

President's Report

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: January 21, 2025
(Mays Landing Campus)



Student Success Story

Student Athlete Achievement

- **Christopher Parker**, an Atlantic Cape Community College second-year business major and standout men's basketball student-athlete, has officially accepted a full scholarship offer to play basketball for South Carolina State University (SCSU) in Orangeburg, SC, beginning with the 2025-26 academic year.

Grants Update

- Atlantic Cape was awarded \$2,367,200 by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the *Fund My Future Grant Program*. The grant will fund the career training of unemployed and employed low-income individuals without other degrees or credentials to help them achieve their employment goals, and connect them with supportive services such as transportation, childcare, mental health services, etc.

Nursing Program Re-Entry Student Completion Rate

- Through the utilization of an academic coach (paid through the NJ Pathways Year II grant funds), students re-entering the Nursing Program had a 100% pass rate for N110, Nursing I, and N200, Nursing III, for Fall 2024 and are moving forward in the Nursing Program this Spring Semester.

Faculty & Staff Spotlight

- Atlantic Cape Student Affairs team members attended the 2nd *Annual New Jersey Higher Education Mental Health Summit*, hosted at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, on January 9. The Summit's mission was bringing together leaders and front-line practitioners from colleges and universities across the state for a one-day conference to share best practices on mental health initiatives to continue our mission of supporting our students' mental health wellness.

Leadership Spotlight

- **Dr. Vanessa O'Brien-McMasters, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Chief Strategy Officer**, was a presenter on *The Holistic Cycle of Evaluation: Getting Ahead of Self-Study* workshop at the Middle States Commission of Higher Education Annual Conference from December 11-13, 2024. Dr. O'Brien-McMasters discussed the data-driven aspect of the Middle States Self-Study and utilizing the data collected in the Self-Study to continue to improve upon institutional goals, objectives, and practices.



Community Outreach – Atlantic County

- The College partnered with local community organizations to host and sponsor a successful toy drive supporting the Annual Hope for the Holidays event, held on December 21 at Brown's Park in Atlantic City. The event saw more than 800 community members in attendance, coming together to celebrate the season, and where over 1,000 toys were given to families in need. In addition to the toy donations, over 700 meals were generously donated and distributed to those in need, making the event a significant display of community support and generosity.

Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC)

- During the holiday season, the Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC) collaborated with the College and other organizations to support 300 families with Thanksgiving meals at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The Inlet CDC also co-sponsored a festive float in the Atlantic City Annual Winter Wonderland Parade.

Community Outreach – Cape May

- Atlantic Cape’s Cape May County Campus hosted Cape Assist’s and the Cape May Prosecutors Office’s Training workshop on January 14, bringing over 50 professionals to our Cape May County Campus. The training workshop was for professionals in legal services that handle special cases such as child abuse, rape, drug abuse, etc., on providing employees with avenues to address their client’s mental health as well as handling these situations.

Cape May County BizHub

- The Cape May bizHub hosted a *Technology (AI) in Business* seminar at the Cape May County Campus on January 17. The seminar is in collaboration with the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce in their Symposium Series to help the local business owners and entrepreneurs in Cape May County learn and utilize all the new technologies available to them in promoting their business. This seminar focused on incorporating AI and its capabilities to help promote and manage their business.

Student Engagement

- The Center for Accessibility (CFA) Department hosted its inaugural *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* event to promote awareness and inclusion for people with disabilities, on December 3, with nearly forty students in attendance. The event featured a panel discussion, during which students with disabilities shared their experiences and insights on navigating academic life. Additionally, interactive games and activities were organized to engage attendees and raise awareness in a fun and accessible way.

- The Student Government Association (SGA) and Student Engagement Department hosted its vibrant Multicultural Festival, a dynamic celebration of global cultures on our Mays Landing and Atlantic City Campuses on November 21. These events featured various performances, including dance, music, poetry, and speeches, allowing students to express and share their cultural heritage. In addition to the performances, many students showcased their cultural pride through traditional dress and other forms of expression.
- The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) and Student Services Support (SSS) programs provided a cultural experience for nearly 40 students by attending the critically acclaimed *Hamilton* musical on November 21. For most of our students, this was their first time attending a Broadway show, and they learned, among many other things, that Alexander Hamilton had resided in the state of New Jersey for most of his childhood. This opportunity not only enhanced their educational experience but also broadened their cultural awareness, which is one of the leading goals for both the EOF & SSS programs.
- Atlantic Cape partnered with Stockton University's Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning to participate in their *Annual MLK Day of Service* at Stockton University's Atlantic City Campus on January 20. This event allowed Atlantic Cape students to honor Dr. Martin L. King Jr.'s legacy through various community service projects throughout Atlantic City. Students engaged in meaningful hands-on activities, working together to give back to the local community while reflecting on Dr. King's commitment to service, equality, and social justice. This day of service helped strengthen the bond between the two institutions and empowered students to positively impact their community.

Athletics

- The Atlantic Cape Athletics Department, in partnership with Lighthouse Community Church and Iron Sharpens Iron, hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for Atlantic Cape athletic students in the gymnasium on November 28. Both organizations worked together to prepare and serve a warm, festive meal to approximately 30 students who attended. In the spirit of giving, any leftover

food was carefully packaged and distributed to those in need within the community after the event.

- The Athletics Department honored **Robert Goudie, retired basketball coach, and Vice President/Dean of Administration and Business Affairs, and the Secretary to the Board of Trustees from 1975 to 1992**, with the *Athletics Recognition of Excellence Award* during a pre-game ceremony on January 11 in Jonathan Pitney Gymnasium on the Mays Landing Campus. This award acknowledges and honors Mr. Goudie's various achievement in Atlantic Cape's men's basketball history here at the College and his impact on the lives of the students he coached. Mr. Goudie coached the winning basketball team champions in 1971, the flag still hangs in the gym.

Recruitment

- Atlantic Cape's One Stop Enrollment and Recruitment team welcomed 16 High School counselors from Atlantic and Cape May Counties High Schools on December 12 for a bus tour. The bus tour provided visits to all three campuses to learn more about the academic programs, campus facilities, and student life offerings at each campus. The goal was to equip counselors with firsthand knowledge so they can better guide prospective students when considering different institutions. The counselors from the following High Schools visited the College:

Atlantic County:

- Atlantic County Institute of Technology
- Atlantic City
- Atlantic City Teen Center
- Buena Regional
- Chartertech
- Egg Harbor Township
- Oakcrest

Cape May County:

- Cape May Tech
- Lower Cape May Regional