ACM Family,

I hope that you will be able to join us today at 1 pm for the 2nd annual State of the College. The event will highlight several areas of the campus and provide some key ACM updates.

Faculty/Staff Focus

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.

Weather and Emergency Communication

Stay informed with eSAFE, ACM's emergency text messaging service! This system is designed to keep faculty, staff, students, and others updated during major emergencies, crises, disasters, or weather-related closings and delays. If you haven't already, sign up today to receive timely notifications: eSAFE Sign-Up.

Ribbon Cutting and Showcase



From the accessible smart classroom and mobile accessibility carts to the technology enhancements in our Veterans Center, these projects are more than just new equipment. They're about removing barriers and making sure our students have the resources they need to succeed. We had the honor of welcoming Vishnu Desai from the Office of Statewide Broadband to campus to see firsthand the impact of their support. Thank you to Courtney M., Melanie C., Gerry G., Beth N., Jared R., Jennifer E., and Brian S. for your dedication to the needs of our students, and thank you to everyone who made an appearance for the ribbon-cutting of ACM's newest technological additions to campus.

Inspire Hope | Empower Tomorrow Campaign Spotlight: Sophie Powell Pantry Dedication

Family, friends, and peers gathered on Thursday to celebrate the legacy of Ms. Sophie Powell, a generous supporter of ACM, with a dedication of the newly named Sophie Powell Pantry. It was a wonderful opportunity to share memories and be reminded of our mission to serve our students in more ways than just academically.







Thank you, Senator McKay

Thank you to Senator Mike McKay for visiting campus to present us with a Maryland General Assembly proclamation celebrating our 65th anniversary during this week's Board of Trustees meeting. It is the support of our community and government officials that push us to continue to give back.



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.

Stay Informed/Remain Engaged - President's Advisory Team (PAT)

The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets on November 4th 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.

Employee Survey 2026

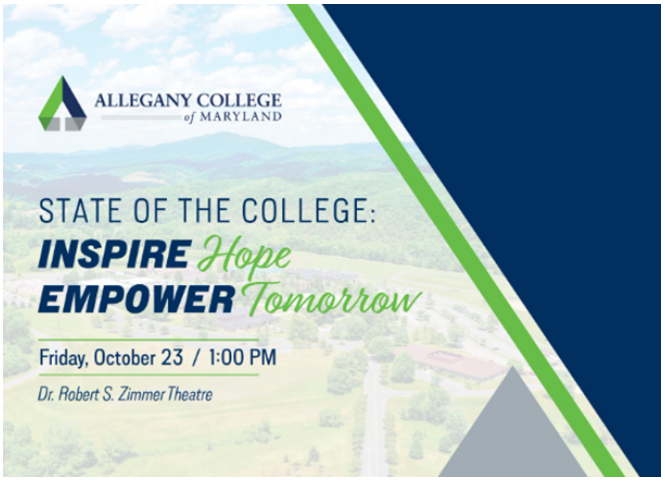
We recently completed this year's Employee Satisfaction Survey, with 150 responses representing all employee groups. A preliminary review indicates that overall satisfaction has improved in nearly every category. I am grateful to everyone who took the time to share feedback about their experience working at the College. We will review the results to identify opportunities for improvement and areas where we can build on our strengths. The results will also be shared with PAT at an upcoming meeting.

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 as of October 1, 2026. 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).

Please Join Us Today:

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



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.

Continuing Education and Workforce Development Center Technology Modernization
ACM is also seeking ARC support to modernize educational technology within the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Center. The project would update instructional technology and learning spaces used for short-term training, continuing education, employer-responsive programming, and workforce development. By creating more flexible and current instructional environments, the project would help ACM expand its ability to deliver training that meets changing regional workforce needs.

Employee Appreciation Fall Festival
Thank you to Carol Ann, the employee appreciation committee, and the volunteers who made this year's Fall Festival a success. Your dedication to our employees and students is integral to making the ACM experience a special one. I hope the festival has gotten everyone warmed up for Halloween.





Upcoming Events

- 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.

BOT Meeting 10/19 (notes from the Board meeting earlier this week)

- **65 Year Proclamation Presentation:** Senator McKay presented a proclamation in honor of our 65th anniversary.
- **Serenity Trail Refurbished:** Isaiah Kozikowski built three bridges to improve the Serenity Trail, along with new signage and three benches.
- **Board Education:** FSU President Dr. Shadow Robinson shared remarks and complimented our partnership with FSU.
- **CE Year-End Report:** CE provided 1,040 courses, had 12,300 registrations, and generated 569 FTE last year.
- **Curriculum Program Deletions:** The Board approved the deletion of two lower-division certificates: Nursing Assistant/Geriatric Aide and Pharmacy Tech. Both programs will continue on the CE side.
- **Purchasing and Bidding Thresholds Policy:** The Board increased the bidding threshold from $10,000 to $15,000.
- **Asset Capitalization Threshold Policy:** The Board approved the policy.
- **Annual Fund Balance Process and Procedures:** The Board approved the process and procedures.
- **Western Maryland Works Wood Dust Collection System:** The Board approved the item.

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: October 26 (moved from Oct. 23)
Time: 8am to 10am
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, meeting with a

department, 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

Elaine and I celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary earlier this week. I'm blessed to have shared over three incredible decades of love, laughter, and memories with my best friend.

With ACM Pride,
David