

ACM Family,

This week, Appalachia lost an icon in music whose dedication to literacy has delivered over 300 million books to children across the US, Canada, UK, Australia, and Ireland since 1995. In honor of Dolly Parton's legacy, I encourage everyone to continue to lead with kindness and compassion for everyone they encounter.

Faculty/Staff Focus:

Faculty/Staff Focus: Clare Buckle

Nominated by: Kerri Caporale

Clare began her current position in March 2026 and, in less than six months, has successfully navigated significant regulatory changes affecting the CNA and Pharmacy Tech programs while revamping paperwork, digitizing applications, establishing a new CNA skills-testing vendor, and transitioning programs to fully CE. She also took on the EARN grant and developed the new Cannabis Pathway Program in consultation with approved curriculum providers, with the program set to launch in Fall 2026. Most notably, she has gone above and beyond to support a CNA graduate whose licensing application was lost by the Maryland Board of Nursing, working with her almost weekly to navigate the process and elevating the issue through her EARN grant reporting, ultimately helping bring broader attention to a statewide barrier affecting workforce needs.

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.

Annual Fall Employee Engagement & Satisfaction Survey

The annual faculty/staff survey has become an important way for us to listen, learn, and act on your feedback. The survey will be shared on September 14th and will remain open through October 2nd.

Community Engagement

Thank you to everyone who dedicated themselves to community engagement reporting. Your work helps demonstrate ACM's mission to support the community and take action.

2026–27 Learning College–Teaching and Learning Community (LC-TLC) cohort

LC-TLC is a professional development opportunity for ACM employees. Through readings, discussions, and activities, participants will explore what it means to be both a learner and a teacher—and how every role, regardless of department, contributes to a culture of learning.

Visit the [LC-TLC SharePoint site](#) to:

Learn more about the program

View past participants

Watch video testimonials

Preview the application

Please submit your **letter of interest** to **Shauna**

McQuade at smcquade@allegany.edu by **Wednesday, September 2, 2026**.

Enrollment

Credit (does not include Early College)

Headcount: up 2.28% over Fall 2025

FTE: up 1.9% over Fall 2025

Upcoming Events

- a. Mon, September 7, Labor Day, College Closed
- b. Mon, September 14, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- c. Tues, September 15, Campaign Kick-off, Welcome Center, 9 a.m.
- d. Wed, September 16, Campaign Kick-off, Bedford, 9 a.m.
- e. Mon, October 19, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- f. Thurs, October 22, State of the College, Zimmer Theatre, 9 a.m.
- g. Tues, October 27, Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, Zimmer Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
- h. Mon, November 16, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- i. Thurs/Fri, November 26 & 27, Thanksgiving Break, College Closed
- j. Mon, December 7, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- k. Thurs, December 10, All College Staff Meeting, Theatre, 9 a.m. Holiday Reception, 12 noon, College Center
- l. Fri, December 11, Commencement, Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

Stay Informed - President's Advisory Team (PAT)

The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets monthly to 1) provide advice and counsel to the President regarding the overall operation of the College; 2) assist the President in developing the College calendar; 3) collaborate with the President on creating and implementing strategic plans for the College; 4) recommend funding patterns and priorities to the President; and 5) develop the agenda for All-College Assembly staff meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2nd at 3 pm. I encourage you to stay engaged by attending PAT meetings, contacting your affinity group representatives for updates, sharing ideas, and asking questions. Your input is invaluable to shaping the future of our College.

ACM Shared/Participatory Governance

As part of the participatory governance process, a routing form was created to assist individuals and groups in submitting suggestions for new policies, policy changes, or non-operational major institutional issues. The issue raised should first be vetted by the parties affected, and if no resolution can be found, a routing form may be submitted.

Click this link to access a blank routing form: [blank routing form](#).

Grant Update

ACM has been awarded \$150,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding for Nursing Workforce Training Equipment. The funding will support updated simulation, clinical training, classroom, and lab equipment in the allied health building that will enhance hands-on learning, strengthen students' clinical readiness, and help prepare more nurses to enter the regional healthcare workforce.

A Gift For You:

As a gift to the ACM family, I am pleased to share that a free ACM-branded shirt will be provided to all ACM employees. A variety of styles and sizes will be available for pickup at the campus store starting in October. 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).

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.

Dates

- August 28 (today)
- September 11
- September 25
- October 9
- October 23

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

Location: President's Office

On a Personal Note

Today would have been my mother's 82nd birthday. Although she passed away in 2003 at the age of 59, I am deeply grateful that her legacy of kindness, service, and unconditional love continues to live on through the many lives she touched.

As part of her professional career as a nurse, teacher, and guidance counselor, she was also a member of the ACM family. She served as an adjunct faculty member in the Nursing Department and supported the Human Service Associate Program as both a guest speaker and internship site supervisor.

As I pause to reflect on her life today, I am reminded that the true measure of a person is not the number of years they live, but the impact they have on others. I remain grateful for the example she set, the values she instilled, and the lasting legacy she leaves behind.

With ACM Pride,
David