

ACM Family,

Welcome back to the second half of the fall 2026 semester.

Faculty/Staff Focus

Nominee: Renee Douthitt, Director of On-Campus Nursing

Nominated by: Anonymous

Renee demonstrates outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence in the nursing program and at Allegany College of Maryland. She works to build meaningful relationships, inspire collaboration, and achieve results that positively impact the College. She approaches every challenge with a solutions-oriented mindset and a genuine desire to make a difference. Renee has shown a commitment to strengthening her community through service, advocacy, and mentorship.

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.

Congratulations Andrea Beall

Please join me in congratulating Andrea, who will be serving as Chair of the Maryland Council of Community College Public Relations Officers (MCCCPRO), an Affinity Group of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC).

Emergency Testing 10/12

Several emergency communication systems will be tested **Monday, October 12, at approximately 9 a.m.** The following message "*Code Green - All clear. Resume normal operations*", will be broadcast via various platforms, including Sangoma phones, employee and networked computers, emergency radios, the access control door system, and **BCC ONLY** Emergency Lockdown Buttons.

Students will receive an email and text this week informing them of our plans to test our emergency communication systems. In addition, an eSAFE message announcing plans to perform a test of our emergency communication systems will be sent on Monday morning.

Thank you for your cooperation while we conduct this important testing.

Partnerships and Relationships Matter

It was a pleasure to host Congresswoman April McClain Delaney during her visit to Allegany College of Maryland earlier this week. Her visit provided an opportunity to showcase the important work taking place on our campus and the impact ACM has on students, families, employers, and the community. I appreciated the chance to discuss workforce development, transfer pathways, and the many ways community colleges help strengthen local economies and create opportunities for students to

succeed. Thank you, Congresswoman Delaney, for taking the time to visit Allegany College of Maryland and learn more about our students, faculty, staff, and the vital role higher education plays in our region.



League for Innovation Excellence Awards

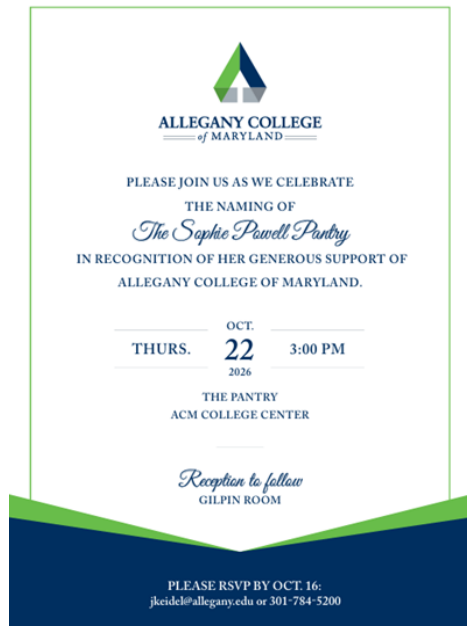
The League for Innovation Excellence Awards, established in 2012, recognize outstanding teaching, leadership, and service by community college administration, faculty, and staff. Recipients receive a specially cast medallion, a certificate from the League, and recognition by the Allegany College of Maryland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

FY28 Budget Planning

Maryland is expected to face a challenging FY28 budget environment, with state fiscal analysts projecting a significant structural deficit of approximately \$3 billion. To prepare for these challenges, the Moore administration has directed state agencies to develop FY28 budget requests that include potential spending reductions with some agencies being asked to identify cuts of up to 10% as part of the planning process. For higher education, this means continued uncertainty regarding State funding levels and the trickle-down impact at the County level. While FY28 budget decisions will be made during the 90-day legislative session in early 2027, ACM should anticipate increased scrutiny of operating budgets and a continued focus on efficiency.

SAVE THE DATE:

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



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



Enrollment

Fall 2026:

Total students: Up 4.8% over Fall 2025

FTE: Up .8% over Fall 2025

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.

Welding Equipment Modernization

At Western Maryland Works, ACM is seeking ARC funding to modernize aging welding equipment used for workforce training. The project would help students train on more current, industry-relevant equipment while supporting the College's ability to respond to employer needs in advanced manufacturing and skilled trades. The investment would strengthen one of ACM's key workforce pathways and help ensure students enter the field with practical experience using the tools and technology expected in today's workplace.

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

The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets today 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.

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) -Mr. Isaiah 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. WMW Wood Chip Dust Collection System (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff
14. 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



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).

Upcoming Events

- Tues, October 13, Tri-State College Night, Gymnasium, 6 p.m.
- 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 stop by to say hello, I look forward to connecting with you.

Dates

- · October 9; 2-3pm
- · October 23; 2:30 – 4pm

Campus Conversations

One of the best aspects of my role is the opportunity to connect directly with our faculty, staff, and students. Whether it's visiting a class, meeting with a club, attending a department meeting, stopping by a team practice, or welcoming a group to my office, I'm eager to spend more time with our 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

It was a pleasure to accept a challenge from the ACM Softball Team for a game of pickleball. There were some great rallies, a few impressive shots from both sides, and plenty of friendly competition. In the end, the real winners were everyone who got to enjoy the laughs, camaraderie, and school spirit that make ACM such a special place. Thank you to our talented students for the challenge and the fun evening.



With ACM Pride,
David