

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: May 25, 2021
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

Commencement

Drive Through Commencement - 5/20/2021

- The Drive-Through Commencement for the Class of 2021 on May 20 was a great success. One hundred fifty (150) graduates and their families participated and were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments.
- The graduates were congratulated and recognized by members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Gaba, and the President's Cabinet. They also received gifts from the Student Government Association (SGA), the Alumni Association, and Rutgers at Atlantic Cape.
- Many thanks to the Commencement Planning Committee, as well as the faculty and staff, who volunteered to create a memorable experience for our graduating students and their families.

Virtual Graduation – 6/9/2021

- Atlantic Cape's Virtual Graduation for the Class of 2021 will stream live on June 9 at 7PM at atlantic.edu/graduation and the college's YouTube channel.

Grants

- The American Rescue Plan's (ARP) HEERF III allocations were announced by the US Department of Education on May 11, 2021. Atlantic Cape's allocation totaling \$14,682,301 is as follows:
 - \$7,529,218 Minimum Amount for Student Emergency Aid

- \$7,153,083 Maximum Amount for Institutional Portion
- \$14,682,301 Total Allocation
- Per the guidelines, more than half of the funds will be used for emergency grants to students, prioritizing students with exceptional needs.
- Strategies for dispersing the funds to support vulnerable students and to improve retention and reengagement of students in accordance with the grant guidelines are being developed. One example of re-engaging students is the discharge of student debt accrued during the pandemic so students can re-enroll, continue their education, or obtain their official transcript. The funds will also be used to continue to monitor and suppress the coronavirus and to provide outreach to financial aid students.
- The performance period is for one year from the award, or May 2022.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

- All staff will be reporting to their respective campuses in person to work (conforming to all NJ State/CDC guidelines) by June 21, which is a large step in returning to an atmosphere of "normalcy", enabling students and staff to enjoy the superior in-person student learning experience and services provided by Atlantic Cape.

Advisory Boards

- The Advisory Boards for the Science, Fine Arts, Education, Engineering, and Mathematics programs met in April and May. The Advisory Boards are comprised of diverse groups of educational partners and leaders from local businesses and industries. They provide valuable input that helps ensure the college's programming continues to meet our community's needs.

Technology Upgrades

- The Loaner Laptop program is continuing to provide essential computing resources for students. The demand for the program is increasing as a result of economic hardships. Total laptops distributed to date is 350. The college is

investigating the expansion of the program using Higher Education Relief Funding.

Community Relations

- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, has joined the Anti-Hunger Strategy Groups of Atlantic City and Hamilton Township on behalf of Atlantic Cape to collaborate with community partners in supporting our communities with food insecurities. This group is led by Hunger Free New Jersey, a leading advocacy organization working to end hunger in New Jersey.
- Atlantic Cape participated in CAPE HOPE's annual *Spring Art Showcase* in Rio Grande on May 1; we provided information regarding educational opportunities and career training programs. CAPE HOPE (Cape May County, NJ) is a faith-based advocacy organization focusing on homelessness, and the prevention of homelessness, to single adults, children, families, and the elderly of Cape May County.
- Atlantic Cape joined the Atlantic County's Sheriff's Office in their *Hope One Atlantic County Spring Fling* resource fair on May 6 at Center City Park in Atlantic City. Atlantic Cape provided information regarding educational opportunities and career training programs available at Atlantic Cape, as well as information for the Atlantic City Works Training Program sponsored by CRDA.
- Dr. Natalie Devonish, Dean of the Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Workforce Development, conducted a virtual information session for the parents of the Atlantic Community Charter School students on May 6. Dean Devonish connected with parents and provided information regarding educational resources and workforce training opportunities.
- Victor Moreno, Manager of Community Outreach, moderated a Virtual Information Session in Spanish with the Commission of Motor Vehicles, the Governor's Office, and local community organizations regarding information on driver licenses for undocumented individuals.

- Atlantic Cape hosted the Mexican Consulate on May 22 and May 23 at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus. The Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia will provide service to nationals who reside in the Atlantic City and South Jersey area with passports and consular identification.
- Atlantic Cape sponsored a Supporting NJ Dreamers “*DACA Hybrid Information Session*” at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus on May 24. This session was presented by the NJ Consortium for Immigrant Children in partnership with the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County (HAAC) and Latino Motion. The NJ Consortium for Immigrant Children’s mission is to work with New Jersey’s young immigrants and their allies to advance their full, fearless participation in our society.

Workforce Development

- Ten (10) Borgata employees completed their 30-hour ESL program focusing on workplace vocabulary focusing on housekeeping, food and beverage, public areas, and restaurant terminology on April 15. The graduation celebration was attended by Melonie Johnson, Borgata's President and Chief Operating Officer, and the participants' supervisors. Workforce Development at Atlantic Cape, continues to have a strong relationship with Borgata and many employers, helping them focus on the skills needs of their employees.
- Workforce Development will be offering the NJ Cannabis Certified Training program online this fall. The training is designed for all entry-level jobs in the cannabis industry, including dispensary training and entry-level cultivation and lab technician training. The program is delivered in 15 hours over five sessions.
- Bally's Casino Hotel conducted auditions at the Casino Career Institute on April 2. Nine (9) table games students auditioned and received job offers from Bally's. Our relationship with Bally's continues under their new ownership.
- The first Healthworks Apprenticeship cohort under the Scaling Apprenticeship Grant began on April 21. Cape Regional is participating in the grant by including ten employees in our Certified Clinical Medical Assistant program. After completing the training, the participants will begin their apprenticeship hours with Cape Regional. After six months, they will receive an hourly

increase and an additional increase after completing their apprenticeship competencies. The program is being delivered at our Cape May County Campus.

Athletics

Archery

- After finishing 4th in the Eastern Regional Archery Championship on April 24-25 and being named to the all-Eastern Regional team, Atlantic Cape archer Matthew Byrnes competed in the *United States Collegiate Championships* in Richmond, Virginia on May 20-23. Byrnes competed against archers from universities such as Texas A&M University, James Madison University, and Columbia University, and earned 6th place (Compound Men).
- At the United States Collegiate Championships, Byrnes was named to the 2021 Collegiate All-American Archery Team and the Academic All-American Team, an additional honor that he earned due to his tournament scores and excellent GPA.

Baseball

- Atlantic Cape men's baseball team played in the 2021 DIII Mid-Atlantic District Baseball Tournament May 21-23. While they lost the double elimination tournament against #1 seeded Rowan College of South Jersey (Gloucester), they accomplished a ranking of #10 nationally in the NJCAA DIII for the first time in decades (during week 4). The Bucs ended the season #24 with a respectable 13-12 season.

Student Accomplishments

Sigma Kappa Delta Honor Society

- The Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society held their annual induction ceremony virtually on April 27, 2021. Nineteen (19) students were inducted into the honor society. The ceremony included remarks by Dr. Gaba and Dr. Denise Coulter, Dean of Liberal Studies.

- Sigma Kappa Delta is coordinated by Vickie Melograno, Assistant Professor of English.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

- The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held their annual induction ceremony virtually on May 4, 2021. The ceremony included remarks by Dr. Gaba and Dr. Denise Coulter, Dean of Liberal Studies. The keynote speaker was Dr. Dennis Kelly '78, Senior VP and Chief Enrollment Officer of Wilmington College in Ohio. One hundred eighty-five (185) students have joined the honor society this year.
- Phi Theta Kappa is coordinated by Effie Russell, Professor of English, and Richard Russell, Assistant Professor of English.