excel for business needs.
- Chris Stenger, Director of the Cape May County BizHub, appeared on South Jersey Business with Joe Molineaux on December 7th, 2023. Chris talked about the BizHub and the resources it offers for South Jersey's residents.

Student Engagement

- The Student Government Association (SGA) collaborated with the Center for Student Success to host the first Movember event to bring awareness to men's mental health and wellness, specifically men of color, on November 28th, 2023. Nate Evans, a motivational speaker, led an intimate discussion about the importance of mental health for men's general wellness. AtlanticCare also provided information and resources for men's wellness screenings, and the Center for Student Success provided information on UWill, the free mental telehealth and counseling support services on campus.
- The Office of Student Engagement hosted various de-stress festivities on all three campuses to promote a stress-free environment and help students prepare for finals. Offerings included creating zen gardens, visits from Therapy dogs, yoga workshops, live music performances by John Rush, "The Human Spotify," Karaoke, and holiday craft stations for students to make holiday theme decor.
- Men of Atlantic Cape (MAC) held "A Healthy Conversation with a Police Officer" on Wednesday, December 6th, in the G Lobby on the Mays Landing

campus. Lieutenant Wilber Santiago from the Atlantic City Police Department attended to answer questions on the relationship between citizens (specifically citizens of color) and law enforcement. The purpose of the session was to help reduce the fears and misunderstandings between stakeholders and spawn future relationships of growth and respect.

Athletics

- The Atlantic Cape gymnasium floor renovation has been completed. A new floor has been installed during winter break. Upgraded lighting is expected to be complete on or before May 3, 2024.

Basketball

- The Buccaneers Men's Basketball team honored former Men's Basketball Head Coach and Athletic Director Bobby Royal, Sr., on December 5th, to celebrate their previous coach, father figure, mentor, and legacy to the College's Athletics Department. Atlantic Cape held a formal gathering in the STEM Building with Royal's family, friends, former players, and coworkers before presenting him with a framed, navy blue team-autographed #55 jersey in Jonathan Pitney Gymnasium before the Buccaneers game against Rowan College Cumberland County. For nearly 40 years at Atlantic Cape Community College, Bobby Royal touched the lives of so many student-athletes that his generosity has never been forgotten.

Student-Athlete Success

- For the Fall 2023 semester, several student-athletes enrolled in 12 credits or more completed their semester with a 3.0 GPA or greater. A special recognition for the following 14 student-athletes who completed their semester with a perfect 4.0 GPA:
 - **Men's Basketball:** Omero Chevere;
 - **Women's Volleyball:** Maria Ceballos;
 - **Baseball:** Brandon Strouse;
 - **Men's Volleyball:** Alec Barnes, Youssef Chouie, Aiden Nichols, Collin O'Brien, Ken Rodrigues, Jordan Small, Emmanuel Waugh;

- **Archery:** Jermiah Perezlugo, Sadman Sakib, Madison Ventura, Canluan Wang.

Student Success

- Atlantic Cape hosted the Casa De Americana at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on December 11th, 2023. Since 2018, the Worthington Atlantic City Campus celebrates graduates from Atlantic Cape's English as a Second Language (ESL) entry level program and their gaining of citizenship to the United States. 27 graduated and gained citizenship in this year's Casa De Americana event.

Alumni Spotlight

- Atlantic Cape Alumna, Soleil Yakita's, Class of 2022, poem *Sonnet No. 1* was one of two dozen poems chosen from more than 800 to be published in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's 28th Annual Nota Bene literary journal. Soleil contributed the rekindling of her passion for writing to Atlantic Cape's Creative Writing class under the leadership of Professor Rich Russell in an online article published on Breaking AC.
- Gina Harvell, Class of 2020, received the Lifelong Learner Award from Rutgers's Continuing Studies program at the Rutgers building on the Mays Landing campus on January 11th, 2024. Gina's educational journey began as a dream, one that seemed impossible and unimaginable. Homelessness and drug addiction had led her to existing day-in and day-out in Brown's Park located across the street from Atlantic Cape Community College's Charles D. Worthington Atlantic City campus. Harvell would eventually rid herself of her demons, surviving breast cancer, earning her GED in 2010, her associate's degree from Atlantic Cape in 2020, her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University on the Mays Landing campus in 2022 and later this spring, her master's degree in social work from Rutgers as well. Gina's accomplishments were acknowledged as a true sign of hope and inspiration for all.

Foundation

- The OceanFirst Foundation presented Atlantic Cape Community College with a generous \$40,000 donation to provide 40 \$1,000 scholarships to Atlantic Cape students during a ceremony at the Mays Landing campus on Thursday, December 7th, 2023. **Dr. Barbara Gaba** and Atlantic Cape Foundation Executive Director **Jean McAlister** were joined by OceanFirst Bank and Foundation representatives Dr. Robert Previti, Ed Geletka, Stephanie Toal, Katherine Durante, and a dozen Atlantic Cape scholarship recipients for the check presentation. Partnership with OceanFirst began in 2017 and has provided \$320,000 in donations to Atlantic Cape, which has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 320 incoming students to the College.

Faculty and Staff Recognition

- **Victor Moreno, Senior Manager of Special Projects**, was named the 2024 Employee of the Year at the annual Employee of the Year Breakfast on January 8th, 2024. Victor, an Atlantic Cape Alumni, began working at the college as a student worker as a Note Taker for the Center for Student Success as well as holding the student position of Black/Latino Male Retention Program Student Liaison. After graduation in 2009, Victor continued his career here at Atlantic Cape. He has held numerous positions with increasing responsibilities before being named in 2023 to his current position in the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management department.

Trustee Spotlight

- **Trustee Christina Clemans** received the 2023 Leadership Legacy Award for her continued work with the New Jersey Realtors Housing Opportunity Foundation and efforts to improve the Garden State on December 21st, 2023.
- **Trustee Leslie White-Coursey** received the MLK Community Spirit Award on January 16th, 2024 from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. The award is given in commemoration of Dr. King's birthday to an outstanding resident who exemplifies his principles through their involvement in the community and their efforts to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Upcoming Events

- On Friday, January 26th, the Southern New Jersey Development Council (SNJDC) will host the “Meet the District 1 and 2 Legislators” event at Careme’s on the Mays Landing campus from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Legislators from District 1 and 2 will include: Senator Michael Testa, Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, Assemblyman Erik Simonsen, Assemblywoman Claire Swift, and Assemblyman Don Guardian.
- On Thursday, February 1st, Atlantic Cape will host a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Baseball field at the Mays Landing Campus at 2:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.