

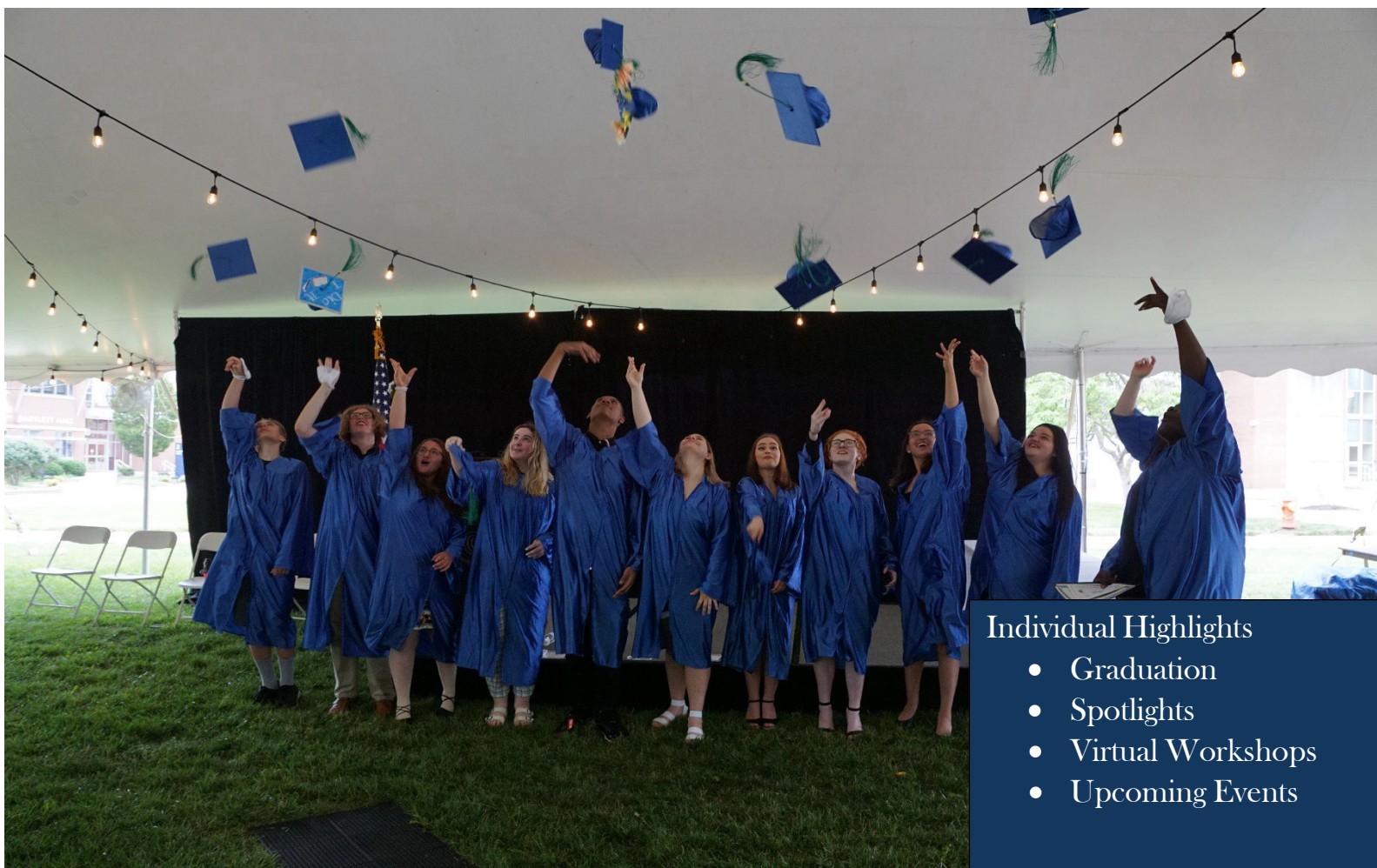
August 2021

Volume 1,

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Ocean County Achievement Center Newsletter

By: Melissa Jerden



Individual Highlights

- Graduation
- Spotlights
- Virtual Workshops
- Upcoming Events



The Ocean County Achievement Center hosted the 2nd Graduation. We had 26 graduates and 12 of them attended the graduation. The committee was planning for a Virtual Graduation but thankfully the Ocean County College Foundation provided us the tent and the Ocean County College Facilities and IT set up a beautiful venue for the ceremony. The graduation was recorded and you may watch it at the link below.

[Graduation Link](#)

Practice and Preparation



The participants enjoyed some down time in between practice and the ceremony. They enjoyed some bagels and treats while catching up with one another. Some practiced their speeches.



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Chloe Acropolis, past OCAC participant, giving a speech on how the OCAC helped her.



Alivia Singh
OCAC participant-
Pledge of Allegiance



Jannette Ball, Workforce and Professional Education giving the Invocation.



Mark Boyd, CEO of Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey & Philadelphia giving the Welcome Speech.



Patricia Leahey, Executive Director Ocean County PIC, Inc. giving the Welcome Speech.



Sgt. Jim Kelly (OCAC Mentor) Brick Police was the Motivational Speaker.



Dr. Jon Larson, Ocean County College President offering the Closing Remarks.

Graduation Day

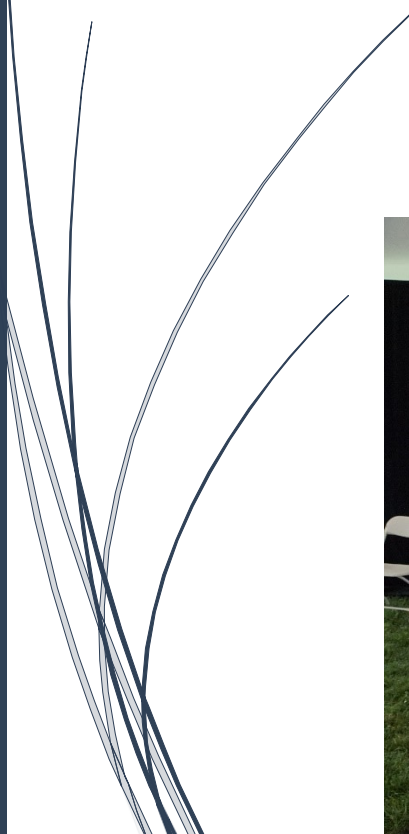




Pictures with the Ocean County Achievement Center Graduates and the Staff



Congratulations to
our Graduates!!



Emily Akerman



Alana Casey



Robert Chapman



Journey Toldt



Alivia Singh



Havon Cook



Angelique Lambert



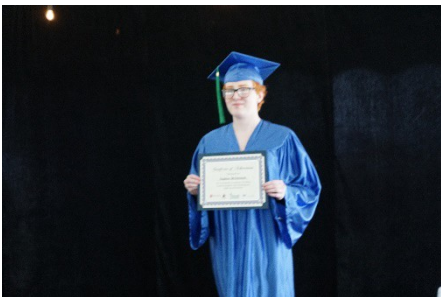
Brandon Lombardo



Maurice Robinson



Daphne McDermott



Jessica Meszaros



Ashlee Thompson





Spotlights

Jessica Meszaros



Jessica joined the program in October 2020. She got her diploma in March 2021. Jessica is currently enrolled in Student Success Seminar at Ocean County College and is working full time at Red Robin. She is saving money to continue to go to college full time.

Emily Akerman



Emily joined the program September 2020 and got her diploma in May 2021. Emily works for Chariot Riders and wants to pursue a career in engineer. She is currently enrolled in the Student Success Seminar at Ocean County College and she plans to continue taking courses this fall.

Brandon Lombardo



Brandon joined the program December 2019 and got his high school diploma in November 2020. Brandon is currently working on publishing his first book and he is working at TJ Max to save money. He loves writing and plans to attend vocational school in the fall.

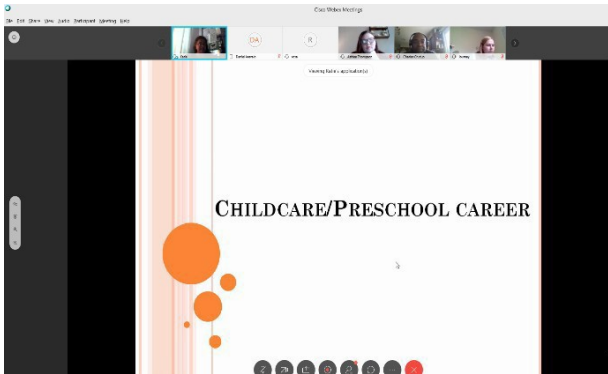
Daphne McDermott



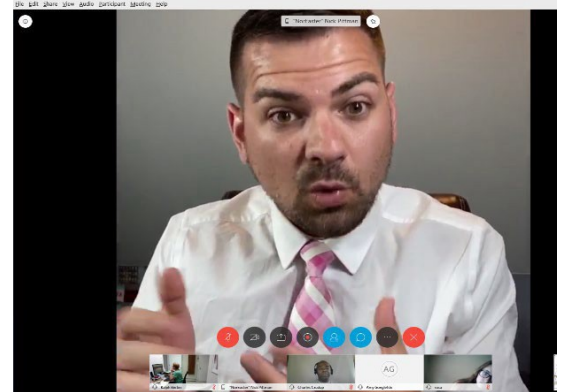
Daphne joined the program October 2020 and got her high school diploma in March 2021. Daphne wants to pursue a career in construction and is currently working at Habitat for Humanity. She starts vocational school in the fall.

Virtual Career Day

Career Day is a workshop to help the participants learn about different careers and different fields within a certain career. Career Day is offered several times a year to introduce new careers and opportunities. This past year we had Virtual Career Days and the speakers present for 15 minutes and the participants have a list of questions to ask each one. The Center is always looking for speakers to share knowledge and hands-on experience about a career. If you are interested please contact us!



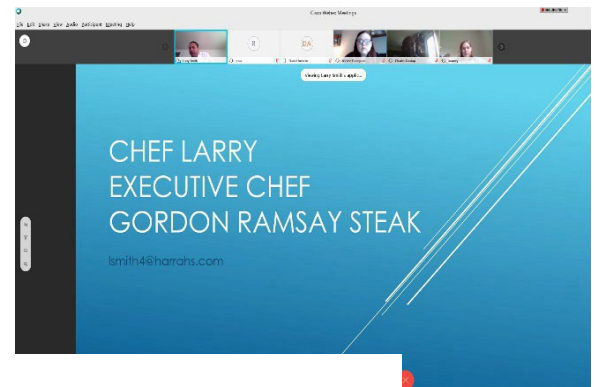
*Katie Opauski, Director,
St. Francis Preschool*



*Nick Pittman, Nor'easter
Nick- NJ Weatherman*



*Dr. Henry Jackson,
Academic Affairs,
Ocean County College*



*Chef Larry, Executive Chef
Gordon Ramsay Steak House*

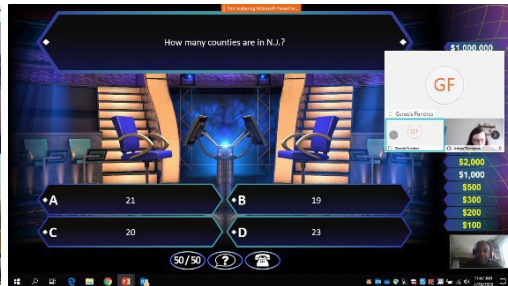
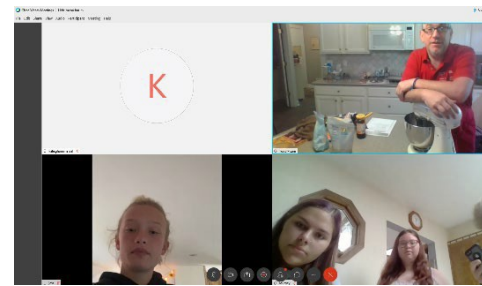
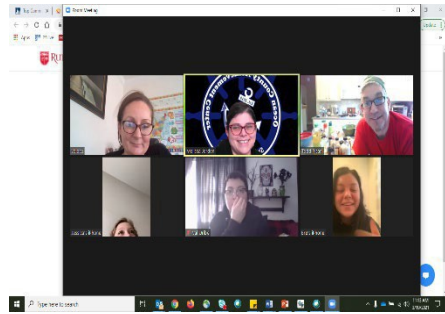
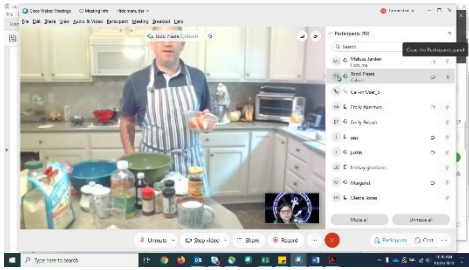


*Richard Monticello, US
Government- Special Agents*



*Samy Ayoub, Pharmacy
Instructor, Ocean
County College*

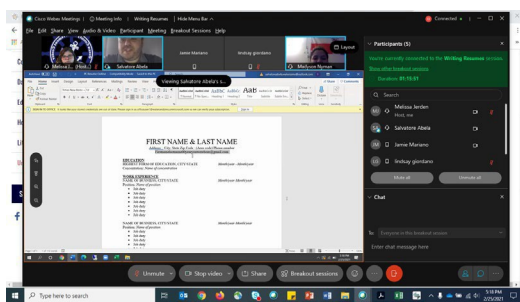
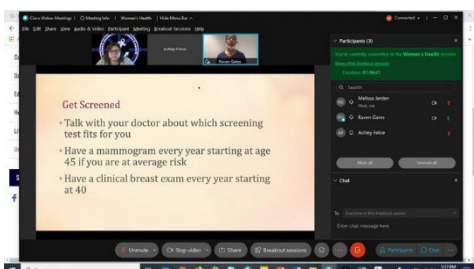
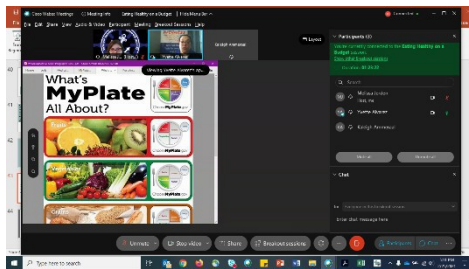
Virtual Workshops



This past year the Center had to go completely virtual and remote learning. We continued to offer all of our services. Some workshops we had were Jeopardy, cooking workshops, movie trivia, soft and hard skills, and more!

The Center is now doing a hybrid approach where the participants can come to campus for in person workshops once a week. If a participant wants to attend but can't come in, they can attend virtually.

Virtual Resource Fair



The Center hosted its 2nd Resource Fair on February 26th, 2021. The event was virtual and we used WebEx as the platform. The Resource Fair had community speakers from Ocean County PIC, Family Planning, Fulfill, Mental Health Association, Ocean County College Admissions and Financial Aid, Ocean County College Workforce and Professional Education, and The Ocean County Library.

The event had breakout rooms offering interactive workshops including Writing Resumes, Yoga and Stress Reduction during COVID-19, Eating Healthy on a Budget, and Women's and Men's Health.

Ocean County Achievement Center is **Open!**

The Center will continue to provide its quality services and programs through a hybrid model. The Center is open in person Monday through Thursday and also uses an array of remote platforms (WebEx, google classrooms, zoom, emails, and telephone calls). Please do not hesitate to reach out.

We are still accepting referrals and will hold orientations through WebEx (registration required).

Upcoming Events

- *All Thursdays- On campus workshops*
- *Return to Campus-September*
- *September Scavenger Hunt*
- *Meet and Greet- September TBD*

For more information please contact
us at:

Melissa Jerden, Resource Coordinator
mjerden@ocean.edu
C: 732-255-0400 ext. 2354

Kim Clayton - Ocean County PIC
Kimberly.Clayton@dol.nj.gov