

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: September 27, 2022
(Mays Landing Campus)

Technology Upgrades

Domain Name Change

- With the approval of Resolution #18 (Bid Exempt 1013), the college will pursue a new domain name for our website and email addresses – **AtlanticCape.edu**. This change will better align to our brand identity as a college serving both Atlantic and Cape May counties.

Translation Service for Website

- Google Translate has been incorporated into the college's website. This service allows users to translate any page on our website into another language, providing a much-needed option for anyone who prefers to see college information in another language.

Construction Update

Innovation Center/Richards Hall/Morse Hall Renovation Project

- Richards Hall (B3) is complete, and faculty have moved into their new offices.
- Morse Hall (B1) and Boyer Hall/Innovation Center (B2) are near completion. Landscaping has commenced and we are awaiting the technology equipment.

Community Outreach

Atlantic and Cape May Counties

- Atlantic Cape participated in the following “Back to School” community events:
 - Cape May County Chapter of the NAACP’s “Back to School Bash” on August 25th
 - Hispanic Association and Friends in Action’s “Back to School” event at O’Donnell Memorial Park on August 27th
 - Atlantic City Board of Education’s “Back to School Bash” at the Uptown Complex on August 29th
 - Coalition for Safe Communities and Cape Assist’s “Back to School BBQ Bash” on August 29th

Atlantic County

- Atlantic Cape was proud to be one of the sponsors for the 2022 “Girls in Aviation Day”, held at the Atlantic City International Airport on September 10th. This event, open to girls aged 18 and under and their parents/guardians, is dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in all aviation and aerospace career fields and interests.

Cape May County

- The college participated in the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro annual reunion events on September 3-4.
- The Cape May County Campus once again hosted the Cape May County Department of Aging’s *Senior Art Show* from August 24-September 2. The oldest participant was a 98-year-old woman and a WWII Veteran. The winners for each division are invited to participate in the NJ State Senior Art Show in Trenton.
- Atlantic Cape and the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office co-hosted a career fair for prospective law enforcement employees on Sept. 22nd. The career fair offered information on the state’s Civil Service Commission and exam, as well as opportunities for job seekers to talk one-on-one with representatives from various law enforcement agencies in Cape May County.

Student Engagement

- The college hosted Welcome Back/Club Recruitment events at all three campuses with over 500 students participating. Students received information about the various clubs active at each campus and were treated to activities and food, including fresh produce courtesy of the Community Food Bank of South Jersey.
- The 2022-2023 Student Government Executive Board attended leadership training on August 16th, facilitated by Dr. Christopher Irving, Executive Director of the Cecilyn Miller Institute for Leadership and Diversity in America and newly appointed Acting Assistant Commissioner of Field Services for the State Department of Education. Dr. Irving facilitated an interactive workshop exploring skills for student leaders to become elements of social change on campus.
- The college kicked off our *National Hispanic Heritage Month* celebrations with flag raising events on all three campuses, organized by our Office of Student Engagement. There will be several other events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, including virtual film screenings, National Taco Day, a virtual tour of the *Frida Kahlo Museum* in Mexico City, a cooking demonstration, and an art program.
- The college's *Community for the Differently Abled* student club presented an *Accessibility Advocacy Series* event with K-9 Officer Michael Braxton of the Atlantic City Police Department on September 21. Officer Braxton is New Jersey's first amputee K-9 Officer and the 3rd such officer in the country.

Student Support

- The college received a grant from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) to support the infrastructure for the Food Pantry, specifically in Atlantic City. The college purchased shelving, freezers, and other items for the pantries, and since many of our students in Atlantic City walk to campus, the college purchased freezer tote bags to help our students transport their food, along with kitchen tools needed for healthy eating.

- The college now has a Psychiatrist on campus to provide mental health services to our students. Dr. Stephanie Poellnitz is offering mental health evaluations for students who are in immediate crisis while on campus; working with students on identifying off-campus mental health, drug, and alcohol support services; providing workshops on topics such as coping skills, anxiety, and life skills; therapy sessions with students as requested; and working with other college staff and counselors on student referrals submitted through the Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT) reports.

Marketing

- Our Marketing Department recently created three non-traditional student testimonial videos that are running on streaming TV. These student stories will help spread our message to non-traditional students who need an affordable and flexible college education.

Partnerships

Boys & Girls Club Partnership

- The college's new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City will give 10 teens the opportunity to learn about careers in aviation and drones while earning college credits. The college will offer the *Introduction to Career Development* course with an aviation focus, giving students experience in writing resumes and interviewing for jobs, while learning about the potential careers in the growing field of aviation.

Workforce Development

- Atlantic Cape is again partnering with the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board to provide information sessions, testing prep workshops, and testing for the Workers in Sustainable Energy (WISE) and Get into Energy (GIE) Training Programs. Funding for the program is provided by Atlantic City Electric/Exelon Company. This agreement will cover the 5th and 6th cohorts of the program. Eighty (80) local residents attended the program's information sessions.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

- **Laura Batchelor, Executive Director of Marketing**, has been selected by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) as the *2022 District 1 Communicator of the Year*. The Communicator Award is presented annually in each of NCMPR's seven districts. It's one of the most prestigious awards presented to an NCMPR member who has demonstrated leadership and ability in the area of two-year college communications.
- **Robyn Berenato, Assistant Registrar**, had great success as the musical director and cast member of the Hammonton Towne Drama Community Theatre's production of *Little Women* which was performed August 11-13.
- **Tom Hendrixson, Executive Director of Human Resources**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Arc of Atlantic County. The Arc provides services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities including vocational and employment support, housing and independent living opportunities, family respite and recreational programs.
- **Jesse Kurtz, Senior Manager of Digital Accessibility** for the Center for Accessibility, was appointed to the *Atlantic County Disability Advisory Board*, which advises and consults with the Office of Intergenerational Services with matters relating to citizens with disabilities in Atlantic County. The members of this Advisory Board have knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and understanding of the experience of people with disabilities.