

 **President's Report**

TO: Atlantic Cape Community College Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Barbara Gaba
DATE: August 22, 2023
(Mays Landing Campus)

One Stop Welcome Center

- Construction of our One Stop Welcome Center is nearing completion. The area will house our One Stop offices (including admissions, advising, bursar, financial aid, and CFA).
- The purpose of the One Stop Center is to provide a smooth enrollment experience for our students. The outdated first floor of J-building is receiving the much-needed renovations that will make it an attractive and comfortable space for our visitors, students, and staff; the physical renovation is the final step in adopting a One Stop model for student services.
- While we've made the operational changes incorporating the principles of the One Stop, which has significantly reduced the amount of time it takes for a student to complete the enrollment process, the space where our students receive these services is now undergoing a much-needed transformation.
- Once the new One Stop is complete, students will sign in to the One Stop at one central location (*with a tablet*), and then will be served by one member of staff who can assist them with their specific needs. With this model, students don't need to go from one department to the next.
- This is part of our overarching goal to improve the student experience.
- The cost of the project is \$1.6M, funded by Chapter 12.
- The project is still on target for completion on August 31, 2023 (in time for the Fall Semester). Before the semester begins, the J-building hallway will be reopened and the Bursar's Office and the Center for Accessibility (CFA) will

relocate to the new space. The One-Stop staff will occupy the new space beginning on September 11th to avoid any interruption of service during the drop/add period.

Community Partnerships

- Atlantic Cape hosted *AtlantiCare's Community Health Fair* on Friday, August 11th on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus in support of AtlantiCare's HealthPlex Center for National Health Week. The HealthPlex Center cares for approximately 10,000 unique individuals a year. Atlantic Cape had the amazing opportunity to host this massive event for the third year in a row. Dr. Natalie Devonish provided welcome remarks. Over 400 individuals attended, including 40 agencies that provided healthcare, housing, health insurance enrollment and financial assistance, and other programs and services. Additionally, packaged meals, giveaways and on-the-spot COVID vaccinations were provided.
- In Fall 2022, participants of the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City had the opportunity to take an introductory aviation course offered through Atlantic Cape, thanks to a \$40,000 grant from Battelle. Those students then mentored 160 inner-city youths during the second half of the school year, exposing even more Atlantic City children and teens to the use of drones and opportunities presented by the aviation industry. The Boys and Girls Club used the Battelle grant to cover staffing costs, enrollment in the Atlantic Cape aviation course (tuition, fees, books and supplies) and purchase of equipment, including drones. Seven high school students successfully passed the aviation class and earned college credits. The program will be continued in the upcoming school year.
- Dr. Natalie Devonish was the keynote speaker for the *Atlantic County Youth Corps* graduation ceremony at our Mays Landing Campus on June 29th. The New Jersey Youth Corps program is a statewide initiative to assist out-of-school youth ages 16 to 25 that need to complete their high school education, gain necessary work skills for employment, increase their academic

performance levels, and want to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others in the community.

- Atlantic Cape partnered with *Oceanside I Family Success Center* and hosted their second annual “Daddy Daughter Dance” on our Worthington Atlantic City Campus on July 22nd. This fun event was filled with live entertainment, dancing, and activities for fathers and daughters.

Recruitment

- The *Party in the Quad* event is currently in progress this evening from 5 to 7PM. Prospective students are the target audience of this event. Any individual who started an admissions application or indicated interest in Atlantic Cape in the last four years was invited, and the event had been advertised to the general public. This free and open to the public event features live music, food and refreshments, and activities like outdoor games, live nursing and aviation demos, prizes, and giveaways. Attendees have the opportunity to register for classes, meet with club representatives, learn about financial aid opportunities, sign up for an athletic program, and take a guided tour of our campus.
- Our Recruitment and Community Outreach teams participated in eight *National Night Out* events across Atlantic & Cape May Counties on August 1st. *National Night Out* is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Locations in Atlantic County included Atlantic City, Pleasantville, Galloway, Buena, Egg Harbor Township, and Mays Landing; and in Cape May County, Middle Township and Wildwood.

Student Support

- The Center for Student Success officially launched *Uwill*, an online mental health platform. This opportunity came from the State of New Jersey’s Tele-Mental Health Supports Partnership with Uwill and the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE). *Uwill* offers Atlantic Cape students the opportunity to meet with a licensed counselor based on their needs and

preferences. Students who are in crisis, can have direct connection with immediate support. *Uwill* also provides on-demand wellness programming (i.e. yoga, meditation, mindfulness and more). This service is free and does not require insurance. Since the platform launched on July 5th, 41 students have utilized the service for a total of 57 therapy sessions.

- New Student Orientations were hosted this month at the Mays Landing and Worthington Atlantic City campuses and included breakout sessions for students on self-care, as well as parents and athlete orientation. Cape May's New Student Orientation will be held on September 13th.
- We are now offering extended hours of operation at the Worthington Atlantic City and Cape May campuses, which are scheduled to be open Monday - Thursday from 9am - 6pm, since our current and prospective students have a greater need for student services in the evening. The Mays Landing Campus is open 9am – 5pm, Monday - Friday.

Accessibility

- Atlantic Cape received recognition from *SiteImprove* for holding an industry leading digital accessibility score for the Atlantic Cape web properties. Atlantic Cape has achieved a score of 93.2%, the highest score of any *SiteImprove* higher education customer as of August 2023. The typical education customer has an average score of 80.7% accessibility score. This recognition from *SiteImprove* is a validation of the work led by the Center for Accessibility (CFA) to advance digital accessibility within the institutional commitment to accessibility at Atlantic Cape.

Cape May County Campus

Cape May County bizHub

- The Cape May County bizHub is a small business resource center located in Cape May County. The bizHub was developed to address the unique needs of Cape May County residents, as well as others interested in exploring opportunities in a pro-business community offering a great quality of life.

- The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Cape May County bizHub will be held on September 6th with Congressman Jeff Van Drew as a speaker.
- **Chris Stenger, Director of the Cape May County bizHub**, spoke at the Middle Township Chamber of Commerce annual membership meeting on July 12th.

Cape May County Zoo Education Program

- The construction permit for the work needed at the Cape May County Campus to house the Zoo Education Program was approved by Middle Township on July 31st. The County is planning to commence construction soon and will be completed by December.

Grants

Higher Education Technology Infrastructure Trust Fund Act (HETI)

- The college has been awarded a \$434,087.56 grant through the Higher Education Technology Infrastructure Trust Fund Act (HETI). The grant requires a 50% match bringing the total cost of the project to \$868,174. We are grateful to Atlantic and Cape May counties for funding the match (80% from Atlantic and 20% from Cape May).
- These funds will allow us to address our much-needed Data Center Replacement and Network Distribution Switch Replacement. The upgrade will enhance the college's technology capabilities, security and storage, and provide a strong technology infrastructure, an essential tool for our success.

Fueling Community Journalism Through NJ Community Colleges Grant Program

- Atlantic Cape is one of four New Jersey community colleges to receive \$40,000 awards from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and Journalism + Design at The New School for the *Fueling Community Journalism Through NJ Community Colleges Grant Program* to train faculty members and fund tuition-free, noncredit certificates in community journalism. With the grant, Atlantic Cape will develop a unique certificate program with training and support from NJCH/J+D and other local news experts and facilitate partnerships with local media and community organizations to provide pathways for students to get involved in local news production. The program aspires to establish and

promote community colleges as trusted hubs for news and information, particularly in communities that lack reliable local sources.

Faculty and Staff Recognition

- **Victor M. Moreno, Senior Manager of Special Projects, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management**, has been invited to serve on the Superior Court of New Jersey, Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage I, Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (DI&CE). This committee advises the assignment judge and trial court administrator on how the Judiciary can improve efforts to ensure fairness, impartiality, equal access and full participation in court events and proceedings, as well as organize and host various community education events.
- **Lizbeth Castro-James, Director of Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Community Outreach**, has been appointed to the Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City's Board of Directors.
- **Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff and Chief Advancement Officer**, has been appointed the Co-President of the American Association of University Women's Atlantic County Chapter.
- **Stephanie Davies, Facilities Supervisor**, has been appointed the Chair of the Atlantic County Women's Commission.
- **Krista Fitzsimons, Director of the Cape May County Campus and Community Outreach**, has been appointed to the Board of the Middle Township Chamber of Commerce.