

I. Atlantic Cape Community College: Overview, Mission, and Institutional History

A. Overview

Atlantic Cape Community College is a comprehensive, student-centered institution of higher education that prepares students to live and work in the 21st Century – an increasingly culturally-diverse society, where technology is used in all areas of life and where modern communications have made us all citizens of the world. Accordingly, we offer the residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties, and others, associate degrees, liberal arts transfer programs, certificate programs and a wide range of technical training and courses for professional and personal growth. We provide access to these courses and programs by maintaining a moderate tuition rate, pursuing open admissions and affirmative action policies, and offering developmental programs and other support services. We respond to the economic, social, academic, cultural, and workforce needs of a diverse constituency by working in partnership with other schools, business and industry, and government. Atlantic Cape Community College and its employees serve the community by providing educational and support services that encourage students to pursue academic excellence, professional growth, and high ethical standards throughout their lives.

B. Mission Statement

Comprehensive, Student Centered, Accessible

- Provides superior academic, technical, and training programs
- Responds to a variety of community needs
- Encourages the pursuit of lifelong learning
- Promotes responsible citizenship
- Committed to encouraging an environment that is multicultural and diverse

C. Institutional History

In 1947, the President's Commission of Higher Education brought the concept of the community centered school into reality. The community college movement gained momentum throughout the United States during the 1950s as the student population accelerated its growth in the years following World War II.

In Atlantic County, various groups urged that a college be established in this area with the goals of providing an educational service to the entire community and discovering and developing individual talents at low cost with easy access. The Citizens' Centennial Committee on Adult Education for Atlantic City was instrumental in stimulating interest in a local college. The efforts of such groups, combined with those of educators,

legislators and individuals, resulted in the passage of the New Jersey County College Act, which established county colleges in 1962.

Following the passage of the New Jersey County College Act, a special committee of County Freeholders and educators prepared a study which showed the need for such an institution in Atlantic County. In December 1963, the New Jersey Department of Education granted approval for the establishment of Atlantic Community College (ACC) which became the second community college to be organized by the state on April 14, 1964.

The site for the college was selected on November 19, 1964 and official ground breaking ceremonies for its nine-building complex in Mays Landing were held in November 1966. ACC opened its doors to students in September 1966 using facilities rented from Atlantic City High School. In February 1968, the college moved to its present campus on the Black Horse Pike (U.S. Route 322) in Mays Landing.

In the spring of 1982, major work was completed on a two-year, \$7 million expansion project. This project included two new buildings, expanded student service facilities, the Academy of Culinary Arts and additional classroom and office space. In that same year, the former Atlantic City Electric Company building, located in Atlantic City, was purchased by Atlantic County for ACC. By 1984, a \$4 million renovation project transformed the aging building into a beautiful modern facility. The Atlantic City Center was renamed in memory of Atlantic County's first county executive, Charles D. Worthington, in April 2001.

The William J. Spangler Library on the Mays Landing campus was expanded and renovated in 1990, adding a mezzanine level, a computer lab with space for more than 90 personal computers, faculty and administrative offices, small study/meeting rooms, a classroom/meeting room and typing, video and audio tape rooms.

The Academy of Culinary Arts facility, which opened in October 1991, features more than 28,250 square feet of space. The entrance opens to an atrium lobby. The building provides teaching kitchens, classrooms, a 70-seat gourmet restaurant, service and storage areas, and administrative and faculty offices

Since 1973, the College has been the main provider of community college education to Cape May County residents. For many years, Cape May County officials studied ways to bring better higher educational opportunities to its residents.

In July 1995, the N.J. Commission on Higher Education declined Cape May County's request for an independent college and recommended that it enter into a partnership with a neighboring community college, citing such benefits of a joint college as a larger population base, economies of scale, immediate availability and accreditation of curricula, and elimination of duplication of efforts and costs.

Cape May County requested joint proposals in February 1997. As a result, on January 1, 1999, ACC officially became a joint college encompassing Atlantic and Cape May counties. The Board of Trustees approved a new name for the joint college: Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) in February, 1999. The Cape May County Campus (CMCC) opened in August 2005. The new 68,000-square-foot facility features a brick façade and two wings that house an information commons that includes a combination

library and computer lab, a 100-seat lecture hall, a full-service cafeteria, and 19 classrooms—including chemistry and biology labs, three academic computer labs, two continuing education computer labs and one distance education classroom. In addition, ACCC provides support services facilities, including counseling, testing, tutoring and financial aid offices as well as administrative offices at the new campus.

The College's Atlantic City Campus was renamed in memory of Atlantic County's first county executive, Charles D. Worthington, in April 2001. A plaque in the building lobby marks the renaming of the College's Atlantic City facility as the Charles D. Worthington Atlantic City Center. Mr. Worthington was involved with the College, first as chairperson of its Educational Opportunity Fund Advisory Board and then as Atlantic County Executive in supporting the establishment of many College programs and the development of the Atlantic City Campus. Facilities were expanded to include an information commons, cafeteria, bookstore, and student life center. These improvements have brought the campus into full compliance with the NJDOE requirements for branch campus status. In fall 2006 construction began for the Health Professions Institute and additional rooms for college credit classes at the Worthington Atlantic City Campus.