



A Leader in Student Success

Office of the President

December 19, 2019

**Re: Letter of Reference for Atlantic Cape Community College President Barbara Gaba**

It is my distinct pleasure to write a letter of reference on behalf of Dr. Barbara Gaba, president of Atlantic Cape Community College, to support her nomination to the AACC Board of Directors. Having been her colleague for more than six years at Union County College, I know Dr. Gaba to be a talented, forward-thinking, and dedicated college leader who will continue to be a powerful advocate for community colleges.

In her role prior to becoming Atlantic Cape's first African-American female president, Dr. Gaba served with distinction as provost of the Union County College's Elizabeth Campus and forged strong partnerships with elected officials, community leaders, and students in New Jersey's fourth largest city. Moreover, she was actively engaged in all aspects of managing a comprehensive community college within her purview as Campus provost. That is, she led the Elizabeth Campus's programs in credit and noncredit education while also managing campus security, maintenance, technology, marketing and communications, online education, government relations, and community relations.

Another key asset that Dr. Gaba would bring to the AACC Board of Directors—which I marveled to see her exhibit at Union County College—is her mastery as a communicator within all levels of organizations and to external stakeholders. Just as she proved adept in engaging employees at every level to support the College mission, she has proven to possess a vast amount of acumen in representing the interests of community colleges to local, state, and federal officials.

Most important, I know first-hand that Dr. Gaba is devoted to student success and has a comprehensive knowledge of—and appreciation for—the value of data-driven decision making, assessment of student learning outcomes, and the full gamut of criteria that accrediting bodies deeply value when they determine whether an institution is worthy of accreditation. In 2016, when Union County College earned its decennial accreditation with distinction, Dr. Gaba was solely responsible for successfully ensuring that all of the conditions of federal compliance were met.

Dr. Gaba is a credit to the field of higher education; her vision and dedication, together with her kind and generous nature, would make her a valued member of the AACC Board. I offer my recommendation without reservation. If you would like any additional information about Dr. Gaba, please do not hesitate to call me at (217) 443-8848.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Nacco  
President  
Danville Area Community College



*North Shore Community College*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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December 6, 2019

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services  
c/o Dr. Angel M. Royal  
1 DuPont Circle NW – Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Nomination of Dr. Barbara Gaba, President, Atlantic Cape Community College, NJ

Greetings Dr. Royal:

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Barbara Gaba, President of Atlantic Cape Community College, for the 2020 slate for election to the American Association of Community College Board of Directors.

Dr. Gaba is a successful higher education leader who has spent her career in the public community college sector. She has demonstrated her commitment to the mission of our sector and has been very active in supporting our movement. Dr. Gaba is not only a strong county college president, she is an active community leader serving on a wide range of organizations focusing on leadership development and workforce development. She is known nationally for her work with Chair Academy, HERDI Advisory Board and AACC Committees.

I've known Dr. Gaba for many years, having been a senior leader in the community college sector in New Jersey myself before being appointed to my current position at North Shore Community College. I've continued to observe and interact with Dr. Gaba through HERDI and in various other events and activities. Her calm demeanor, strong analytical abilities, and quiet strength would be an asset on the AACC Board of Directors.

I'd be happy to speak to you or other members of the search committee regarding Dr. Gaba's qualifications to serve.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Gentile  
President