

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: October 27, 2020
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

Campus Restart

- The Health and Safety Committee was created as required by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education's (OSHE) Return to Work Plans. The committee has been charged with reviewing compliance with the college's Return to Campus Plan, evaluating existing protocols, and recommending new protocols for the Spring Semester.
- Student Study Hall space is now available on the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. Rooms 141 and 142 have been temporarily converted into learning space for students who are unable to create quiet space within their homes. Additional space is also available in the cafeteria.

Commencement

- We held a successful Virtual Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2020 back in June, and plans were in progress for a traditional in-person ceremony in December. However, due to the uncertainty presented by COVID-19, the in-person Commencement scheduled for December 5 has been cancelled.

Technology Upgrades

- The Atlantic Cape Community College Wireless Upgrade project for all three campuses has been completed. The new wireless infrastructure provides higher bandwidth / performance and allows students, faculty and staff to access the internet seamlessly without the need to continue to authenticate to the wireless system.

- The IT department is continuing to design and configure the Ellucian Ethos cloud platform. The new platform will provide future data analytics, improved reporting, and the foundation for future Single Sign On capabilities. The project will be complete within the next 3 weeks.
- Loaner Laptops and Verizon Internet HotSpots continue to be distributed to students for remote distance learning opportunities. The program has been well received by the students.

Workforce Development

- Workforce training staff continue to work with local business and industry and the community to provide residents with professional development and community education.
- Workforce Development Fall training and workshops are strong with 12 Paramedics in our third cohort and 21 Emergency Medical Technicians. Our Table Games are also in progress.
- We are happy to report that to date we have 100 participants taking advantage of 14 Professional and Community Education programs this fall.

Community Relations

NAACP Atlantic City Branch

- Dr. Natalie Devonish, Dean of Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Workforce Development, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the NAACP Atlantic City Branch for 2021. The NAACP's mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.
- Dr. Devonish was featured as a guest speaker on the Atlantic City Chapter NAACP webcast, which aired live on September 22, 2020. The episode focused on the importance of community college and preparing families for opportunities.

Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia

- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, was invited by the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia to conduct a 10-minute virtual presentation on October 2, 2020, on the educational opportunities and services Atlantic Cape has to offer to the Latino/Mexican community in the South Jersey area. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Atlantic City Arts Foundation

- Atlantic Cape has once again partnered with the Atlantic City Arts Foundation and their “Chalk About AC” annual event from October 16 - October 30, which is a city-wide event inviting the community to come together to create chalk artwork in Atlantic City, encouraging positive perceptions of the city.

Jewish Family Services (JFS)

- Atlantic Cape has partnered with Jewish Family Services (JFS) in their Bridges Program, a program helping youth to transition from high school to post-secondary education or careers. JFS staff will work to connect participants to job, training, apprenticeships, employment, certification programs, higher education, and the military. The target population is Atlantic City residents that have a documented disability.
- Atlantic Cape’s Worthington Atlantic City Campus, in conjunction with our Center for Accessibility (CFA), have created a referral pathway guide for JFS case managers to utilize to successfully register students with disabilities into our credit or career programs.

Cape May County Caring for Kids

- The Cape May County Campus partnered with Cape May County’s Caring for Kids, a local nonprofit seeking to empower parents to build healthy families, to host the organization’s annual “Trunk or Treat” event in the campus parking lot on October 21, 2020.
- To comply with COVID restrictions, this year’s event was a drive through in which participants stayed in their cars while volunteers distributed bags of candy to approximately 500 families. In addition to candy, 250 bags of masks

(donated by Cape May County's Coalition for a Safe Community) were distributed with Atlantic Cape literature.

Public Appearances

Invest: South Jersey 2020 Virtual Conference

- Dr. Gaba spoke on the panel for “Innovation and Adaptation: What This Could Mean for Education Post-Pandemic” at the Invest: South Jersey 2020 virtual conference on October 8, 2020 to an audience of approximately 380 people.
- The full conference can be viewed [here](#).

NGA / AACC Reskilling and Recovery Network

- Dr. Gaba joined Dr. Aaron Fichtner, President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, in presenting on the Pathway and Skills Collaboratives to the National Governors Association (NGA) / American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Reskilling and Recovery Network on October 21, 2020.
- The mission of the Pathway and Skills Collaboratives is to create a statewide network of education and workforce preparation that is industry-driven, partnership-based and focused on equity and inclusion.
- Dr. Gaba highlighted efforts at Atlantic Cape that connect to the statewide efforts for recovery and reskilling.

Faculty Recognitions

Lindback Award

- Richard Russell, Assistant Professor of English, has been selected for this year's *Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award*.
- The Lindback Award, endowed by the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation of Philadelphia, is awarded to an Atlantic Cape faculty member who has significantly enhanced the process of student learning; affected the motivation to learn; inspired a greater interest in academic pursuit; and influenced the lives of students in a meaningful way.

Professor Emeritus

- As detailed in Resolution #36, the Board of Trustees will be asked to grant Professor Emeritus Status to Daniel Thoren, retired Professor of Government and Business Administration. The rank of Professor Emeritus is a great honor granted to retired members of the faculty in recognition of significantly superior service and contributions to the College in the areas of teaching effectiveness, professional contributions, and support to the College and its community.
- Some of the most recent Professor Emeriti approved by the Board include the esteemed retired faculty Dr. Louise Kaplan, Judith Matsunobu, Tom Brown, and Wallace Kaenzig.