

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: January 26, 2021
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

COVID-19 Update

- The Health & Safety Committee has developed protocols for student, staff, faculty, and visitors on all three campuses. The new process involves confirming completion of the *Daily Health Assessment Form*, taking temperatures, and issuing wristbands to anyone entering campus.
- Atlantic Cape partnered with Union First to provide free COVID-19 drive-thru testing to students, staff, and community members at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on January 20 and January 21, 2021.
- The Mays Landing Campus will continue to serve as a vaccination site for frontline medical workers (Group 1A) until mid-February.
- The college website now contains a dashboard to track confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 among faculty, staff, students, and others who had been on campus.

Grants

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II)

- The United States Department of Education announced allocations for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) under section 314(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), which makes available approximately \$22.7 billion for institutions of higher education.
- Atlantic Cape has been allocated a maximum institutional portion of \$6,574,977 and a minimum student aid portion of \$1,980,171, for a total grant allocation of \$8,555,148.

- The student aid portion will be used to provide financial aid grants to students which may be used for any component of the student’s cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to the coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or child care.
- The institutional portion may be used to defray expenses associated with the Coronavirus (including lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, faculty and staff trainings, and payroll), and to carry out student support activities that address needs related to the Coronavirus.

Legislative Advocacy

Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG)

- The Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) was passed by the legislature and awaits the Governor’s signature, making it a permanent state financial aid program, such as NJ STARS and TAG.
- The Community College Opportunity Grant program provides a last-dollar scholarship to attend a community college for individuals in households earning \$65,000 adjusted gross income or less.
- This tuition scholarship program supports our most vulnerable residents for whom a college education is simply unaffordable. CCOG will assist a significant number of individuals obtain a college degree or credential, helping them get on the path to stability and a family-sustaining career, while building a skilled workforce that will close critical skills gaps.
- Since the program’s inception in FY19, 18,000 students statewide have received grants. Atlantic Cape has awarded 1,922 CCOG grants since the start of the program in Spring 2019.

Senate Higher Education Committee

- Dr. Gaba recently gave testimony before the Senate Higher Education Committee on the challenges community colleges in the State faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Remarks addressed how colleges, staff, faculty, and students were affected, including the programs and initiatives implemented by Atlantic Cape to address the challenges.

Student Support

Registration Hold Limit Raised

- Atlantic Cape recently increased the registration hold limit to \$200, meaning that students carrying an unpaid balance under \$200 can still register for courses. Prior to this change, students could not register for courses until their balance was paid.

Loaner Laptop Program

- The college continues to provide loaner laptop computers to students. Demand for the program is increasing as a result of economic hardships. Two hundred fifty (250) laptops have been distributed to date.

Enhanced Support for Spanish-Speaking Community

- In order to more effectively serve our Spanish-speaking community, the registration and registration checklist webpages have been translated into Spanish.
- Additionally, bilingual members of staff in each student services area have been identified to give Spanish-speakers contacts who can effectively assist them.

Career Services

- A “Career Hub” was added to the website that includes career-related videos and articles to will help our students, such as step-by-step resume and cover letter writing; how to join LinkedIn; and how to do a virtual interview.
- Students can also request an appointment with a career staff member.

Technology Upgrades

Self-Service Upgrades

- Updates to the data management system that have upgraded the following:
 - Students can view incoming transfer credit in Self-Service.
 - Students can view their academic standing (President’s List, Dean’s List, Suspension, Probation, Dismissal) on the progress page.

- Faculty and counselors will be able to share information about interactions with students through Early Alert in Self-Service.

Faculty and Staff Computer Upgrades

- Faculty and staff laptop upgrades are continuing. 150 laptops have been distributed from 250 total purchased.

Community Relations (Atlantic City)

- In our efforts to support the community during the holiday season, staff from the Worthington Atlantic City Campus participated in the following events:
 - Thanksgiving Holiday (11/25): Murphy's Chicken & Potatoes Community Feeding. Atlantic Cape Athletics Department prepared and served plates to community members.
 - Thanksgiving Holiday (11/25): Angels in Motion's Weekly Feeding. The Academy of Culinary Arts donated freshly baked individually wrapped cookies, and Atlantic Cape staff assisted with providing meals for those in need.
 - Thanksgiving (11/25): Salvation Army's Annual Thanksgiving Feeding. The Academy of Culinary Arts students volunteered to pack meals and distribute as needed.
 - Christmas (12/19): Atlantic Cape partnered to host Atlantic County Recovery Force's 2020 "Hope for the Holidays" event. Atlantic Cape played a crucial role in organizing this event. The Student Government Association (SGA) sponsored a "Stocking Station"; the Academy of Culinary Arts Student Association donated 500 individually wrapped cookies; and the college community donated a truck load of toys, hats, and gifts cards to support this event and the Atlantic City Community.
 - Three Kings Celebration (1/9): Atlantic Cape sponsored the Three Kings Day Celebration hosted by the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County on Saturday, January 9th, 2021 at Dante Hall in Atlantic City. Over 500 local families in the Atlantic County area received toys for the holidays. This is an annual tradition and event that is coordinated by the Hispanic Association. Other sponsors also included the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), AtlantiCare, Stockton University,

ACDEVCO, South Jersey Gas, and Local 54. To view the Catholic Star Herald's coverage of the event, [click here](#).

- A student in the Human Services Internship class initiated a Holiday Dinner Meal at Turning Point, which serves homeless adults in Atlantic City. The student organized the event, solicited donations, and worked with volunteers to serve meals to approximately 50 people.

Community Relations (Cape May)

Caring for Kids Holiday Parade

- The Cape May County Campus partnered with Caring for Kids to host a "Reverse Holiday Parade" in the campus parking lot on December 19. Over 100 cars filled with families (approximately 400 people in all) watched the Cape Dancers perform and continued on their drive past stationary festive floats from local nonprofit organizations and blazing fire trucks from Middle Township and Cape May City fire departments.
- E. Marie Hayes, Cape May County Commissioner, and Alex Bland, former President of Cape May County's NAACP, joined the festivities and handed out toys and candy to passing families. Every car received a "goodie bag" filled with information about Atlantic Cape Community College.

Circle K Club

- The Circle K Club wrote 100 Christmas cards and delivered them to the residents and staff of the Genesis Nursing Home in Cape May Court House.

Community Engagement

- Stacey Zacharoff, Director of the Center for Student Success, has been appointed to the South Jersey AIDS Alliance for a three-year term.
- The South Jersey AIDS Alliance was formed in Atlantic City 35 years ago to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS through various initiatives and education. The Alliance provides services in Atlantic, Camden, Cape May and Cumberland Counties.

Workforce Development

Training & Opportunity Virtual Fair

- Workforce Development and the Office of Community Outreach hosted Atlantic Cape's *Training & Opportunity Virtual Fair* under the slogan "Take 2021 in a New Direction," on December 18, 2020. One hundred ninety-seven (197) individuals participated in this event. The purpose of this virtual fair was to support those in the community getting back into the workforce, especially those who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Atlantic Cape staff shared available training opportunities at Atlantic Cape, as well as training funds available for those affected by the pandemic; financial aid eligible workforce training programs; and Tuition-Free College offered by the Community College Opportunity Grant.

Workforce Development Registration Space

- The Worthington Atlantic City Campus bookstore space will be transitioned into a Workforce Development registration space. This will provide registration assistance for current dislocated worker and workforce programs.

Construction Update

K-Building Renovation

- The K-building renovation is complete. This project reconfigured Building K to meet the needs of the Information Technology Services Department (ITS).
- The project included construction of new offices, conference/training space, and a support services area. The renovation also included the installation of an energy efficient HVAC system and energy efficient lighting; roof replacement; replacement of existing exterior windows and installation of additional new windows; new flooring; and new finishes throughout the area.

New Public Safety Building

- The Public Safety Building is being demolished in February with the new construction work to immediately follow. Vehicles may enter the college via the second entrance on the Black Horse Pike.