

 **President's Report**

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: September 22, 2020  
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

### **Legislative Advocacy**

#### *Meeting with Senator Michael Testa*

- Dr. Gaba met with Senator Michael Testa on September 14 to thank him for his ongoing support and to request his support to restore funding to the community college sector, so we can continue to provide essential educational opportunities to more than 300,000 New Jersey residents each year.

#### *NJCCC Legislative Action Campaign*

- The New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) implemented an aggressive advocacy strategy to raise public awareness and secure legislative support for restored state operating aid for New Jersey's Community Colleges in the FY 2021 state budget.
- A digital [Legislative Action Center](#) was established for members of the public to ask the Legislature to restore state operating aid to pre-pandemic levels. Through the Center, one can send messages seamlessly to all of the State Legislators whose legislative districts include their local county college.
- Notice about this campaign was sent to Atlantic Cape's Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board of Trustees, and Atlantic Cape faculty and staff. Additionally, Vicki Clark, President of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, shared the message with all Chamber members.
- In addition to the messages to legislators, the NJCCC sent two press releases, conducted a radio interview, secured one news article, and scheduled meetings with key members of the Legislature and their staff.

## **Campus Restart**

### *Academics*

- The Fall Semester began August 31, and our Cape May semester began on September 21. Approximately 800 sections are being offered; 200 of which are online and the majority of the remaining 600 are being instructed through remote learning using Blackboard Collaborate and Zoom. We have one additional start date, October 26, and still have classes available in 46 sections being offered in this 8-week session.
- The Academy of Culinary Arts resumed operation under social distancing guidelines. The lecture portions of their courses are being delivered remotely. ACA also has four new adjunct educators, all graduates of ACA. Careme's Restaurant is not currently scheduled to reopen this fall due to capacity limitations and social distancing requirements.
- Nursing admissions were completed successfully with 128 new students admitted to the Nursing Program for a total of 231 students this semester. Contingency plans for the return of nursing students to the in-person lab and hospital environments is complete and has been approved by the State Board of Nursing.

### *Facilities*

- The Environmental team continues their excellent work of maintaining the highest level of cleanliness at all campuses. A rigid daily cleaning schedule was established and the team has been recognized by staff for their efforts.
- The Facilities team continues their work of keeping the campus attractive and addressing the needs of staff. The team placed splashguards throughout all campuses to provide safety for staff, students and visitors during our registration period.

### *Student Technology Needs*

- Fifty (50) Verizon Hotspots have been purchased with CARES Act funding to address students' internet connectivity needs off campus.

- The Laptop Loaner Program continues to provide laptops to students to help ensure they have the tools they will need to be successful this semester.

### **FAA UAS Collegiate Training Initiative**

- Atlantic Cape has met the criteria to establish a collaborative relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the FAA's new Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Collegiate Training Initiative (UAS-CTI) program.
- The purpose of the UAS-CTI program is to create long-term relationships with institutions of higher education that focus on preparing candidates for careers in all aspects of UAS. The UAS-CTI program's goal is to collaborate with schools to deliver up-to-date UAS training that matches the requirements of the National Airspace System (NAS) and helps provide qualified applicants for careers involving UAS.

### **Community Outreach**

#### *College Update for Board of Chosen Freeholders*

- Dr. Gaba spoke to the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders at their regular meeting on September 15 and with the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders on September 22. She spoke about the college's restart plans and use of the CARES Act funds. She also thanked both of the Freeholder Boards for their support of Atlantic Cape and our students.

#### *University District School Supply and Book Bag Giveaway*

- Atlantic Cape participated in the *University District School Supply and Book Bag Giveaway* on September 12, 2020, hosted by the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County (HAAC) and Stockton University's Alumni Association. Atlantic Cape's Worthington Atlantic City Campus served as a hub for all school supply donations and the assembly of over 500 book bags filled with school supplies.

#### *2020 Census Activities*

- Atlantic Cape supported the *Census Family Reunion* event on September 13, 2020 at Brown's Park in Atlantic City. The purpose of this event was to have as many members of the community as possible complete their 2020 census.

Atlantic Cape donated 10 cases of water for the event, as well as hosted an informational booth with educational resources & free tuition opportunities available at Atlantic Cape.

- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, was recently featured in a short [promotional video](#) on the *NJ 211 Census Campaign*, an important reminder about the U.S. Census for Atlantic and Cape May County residents. NJ 211 Partnership is the statewide help and referral call center.

## **Workforce Development**

### *Free Webinar Series*

- Workforce Development offered Complimentary Webinars in July and August. The “Information Session Series” were offered on the programs in Paramedic Science, Emergency Medical Technician, and Certified Fundamentals Cook. The “Strengthening Your Potential Series” provided sessions on Preparing a Professional Resume, Presentation Strategies and Techniques, Preparing for an Interview, and Delivering Performance Evaluations.

### *Fall 2020 Program Guides*

- Workforce Development’s two program guides, “Certifications, Certificate, and Professional Development” and “Community Education and Kids College”, began arriving in homes the week of August 24. The program guides offer 172 classes and workshops with 67 of those offered in a hybrid or online format.

## **Construction Update**

### *H Building (Nursing)*

- The renovations to H-building were completed on August 28. The lecture hall with amphitheater seating and state-of-the-art Audio Visual equipment are highlights of the project; faculty offices and common areas were also updated.

## Grants

### *USDA supports bizHub at Cape May County Campus*

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that Atlantic Cape Community College will receive \$40,000, through the department's Rural Business Development Program, to create Cape May County's first small business and entrepreneur resource center at the Cape May County Campus.
- The resource center, or "bizHub", will identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing and prospective entrepreneurs and business managers. This project will deliver new economic development capacity to Cape May County by serving small businesses, with special outreach to women, minority, and veteran-owned businesses.
- The total budget for this Small Business Support Center is currently \$100,000. No one source needed to fund this project alone because several partners came together to invest in the local economy. The college is providing an in-kind match, which includes staff, rooms at the college, and equipment such as computers. The Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders approved funds of \$20,000 to go towards this budget, which will go right back in the county's economy with new stronger businesses. Also, non-government funding came from Crest Savings Bank with \$10,000 going to this budget on top of the \$10,000 they gave towards the initial planning of this Small Business Support Center.

### *Perkins Grant*

- The State Department of Education informed Atlantic Cape that the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) has been approved and the College is well positioned to begin spending this year's \$739,271 Perkins allocation. Compliments were given on the quality of the Atlantic Cape submission, and Dean Vassallo has been asked to share our implementation process with other New Jersey community colleges.

### **Academic Affairs**

- The Aviation Program is up and running. Students are engaged in fixed-wing, helicopter, air traffic and UAS courses this fall. The fixed wing aircraft is located at Atlantic City Airport for the convenience of our students.
- Atlantic Cape has been notified by the Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions that our Paramedic Program successfully met all of the required thresholds for accreditation.

### **High School Partnerships**

- Donna Vassallo, Dean of Professional Studies, High School Initiatives and Internships, continues to work with local high schools on dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment offerings for high schools. This fall we are offering 17 concurrent courses at four high schools, and we expect 17 schools to be participating in dual enrollment opportunities in Atlantic and Cape May counties. An increase in concurrent courses for the spring semester is expected.

### **Student Accomplishments**

- Nick Atohi is the Spring 2020 recipient of the *Buccaneers Baseball Academic Achievement Award (AAA)*, which is awarded each semester to the top GPA earner on the team. A top baseball prospect from Mainland Regional High School, Nick transferred to Atlantic Cape from Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) in the Spring of 2019.
- Of the 17-man roster last spring, four Buccaneers, including Atohi, earned NJCAA All-Academic Honors, as follows: Second Team (3.90 GPA or above) - Nick Atohi and J. B. Barron (Fall 2019 AAA Recipient); Third Team (3.70 GPA or Above) - Omar Luis and Shane Nanek.
- In addition to its All-Academic Scholar/Athletes, 5 other Buccaneers earned GPAs of 3.0 or above. They are: Jake Brennan; Brian Dickson; Phil Santa Maria; Nate Koss; and, Alex Gallagher.

- Congratulation to Nick Atohi and the other Atlantic Cape Buccaneer Baseball Scholar/Athletes for their significant achievements in the classroom and on the field.

### **Staff Recognition**

- Leslie Jamison, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), was appointed chair of the statewide Business Officers Affinity Group.

### **Professional Development**

- *Faculty Inservice Day* was held Thursday August 27, 2020. Donna Marie McElroy, Associate Professor of Social Science, presented a well-received workshop entitled, "Remaining Sane When Everything Is Changing". Over 130 faculty and staff attended the event.
- The *Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence* and Instructional Technology Department assisted faculty in enhancing their online courses and improving remote delivery. A number of training sessions are held weekly to offer suggestions and encourage enhancements for new and seasoned faculty.