

 **President's Report**

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**TO:** Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Dr. Barbara Gaba  
**DATE:** May 26, 2020  
(Zoom Video Conference Call)

### **CARES Act**

- The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (CARES Act) has allocated funding to colleges and universities to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives have been disrupted by COVID-19, many of whom are facing financial challenges and struggling to make ends meet. Atlantic Cape was awarded approximately \$3.9 million, half of which goes directly to students. Thanks to the efforts of our Finance and Financial Aid departments, to date we have awarded \$1,011,400 to 1,221 eligible students.
- The U.S. Department of Education has allocated an additional \$192,877 in grant funding to the college through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP).

### **Foundation**

- The Foundation has raised more than \$15,000 in Emergency Funds to students thanks to the generosity of faculty, staff, students, and our community at large during our recent GivingTuesdayNOW! campaign. Additionally, many of our sponsors, those who purchased tables and individual seats for the Restaurant Gala, which was canceled due to COVID-19, have given generously to scholarships and Emergency Funds.

### **Legislative Advocacy**

- Dr. Gaba and Jean McAlister met with Senator Booker's Office on May 7 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the college and the unprecedented challenges faced by students (such as food insecurity). Dr. Gaba also advocated

for additional financial assistance needed because of COVID-19. While we are very grateful for the CARES Act funding, it carries with it many restrictions and does not help fund the gap we expect in our operating budget due to lower than budgeted enrollment and reduced State funding expected for next year.

### **College-Wide Meeting**

- On May 21, Dr. Gaba hosted a *Virtual College-Wide Meeting* via Zoom with approximately 250 faculty and staff. An update was provided on the college's CARES Act funding and spending plan, Foundation fundraising, plans for Commencement, technology upgrades, construction plans, marketing, the Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG), and the college budget.
- A question and answer period followed which resulted in positive discussion about moving the college forward.

### **Commencement**

- It is of paramount importance to Atlantic Cape to formally recognize graduates for their achievements and hard work. However, it became clear that holding the traditional Commencement Ceremony on May 21 with a large gathering of people would not be in the best interest of the safety of the graduates and their families. With that in mind, Atlantic Cape will host a *Virtual Graduation* ceremony for the Class of 2020, which will be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook and will be available through the college's website on Thursday, June 11 at 6 p.m. With input from students, faculty, and staff, the college designed the *Virtual Graduation* with all the pomp and circumstance of a traditional ceremony including keynote speakers and the acknowledgment of graduates with dedicated slides that students can design.
- Additionally, our graduates asked to have an in-person celebration when we are able. We have partnered with Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center to hold the traditional Commencement Ceremony graduates on December 5 at 11 a.m. at the Waterfront Conference Center.

## Technology Upgrades

### *Atlantic Cape Mobile App*

- As this pandemic continues, we have made a greater commitment to ensure that connecting with students, faculty, and staff is easier than ever before. After months of hard work and dedication by our Information Technology Services (ITS), Marketing, Student Affairs, and other teams, Atlantic Cape is excited to announce our new mobile app, *Atlantic Cape Connect!*
- Students can now find and register for classes, stay on top of deadlines, make payments online, connect with faculty and staff, and more. The free app is available on the Apple App Store, Google Play, and the Amazon Appstore ([atlantic.edu/mobileapp](http://atlantic.edu/mobileapp)).

## Grants

### *NSF Grant (Sub-Award)*

- As a sub-awardee with Rowan University, the college was awarded an NSF grant, *“Establishing the Foundations of Machine Self-Assessment for Real-Time Continual Learning on Edge Devices.”* As a partner in the grant, five Atlantic Cape students in the Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Field Technician Associate in Applied Science degree program will use an unmanned aircraft (drone) mounted with high definition cameras to collect images of Atlantic horseshoe crabs (*Limulus Polyphemus*), cranberries (*Oxycoccus*), and blueberries (*Cyanococcus*). The goal of the data collection is to develop datasets to be used for machine learning (specifically, object detection and counting).
- Under the direction of Atlantic Cape faculty, students will develop image acquisition plans and flight plans, and will execute data collection missions. Processed datasets will be made available online and licensed under a Public Domain Mark.

### *FY20 Perkins Equipment Extension*

- The College was granted a waiver from the Department of Education on the Perkins requirement to receive, install and have available equipment

purchased under the Perkins Grant by April 30, 2020. Due to COVID-19, we now have an extension until June 30, 2020.

### **Marketing**

- The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) will promote Atlantic Cape's 15-second promotion videos on all the screens that are running down the famous Atlantic City Boardwalk and electronic billboards in the area.

### **Community Outreach**

- The Workforce Development department hosted complimentary workshops to provide community members with information regarding workforce enhancements as well as leadership development. The six information sessions resulted in 166 registrants.
- Atlantic Cape collaborated with the *Hispanic Association of Atlantic County* to carry out two-separate food distributions. More than a 1,000 local Atlantic City families benefited from this project.
- *Fellowship of Churches* in partnership with Atlantic Cape provided food to Atlantic City residents in need. 350, 30lb boxes were distributed Saturday, April 18th and an additional 700 food boxes were distributed Saturday, May 9th.
- The college has partnered with the *Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City* to develop the College Connect program: a free summer enrichment program for Boys & Girls Club teen members. Designed for high school juniors and seniors, the program aims to increase college access, aid and grant literacy, and scholarship preparation. This program will assist first generation students and those who lack general high school to college transition information through a series of college readiness workshops, career exploration opportunities, college tours, and diverse cultural experiences.
- Atlantic Cape provided free resume writing workshops to residents and members of the *Middle Township Economic Development Council*. Three workshops were delivered via Zoom.

- A virtual information session was provided to the *Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children of Atlantic and Cape May Counties*. Over 30 youth advocates were in attendance and received a complete overview on educational resources and services available at Atlantic Cape.
- Our Chef Educators have prepared videos for cooking at home during COVID, which can be found on the College Website and social media.
  - Chef Tedeschi: Barbeque Ribs
  - Chef Chelius: Seasoned Croutons
  - Chef Wohlman: Favorite Summer Beverages
- Chef McClay hosted a webinar on May 21, 2020 for local foodservice establishments on procedures for reopening restaurants when the “stay-at-home” order is lifted. The panel of participants included David Craig from the Washington Inn representing the New Jersey Restaurant Association; Darren Mitchell, VP SBA Relationship Manager; Jill Miles, Atlantic County Board of Health; and Christina Fuentes, NJ Economic Development Authority.
- Chef Mc Clay hosted a live cooking demonstration for the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Atlantic and Cape May Counties. Thirty people attended her preparation of Pork Milanese.

### **Student and Alumni Accomplishments**

#### *Douglas Williams Profiled in Food & Wine Magazine*

- Food & Wine Magazine has named Academy of Culinary Arts alumnus Douglass Williams a Best New Chef of 2020! He is the Chef/Owner of Mida in Boston’s South End neighborhood. Food & Wine wrote, “Douglass Williams is a master of texture, almost at a molecular level. It’s deeply apparent throughout the menu at Mida, Williams’ Italian restaurant on the border of Boston’s affluent South End and Roxbury, an African American neighborhood.” The article can be viewed [here](#).

### *Gabriel Gaw Accepted to the Cleveland Institute of Music*

- Gabriel Gaw is graduating from Atlantic Cape this year and will be attending the Cleveland Institute of Music in the fall on a full scholarship. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and was a student in Honors Composition I and Honors Composition II. He plays the double bass.

### *Three Students Placed in NJALL Adult Learner Writing Contest*

- Three Atlantic Cape honors students placed in the New Jersey Association of Lifelong Learners (NJALL) Adult Learner Writing Contest.
- Alec Kyle Santos won first place in the category of non-fiction for his piece "Soul & Sound," which he wrote in Professor Stephanie Natale-Boianelli's Honors Composition I class in Fall 2018. He also won first place in the category of photography.
- Drew Robinson won second place in the category of non-fiction for his piece "Wicked Woods of the Net." He wrote this piece in Professor Stephanie Natale-Boianelli's Honors Composition I class in Fall 2019.
- Karina Gonzalez won first place in the NJALL Learning Writing Contest in the category of poetry for her piece "To Linetta." This semester she was a student in Professor Stephanie Natale-Boianelli's Honors Composition II and Professor Richard Russell's Creative Writing I.

### *Nursing*

- All 89 second-year Nursing students successfully completed their coursework and will be graduating.