

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: January 24, 2023
(Cape May County Campus)

BizHub Appropriations

- The college has been awarded \$1 million in Congressionally Directed Spending from Congressman Van Drew's Office to support the BizHub. These funds will allow the BizHub to operate for five years, bringing support and resources to small businesses and entrepreneurs in Cape May County.
- We are moving forward with the strategy to engage those who aspire to operate small businesses in Cape May County. Marketing materials and the BizHub webpage have been developed, and the Advisory Board has convened.

Technology Upgrade (Workforce Development)

- The college has launched a new microsite for Workforce Development, *workforce.atlantic.edu*. This new site provides a quick and convenient way for users to search for the appropriate professional development, career training, adult basic education or personal enrichment programs and classes that best fit their needs without having to navigate the atlantic.edu website.
- As Atlantic Cape has grown our web presence, it became apparent that in order to stay competitive, we needed to provide customized content to appeal to working professionals, businesses, and older adults looking to upgrade their credentials or learn a new skill. The new microsite allows Atlantic Cape to attract this audience and to highlight our Workforce Development program and the non-credit segment, while continuing to maintain it as part of our website.

- The microsite was made possible by the use of grant funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

Zoo Education Program Update

- A pre-kickoff meeting was held in December to discuss the timeline of the Cape May County Zoo's expansion to the Cape May County Campus for the Zoo Education Program. Various college representatives from Facilities, Information Technology Services, Student Affairs, Workforce Development, and Nursing met with the Zoo operations team and Cape May County officials to discuss the strategy to move forward with the Zoo infrastructure, including construction timelines and internal office movements. The plan is for the Cape May County Zoo to offer the Zoo Education Program at the Cape May County Campus by early summer.

Cape May County Commissioners Meeting

- Dr. Gaba spoke at the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners' December meeting, providing an update on new programs at the Cape May County Campus.
- Dr. Gaba and Trustee Ellen Byrne, Board Chairperson, also presented an honorary resolution to Commissioner Director Gerald Thornton to congratulate him on his retirement. Trustee Judith DeStefano and Trustee Thomas Dawson were also in attendance.

Community Engagement

Atlantic County

- The Worthington Atlantic City Campus hosted the Kid Wind's workshop on offshore wind energy for local educators. The Kid Wind organization helps educators and students explore renewable energy. The workshop presented the science and technology of offshore wind energy and offered ways to bring this knowledge to students. Teachers explored wind turbine blade design, power measurement and floating and fixed bottom offshore wind turbines.

Over 30 local teachers attended and received over \$100 in classroom materials funded by Ørsted.

- Atlantic Cape sponsored and participated in the annual Hispanic Association of Atlantic County's Three-Kings Event, providing promotional items and information about both credit and non-credit programs.

Cape May County

- The Cape May County Campus hosted the Division of Aging's Tax Preparation Training for Volunteers to support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Student Support

Campus Closet

- This past fall semester, Atlantic Cape launched the *Dress for Success* initiative under the leadership of Hospitality Professor Jeanine DiNardo and the Hospitality Management Club. The "Campus Closet" houses donated new or gently worn business casual clothing and shoes that students can utilize for a job interview or other professional related activities.

SNAP Support

- SNAP Benefit training was provided for Student Affairs staff on January 6th. Students who are eligible for SNAP will receive application support from College staff. SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

Student Engagement

- De-Stress for Finals activities were held between December 5 – 8th. This event was a collaborative effort with Student Engagement, Student Support Services (SSS), and Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) programs where students were offered a space to take a break from their finals by engaging in activities to help minimize and manage the stress of finals.

Athletics

- The Buccaneers' Men's basketball team reached the Top 20 list for the NJCAA DIII National ranking for the weeks of January 9th and January 17th. This would make the second consecutive season the Buccaneers achieved this accomplishment.
- Dr. Natalie Devonish, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Jamal Edwards, Athletics Director; Anisha Chhotalal, Athletics Assistant; and Crew Coach Steve Kelly participated in the Lake Lenape Crew/Rowing Clean-up on Saturday, January 14. The purpose of the event was to "clear-out" space to welcome Atlantic Cape Community College's Crew Team.

Y.A.L.E. School Partnership

- Our partnership with the *Young Adolescents Learning Experience (Y.A.L.E.)* School's Northfield campus continues to develop. Y.A.L.E. is a community of schools that provides a positive approach to learning for students with disabilities ages 3-21 who need a specialized educational setting. Through their *Standard 9 Scholars and Exploration Program*, Y.A.L.E. School's Northfield students aged 18-21 will have the opportunity to take Atlantic Cape courses with support services to help them succeed.

Center for Accessibility

- The Center for Accessibility celebrated the 30th anniversary of *International Persons with Disabilities Day (IPwDD)* on December 6th by hosting a panel discussion featuring disabled faculty and staff with the theme of "Not All Disabilities are Visible". The panel discussed Living with an Invisible Disability; Being a Disabled Employee; Advice for Disabled Students; and Views on Disability Awareness. The panelists included: Kevin Jones, Chef Educator; Kayla Corson, Student Support Services Office Assistant; Keith Forrest, Professor of Communication; Linda Karanzalis, a board-certified Cognitive Specialist; and Juliana Torres Santiago, Office Coordinator, Center for Accessibility.

Student Spotlight – Audry Ledesma

- Audry Ledesma’s educational journey in the United States began with taking English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) courses with our partner, La Casa Dominicana. She then moved into Atlantic Cape’s non-credit ESL courses, progressed to the credit ESL sequence, and is now in the college’s Nursing Program. She recently received United States citizenship by working with La Casa Dominicana.

Student Achievements

Samantha Dangler - New Jersey Celebration of Girls and Women in Sports Nomination

- Student Samantha Dangler was nominated for the New Jersey Celebration of Girls and Women in Sports (NAGWS). NAGWS honors one female student-athlete at all New Jersey high schools, two-year colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. The winner will be announced on February 18th at Seton Hall University.

Ashia Reid - Princeton University Aspiring Scholars and Professionals (ASAP) Internship

- Atlantic Cape student Ashia Reid, a Communications major and member of the *Atlantic Cape Review*, completed Princeton University’s Aspiring Scholars and Professionals (ASAP) Internship in summer of 2022. Ashia was the only community college student accepted into the program.
- The Aspiring Scholars and Professionals (ASAP) is a new initiative in the Emma Bloomberg Center for Access & Opportunity at Princeton University, designed to introduce students to careers in higher education. The ASAP program provides undergraduates from New Jersey colleges and universities with a full-time, nine-week paid summer experience that includes professional development and research methods workshops designed to support students in their daily work and prepare them for their professional lives after college.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

- **Dr. Barbara Heard**, Associate Professor of Biology, presented at ASM Microbe, the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, held in Washington, D.C., on “Microbiology for the Blind and Visually Impaired” in which she discussed accommodation methods in science courses. ASM discussed her research in an article and podcast episode in December 2022.
- **Susan DePhillipis**, Professor of English as a Second Language, has been selected as a finalist for the prestigious "Faculty of the Year" award by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The winner will be announced at AACC's Annual Conference in April.