

## President's Report

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: April 22, 2025  
(Mays Landing Campus)



### *President's Distinguished & Young Alumni Awards*

- The Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation recognized six members of the College's family of alumni during the Annual President's Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Awards Dinner on April 3 at Carême's. Honored this year were *Distinguished Alumni Award* recipients **Dr. Karen Brundage-Johnson '15** and **Raymond Williams '72**; *Community Service Award* recipients **Walter Johnson, III '93** and **Regina McCann Larsen '74**; and *Young Alumni Achievement Award* recipients **Alana Maldonado '18** and **Chef Kyle Timpson '16**.

### *Foundation*

- Atlantic Cape's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Restaurant Gala *The Gala Goes Broadway*, which honored the glamour of New York City's Broadway theater, raised over \$305,000 in student scholarships. Over 900 guests attended the event, including Kelsey Grammer of "Frasier" and "Cheers," and ACA alumnus and Hell's Kitchen Season 23 (Head Chefs Only) winner Kyle Timpson.

### *Student Athlete Accomplishments*

- Dillion Bacchetta, a Men's Soccer player, was awarded the prestigious *Transfer Trustee Scholarship* at Division I Rider University on March 28. Dillion is

pursuing a major in Finance with a minor in Sociology and currently holds a 3.8 GPA.

- Jeremy Ellis received a full scholarship offer from Jackson State University to continue his basketball career at an NCAA Division I-level institution on April 2. This opportunity is a testament to Jeremy's talent, hard work, and commitment on and off the court. His achievement reflects the strength of the college's athletic development and highlights the pathway from our program to top-tier collegiate competition.

#### *Student Success Story*

- **Rita Smith** was a single mother working two jobs when she started her student career at Rutgers at Atlantic Cape in 2009. She will graduate this spring with her Bachelor's degree in Public Health this May. Rita's student career faced many life changes and challenges of juggling simultaneously school, life, health, and work, but she never gave up on her dream of pursuing her education. Her hard work and dedication to her dreams are an inspiration, and they remind us of the importance of creating opportunities with our university partners so we can help our community grow and achieve their educational goals.

#### *Staff Spotlight*

- **Caesar Niglio, Director of Enterprise Applications, Michael Le, Enterprise Analyst, and Jeffery Wenzel, Director of Restricted Accounting**, presented at the *Ellucian Live 2025* conference in Orlando, Florida, from April 6 to 9. Caesar and Jeff presented on "Self-Service Procurement: Planning, Implementation, and Management," and Michael and Caesar presented on "Ellucian Experience: A Journey to Implementation."

#### *Leadership Spotlight*

- **Dr. Gaba and Dr. Natalie Devonish, the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management**, spoke on the "Community College Voice" Podcast with Tabitha Whissemore on April 15 at the American Association of Community Colleges Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. They discussed the

Inlet Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Atlantic Cape's revitalization efforts to transform Atlantic City's Inlet Neighborhood.



### **Community Outreach – Atlantic County**

- Throughout April, the Office of Community Outreach participated in the Children's Health Fair in Egg Harbor Township, providing 150 hot dogs and promoting health resources to families. The college also hosted the Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia for the fifth consecutive year, offering essential services such as consular documents and immigration assistance to the local community. This year, we were able to service 180 people at the Consulate compared to 160 serviced last year. Additionally, Atlantic Cape sponsored an informational table at the Oceanside Family Success Center's "Spring Egg Hunt Event," where families enjoyed festivities while learning about educational opportunities and community support through Inlet CDC.

### **Community Outreach – Cape May**

- Atlantic Cape hosted an Open House event on Wednesday, April 9, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM at our Cape May County Campus. The event allowed prospective students and community members to tour the campus, meet faculty and staff, explore academic and career programs, and learn about financial aid options. The Open House aimed to support enrollment efforts and engage potential students through personalized guidance and informational resources.
- The Cape May County campus hosted its first *Business Day* event on April 4, which included nearly 50 students from Lower Cape May Regional and Middle Township high schools who attended workshops aimed at introducing them to various business career pathways. The event featured a keynote speaker, Brady Schoenrock, the chief operating officer of Maypoint Hospitality, who

shared his journey on how he came into his current position and stressed the importance of a college education. Students also attended workshop sessions where they learned more about real estate, landscaping, craft brewing, and the restaurant industry, and a workshop geared for high school girls to learn strong leadership skills and take control of their future.

### **Cape May County bizHub**

- After the success of the 4-part Business Symposium that occurred from the end of January to early February, the Cape May bizHub created more opportunities for small business owners and entrepreneurs to learn how to utilize social media for their business. The bizHub hosted the second session of a new four-part series of workshops, titled “Social Media Workshop 2: Effective Ways to Market and Grow Engagement on Social Media,” on April 18. The workshop demonstrated how small business owners or entrepreneurs could effectively market their small businesses and grow their digital footprint to reach new potential customers.

### **Student Engagement**

- The Student Government Association (SGA) and Student Engagement hosted an *Earth Day* celebration on all three campuses on April 22. Through educational materials and interactive activities, students learned how they can contribute to protecting the environment. The events also featured live music, food, and eco-friendly giveaways.

### **Athletics**

- *Athletics Signing Day* took place on our Mays Landing Campus on April 21. Students who have committed to attend Atlantic Cape proudly announced their decisions to the public. Surrounded by family and supporters, each student participated in a ceremonial photo opportunity to celebrate their next step as student-athletes in Atlantic Cape’s Athletics Programs.

## **Recruitment**

- Atlantic Cape hosted its annual *College Awareness Day* on April 11. The event welcomed over 250 local high school students to our Mays Landing campus. These students had the opportunity to explore Atlantic Cape's guided pathways programs through engaging presentations by our faculty members, followed by a series of breakout workshops designed to introduce them to various career fields. Participating schools included Atlantic County Institute of Technology, Atlantic City High School, Chartertech High School, Eagle Academy, Middle Township High School, NJ Give Something Back Program, Oakcrest High School, Ocean City High School, and Pleasantville High School.