

 **President's Report**

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TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba  
DATE: March 23, 2021  
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

### **COVID-19 Update**

#### *Year in Review*

- It was just over one year ago, on March 18, 2020, that the college transitioned to remote operations in order to protect the college community and to comply with Executive Order 104, issued by Governor Murphy, ordering institutions of higher education to cease in-person instruction.
- Over the past year, the college has supported our community during this difficult and unprecedented time through a number of initiatives:
  - Workforce Development offered complementary professional development workshops to the community
  - Distributed \$1.98M in CARES Act emergency relief funds to students in 2020
  - Donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to AtlantiCare and Shore Medical Center early in the pandemic
  - Food Pantries at all three campuses remained open for curbside pickup and individual appointments to support our students in need
  - Food boxes were distributed to students throughout the year in partnership with the college's Food Pantry, the FoodBank of South Jersey, and the Atlantic Cape Community College Education Association (ACCCEA)
  - Collaborated with several community organizations, including the *Hispanic Association of Atlantic County* and the *Fellowship of Churches*, to support community food distributions

- “Food for Finals” event in December 2020 provided meals for students on campus at the Worthington Atlantic City and Mays Landing campuses
- Alumni Association delivered cookies to staff at local hospitals
- In 2020 the college purchased and issued to students in need over \$14,600 in gift cards to local grocery stores
- Hosted the first vaccination site in Atlantic County at the Mays Landing Campus
- Nursing students served their clinical rotations at the Mega Vaccination Site at the Atlantic City Convention Center
- The *Student Laptop Loaner Program* helped to ensure that all students had laptops, webcams, and internet access
- A Pass/Withdrawal grading option was created for students for Spring 2020 due to the challenges of moving from face-to-face instruction to online instruction
- The Academy of Culinary Arts prepared several “cooking at home” videos for the community during lockdown
- Offered “Let’s Talk Tuesdays” for students, focusing initially on mental health issues
- Hosted socially-distanced outdoor events for the community

#### *Nursing Students at Mega Vaccination Site*

- Atlantic Cape nursing students have been assisting at the Mega Vaccination Site at the Atlantic City Convention Center and were featured in an article which appeared on the front page of the March 6 issue of the *Press of Atlantic City*, as well as a video on the Press’ website. The article and video detailed the student's experiences as COVID-19 vaccinators at the Mega Vaccination Site in Atlantic City.
- The college received a letter from a member of the community who mentioned that they had the pleasure of meeting some of our nursing students at the Mega Vaccination Site and noted how professional, compassionate, and empathetic the students were, and that they made the visit a positive experience.

## **Community College Month**

- Community College Month will be recognized nationally in April. The primary goal of Community College Month is to increase awareness and understanding of the value and impact of community colleges both locally and nationally through grassroots, localized outreach.

## **New Jersey Offshore Wind Training Challenge**

- Atlantic Cape is applying for the New Jersey Offshore Wind Training Challenge Grant through the New Jersey Economic Development Administration and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. If awarded, this grant will provide up to \$3 million in seed funding to establish a Global Wind Organization (GWO) certified Basic Safety and Sea Survival Training program, including a supporting facility addition at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. This industry-recognized safety credential is required for a number of jobs in the offshore wind industry. Atlantic Cape is the lead applicant on this grant opportunity in partnership with Stockton University, and we are garnering support from union and business leaders.

## **Student Support**

### *Food Pantry*

- The Food Pantry, in partnership with the Atlantic Cape Community College Education Association (ACCCEA) distributed boxes of food to our students in need on March 9. There are several food distribution events planned this semester, and the theme for this distribution was comfort food.
- The Food Pantries at all three campuses are well-stocked and we continue to fight food insecurity at Atlantic Cape through the pantries and distribution of gift cards to local grocery stores.

### *Emergency Book Funds*

- As of 3/17/2021, we have awarded a total of \$50,450.00 to aid 121 students in obtaining course materials.

## **New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) Democracy Conversation Project**

- Atlantic Cape is one of eight community colleges selected to participate in the *Democracy Conversation Project* based on the merit of a proposal we submitted to NJCH in late January.
- The first event funded through the New Jersey Council for the Humanities Democracy Conversation Project grant will be a virtual discussion panel titled *Youth, Power and Policy*, scheduled for March 24, 5:30-7 PM.
- The focus of the conversation will be the role young people have played in building movements and influencing policy creation from the mid-twentieth century to the present. Attendees and panelists of Youth Power and Policy will be invited to return to *In the Weeds*, a sequel Zoom event set for March 31, 5:30-6:30 PM. This is designed to provide space to dialog about the real-life application of the “big picture” concepts explored in *Youth, Power and Policy*. Those interested in attending *Youth, Power and Policy* must register [here](#).
- Dr. Augustine Nigro, Coordinator of Arts & Humanities and Associate Professor of History and Government, will moderate a discussion with the following panelists:
  - Dr. Ben Dworkin, Director of the Rowan Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship (RIPPAC) at Rowan University.
  - Yolanda Melville, Esq., President, NAACP NextGen Alumni Leadership Council, Member of the Legal Committee of the NAACP National Board of Directors; Board Member, Atlantic County Coalition for a Safe Community
  - Alma Albarran Martinez, Atlantic Cape Alumna, Alumni Member of Atlantic Cape’s Board of Trustees, Advocate for the Dream Act.
  - Richard Gibbons, Associate Professor of History and Government
- Aside from funding the virtual programming, the NJCH award will be applied to development of a Library Guide and the purchase of reading resources relative to the theme of *Youth, Power and Policy*.

## **Student Accomplishments**

- Atlantic Cape student Jason Smith took Professor Effie Russell’s English Composition II course in 2019, and Professor Russell entered his research

paper in a national writing contest with Norton Publishers. We are very proud to report that Norton has published Jason's essay in the textbook *They Say, I Say* by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. Norton is an esteemed publisher of academic texts, and this textbook is widely respected and used by English faculty at colleges and universities throughout the United States. In the textbook, the blurb mentions that Jason is a student at Atlantic Cape Community College. Norton gave Jason his copyright and \$300.

### **Public Relations**

- Dr. Gaba was interviewed on the *NAACP Speaks* radio program on March 2. She discussed the college's response to the pandemic; financial aid opportunities for students, including CCOG, NJ Stars, and scholarships; and workforce training opportunities for the community.

### **Construction Update**

#### *D & K Buildings*

- Renovations in K Building (Academics/Information Technology Services) are completed and staff have moved in.
- Renovations in D Building (Daniel Leeds Hall-Library and Richard Somers Hall-Instructional Technology/Continuing Education) started in October and the targeted completion date is April 30.

#### *Public Safety Building*

- The Public Safety Building was demolished and construction of the new building began in February. The targeted completion date is May 14.

#### *Campus Security Camera Project*

- The Security Camera upgrade project is currently underway. This project will increase the total number of surveillance cameras on the three campuses by 152% (from 102 to 257).
- Work at the Cape May County Campus is nearing completion, and work at the Mays Landing Campus has begun with the Worthington Atlantic City Campus to follow.

- Targeted completion dates are:
  - Cape May County Campus - March 31
  - Mays Landing Campus - June 30
  - Worthington Atlantic City Campus – August 31