

# NEWSLETTER

## OCEAN COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER



### About Us

Since 2018, the Ocean County Achievement Center has provided young adults and adults comprehensive and individualized services to gain career-decision making tools and to prepare for their next steps in education and employment. Services are provided by various community partners in a collaborative effort to engage our participants in educational programs, integrated education training, career exploration, work readiness training, internships, on-the-job learning, leadership development, job placement, adult mentoring, work experience opportunities, and adult transition. The Ocean County Achievement Center is hosted and led by Ocean County College.



### 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

Testimonial from Margarita Alvarado, English as a Second Language Student

“Learning English has opened doors for me—it has helped me find better employment, and more importantly, it has allowed me to communicate with others, including my children's teachers at school. It has empowered me to advocate for them and myself when necessary.

One of the most significant benefits has been the ability to secure a better job; more importantly, it helped me save my son's life.

I am the mother of two children with medical conditions. One of them is a cancer survivor who nearly lost his life on June 8, 2024. Thanks to my English classes, I was able to communicate effectively with the hospital and its doctors, which allowed me to take action in time and get him the help he needed.

My son arrived at the hospital unconscious with a severe infection. Several doctors came to his room, spoke to him, and discussed his case when I overheard them talking about the possibility of amputating his foot. As a mother, I immediately stood up from my chair and asked the doctors what was happening. That's when they gave me the devastating news.

In that moment, I asked—in English—that no other doctors from the hospital continue seeing my son and requested that only his primary doctors take over his care. I was able to communicate this clearly, and by the grace of God, I was understood. His doctors were quickly contacted, arrived at the hospital in time, and were able to get the infection under control.

One of them told me:

“If it hadn't been for you having all your son's medical records ready, we wouldn't have been able to stop the infection. Your son would have either died or we would have had to amputate his foot.”

But it was because of the English classes that I could speak up, communicate clearly, and ultimately help save my son's life.

I am incredibly grateful to the Ocean County College Achievement Center and to the teachers who encourage us every day to keep learning English for a better future. May God bless the English classes and everyone who works to make this program possible.”

# OCEAN COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

## Ramon Talavera, ESL student speech to his classmates

“Hi everyone, We are finally here. I would like to say a huge thank you for being here tonight. Also thanks to Ms. Lori for being a wonderful teacher and your lovely way to teach. Samantha for always keeping an eye on us. And Dr. Monaco for fighting for us to be here at the college. The main reason of why I wanted to speak today is to remind you that “never be ashamed of trying.” Everyone here is an inspiration to not give up and never stop. Trying to be a better person everyday even if some people aren’t nice to you.

English is more than just a foreign language, it is a bridge that connects people., cultures, and ideas. Whether we are watching a movie, applying for a job, traveling, or simply chatting online.

English often opens the door!

But let’s be honest - learning English isn’t always easy! It takes time, practice, and patience. Sometimes, we make mistakes, but that’s okay. Every mistake is a step forward. Learning English gives us confidence.

So to everyone here, keep going. Don’t be afraid. Practice everyday, watch movies, read books, talk to people, but most importantly, do not give up!

Every night during this program, I saw so many things about you guys (classmates). So many good things that show me when you really want something, you do your best to get it. What I mean by this is you’re the strongest people that I know. You came here every night after work, after taking care of your family, after trying to solve your own problems and sat down for 3 hours to try to improve your English but also to improve your life. And that’s a really big win. Hard things will happen to us but we will recover from them, we will learn from that and we will become more resilient because of them.

You should be very proud of what you have done with this program. Today you’ll leave this classroom and then go out searching for what’s next and so will I. I hope you know how proud I am to share this moment with you. We’re doing this together. This is not the end... this is only the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. Now we are finally here, we belong here, and this is something that nobody can take away from us. I’m sure I;m going to keep seeing a couple faces around here. OCC should be prepared for what’s next with us. I’m very proud because I know this is not the end for so many of us. we are ready to start our careers and be part of something bigger than just learning a new language. So this is not goodbye, this is a see you soon and God bless you all!”

# 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.



## Exploration of Career Pathways & Entrepreneurship

Twenty-six students completed the Exploration of Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship course since October 2024. Students obtained a CPR and Basic First Aid Credential, a Teen Mental Health First Aid Certificate, OSHA-10 Hour General Industry Certificate, Bloodborne Pathogens, Microsoft Fundamentals, and a Customer Service and Sales Credential.

## Leadership Academy & Service Learning

Nineteen 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 Trunk or Treat as well as at JBJ Soul Kitchen.

# WRAP EVENTS

## Battleship NJ, Build Your Own Battleship



WRAP students had the opportunity to tour the Battleship New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey. Prior to the tour, students did a research project exploring the history of the ship. During the tour, they learned more about the history and functionality of the ship. Students then participated in an activity to build their own battleship on a budget!

# ADULT EDUCATION, CIVICS, AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION (TITLE II)

## High School Equivalency

High school diploma equivalency classes assist individuals in preparing to take the GED exam to earn a State of New Jersey High School Diploma. Classes are run 4 times a year for a minimum of 10-weeks per term. Attendance is mandatory with a maximum of 3 unexcused absences. The programs are designed to assist individuals in reaching their educational and career goals effectively. All individuals are required to attend orientation; complete and intake and forms; and take a pre- & post assessment.

Course Details:

- Mandatory Orientation
- In-Person Placement Testing
- Registration Required

Length:

- 10 Week Terms (Summer, Fall, Winter & Spring);
  - 6 Instructional Hours
    - Morning and evening schedules available\*



## English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes provide instruction to enhance, develop, and strengthen your ability to read, write, listen, and speak in English. The classes are provided in English two mornings or two nights a week in person. There are six levels for students to enroll in; however, not all levels are offered at all locations. Classes run for 10 weeks each semester (summer, fall, winter, and spring). Attendance is mandatory with a maximum of 3 unexcused absences. All individuals are required to attend orientation, complete an intake and forms, and take a pre- & post assessment.

The Achievement Center also provides Civics/ESL and Integrated Education Training (IET). These classes are designed to provide occupational career and education training together. IETs are offered in conjunction to Civic courses. Training hours vary depending on the type of occupation training, and a certificate or credential can be earned. We currently offer IETs in Customer Service & Sales, Culinary Foundations, and Medical Terminology. As with ESL classes, IETs run for 10 weeks per semester and requires 6 in-person instructional hours per week (morning and evening schedules available).

# ACHIEVEMENT CENTER EVENTS

English as a Second Language students enjoyed a night together to experience different cuisines from their cultures.



# WORK READINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FLYER

GRANT FUNDED BY:

OCEAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

THE OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**OCEAN COUNTY  
ACHIEVEMENT CENTER**  
HOSTED AT OCEAN COUNTY COLLEGE

## WORK READINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*Are you ready to steer towards success?*



### BENEFITS

- Career Exploration ✓
- Job Readiness and Life Skill ✓
- Professional Career Speakers ✓
- Job Coaching ✓
- Career Fieldtrips and Tours ✓
- High School Diploma Prep Classes ✓
- Mentorships ✓
- Work Readiness Training ✓

### REQUIREMENTS

- Ocean County Resident ✓
- Ages 16-24 years old ✓
- Must meet Eligibility Requirements ✓



**INQUIRE NOW!**



732-255-0400 ext. 2354

[go.ocean.edu/ocac](http://go.ocean.edu/ocac)

[achievementcenter@ocean.edu](mailto:achievementcenter@ocean.edu)



OCEAN COUNTY  
CAREER CENTER

# ADULT TRANSITION CENTER PROGRAM FLYER



**Adult Transition Center** provides a supportive and inclusive environment to individuals ages 18-24 with Intellectual Disability (ID) and Developmental Disability (DD).

The Adult Transition Center (ATC) at Ocean County College entered into partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education Office of the Secretary of Higher Education funded through the "County College-Based Center for Adult Transition Grant".

Our program will provide structured coursework in the areas of **workplace readiness**, obtaining and maintaining **meaningful employment**, financial literacy, **resume writing**, interview skills, **job sampling**, self-advocacy, **social skills**, and career education.

Our goal is to set our students up for success by providing the knowledge and skills to navigate a **successful transition into adulthood**.

Please contact us with any questions. We are looking forward to working with you!



ADULT TRANSITION  
CENTER

INDEPENDENCE

INCLUSION

PURPOSE

SUCCESS

Adult Transition Center  
1 College Drive, Building #4  
Office 108  
Toms River, NJ 08754

732-255-0400 ext. 2354  
achievementcenter@ocean.edu

# CONNECT & LEARN, WFNJ: DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM FLYER

## CENTRAL NJ'S DIGITAL EQUITY TRAINING PROGRAM CONNECT & LEARN

*FREE workforce training  
and job placement support*

### CLASSES BEGIN MID-AUGUST

#### Eligibility:

Those currently enrolled in Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) who are 18+ and residing in Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, or Ocean Counties

#### Participants are provided with:

- Digital literacy training
- Industry recognized credential
- Support services
- Workplace readiness coaching
- A laptop with internet access upon completion

#### In partnership with:



Funded by the New Jersey Department  
of Labor and Workforce Development:



SCAN  
TO  
REGISTER

(609) 570-3813  
(732) 255-0400 ext 2354

 **MERCER**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# ACHIEVEMENT CENTER COURSES

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

Please contact us if you are interested in High School Diploma Equivalency or English as a Second Language Courses at the email or number below

\*Must register prior to attending courses

## Work Readiness Assistance Program (WRAP)

Exploration of Career Pathways & Entrepreneurship

- July 14<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>
- October 13<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup>

\*Open enrollment to pre-approved program participants

## Adult Transition Center

Please contact us if you are interested in the Adult Transition Center course at the email or number below

\*Participants must be approved prior to attending the course

## Connect & Learn, WFNJ: Digital Literacy

Please contact us or scan the QR code on the page prior if you are interested in participating in the Connect & Learn, WFNJ: Digital Literacy Program

\*Open enrollment to approved participants

**For more information about our programs, services, and enrollment, please visit [go.ocean.edu/ocac](http://go.ocean.edu/ocac) or call at 732-255-0400 ext. 2354**

# WELCOME OUR NEW OCAC STAFF



**Casey Pellegrino, Program  
Coordinator, Connect & Learn,  
WFNJ Digital Literacy**



**Samantha Moffler,  
Recruitment and Outreach  
Specialist, WRAP**



**For more information about our programs, services, and enrollment, please visit [go.ocean.edu/ocac](https://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!**

TUESDAYS 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 FOR OUR NEWSLETTER MEETINGS EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
AT 3 PM, IN BUILDING 4, ROOM 111  
8/26/25, 9/9/25, 9/23/25, 10/7/25**

**Presented by the Ocean County  
Achievement Center**

[go.ocean.edu/ocac](https://go.ocean.edu/ocac)