

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: January 28, 2020
(Mays Landing Campus)

Community Engagement - Boards

- Dr. Gaba has been elected to serve a 3-year term on the board of the Atlantic County Economic Alliance (ACEA). The Alliance is a private sector directed, non-profit economic development corporation established to attract, retain, and grow businesses in Atlantic County.
- Natalie Devonish, Dean of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Workforce Development, is serving on the Board of Trustees of the Atlantic City Arts Foundation. The Foundation exists to foster an environment in which diverse arts and cultural programs enrich the quality of life for residents of and visitors to Atlantic City. The first board meeting was held January 16.

Community Engagement – Atlantic City

- The Atlantic City Arts Foundation and Atlantic Cape partnered for a “*Day of Service*” in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event was held Monday, January 20, 2020 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus with over 100 people in attendance. The purpose was to lead a dialogue with community leaders and residents on, “What Do YOU Dream for Atlantic City?”
- Dean Devonish was the Keynote Speaker for the Cape May County NAACP’s *Freedom Fund Breakfast* on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The topic of her speech was, “The Dream Continues.”
- Atlantic Cape’s Worthington Atlantic City Campus hosted the Atlantic City Community Fund’s first planning meeting of 2020. The Atlantic City Community Fund aims to provide funding and support to organizations and

individuals working to build a thriving Atlantic City. The meeting was held on January 15 with over 50 guests in attendance. Jim Rutala, President of the Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation Board, serves on the Executive Committee of Atlantic City Community Fund's Advisory Board.

- Atlantic Cape participated in Atlantic City's 1st Annual Family Conference on January 25. This conference featured speakers, resources and dialogue on college and career readiness, drug and alcohol awareness, coping with the loss of loved ones, financial literacy, and self-care. It was geared to empower families to improve their lives and engage with their community. Atlantic Cape Admissions provided college information, in addition to Atlantic Cape staff who served as presenters. The college was also an event sponsor and provided space for planning meetings.
- La Casa Dominicana will offer three ESL programs this Spring Semester. Classes began Monday, January 13 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus.
- A "Supporting NJ Dreamers" workshop will be held at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus to provide financial aid and admissions support for undocumented individuals. The event will be held on February 6 at 6pm.
- The Hispanic Alliance of Atlantic County hosted a Youth Summit meeting on January 14 on the Worthington Atlantic City Campus.

Community Engagement – Cape May County

- The Cape May County Campus hosted the "Veteran's Community Engagement Forum" on January 15. Representatives from the Wilmington Veterans Administration Medical Center presented to over 60 veterans and their families information about changes and updates to medical benefits and access to healthcare services. It was also noted that the new VA clinic is currently under construction in Rio Grande.

Cape May County Campus

- The Prosecutor's Office of Cape May County continues efforts to help ensure the safety of our students. On January 9 & 16, the County's SWAT team toured the Cape May County Campus to familiarize themselves with the layout of the

facility. The team shared ideas about simple ways college employees can improve their own security practices on and off campus. Several SWAT team members are alumni of Atlantic Cape who enthusiastically praised their experiences at the college.

- The Cape May County Campus will host the third presentation of its Environmental Speaker Series on January 30. The guest speaker will be Joseph Hochreiter, CGWP, Principal Scientist, Senior Environmental Consulting, LLC. His topic will be “How to Maintain Coastal Resiliency through the Redevelopment of Industrial Brownfields.” There will be an opportunity to meet the speaker at 11:30 am and the program will begin at 12:00 noon.

Academic Affairs

- Dr. Gaba, Dr. Katz and Assistant Dean Myrna Morales Keklak met with AtlantiCare representatives Margaret Belfield, Executive VP & COO; Katherine Birkenstock, VP & Chief Nursing Officer; and Lillian Smith, Director of Employee Relations to discuss the proposed LPN program and utilizing space at the AtlantiCare Health Park to be constructed at Atlantic and Ohio Avenues in Atlantic City.

Partnerships – High Schools

- Academics will be offering Math Boot Camps and English ALP courses this spring at seven area high schools thanks to the College Readiness Now (CRN) VI grant through the Center for Student Success of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC).

Workforce Development

- Dr. Gaba, Jean McAlister, and Dean Natalie Devonish met with Marty Small, Mayor of Atlantic City, to discuss creating a partnership between the College and Atlantic City. This spring, the College will begin training for all Atlantic City municipal employees and develop customized departmental training as needed. Additionally, the city agreed to promote CCOG, tuition-free college programming as well as both workforce and credit programs.

- Dr. Gaba and Dr. Katz attended the *Wind Institute Community College Roundtable* with representatives from the State of New Jersey and New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC). The group will be exploring workforce needs and community college partnerships for this emerging industry.
- The Cape May County Campus will offer five cooking classes through Workforce Development this Spring, including "The Days of Wine and Chocolate" in their refurbished kitchen. This is possible because of the coordination between the Academy of Culinary Arts, Workforce Development, and Facilities.

Professional Development

- Faculty Professional Development Day was held on January 17, 2020. The morning session included panel presentations on *Student Mental Health* and *Student Advising*. The afternoon consisted of faculty and staff sharing their expertise in a number of "Best Practices" workshops.
- One hundred ten (110) faculty and staff attended Adjunct Onboarding sessions on January 9 and 15. The adjuncts had an opportunity to meet with department coordinators and new adjuncts were oriented to the College by Professor Sue DePhilippis, from the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. The second annual Adjunct Academy is scheduled for February 29, 2020.

Retention Initiatives

- The Men of Atlantic Cape (MAC) program is being expanded beyond the Mays Landing Campus to include the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. MAC is a recruitment, retention and mentoring program for minority males. The welcome and initial meeting will be held Monday, February 10, 12:30pm. Pizza and drinks will be served.
- A Bi-lingual ESL Navigator began on January 6 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus to support ESL students with their transition from non-credit to credit programs.

Technology Upgrades

- The college is investing \$220,000, through Chapter 12 funding, to improve WIFI capability all three campuses. This project is led by Sandi Greco, Director of Systems and Hardware Projects.
- Through the CCOG planning grant, Atlantic Cape purchased a chatbot program that was launched last year. This artificial intelligence tool answers questions for website users via a chat box within the website page and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Since September, there have been over 3,000 conversations. Thus far, the chatbot has been available on Admissions, Financial Aid, and Academics webpages; next week, the chatbot will be installed to the homepage, so the technology will be visible to all users.

Foundation

- Dr. Gaba and the Atlantic Cape Foundation Board hosted the *Donor Appreciation Holiday Reception* on December 4, 2019 in the Student Center. The event, sponsored by OceanFirst Bank, was beautifully catered by the Academy of Culinary Arts.
- The donors enjoyed musical performances by Andrew Hink, Adjunct Instructor of Music, and student Ludovico Menegon. The donors heard the inspirational stories of Nursing student and scholarship recipient Joelle Morley and of Nursing alumna, scholarship recipient, and current Assistant Professor of Nursing, Erin DeLong. These success stories highlighted for the donors how their contributions to the Atlantic Cape Foundation make an immense impact, not only individual students, but on our entire community.

Legislative Advocacy

- Dr. Gaba and members of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) met with the State Treasurer to advocate for New Jersey's community colleges and for a state increase to operational funding for the sector.