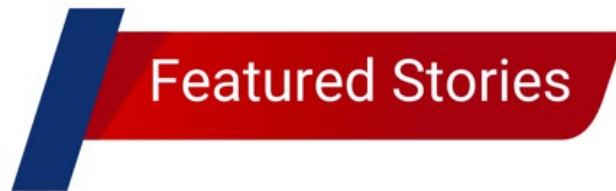


## President's Report

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: February 27, 2024  
(Mays Landing Campus)



### *University Partnerships*

- **Dr. Barbara Gaba and Chancellor Dr. Antonio D. Tillis of Rutgers University-Camden** officially signed a memorandum of understanding on February 14<sup>th</sup> in Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing campus STEM Building, creating a *Premier Partnership* between the two institutions of higher education. This partnership will create new educational opportunities for Atlantic Cape students to seamlessly continue their undergraduate education at Rutgers University-Camden through a sequential degree program once they have earned their respective associate's degree at Atlantic Cape. It will also allow participating students to fully matriculate into Rutgers University-Camden with 60 completed credits, pay the Atlantic Cape tuition and fee rate for their third year, and expand access to higher education in Atlantic and Cape May counties and the State of New Jersey.

### *Baseball Groundbreaking*

- Atlantic Cape Community College officially broke ground on its new \$1.48 million baseball field of dreams on its Mays Landing campus on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, that will permanently bring the Buccaneers' baseball program home in time for the 2025 season after spending the past decade playing its home games at Surf Stadium in Atlantic City. To drum up support for this ambitious

project, the Atlantic Cape Foundation created the “Bring it Home” fundraising campaign in 2020 and thanks to the generosity of its donors, raised \$186,000. With sixty in attendance, from county commissioners, members of the college’s Board of Trustees, staff, faculty and alumni to players and coaches from the current baseball team, many were recognized for ensuring that this momentous project came to fruition. Remarks for this event included Dr. Gaba, Chairwoman Commissioner Kern, Foundation Executive Board Member, Stephen Nehmad Coach Muckle, and Athletics Director Jamal Edwards.

*Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City*

- Boys & Girls Club leaders **Dr. Charles A. Wallace II, CEO, and Anthony C. Culpepper, Jr., Director of Career and College Preparedness**, met **Dr. Gaba** at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. We discussed our Dual Enrollment program funded by CRDA that allows high school students to earn college credits. For example, participants in the program have earned credits in Aviation and Criminal Justice.

*Black History Month Presentation hosted by Coalition for A Safe Community*

- Coalition for A Safe Community hosted a presentation for *Black History Month* at the Cape May County Campus, where guest speaker, **Dr. Theodore Darden, Professor of Justice Studies College of DuPage Glen Ellyn, IL**, discussed the multiculturalism and police understanding of the fragile relationship with communities of color.



### **Community Outreach – Cape May**

- **Krista Fitzsimons, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach, and Carol Fraone, College Recruiter,** attended the United Methodist Church’s Resource Fair on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 where they shared information about Atlantic Cape and the resources we provide for our students and our community in Cape May County.

### **Student Engagement**

- Atlantic Cape welcomed the month-long celebration of *Black History Month* on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, with the annual raising ceremony of the Pan African flag on the Mays Landing and Atlantic City campuses. Free and open to the public events included Southern New Jersey Buffalo Soldiers, a Live Performance by Key Arts Production of “King’s Dream,” and a Black History Month Mental Health Forum are just a few examples of weekly educational forums and cultural awareness events for students and the community held on all three campuses.
- Student Engagement hosted the Twin Poets, brothers Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Albert Mills, known for their advocacy of poetry as a tool to positively transform the minds of young and old alike, and are Poet Laureates for the State of Delaware. They performed their inspirational form of the spoken word, which combines the allure of rhyme, meter and prose with stage performance, in the Student Center at the Mays Landing campus on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Athletics

### *Guest Speaker Event*

- **Jamal Edwards, Atlantic Cape's Athletics Director**, was invited to be a guest speaker at the "Mentoring Males for Greatness" event at the Lighthouse Community Church in Pleasantville on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Jamal facilitated the churches' first mentoring session encouraging boys and young male adults to continue their education journey and consider sports as an option.

### *Archery*

- Atlantic Cape's Archery team opened its spring season at the Lancaster Archery Classic in Manheim, Pa. and featured more than 2,700 archers from the region. In Male Recurve Bow, Canluan Wang placed 5<sup>th</sup>, Badrul Ruhin 6<sup>th</sup>, Jared Lancaster 7<sup>th</sup>, and Julio Proventud 18<sup>th</sup>. In Female Recurve Bow, Sultana Zakia placed 16<sup>th</sup>, and Madison Venture 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the Female Compound Bow, Brooke Kaelble placed 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The College hosted the southern venue portion of the *2024 New Jersey State Indoor Archery Championships* in Jonathan Pitney Gymnasium on the Mays Landing campus from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup> as the Buccaneers' Archery team opened the Spring semester half of its 2023-24 season. This annual USA Archery event brought archers from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, as well as Atlantic Cape and Rowan University, to the college to compete in nearly 30 categories. Participants competed in skill categories ranging from as young as under-13 to as experienced as 70+.

### *Basketball*

- Our men's basketball team made it to the Region 19 Playoffs for the third year in a row on their 20-win season. The Buccaneers are now in a race for fourth place in the region prior to beginning the playoffs.

### *Volleyball*

- The Atlantic Cape Buccaneers Men's Volleyball team enters the 2024 season with an exciting roster of players. The Buccaneers are off to a good start this season with a 2-2 record.

## Student Success

- Student Services & Community Outreach Department hosted the *Dunkin' Community Cruiser* event on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus to kick off the Spring Semester and express our gratitude to our staff and students. The Dunkin' Community Cruiser provided samples of hot coffee, iced coffee, iced tea, and donuts. In addition, they generously distributed \$5 gift cards, Dunkin' merchandise, and organized engaging games, making it a fun-filled afternoon for everyone. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dunkin' Donuts for their generous support, contributing to the success of this event.
- Spencer's and Spirit Halloween donated more than 400 new and gently worn professional clothing items to Atlantic Cape Community College's Campus Closet at the Mays Landing campus on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Spencer's and Spirit Halloween's Egg Harbor Township corporate headquarters, which has been in operation locally since 1977, recently hosted the donation drive during the month of January. The company holds donation drives throughout the year as a way to give back to its surrounding communities.

## Cape May BizHub

- **Chris Stenger, Director of the Cape May bizHub**, attended the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 where he discussed the resources and training opportunities offered at the *Cape May bizHub* for entrepreneurs and small business owners in Cape May County.

## Trustee Spotlight

- **Trustee Hailie Nguyen** represented Atlantic Cape at the annual ACCT National Legislative Summit (NLS) in Washington, D.C. She provided a student perspective on the federal initiatives for community colleges.
- **Trustee Ellen Byrne, Dr. Gaba, and Jean McAlister** also attended and represented the college at the ACCT National Legislative Summit (NLS) conference.

- **Dr. Gaba** was a panelist at the ACCT National Legislative Summit (NLS), where she participated on a panel with board chairs and college presidents to discuss *“Search Services: Best Practice”* for searching for a College President.