

President's Corner



Dear Atlantic Cape Alumni,

April is Community College Month, and as we take this opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of community colleges and to get the word out about all that

Atlantic Cape has to offer, I wanted to highlight a few of the College's recent accomplishments and events.

Atlantic Cape signed the Rutgers Premier Partnership on Wednesday, February 14th, our third university partnership signed this academic year. This partnership provides students the ability to earn a degree from Rutgers Camden while also beginning their program courses here at Atlantic Cape. Additionally, in a number of majors, the Rutgers Camden partnership provides students the option to actually complete their bachelor's degree program right here on our Mays Landing campus if they choose. We are excited to expand our ongoing partnership with Rutgers University along with Stockton University and Thomas Jefferson University. We can't wait to see where these opportunities will take our students.

We finally held the long-awaited Groundbreaking Ceremony on Thursday, February 15th for the

construction of our home baseball field. Attendees included Atlantic County Commissioners, Board of Trustee and Foundation Board members, coaches, players, alumni baseball players and college supporters. With this new home field, scheduled to be ready for the 2025 season, Atlantic Cape and our team will be able to attract more local student athletes by offering a better equipped program and facilities. Atlantic Cape is once again demonstrating its commitment to athletics by providing the necessary facilities for student athletes to excel.

I am very pleased to share that over 800 guests attended the 41st Annual Restaurant Gala, held at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center on March 21st. The Gala raised a record breaking \$306,210 in scholarships for our students in the Academy of Culinary Arts and emergency funds for all students. This is just one of many examples of the generosity of our supporters to help students reach their educational goals regardless of their financial situation. We are immensely grateful to the efforts of the Atlantic Cape Foundation, student and staff volunteers, our generous donors, sponsors, participating restaurants, and attendees, in making this event a great success year after year.

The Cape May bizHub, located on our Cape May County campus, is a leading small business resource center working as an active part of a concentrated

County-wide effort to educate, develop, support, and attract businesses that contribute to the growth of the Cape May County economy. In its first year, bizHub has been busy offering business resources such as seminars, courses, mentoring, coaching, and business referrals to individual students, business owners, prospective entrepreneurs and retirees interested in investing. For more information, visit the Cape May County's bizHub website, email info@cmbizhub.com, or call (609) 463-4586.

As the Spring semester draws to a close, preparations are underway for our 57th annual Commencement Ceremony. I hope that each of our graduates will consider joining our Alumni Association to stay in touch with the College and share their accomplishments with us, as you have.

Thank you for your continued involvement and interest in Atlantic Cape Community College. We always look forward to hearing from our alumni, so please reach out to us through Kristin Jackson, our Senior Manager of Resource Development and Alumni & Foundation Events. Kristin can be reached at (609) 463-3621 or kjackson@atlanticcape.edu.

Sincerely,



Dr. Barbara Gaba

Atlantic Cape Breaks Ground on its New Mays Landing Campus Baseball Field

Atlantic Cape officially broke ground on its new \$1.48 million baseball field of dreams on February 15 that will permanently bring the Buccaneers' baseball program home in time for the 2025 season.

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 to date. After several years of planning, fundraising, architectural design, environmental approvals, community and alumni outreach, construction began in early February as excavators descended upon the parcel of land situated behind the Rutgers Lifelong Learning Center.



Visit atlanticcape.edu/bringithome for more information and to make a donation to the Bring it Home campaign.



Atlantic Cape's Annual Restaurant Gala Raises Record Amount for Culinary Student Scholarships

It was an evening to celebrate a "Springtime in Paris" as more than 840 guests attended the 41st Annual Atlantic Cape Community College Restaurant Gala and helped raise a record \$306,210 towards student scholarships while also honoring three deserving members of the community on Thursday, March 21 at the Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City.

This year's Gala recognized Travis Lunn, president and chief operating officer, Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, as its Community Honoree and Chef Demetrios Haronis, 1990 Academy of Culinary Arts (ACA) alumnus and current executive chef at Tropicana Atlantic City, as its ACA Honoree. Gala sponsors this year included Platinum

Sponsors Caesars Atlantic City, Harrah's Resort Atlantic City and Tropicana Atlantic City; Gold Sponsors Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa and Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind; and Bronze Sponsor Love, Tito's.

"Thank you for being here to celebrate the 41st Annual Restaurant Gala, the most important scholarship event at the college. Our students attending the College's Academy of Culinary Arts depend on your support," said Atlantic Cape President Dr. Barbara Gaba. "We are very lucky to have such a caring community of support for the next generation of chefs, cooks and leaders. Thank you for attending this evening. I am truly honored and eternally grateful for your generous support."

Visit atlanticcape.edu/gala to see photos of the event and to learn more about the Restaurant Gala and this year's honorees.

SEVENTH ANNUAL

Alumni Bash

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

Morey's Piers | Wildwood, NJ | Tickets \$50 per person

Admission includes unlimited access to rides on all three amusement piers and both Raging Waters and Ocean Oasis Beach Club Water Parks.

Mariner's Pier & Surfside Pier: Noon-Midnight
Adventure Pier: 2 p.m.-Midnight

Raging Waters Water Park: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Ocean Oasis Beach Club & Water Park:
9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

PLUS, the Atlantic Cape Alumni Association is hosting an all-you-can-eat lunch at the Rendezvous Beach Picnic Pavilion from Noon-2 p.m.

Ticket purchases are NON-REFUNDABLE. In the case of inclement weather, rain tickets will be issued and valid for use any day through September 1, 2024



To purchase tickets, visit atlanticcape.edu/alumni. For additional information, please contact Kristin Jackson at 609-463-3621 or kjackson@atlanticcape.edu.



Atlantic Cape and Rutgers University-Camden Sign Premier Partnership Agreement Creating New Educational Opportunities for Students

Atlantic Cape Community College President Dr. Barbara Gaba and Rutgers University-Camden Chancellor Dr. Antonio D. Tillis officially signed a memorandum of understanding on February 14 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.

Students will also have access to academic advisors at both institutions before completing their classwork at Atlantic Cape and have the



option to attend certain Rutgers-Camden classes on Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing campus through the Rutgers Statewide program.

Visit atlanticcape.edu and camden.rutgers.edu for more information on course and degree offerings at Atlantic Cape and Rutgers University-Camden.



Atlantic Cape Alumna Gina Harvell Receives Rutgers Continuing Studies First Ever Lifelong Learner Award

For Atlantic City native Gina Harvell it began as a dream, one that seemed impossible and unimaginable. Homelessness and drug addiction had led her to existing day-in and day-out in Brown's Park located across the street from Atlantic Cape Community College's Charles D. Worthington Atlantic City campus. It was here where Harvell would spend innumerable hours wondering, dreaming and hoping for brighter days.

While access to higher education was never physically far away, for Harvell the distance appeared to be an unbridgeable gulf. She believed in herself and her dreams, and received unwavering support from her husband, children, family and friends. Harvell would eventually rid herself of her demons, surviving breast cancer, earning her GED in 2010, her associate's degree from Atlantic Cape in 2020, her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University on the Mays Landing campus in 2022 and later this spring, her master's degree in social work from Rutgers as well.

Recognizing these accomplishments and personal perseverance, Rutgers Statewide, Division of Continuing Studies Vice President Richard J. Novak presented Harvell with the inaugural Lifelong Learner Award, whose creation was inspired by her story, on Thursday, January 11 at Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing campus.

"We love heroes. Heroes who do things that we never thought we could do. Gina falls into this category," said Novak.

Visit bit.ly/ginaharvell to read the full article on Gina Harvell receiving Lifelong Learner Award.

RUTGERS AT *Atlantic Cape* INSTANT DECISION DAYS

- THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH
- THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH
- THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH
- THURSDAY, JULY 18TH

Participating Majors

- ✓ Business Administration*
- ✓ Criminal Justice*
- ✓ Health Administration
- ✓ Health Sciences*
- ✓ Labor & Employment Relations
- ✓ Premier Partnership Eligible Major
- ✓ Liberal Studies*
- ✓ Nursing-RN to BS
- ✓ Political Science*
- ✓ Psychology*
- ✓ Public Health
- ✓ Social Work*



No Essay
Required

\$70 Application Fee Waived!
SCHEDULE YOUR VIRUTAL APPOINTMENT:
RUTGERS-ACCC@DOCS.RUTGERS.EDU



Party in the Quad
60th Anniversary Celebration
 Featuring live music by DJ Dahve

Join Us for:

- Outdoor games
- Free food & refreshments
- Giveaways and much more
- Mechanical bull rides

Check out:

- Academy of Culinary Arts Food Truck
- Aviation & Nursing Demos
- Guided Campus Tours
- Financial Aid & Free College Info
- Student Club & Athletics Sign-ups

Sat. May 4
12-3 p.m.
Mays Landing Campus Quad
 5100 Black Horse Pike

This event is free & open to the public

To RSVP for this event, scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/Quad-Party
 Registration suggested but not required.

BE INVOLVED.
STAY CONNECTED.
 And Continue the Buccaneer Tradition of Excellence

There are many opportunities for Alumni to Volunteer:

- Mentor Students
- Classroom Guest Speaker
- Volunteer at Alumni or College Events
- Serve on the Advisory Committee
- Assist at College Open Houses and Recruitment Events

Tell us how you want to volunteer. Please contact Kristin Jackson at kjackson@atlanticcape.edu or (609) 463-3621

Dear Atlantic Cape Alumni,

I would like to welcome you to "Chris' Corner!" I'm Chris Mularz, Advancement Officer and Associate Director of the Foundation and a proud Atlantic Cape graduate (A.S. '01). Since being in this role for the past year, I have had the pleasure of meeting many alumni through our events and campus activities. I want to make sure that our office has your information current and up-to-date to receive the latest campus news, future events and inspirational stories about our alumni at the College. Please take a minute to scan this QR Code and send us your updated contact information.

On March 21st, we held the 41st Annual Atlantic Cape Restaurant Gala at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center. Over 840 guests attended the Restaurant Gala, including many alumni, faculty and staff of the College. This event raised over \$306,000 for student scholarships and emergency funds for students. It was truly a wonderful night to support our current students attending Atlantic Cape and look forward to next year's Restaurant Gala.

In the month of April, we are proud to celebrate two special occasions, the 60th Anniversary of Atlantic Cape and National Community College Month. Atlantic Cape was organized by the State of NJ on April 14th 1964 and was the 2nd community college in the State. Please join us for our 60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, May 4 between the hours of 12 to 3 p.m. in the Quad on the Mays Landing Campus.

This month is also very special as we celebrate National Community College Month. This special designation was created to improve awareness of the economic, academic and equity advantages of attending community colleges. Please take a moment to share with others your experiences and how Atlantic Cape has played a role in your life.

In addition, I look forward to joining our newly nominated Presidents Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni that we will honor at a very special reception on April 10th at Careme's Restaurant. This year's six recipients will join our other distinguished graduates who have been committed to supporting the college.

Lastly, please save the date for the return of our Summer Alumni Bash on Sunday, June 16th. We are back at Morey's Piers in Wildwood and I look forward to seeing our alumni and friends for a day filled with fun and adventure!

*Thank you for your continued support!
 If you have any questions or just want to chat, please feel free to contact me at 609-463-3651 or cmularz@atlanticcape.edu.*

