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rIC CITY — De and very modest ment and consum make 2012 a very go ore's tourism busines sing 2011 season that rricane Irene, experts a ssion hosted by Richard ge.

he southern Shore can no lo le Atlantic City casinos to drive continued diversification in rtainment, dining and retail are bing the region healthy as a favol el destination, they stressed durin sion at the college's Carnegie Cent

e havet Tw [(W9.3(i)).7(r)eudg2.7(n) asure...Gaming is not going to be whats," said Joseph D. Kelly, president of the eater Atlantic City Chamber of mmerce, referring to prolonged slides in gaming industry's numbers.

eanwhile, other measures of visitor

interest are up, said Brian Tyrrell, associate professor of hospitality and tourism studies at Stockton. He said he takes issue with news media reports that use gaming numbers to illustrate decline.

"People are traveling again, that's what we'

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and Visitors Authority.

"The news is mostly good on gas prices...
the trend is gas prices are likely to fall f
urther," Busler said. Prices at about \$3.50
a gallon in southern New Jersey will be
historically high, Busler said, but represent

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Purchase Image Zoom Jeffrey S. Vasser, president of the Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Authority, speaks during Friday's annual Shore tourism forecast hosted by Richard Stockton College. / Kirk Moore/staff photo

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