

NEWSLETTER

OCEAN COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER



About Us

The Ocean County Achievement Center (OCAC) is a collaborative partnership with Ocean County College, Ocean County PIC, Inc., and Georgian Court University. The OCAC is located on the Toms River campus of Ocean County College and provides free comprehensive individualized services to out-of-school young adults and adults. The services address academic, career, and financial goals, including high school equivalency preparation.



About Ocean County College

Ocean County College, an innovative academic leader, provides affordable, student-centered, high-quality educational experiences that empower diverse learners to succeed. To achieve its mission, OCC invests in and fosters academic, economic, and cultural excellence and ensures financial strength by generating multiple revenue streams, engaging in national and international university and corporate partnerships, and cultivating a technologically progressive and entrepreneurial spirit.

OCEAN COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

"I was a newly arrived immigrant from Guatemala. I didn't know anyone, and I didn't know how to start my new life. I managed to find a place to live, and I found a job, but I still needed to learn a new language, English. At work, there were flyers for free ESL classes at Ocean County College. It was exactly what I needed, so I registered for classes. It opened a door to successfully begin my new life.

My English has really improved since I started these classes. The teachers have been wonderful. They are very supportive to students and put out a lot of effort for us. They understand that we are stressed and anxious about learning a new language and that we want to do well, but we are afraid we will fail.

I have been taking English classes for a year-and-a-half, and the classes have really helped me improve my English. I can talk to people socially and at work and have conversations with people I meet. I'm no longer afraid to speak English.

I want to give a big thank you to all the wonderful teachers I've had. They work so hard to help us learn and become better versions of ourselves. I would also like to thank the support staff. The caseworkers guided my choices for the best results, and administrators made the classroom schedules and provided the study materials and books we needed.

Life has been easier now that I'm able to communicate better with others. I received a wonderful blessing when I discovered free English classes at Ocean County College. I was a newly arrived immigrant from Guatemala, I didn't know how to start my new life. The ESL classes at OCC were exactly what I needed.

I urge new immigrants and students to never stop learning and to not be afraid to try something new. Never stop learning because life never stops giving challenges and teaching you how to overcome them. You have the power to overcome. Recognize your strength and be grateful for what you have. And then take advantage of it. Use what resources you have. Your life will always move forward if you do. " – Nora Torres

WORK READINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WRAP)

Program

The Work Readiness Assistance Program (WRAP) is for out-of-school young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 living in Ocean County. WRAP provides free services to address academic, career, and financial goals. Services are also provided by various community partners to engage young adults and adults in educational programs, career exploration, work readiness training, internships, on-the-job learning, leadership development, job placement, adult mentoring, and work experience opportunities.

The WRAP grant has built-in support services to also assist young adults struggling with mental health, food insecurities, and more.



Ocean County Trunk or Treat, October 2024

Exploration of Career Pathways & Entrepreneurship

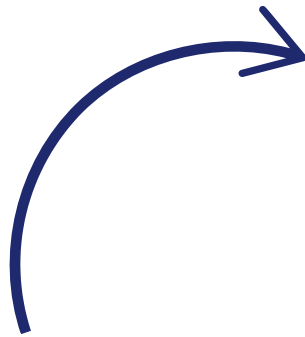
Four students completed the most recent Exploration of Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship course completed on December 13th. Students obtained a CPR and Basic First Aid Credential, a Teen Mental Health First Aid Certificate, OSHA-10 Hour General Industry Certificate, and a Customer Service and Sales Credential.

Leadership Academy & Service Learning

Four students completed the Leadership Academy and Service Learning course since October 2024. Students learned about making smart choices, setting goals and changing negative habits. They also participated in service learning at Ocean County's annual Trunk or Treat.

ADULT EDUCATION, WORKFORCE & PREPARATION

Highlights – English as a Second Language



Artwork by Lead ESL & Civics
Instructor Bibiana Luna Rojas



High School Equivalency Student Quote

“My teacher Ms. Sue is a very understanding math teacher she doesn't just teach everything and moves on she takes the time to explain in many ways for you to understand when you are having a hard time and makes sure you understand! Math is not easy for me so yes that's the best experience I am having!”

ACHIEVEMENT CENTER EVENTS



**Hispanic Heritage Month Event,
September 2024**



WRAP Ocean County Courthouse Tour



**Ocean County College Trunk or Treat,
October 2024**

Book Tasting, December 2024

Family Literacy Nights provided an opportunity to engage in cultural competency with culturally and linguistically diverse OCC students and their families. As part of this event, participants will also be able to browse, listen, and experience various multiculturally themed pieces of literacy. A presenter modeled, read, and lead a presentation on the importance of literacy skills. Participants then browsed different literacy materials of various abilities and ages. Literacy material showcased a variety of cultural viewpoints and languages (i.e. bilingual books).

ACHIEVEMENT CENTER EVENTS



**Financial Literacy Workshop, November
2024**

We recently had a Financial Literacy Workshop in November for students in our ESL and HSE programs that aimed to empower them with essential money management skills. The workshop covered a range of topics, including budgeting, saving strategies, and understanding credit. Students engaged in interactive discussions and hands-on activities that highlighted real-world financial scenarios. The positive feedback from attendees underscored the importance of such initiatives in helping students make informed financial decisions.

UPCOMING ACHIEVEMENT CENTER COURSES

Adult Education, Civics, and Workforce Preparation Program (Title II)

Winter Session High School Diploma Preparation (10-week course)

- January 27th to April 3rd

Winter Session English as a Second Language (10-week course)

- January 27th to April 3rd

Integrated Education Training (IET, 15-week courses)

- January 27th to May 9th
 - Advanced ESL with EKG Technician Training
 - High School Diploma Preparation with EKG Technician Training
 - ESL with Culinary Foundations and Servsafe Training

*Must register prior to attending courses

Work Readiness Assistance Program (WRAP)

Exploration of Career Pathways & Entrepreneurship (7-week course)

- January 27th to March 13th

Leadership Academy & Service Learning (1-week course)

- January 13th to January 17th
- February 10th to February 14th

*Open enrollment to pre-approved program participants



For more information about our programs, services, and enrollment, please visit go.ocean.edu/ocac or call at 732-255-0400 ext. 2354

PLEASE JOIN US FOR...

OCEAN COUNTY

Achievement Center

NEWSLETTER

IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!



What to Expect:

- ✓ Create content for the newsletter
- ✓ Participate in the creation of the newsletter
- ✓ Tap into your own creative potential
- ✓ Engage with your peers to exchange ideas

Join Us for Newsletter Planning!

📅 WEDNESDAYS AT 3:00 PM TO 4:00 PM
📍 BUILDING 4, ROOM 111

For More Information

📞 732-255-0400 EXT. 2354
✉️ ACHIEVEMENTCENTER@OCEAN.EDU



JOIN US ON THE FOLLOWING FOR OUR NEWSLETTER MEETING
AT 3 PM, IN BUILDING 4, ROOM 111
January 8th, 3 pm

Presented by the Ocean County
Achievement Center