

ACM Family,

I wish you all motivation and resilience as we push to the end of another semester.

### **Faculty and Staff Focus**

This week's nominees are Brandon Kidwell, Pat Buskirk, and the team! "Brandon, Pat, and their team helped install the baseball camera and pitch clock the last week of February in the cold! And they did it so happily, and kindly and had fun on the job while doing it. I really appreciate them. They are fun to be around." --Nominated by Courtney Eagan.

### **Be My Guest**

To uphold transparency, I encourage anyone with questions to visit me at my office on the dates below from 2:30 – 4 pm.

March 27

April 10

April 17

May 1

I warmly invite you to visit for an informal opportunity to meet, enjoy a cup of water/tea/coffee, connect, and have your questions answered.

### **Budget**

The preliminary FY27 budget was shared with the ACM Budget Advisory Committee last week and with the Board of Trustees earlier this week. Although still in draft form, I'll highlight some of the next steps in the budget process.

- March 20th – April 13th: ACM leadership working closely with CBIZ to finalize insurance options, which will be shared with the ACM Campus community in April, prior to the benefits fair and open enrollment.
- April 9th: ACM will present our FY27 request to the Allegany County Commissioners at 1 pm. Under maintenance-of-effort legislation, level funding from the County is critical to ensure the 3% increase from the State of Maryland.
- April 13th: Sine Die (the last day of the 90-day session of the Maryland General Assembly). ACM leadership remains cautiously optimistic that the 3% increase from the State will remain intact, which will further guide the budget development.
- April 13th: Budget update provided to the ACM Board of Trustees.
- May 11th. Budget update provided to ACM Board of Trustees.
- May 21st: Allegany County Government final budget review with budget adoption on June 4th.
- June 15th. The ACM Board of Trustees will officially approve the FY27 budget.

### **Digital Credit Catalog 2026-2027**

The Digital Credit Catalog for 2026-2027 is complete! Thank you to everyone involved, including Andrea Beall, Connie Milligan, Lynn Grimm, James O'Donnell, Nick Taylor, and Shauna McQuade, for their work to produce this important publication.

<https://catalog.allegany.edu/index.html>

## **Graduation deadlines**

Regular Application Period (No Fee):

January 21 – March 27, 2026

Late Application Period (\$100 Late Fee):

March 28 – April 17, 2026

*No Applications Accepted After:*

April 17, 2026

Students must submit a separate application for each degree, certificate, or letter of recognition they intend to earn. Submitting a graduation application is required to graduate.

## **Facing Project Book Launch**

Congratulations to Gib Cochrum on his powerful student project, which will be launched on April 9th! All are invited to attend. Thanks to Diane McMahon and Andrea Beall for collaborating on a wonderful menu that will be available at the reception from 5-6 pm before the main event, which starts at 6.



## **ACM Receives the American Heart Association All-Star Recognition**

According to the American Heart Association, ACM has "demonstrated exceptional dedication to the Heart Association's mission by consistently delivering high-quality CPR education, following ECC Guidelines, and elevating the standard of lifesaving training in" our community. Not to mention that "by meeting or exceeding all program criteria, including outstanding eCard performance metrics, adherence to training quality measures, and maintaining top-tier program compliance," ACM has proven that we set "the bar for what it means to operate an exemplary American Heart Association Training Center." As a part of this honor, ACM has been granted access to utilize the official All-Star badge icon in future communications, promotional materials, on the website, and more!



Thank you to the ACM Coordinator of Transportation and Safety Education, David Smarik, for leading the way in overseeing & maintaining exemplary operations of all of our courses run through the American Heart Association. Please join me in recognizing Dave, our CPR course instructors, & the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Team for this outstanding achievement!

### **Student Achievements**

Check out some of our second-year Respiratory Therapy students guiding Mountain Ridge students through the dissection of a sheep lung. Thank you, Paula Fuller and RT students, for sharing your time and expertise with these high school students.



## **Javier Colon**

A friendly reminder that we have a contest upon us! Season one winner of The Voice, Javier Colon, is coming to ACM on May 1. Proceeds benefit the Western Maryland Food Bank. Tickets are available [here!](#)

For a chance at free tickets, share the event on Facebook using [this link!](#) The shared posts with the most interactions will win. Multiple winners will be selected so start sharing!

## **Enrollment Management Strategic Workgroup**

I am pleased to share that in her role as the Dean of Enrollment and Educational Services, I have asked Jennifer Engelbach to lead a newly formed Enrollment Management Strategic Workgroup, and she has eagerly accepted. This workgroup will be responsible for developing actionable, enrollment-related strategies and activities that strengthen the student experience from initial contact through completion. As part of this work, the group will actively collaborate with colleagues across the College and will provide regular updates to the President's staff on its progress and implementation efforts. Thank you, Jennifer, for your willingness to lead this important group.

## **Bringing the ACM Community Together**

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with your program, class, club, or team. Whether you're looking for a quick five-minute conversation or would like to share a lunch or dinner, I'm happy to join you, and I'll gladly bring pizza and snacks. I truly enjoy connecting with the ACM campus community and working alongside students, faculty, and staff to strengthen our college and serve the broader community. If you're interested, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you and hope we can spend some time together soon.

## **Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

The Board of Trustees meeting schedule is listed below. As always, everyone is invited to attend, and anyone with questions can expect full transparency.

April 13, 2026

May 11, 2026

June 15, 2026

August 17, 2026

September 14, 2026

October 19, 2026

November 16, 2026

December 7, 2026

## **Board of Trustees Meeting Update**

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 April 13th. The following is a summary from the 3/16/26 Board meeting:

1. Adopt the February 23, 2026, minutes. Minutes were approved.
2. Chair Report – Jane Belt provided an update.
3. President's Report – David Jones provided an ACM update on a variety of topics.
4. Board Reflections – Board members shared reflections and comments.
5. Board Education – ACM Athletics – Mr. Reams provided an update on ACM Athletics.
6. Background Check Policy (Action Item) – Ms. Duckworth presented, and the Board approved.

7. MOU: ACM/BCREF and Southern Tier (Action Item) - Ms. Kilduff presented, and the Board approved.
8. ACM Transportation/Bus Purchase (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff presented, and the Board approved the purchase with Model 1 Commercial Vehicles (\$189,925).
9. College Center Chiller Replacement (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff presented, and the Board approved contact with Walter N. Yoder and Sons (\$1,119,493).
10. Website Content Management System Recommendation (Action Item)– Mr. Taylor and Ms. Beall presented, and the Board approved the selection of Hannon Hill Cascade CMS (\$170,900).

### **Upcoming Events:**

April 2-3, 2026– Spring Holiday, College Closed  
Mon, April 13 - Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 pm  
Tues, April 14 - Foundation Reception, College Center, 5:30 pm  
Sat, April 18 - Spring Open House, 9 am – 12 noon  
Tues, April 21 - Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, 6:30 pm  
Wed, April 29, Retiree Reception, Welcome Center, 11 am – 2 pm  
Sat, May 9 - BCREF Dinner/Fundraiser, Clear Ridge Event Ctr, 5-9 pm  
Mon, May 11 - Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 pm  
Thurs, May 14 – All College Assembly Meeting, Theatre, 9 am  
Fri, May 15 - Nursing Pinning, Gymnasium, 6 pm  
Sat, May 16 - Commencement, Gymnasium, 11 am and 2 pm

### **On A Personal Note,**

I love college basketball and enjoy the excitement of the NCAA tournament, including the unpredictability it brings. I typically complete multiple brackets embracing both a little strategy and the inevitable surprises. This year, my projected champions in my four men’s brackets include Duke, Michigan, and Florida, along with a long shot with the 5th seed St. John’s. In my women’s brackets, I’m going with UConn across the board.

With ACM Pride,  
David