

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: February 25, 2020
(Mays Landing Campus)

Legislative Advocacy

ACCT National Legislative Summit

- Dr. Gaba, Jean McAlister, Trustee Harrison Furman, and Trustee Ahmet Sahingoz attended the Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT) National Legislative Summit on February 9-12 in Washington, DC to advocate for community colleges. The three-day event brought together more than 900 community college leaders and highlighted the importance of the country's community colleges to members of Congress and federal legislators. The Summit gave Dr. Gaba, Trustee Furman, and Trustee Sahingoz the opportunity to meet with US Senator Bob Menendez and Congressman Jeff Van Drew.
- During the Summit, attendees heard from members of Congress, political analysts, and featured speakers about legislative issues impacting community colleges. This year the community college federal legislative priorities include establishing short-term PELL Grants; increasing the PELL Grant maximum; reauthorizing the Higher Education Act; and other initiatives. Enacting the Dream Act, which provides a path to citizenship for undocumented young people including those currently in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, is also a top priority.
- The National Legislative Summit (NLS) is the premier advocacy event in DC, and aims to inform and educate community college leaders on federal policy issues that impact their institutions and students.

Community Engagement – Atlantic City

- The college held a Financial Aid Information Session for NJ DREAMers on February 6 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The event gave participants information on access to state financial aid programs for DACA recipients and eligible undocumented student in Atlantic and Cape May counties. The event also included information on the admissions process, academic programs, and other campus resources and was conducted in Spanish.
- On February 20, Dean Natalie Devonish delivered a presentation to the Chelsea Neighborhood Association on "*Connecting Adults to Opportunities.*" This presentation included information about college offerings from GED, Workforce and Credit programs.

Community Engagement – Mays Landing

- Atlantic Cape, in conjunction with Congressman Jeff Van Drew's office, hosted the *2020 Census Job Fair* at our Mays Landing Campus on February 14, 2020. The U.S. Census Bureau has identified several towns in Atlantic County with low census response rates. This was an excellent opportunity for Atlantic County residents to learn about this employment opportunity and to see Atlantic Cape.
- Ensuring that our local communities in Atlantic and Cape May counties are counted and represented is a vital effort because the census data determines the amount of funding that our local governments receive to provide services to their communities. This is especially significant to us, as a community college, because the services we provide to our students and community members are in part shaped by these decisions. We can make a greater impact with a full and accurate count of the populations we serve, so we were more than happy to host this important job fair.

Partnerships - University

Thomas Edison State University 3+1 Pathways Program

- Atlantic Cape will be entering into an agreement with Thomas Edison State University for their “3+1 Pathways Program”. This program will allow Atlantic Cape graduates to transfer up to 90 credits to more than 50 baccalaureate programs at Thomas Edison. This will leave students with only 30 credits to take at Thomas Edison to earn a Bachelor’s Degree.
- Thomas Edison is also willing to work with students who have already graduated from Atlantic Cape but who have not yet matriculated into a bachelor’s program at another institution. They are also connecting with students who are nearing graduation from Atlantic Cape.
- A signing ceremony will be held in March.

Partnerships – Shore School of Radiologic Technology

- Shore’s School of Radiologic Technology is an excellent partnership between Shore Medical Center and Atlantic Cape. This 21-month certificate program prepares students for careers as Radiologic Technologists.
- In this partnership, students complete pre-professional/general education phase at Atlantic Cape and the professional phase/radiology courses at Shore Medical Center. All of the courses in both phases are credit classes, so students are able to apply for financial aid, including the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG), which was not possible before the partnership.
- At the end of the program, students earn an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree in Radiologic Technology from Atlantic Cape. The average salary for this career is nearly \$60,000. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, 97% of graduates found employment in the medical imaging field.

Worthington Atlantic City Campus

Retention Initiative

- On February 10, Men of Atlantic Cape (MAC) held their first interest meeting on the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The goal of MAC is to provide a

support group for minority males to discuss issues that may interfere with the achievement of their academic goals and provide support and solutions for this population to stay and complete their degree and transfer to a 4-year institution.

Community-Black History Month

- On February 19, community leaders of Atlantic City shared their stories of "path to leadership" with our student population. Panelists included Marty Small, Mayor City of Atlantic City; Mike Epps, Esq., Executive Director, Atlantic City Initiatives; and Yolanda Melville, Esq., Attorney for Cooper Levenson and National President of the NAACP NextGeneration Council.

Grants

- The Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District received the ExPAND Pre-Apprenticeship Grant for culinary arts with Atlantic Cape as their higher education partner. The purpose of the grant is for school districts and their partners to create pre-apprenticeship programs. The pre-apprenticeship program will prepare high school students, after graduation, to transition to an apprenticeship program that is registered by the United State Department of Labor. This grant supports the state's Jobs NJ initiative to better align the state's workforce to high-growth job opportunities.

Athletics

- On January 25, 2020, members of the Atlantic Cape Archery Team participated in the Lancaster Archery Classic. The Classic is the second largest archery competition in the world with over 2,500 archers.
- Atlantic Cape freshman Male Recurve archers Filippo Menegon and Jaric Abadinas finished 6th and 7th respectively in their first away competition of their careers. Returning Team Members Sarah Cordery (Female Recurve) and Matthew Schreiber finished 14th and 15th respectively. Also representing Atlantic Cape were archers Sara Quigley (female bowhunter) and Tomi Landy (female recurve) who finished 8th and 17th respectively in their divisions.

- The entire Atlantic Cape Archery Team also competed on February 1st and 2nd, 2020, when they hosted the New Jersey State Archery Championships in the Mays Landing Campus gym.