

 **President's Report**

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**TO:** Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Dr. Barbara Gaba  
**DATE:** March 28, 2023  
(Worthington Atlantic City Campus)

### **LPN Program Approved by State Board of Nursing**

- At last month's meeting, the Board approved the college to offer the Practical Nursing Certificate starting in Fall 2023, pending approval by the State Board of Nursing. The State Board of Nursing has now approved Atlantic Cape's application to offer the Licensed Practical Nursing Certificate. Congratulations to Dean Myrna Morales-Keklak and her staff for all their efforts. Our final step is to have it approved by the Department of Education for financial aid, but we can begin to promote this new program.

### **Restaurant Gala**

- The Atlantic Cape Foundation's annual Restaurant Gala exceeded all expectations and raised \$284,575 in student scholarship funds for the Academy of Culinary Arts at the Gala's 40th Anniversary Celebration. The Gala was held at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center on March 9th, where Atlantic Cape honored all the icons that have supported the Gala and our culinary students for the past 40 years.
- The 40th Anniversary of our signature fundraising event would not have been possible without the combined efforts of Atlantic Cape Foundation, the Advancement Office, Marketing and College Relations department, and many other staff, as well as faculty, and our student volunteers.

### **Grants Update**

- Atlantic Cape has been awarded \$565,960 in FY2023 Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit (NRTC) Project funding.

- In April 2021 the Board of Trustees authorized the acceptance of the \$50,000 planning grant for the development of a 10-year plan to revitalize Atlantic City's Inlet Neighborhood (Ward #1). As the sponsor agency for the planning efforts, Atlantic Cape promoted and coordinated the Neighborhood Plan – assembling a Steering Committee, coordinating meetings, and providing a webpage and social media outlets for the project.
- Once the Inlet Neighborhood Plan was approved by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the college was eligible for Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program funds for projects in the Inlet. The Board authorized a request of over \$796,000 in November 2022. We have now been notified that we were awarded \$565,960 to carry out the projects detailed in the Inlet Neighborhood Plan.

### **Community Outreach – Cape May**

- Dr. Gaba, Trustee Clemans, Dr. Natalie Devonish, and Krista Fitzsimons attended the Cape May County Branch of the NAACP's Freedom Fund Gala on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The Academy of Culinary Arts' Food Truck Management class in Cape May has been giving back to the local community with free meals.
- Krista Fitzsimons, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach, spoke at the Lower Township Chamber of Commerce's meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> about the opportunities available at Atlantic Cape's Cape May County Campus.
- The Cape May County Campus held a Star Party on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, an event free and open to the public, to get people together to educate them about the star constellations visible right now as well as general astronomy. The astronomy class at the Cape May Campus, led by Professor Jungblut, presented the sun, moon, planets and stars. Sixty people attended, including families with children.

### **Atlantic Cape Hosts Training Program for Probation Clients**

- Atlantic Cape has partnered with the Probation Division of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage of the New Jersey Courts and APEX Solutions to offer a Certified Associate Project Management program to a cohort of 25 people.
- This initiative is offered through the Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success Stories (JOBS) program sponsored by the NJ Department of Labor to support New Jersey residents on probation in attaining meaningful careers.
- The 10-week program will be delivered at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The kickoff event was held at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Community Outreach – Atlantic County**

- The Academy of Culinary Arts participated in the Captain's Table event, which supports the Community Food Bank of South Jersey and Let Us Eat, Please, Inc. Atlantic Cape was a proud sponsor of this event.
- Atlantic Cape hosted the Southern Jersey Family Medical Center's COVID-19 Youth Breakfast at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker was Mr. Christian Ragland, Assistant Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at AtlantiCare.
- Atlantic Cape sponsored and participated in the Career Carnival for Kids event at the Showboat hotel in Atlantic City on March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Atlantic Cape sponsored and hosted the La Casa Dominicana's ESL graduation ceremony at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Atlantic Cape faculty, led by Rosann Weiss, Senior Adjunct of Information Systems and Aviation Studies, served as judges for the Jersey Shore Science Fair on March 18<sup>th</sup> held at Stockton. Atlantic Cape provided gift cards for two of the science fair winners.

### **High School Partnerships**

- Atlantic Cape's Student Affairs and Enrollment Management area participated in Atlantic City Youth Service's Viking Week: College and Career events at

Atlantic City High School. This included a long week celebration in which Atlantic Cape hosted career and information workshops, instant decision, as well as panel discussions.

### **Student Engagement**

- Atlantic Cape celebrated Women’s History Month this March across its three campuses in Mays Landing, Atlantic City and Cape May Court House with a variety of events, discussions and displays at all three Atlantic Cape campuses. Some of the events include “Conversations with Women in STEM”, a “Career Paths Panel Discussion”, and “Meet the Artists' reception.”

### **Athletics**

- Congratulations to the Atlantic Cape Buccaneers Men’s Basketball team, head coach Allen Ragland and our student-athletes, on a successful 2022-23 season. The Bucs finished 19-10 overall, 17-7 in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 and 16-6 in the Garden State Athletic Conference standings.
- Men’s basketball player Tyrese Myrick of Willingboro, NJ was honored as a 2022-23 All-Garden State Athletic Conference Region 19 1st Team selection. He averaged 16 points-per-game, 6.8 rebounds and 2.7 assists for the Buccaneers this season.

### **Workforce Development**

- Atlantic Cape will provide ESL training for 20 participants at the Ocean Side Family Center, funded by the Workforce Development Board, from March 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 at a fee of \$11,892. The target population for this program includes those individuals from Atlantic City and Atlantic County who are eligible recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Atlantic Cape will provide a *Career Exploration Experience Program* for Wildwood Public Schools from February 20, 2023 to June 30, 2023 at a fee of \$22,398. The Career Exploration Experience Program will be provided to 47

sixth grade students and a Career Experience to 62 seventh graders. Funding for the program comes from Wildwood Public Schools through the Middle Grades Career Exploration Grant from the NJ Department of Education.

### **Academics**

- The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) and the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) hosted *“Bringing Community Back to Community Colleges”* on March 24, a convening of community college humanities faculty from around the state of New Jersey. The daylong program was designed to foster intellectual exchange and debate about the most pressing topics for humanities faculty on community college campuses today, and to create spaces for these faculty to connect and collaborate as peers.
- Dr. Denise Coulter, Dean of Liberal Studies and Board member of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, and Dr. Augie Nigro, Associate Professor of History and Government, were in attendance for Atlantic Cape.

### **Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) REACH Awards**

- Atlantic Cape has achieved a REACH award for the third year in a row from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the official and only honor society for two-year colleges. The REACH Rewards Program celebrates PTK chapters excelling in membership development, achieving or exceeding 15 percent for their membership acceptance rate. Thanks to Professor Stephanie Natale-Boianelli, the faculty advisor for this student organization.

### **President’s Distinguished Alumni Award**

- The President’s Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Careme’s. The event honored Trustee Daniel Money; Dr. Ananda Davis-Wright, Principal at Uptown School Complex; and Chef Georgeann Leaming, co-owner of Zang Croissants; as well as Nicholas LoRotonda and Zachary Pashley for the Young Alumni Achievement Awards.

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

- **Dr. Gaba** was honored with the 2023 *Woman of Distinction Award* at the Public Relations Council of Greater Atlantic City's luncheon recognizing Women's History Month on March 28<sup>th</sup>, where she was also the Keynote Speaker.
- **Dr. Gaba** was listed on *ROI-NJ's "Influencers: Women in Business 2023"* list.
- **Dr. Natalie Devonish**, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and **Stacey Zacharoff**, Senior Director of the Center for Student Success at Atlantic Cape, were honored at the Atlantic City Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's 20th Anniversary Gala on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Devonish received an "Educational Leadership & Community Service Award" and Ms. Zacharoff received a "Community Service Award."
- **Laura Batchelor**, Chief Marketing Officer, was featured in the Atlantic County Commission on Women's newsletter on "*Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories*," which was featured on the Atlantic County website and covered by *Downbeach*.
- **Sherwood Taylor**, Senior Director of Workforce Development, is speaking at the 2023 International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum in Baltimore Maryland, being held March 28-30. His panel session, "*Better Together: Offshore Wind Training Partnership Case Studies*," will explore the experiences of community colleges, Global Offshore Wind Organization (GWO) training providers, and industry partners who have worked together to build wind technician training programs. The other panelists include Dan Ortega, North America Representative of Global Wind Organization; Jennifer Menard, Vice President of National Offshore Wind Institute/Bristol Community College; and Geoff Croft, Global Head of GWO Training and Development of AIS Survivex/3t Energy Group.