

ACM Family,

In less than one month from today (May 8), classes will end, and we will be preparing for the end-of-semester activities. Please take care of yourself and take the time to breathe during this especially busy time of year. I am pleased to share the following updates:

Faculty and Staff Focus

This week's nominees are **Megan Palumbo and Derek Young!**

"We would like to nominate Meghan Palumbo and Derek Young. These two have worked endlessly and tirelessly on updating Financial Aid processes and information over the last two years. Since the FAFSA Simplification Act came about, this task has been around-the-clock work for these two and has been nothing "simple" by any means. They have continued to stay on top of this to ensure our students are receiving the most accurate guidance and smoothest aid processing as possible - all while keeping up with regular responsibilities and continually supporting each of us. Many thanks and appreciation go out to them. We appreciate you both!"

Nominated by The ACM Student Financial Aid Office

FY27 Budget Update

Allegany College of Maryland presented our FY27 budget request to the Allegany County Commissioners yesterday, and it went well. A special thanks to the Board of Trustees, business leaders, and ACM students who provided comments as part of our request.

As we shared during the presentation, under maintenance-of-effort legislation, level funding from the County is critical to ensure the 3% increase from the State of Maryland. The FY2027 draft budget supports Allegany College of Maryland's mission to deliver accessible, high-quality education while preserving long-term financial stability. This budget, still under development, reflects stable enrollment assumptions, projected state funding increases, and level funding from Allegany County.

Additional information related to Health/Rx will be shared via email by April 22nd, with a Zoom meeting planned with CBIZ on April 23rd at 12:00 noon to share updates on Health/Rx/Dental. The Benefits and Wellness Fair is scheduled on April 28th, and Open Enrollment will run from May 4th to 18th, 2026.

Be My Guest

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

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 answer your questions.

Registration and Enrollment: Registration for summer 2026 and fall 2026 opens April 13th. Please continue to help spread the word and support our enrollment process.

<https://www.allegany.edu/registration/index.html>

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Everyone is invited to attend the Board of Trustees meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4pm in the Thomas Welcome Center. The agenda follows:

1. Adopt the March 16, 2026 Minutes
2. Chair's Update – Ms. Belt
3. President's Update – Mr. Jones
4. Board Reflections
5. Board Education – Allegany College of Maryland Foundation (Ms. Little and Ms. McKay)
6. ACM Regional Digital Opportunity Planning Proposal (Informational Item) – Ms. Chapman and Ms. McKay
7. MOU: ACM, BCREP, and Southern Tier Education Council (Action Item-Revised) – Mr. Jones
8. Professor Emeritus/Emerita Policy (Action Item) – Dr. Hoffman
9. Willowbrook Woods Student Housing Building #1 Siding and Window Replacement (Action Item) – Ms. Zirk

Professional Development Day

Professional Development Day is set for Wednesday, May 13. If you are willing to facilitate a session on the four tracks (assessment, learning college, technology, and work-life balance) during Professional Development Day, please use this link to complete the form.

https://alleganycollege.formstack.com/forms/professional_development_day_call_for_proposals The deadline to submit is Friday, April 10th.

2026 Mid-Atlantic Woodmen's Competition

Congratulations to the ACM Forestry Department for their participation in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Intercollegiate Woodmen's Competition at Haywood Community College in North Carolina on March 28th. ACM competed against teams from across the Eastern United States in events that included archery, axe throw, log roll, pole climb, and more. While they did not place, they demonstrated strong effort and proudly represented ACM. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

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!

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 lunch or dinner, I'm happy to join you, and I'll gladly bring pizza and snacks. If you're interested, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you and hope we can spend some time together soon.

Civic and Community Engagement

ACM's Civic and Community Engagement Committee is asking for your support as we near the end of the calendar year.

There are two ways that you can help:

1. **Document your work:** Please submit your year-end community engagement report(s) using this form.
2. **Recognize a colleague:** Nominate an ACM employee for the Community Engagement Award through this nomination form.

We thank everyone for all you are doing to strengthen our community and help our students thrive!

Outstanding Employee/Team Recognition – Call for Nominations

It is time to recognize the hard work of our colleagues through the annual Employee (or Team) Recognition program. The Employee Recognition Committee is seeking nominations for full- and part-time employees from any department or work group across all ACM campuses.

Nominees may demonstrate (but are not limited to) the following:

- Support for college strategies and goals
- Exceptional work ethic, performance, or customer service
- Innovative learner-centered teaching strategies
- Positive attitude toward coworkers, students, and the college mission
- Leadership through committees, work groups, or task forces
- Support and encouragement of others
- Promotion of collaboration and unity
- Process improvements that increase efficiency, reduce waste, save money, or improve service
- Leadership in institutional or student service
- Promotion of a positive, healthy, and balanced work environment

All employees are encouraged to nominate colleagues or teams who have gone above and beyond or contributed meaningful improvements or solutions. Multiple nominations are allowed. Please provide specific details in your submission.

All nominees will be reviewed by the Employee Recognition Committee and recognized at the next All College Assembly meeting. Submitters must include their name for follow-up but may request to remain confidential.

Submit nominations here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACMFY26OutstandingAward>

Deadline: April 24, 2026

Upcoming Events:

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
Friday, May 1, Law Day, College Center and Athletic Fields, 9am – 1pm
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
Friday, May 15 – Dental Hygiene Pinning, Zimmer Theatre, 2pm.
Fri, May 15 - Nursing Pinning, Gymnasium, 6 pm
Sat, May 16 - Commencement, Gymnasium, 11 am and 2 pm
Tues, May 19 – Bedford Commencement, 7 pm

On A Personal Note

With warmer weather upon us, and ice cream stands opening for the season, I wanted to share a fun connection. ACPS Superintendent Martirano and I grew up less than a half-mile apart on the west end of Frostburg, attended Beall High School, and even started our working careers at the Tastee Freeze (Frostburg Freeze). On Monday, April 13, from 7:00–9:00 p.m., Superintendent Martirano and I will be reconnecting at the Freeze, and I encourage you to stop by and visit. Rumor has it, we might even be inside making cones and sharing a few memories!

With ACM Pride,
David