

ACM Family,

I hope everyone is enjoying the changing leaves as much as I am. It is a spectacle on campus that never gets old.

Faculty/Staff Focus

Nominee: Melanie Chapman, IT Center of Excellence Program Director and Dean of Workforce Development & Continuing Education

Nominated by: Anonymous

Melanie's hard work and dedication are evident in every role she undertakes, consistently going above and beyond expectations. Throughout her many transitions at the college, she has demonstrated remarkable adaptability, a willingness to embrace new challenges, and a commitment to ensuring smooth transitions by supporting others and leaving projects and responsibilities in capable hands. Her approachable nature, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to putting students and the college first are truly commendable, and her contributions are deeply appreciated and never go unnoticed.

We're surrounded by dedicated colleagues who go above and beyond to support ACM and our students every day. I invite you to nominate a faculty or staff member who deserves recognition for their outstanding contributions. Please keep your nomination to three sentences or fewer and email it directly to me.

League for Innovation Excellence Awards

The League for Innovation Excellence Awards, established in 2012, recognize outstanding teaching, leadership, and service by community college administration, faculty, and staff. Recipients receive a specially cast medallion, a certificate from the League, and recognition by the Allegany College of Maryland Board of Trustees. Please submit your nominations by noon on Friday, November 6, 2026, to Lori Spence at lspence@allegany.edu. Nominees will be evaluated and selected by a committee of peers from faculty, associate support staff, and professional and administrative support staff.

Thank you to our Respiratory Therapy Program faculty, staff, and students!

I had a wonderful experience at the successful Respiratory Therapy program open house. Thank you to Paula, Scott, Krista, Meghan, and our students for an educational and interactive open house.



Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory

Please come out and support the ACM Theater Club and their production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The dates are **Friday and Saturday, November 13, 14 at 7 pm**

Sunday, November 15 at 2 pm. Thank you to Melody Gaschler for providing our students with an outlet for creative expression on campus.

A Gift for You (Now available in the Campus Store)

As a gift to the ACM family, a free ACM-branded shirt is being provided to all faculty and staff. They are now available for pickup at the campus store. Please note that this gift is provided by a donor with private funding, with no College funding utilized. Thank you for all you do to support our students (and promote ACM).

Tri-State College Night at ACM

A special thanks for the ACM PR/Marketing team for working with the Allegheny County Public Schools to plan another great Tri-State College Night. Several colleges and universities were present and we had a great crowd of students with their families. Special thanks to our ACM faculty and staff who attended to speak with prospective students.



Tech At The Gap

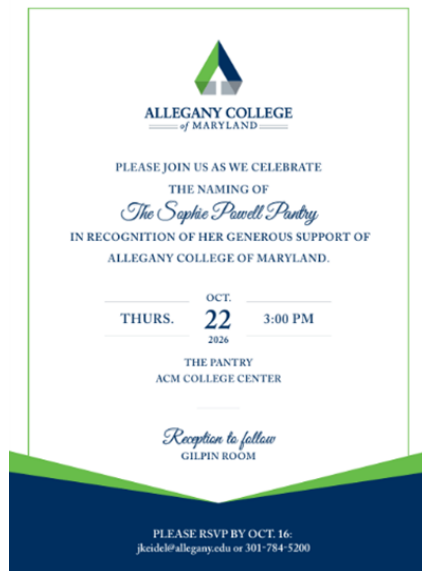
I had the privilege of attending the 10th annual Tech at the Gap conference yesterday. We had a full room of attendees and tech experts presenting, including Terry Jones, the founder of Travelocity. Special thanks to Melanie Chapman for coordinating a well-received event with great support from ISA, OTES, Advancement, and others.





PLEASE JOIN US:

a. Sophie Powell Pantry Dedication
Thursday, October 22nd at 3pm (Pantry)



b. State of the College: Empowering Our Future
Friday, October 23rd at 1 pm (Zimmer Theatre)



Grant Update (ARC-tober is upon us!)

There is nothing spooky about grants this October. Throughout ARC-tober, five projects that ACM is pursuing through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will be highlighted. Together, the projects represent more than \$1.2 million in potential investment in instructional facilities, workforce training, technology infrastructure, and student access across the College.



Network Modernization

Reliable technology infrastructure is essential to nearly every part of the student experience. ACM is pursuing ARC funding for a major network modernization project that would strengthen campus connectivity, reliability, security, and overall technology performance. The upgrades would support instruction, student services, workforce training, and day-to-day College operations while creating a stronger technology foundation for future growth and innovation.

Stay Informed – Board of Trustees Meetings

Attending the ACM Board of Trustees meetings helps you to stay informed. The Board meets at 4 pm in the Thomas Welcome Center, with the next meeting scheduled for October 19, 2026. The draft agenda follows:

1. 65 Year Proclamation Presentation - Senator McKay
2. Eagle Scout Project Summary (Serenity Trail Refurbish) -Mr. Kozikowski
3. Chairman's Update – Ms. Belt
4. President's Update – Mr. Jones
5. Adopt the September 21, 2026 Minutes
6. Statement of Past Executive Session from September 21, 2026– Ms. Belt
7. Board Member Comments/Reflections – Board Members
8. Board Education: Dr. Shadow Robinson, FSU President
9. CE Year-End Report – Ms. Chapman
10. Curriculum Program Deletions (Action Item) – Dr. Hoffman
11. Purchasing and Bidding Thresholds Policy (Action Item) - Ms. Kilduff
12. Asset Capitalization Threshold Policy (Action Item) - Ms. Kilduff
13. Annual Fund Balance Process and Procedures (Action Item) - Ms. Kilduff
14. Western Maryland Works Wood Dust Collection System (Action Item) – Ms.

Kilduff

15. Statement for Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act – Ms. Belt

For additional information, visit: <https://allegany.edu/presidents-office/board-of-trustees.html>

Employee Appreciation Fall Festival



Upcoming Events

- Mon, October 19, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- Thurs, October 22, Sophie Powell Pantry Naming event, 3 p.m.
- Fri, October 23, State of the College, Zimmer Theater, 1 p.m.
- Tues, October 27, PTK Induction Ceremony, Theater, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, November 10, Cumberland Campus Open House
- Sat, November 14, Bedford Campus Open House, Bedford Campus

- Mon, November 16, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center 4 p.m.
- Thurs/Fri, November 26 & 27, Thanksgiving Break, college closed
- Mon, December 7, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- Thurs, December 10, All college staff meeting, Theater, 9 a.m. Holiday reception, 12 p.m.
- Fri, December 11, Commencement, Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

Be My Guest

Please join me for an informal conversation over a cup of coffee, tea, or water. Whether you have a question, would like to share an idea, discuss a concern, or simply stop by to say hello, I look forward to connecting with you.

Date(s)

- October 23

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: President's Office

Campus Conversations

One of the best aspects of my role is the opportunity to connect directly with our faculty, staff, and students, and I'd welcome your help in making that happen. Whether it's visiting a class, meeting with a club, stopping by a team practice, attending a department meeting, or welcoming a group to my office, I'm eager to spend more time with our faculty, staff, and students. If it works best over dinner, I'll even provide the pizza and drinks. These visits are an excellent way for me to listen, answer questions, and share in the experiences that make ACM such a special place.

On A Personal Note

I had the pleasure of attending Professor Brandon Hoover's Political Science 101 class last week for a discussion and presentation on civil liberty topics. The students brought great insight, research, respect, and enthusiasm to the conversation, making it a rewarding experience for everyone involved. I was especially impressed by the thoughtful dialogue, preparation, and engagement demonstrated throughout the class.

Experiences like this highlight the quality of our faculty, who bring real-world perspectives into the classroom and create engaging learning experiences that challenge students to think critically and apply their knowledge to contemporary issues.

Thank you, Professor Hoover, and ACM students, for an outstanding discussion and for representing the best of what higher education can be.

With ACM Pride,
David