

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: November 29, 2022
(Mays Landing Campus)

Academics

Cape May Point Science Center

- In July 2022, the college signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Cape May Point Science Center* to conduct a needs assessment of college programs at the Center.
- The Cape May Point Science Center is located in the former St. Mary's by the Sea building, which the Center purchased after the Sisters of Saint Joseph announced plans to demolish the building and return the property back to nature, ensuring the land couldn't be developed.
- The Cape May Point Science Center, established by the Mullock Family, will serve as environmental center focused on education, research, and advocacy, and we are proud to be an educational partner.
- As part of our agreement with the Cape May Point Science Center, Atlantic Cape will:
 - Conduct a needs assessment for the college programs at the Center. The needs assessment will include curriculum, space needs, equipment, supplies, costs, duration, etc.
 - Identify and be responsible for obtaining any licensing, permitting, and/or credentialing that is necessary to operate Atlantic Cape programs at the Center.
 - Explore joint programming associated with the Center.
 - Explore developing potential courses of study in the areas of marine biology, environmental science and other related topics at the Center.

- Explore joint marketing opportunities for Atlantic Cape programs and Cape May Point Science Center programs conducted at the Center or at the college's Cape May County Campus.
- As a part of the college's partnership with the *Cape May Point Science Center*, a guided beach combing event was held on November 5th at the Science Center. **Professor Richard Perello** was the lead faculty member for this event. **Dr. Terri-Lynn Hamby**, Director of Science Laboratories, worked with Professor Perello and **Professor Cabarle** to organize observation of specimens collected during the beachcombing walk under the microscopes at the Science Center. The event was open to the public. About 44 people attended the event, including 19 current biology students.

Media Day

- *Media Day* was successfully held on the Mays Landing Campus on October 28th. Professor Bojan Zilovic led this event. About 100 students from five high schools participated in hands-on workshops relating to our Media Studies program. The lunch was sponsored by the Atlantic Cape Foundation from Restaurant Gala raffle proceeds.

Astronomy Night

- Astronomy students will be hosting *Astronomy Night* for Earth Science students on November 29th at the Mays Landing Campus to improve academic engagement of the students across the course.

Mathematical Association of America-NJ Chapter Annual Conference

- The *Mathematical Association of America-NJ chapter's* annual conference was hosted by Atlantic Cape at the Mays Landing Campus on October 22nd. Professor Lee Collins was the lead faculty for this event. About 60 faculty members and students from various institutions of higher education in New Jersey attended the event and participated in discussions and presentations in advanced mathematics topics.

Athletics

- Atlantic Cape is excited to announce the addition of our tenth Athletic Sport, Crew/Rowing to begin Spring 2023. The relaunch of Atlantic Cape's crew team was inspired by local philanthropist Eric Toppo, who will be the head coach. The college, in partnership with Mr. Toppo, will work with the Foundation and Athletics to launch a campaign to raise funds to operate the program for the next four years. As of today, \$15,000 has been donated to the Foundation to support uniforms and other supplies. Additionally, two boats and other ancillary equipment have been donated. The College has added Esports, Men's Volleyball, and Men's and Women's Soccer during the FY22 academic year.
- The Foundation is now accepting online donations for the athletic teams on the college's athletics webpage, making it easier than ever for faculty, staff, and community members to support our student athletes. One can select the sport that they would like to sponsor.

Student Support

- The Community Food Bank of New Jersey donated chickens, turkeys, and holiday side boxes that were distributed to students for the holidays on November 14th on all three campuses. In addition, we received 50 gift cards of \$50 each. Krista Fitzsimons, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach, also procured a dozen turkeys for Cape May County students.
- There was a holiday food distribution for students on November 10th as part of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.
- The Worthington Atlantic City Campus hosted a Thanksgiving "Dinner in a Box" food distribution for the community on November 18th. The event was co-hosted/sponsored with South Jersey Family Medical Centers, Amerigroup, Horizon BCBS NJ, Oceanside Family Centers and the Community Food Bank of South Jersey. Through this partnership, we were able to give away 300 food boxes. A similar event for the Christmas holiday is being planned with the Fellowship of Churches.

Community Outreach

- Dr. Natalie Devonish hosted a workshop and tour for the *NAACP Youth Council* where she provided a presentation on what the college has to offer and provided a tour for both credit and non-credit programs.

Student Engagement

- Dr. Gaba hosted “*Pizza with the President*” on all three campuses the week of November 14th to give students an opportunity to ask questions and share their college experience. At the Cape May County Campus, Dr. Gaba met with the first cohort of culinary students at the campus. Students shared that they love the friendly and helpful environment that provides “hope for the future.”
- As part of the Culinary Arts practical course work, the culinary students at the Cape May County Campus provided a free breakfast buffet for all staff and students on November 17th.
- The Cape May County Campus hosted a guitarist and karaoke event on November 16th as a fun event to promote cultural awareness.
- Student Engagement hosted many activities to celebrate culture and provide awareness for students and staff. Events included: Veteran Days, National Coming Out Day, Breast Cancer Awareness Day, Mental Health Awareness Day, and Cultural Awareness Day.
- Atlantic Cape hosted *World Mental Health Day* on October 10th and 25th with Nathan Evans Jr., a Distinguished Alumnus. SGA hosted a discussion on the topic of mental wellness and identifying triggers and stress management. Twenty-five (25) students and staff attended. Evans facilitated the “*Let’s Talk Tuesday*” discussion where students opened up about stressors and time management. The students requested another session in December before finals week.
- The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) and Student Support Services (SSS) programs hosted the college's first *PREP Rally* on October 25th. The *PREP Rally* provided registration and resource support for current students enrolled in both EOF and SSS Programs. Resources included Financial Aid application renewal, pre-advisement, and student engagement/club activities.

- Atlantic Cape's Center for Student Success celebrated and recognized First Generation faculty and staff. The event, which was started in 2017 by the Center for First-Generation Student Success, featured a First-Gen celebrity photo op, photo booth, open mic/karaoke, and air-brushed t-shirts, and allowed students to interact with fellow First-Gen peers and faculty members who wrote a new chapter in their respective family stories by attending or graduating from college.
- The Center for Student Success (CSS) sponsored the Student Government Association's (SGA) *Homecoming Tailgate Party* on November 10th with various activities, including wearing school colors. The week-long festivities concluded with a trip to iFly Indoor Skydiving in King of Prussia, PA.
- SGA hosted a *Drive-in Movie Night* on October 27th. The event also included a collection for the Food Pantry.

Workforce Development

- The *New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Infrastructure & Energy Collaborative Meeting* was hosted by Atlantic Cape at the Atlantic City Convention Center on November 2nd. Dr. Gaba delivered welcoming remarks and Sherwood Taylor, Senior Director of Workforce Development, gave a presentation on the college's Wind Training Center.
- New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities is an unprecedented education and training pathways initiative that will innovate the state's workforce for residents, businesses, and the state economy for years to come.
- Atlantic Cape is the administrative lead for the of Center of Workforce Innovation for Renewable Energy to develop new curriculum and strengthen existing education and workforce training pathways aligned with the needs of employers to build an innovative workforce.

Foundation

- Following the Foundation's campaign, in which donors purchased engraved dedication bricks, the brick memorial area in front of the Student Center on the Mays Landing Campus is complete. The memorial areas at the

Worthington Atlantic City and Cape May County campuses are in progress. The brick campaign over \$7,300.

Professional Development

- The Center for Student Success held their *Fall Professional Development Training* on October 21st to cover topics such as dealing with a student crisis and understanding the current student.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

- **Dr. Josette Katz**, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, was recognized with the *2022 Exemplary Leader Award* by the Chair Academy and was honored at the national conference in Scottsdale, AZ on November 7th.
- **Jamal Edwards**, Athletics Director, has been appointed to serve on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee for NJCAA Region XIX. He will play a crucial role in supporting DEI initiative for student athletes in the region.