

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: August 24, 2021
(Mays Landing Campus)

Student Support

Technology Support for Students

- The Atlantic Cape team has expanded and enhanced the existing Laptop Loaner Program. 3,000 additional laptops for students have been purchased and distribution began on August 19. The program requires the students to maintain (6) credits for eligibility into the program. Additionally, the students will be allowed to keep the laptops after graduation. This provides an incentive for enrollment and retention.
- Microsoft 365, a software package that includes commonly used applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, is available to students at no cost.

Open Educational Resources (OER)

- In Spring 2020, the college submitted a plan to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) to incorporate digital learning materials and OERs at the college in an effort to save students money on textbooks. Through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), we were able to advance the project. Faculty teaching highly enrolled courses were given stipends to develop OERs for their courses. This semester there will be 23 courses which will have *zero textbook costs*, including English 101 and 102, Psychology 101, and Sociology 101. All faculty teaching these courses will use the OERs. Additional courses will be onboarded in Spring 2022.

- Other courses are using high-quality digital learning materials through Cengage, the leading educational technology company, at a reasonable cost to students.
- These efforts complement the opportunity for students taking 6 or more credits who receive a free laptop from the college to use the technology to access their course materials online.

Free Tuition for Dual and Concurrent High School Students

- We are offering 3-free credits for students attending Atlantic Cape this Fall. This offer, funded by HEERF, will be extended to our high school partners for students taking dual and concurrent courses. We are promoting this to our high school partners, so more students can take advantage of this opportunity, especially those students eligible for free/reduced lunch who may not otherwise be able to take a college course while in high school.

Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program Orientation

- Student Affairs held an orientation for our students in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program who are starting this Fall semester to ensure they have all the tools, resources, and information they will need to successfully start their college experience. The students heard from a variety of college departments who provided helpful information, and Dr. Gaba delivered welcoming remarks to the new students. Additionally, guest speakers presented on topics such as time management and mental health, and a “lunch and learn” session included a panel of current and former EOF students.

Scholarships for sUAS Students

- Drone Pilot and Technician scholarships, totaling more than \$25,000, are available for new and returning students who are Cape May County residents and enrolled in the drone classes at the Cape May County Campus. Scholarships are not based on financial need. Students taking seven credits or more will receive \$2,500, while students taking six credits or less will receive \$1,250.

- These scholarships are made possible thanks to the Robert Hunter-Doherty Memorial Scholarship fund. The fund was established in 2015 and is awarded to students from Cape May County. Since then, the Doherty Family Charitable Foundation has donated \$800,000 to the Atlantic Cape Foundation to be used for scholarships.
- The Drone Program is transitioning to the Cape May County Campus effective the Fall semester with complete rollout in Spring 2023.

Technology Upgrades

- The Information Technology department completed the first phase of the *Network and Security Upgrade* for Atlantic Cape Community College. The project was delivered on time with no major issues to report. The major advantage of this upgrade phase has been an increase in internet bandwidth and speed for browsing, wireless access, and cloud-based applications. Additional phases of work will be performed over the next 6-12 months.
- The college is also working on a Disaster Recovery project, which will require an air conditioning and electrical power upgrade to the Cape May County Campus. The upgrades will be completed by the fall and the space will be ready for the implementation of the Disaster Recovery hardware and software to be completed by year end.

Recruitment

- Atlantic Cape's Admissions and Recruitment Team held their first post-COVID Enrollment event. Fast Track Enrollment Days (*Stop, Drop, Enroll*) were held August 2 – 5, 2021. 175 participants signed up to attend this event, of which 51% (90 students) were able to register for classes on the spot. Marketing supported this with targeted advertising in radio and social media.
- Atlantic Cape hosted our first group tour and visitation post-COVID at the Mays Landing Campus on July 8, 2021. Forty (40) students from the *Stockton Goals Gear Up Program* and the *Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City* enjoyed a series of interactive workshops which included demonstrations by Culinary Arts, Aviation & Drones, Nursing and Allied Health, as well as our Athletics

Department. Dr. Barbara Gaba and Dr. Natalie Devonish, Interim Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, provided welcoming remarks.

Marketing

- The college launched the “*See Where Free Can Take You*” Fall Campaign, advertising the 3-credit tuition waiver and free laptop opportunities for the Fall Semester, targeting the African American and Hispanic markets in our two counties. Media was purchased in TV, radio, digital, social, search, and outdoor billboards. We also sent 20,000 postcards to area stop-out students and potential students earlier this month.

Stockton University Partnership

- Atlantic Cape signed a new partnership agreement with Stockton University for a 2+3 AS/BS/MBA program in Business Administration. Upon completion of the Associate in Science degree, students would seamlessly transfer to Stockton’s Dual BS/MBA program. The program will prepare students for professional careers in business. The formal signing ceremony was held at Stockton University’s Atlantic City Campus on July 27.

Grants

- Atlantic Cape has been awarded the *New Jersey Offshore Wind Safety Training Grant* from the NJEDA and OSHE. Atlantic Cape will receive \$3 million to establish an industry-recognized Global Wind Organization (GWO) safety training program and facility to prepare New Jersey workers for jobs in the state’s growing offshore wind industry. The training center will be located at our Worthington Atlantic City Campus, which will require that a wing be added to the building.
- The college was awarded a competitive grant, the Opportunity Meets Innovation Challenge (OMIC) Grant, through the State of NJ, funded by the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). The college was funded \$414,297 to enhance our onboarding of adult learners through professional development, leveraging of technology to use data to identify prospective populations, and develop improvements to our services for this

population. Data on our service area shows that focusing on educating our adult community members is an area of opportunity.

- This past year, the college received the designation “Hispanic Serving Institution” from the U.S. Department of Education when our full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment reached at least 25% Hispanic students. This will open up new grant opportunities to the college.

Program Highlights

Nursing Program

- The annual Pinning Ceremony for the Nursing Class of 2021 was held in both virtual and “drive-through” formats.
- These students have worked incredibly hard to achieve their Associate Degree in Nursing, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. All students in the program participated in the vaccination centers this past spring.
- Additionally, the Nursing Program has established a chapter (Alpha Delta Nu) of the Organization for Associate Degree of Nursing (OADN) Honor Society. Twelve (12) graduates received their recognition certificates during the virtual Pinning Ceremony.
- The Alpha Delta Nu OADN Honor Society chapter held its first event this June when they accepted donations of disposable masks and gloves, hand sanitizer, and antibacterial wipes. The donations, as well as informational instructional pamphlets, were provided to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission in Atlantic County and Cape Hope in Cape May County.

Academy of Culinary Arts

- Following an accreditation review, the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Education Foundation Accrediting Commission reaccredited the Academy of Culinary Arts’ AAS in Culinary Arts, AAS in Baking and Pastry, and Certificate in Baking and Pastry programs through June 30, 2028. All three programs were identified as “Exemplary” by ACF.

Community Relations

AtlantiCare Community Health Fair

- Atlantic Cape hosted AtlantiCare's annual Community Health Fair on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus on August 13 as part of the celebration for *National Health Center Week*. This event was held in support of AtlantiCare's HealthPlex Center in Atlantic City, which cares for approximately 10,000 individuals a year.
- Dr. Barbara Gaba and Lori Herndon, President/CEO of AtlantiCare, gave welcoming remarks to the community.
- Sixty (60) agencies attended, including those that provided healthcare, housing, health insurance enrollment and financial assistance, and other programs and services. COVID-19 vaccinations were provided on site.
- Atlantic Cape received "kudos" from AtlantiCare staff and community members, as well as compliments from internal staff on how well this event was managed and organized. The success of this event was made possible by our Manager of Community Outreach, Victor Moreno.

Atlantic City Community Walk

- Dr. Natalie Devonish and Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Relations, participated in the Coalition for Safe Community and NAACP Atlantic City Community Walk on July 13, 2021.

Athletics

- Fall Athletics are underway with the addition of Men's and Women's Soccer, our first Athletics program to be serviced on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus in partnership with the City of Atlantic City at the Annapolis Avenue Recreation Complex starting this September.

Alumni Success Stories – Dr. Zach Blaesí '11

- Atlantic Cape graduate Zach Blaesí '11 successfully defended his dissertation and completed his PhD at the University of Texas at Austin. A very engaged student at Atlantic Cape, Mr. Blaesí was an officer of the Fine Arts Club at the

Cape May County Campus. After earning an A.S. in General Studies, Mr. Blaesì transferred to NYU to study Film and Philosophy, graduating in 2013, before being accepted into a doctoral program at U.T. Austin.

- In the acknowledgements section of his dissertation, Dr. Blaesì recognized the faculty who positively impacted him along his educational journey, including Professor Richard Russell, who he acknowledged as a professor who was “inspiring and encouraged [him] to succeed.”