

ACM Family,

Through the busy times of the end of the semester, I encourage everyone to take moments, when possible, to breathe and enjoy the wonderful weather we have been having.

Faculty and Staff Focus

This week's nominees are **Kass Lashbaugh and the groundskeeping crew!**

"We'd like to nominate **Kass Lashbaugh!** Kass works endlessly with our office, as well as other offices, to ensure we are always up-to-date and with finding the most accurate way of doing our jobs. If there's a way to pull data out of our system and apply it to each of our jobs within the Financial Aid Office, she'll do just that. One small example is our state programs. The state systems do not communicate with our college system. Kass has created numerous reports that bridge the gap to allow us to operate accurately, efficiently, and confidently, ensuring our students are getting what they're entitled to and that we remain compliant with regulations. This is just one example of the many contributions Kass has made to our office. Kass is truly an asset to ACM, and anyone who has had the pleasure to work with her will easily agree." - Nominated by the Student Financial Aid Office.

"The physical plant department would like to nominate the following **groundskeeping crew** and supervisors for making the campus look outstanding for open house."

Paul Blank

Scott Hardman

Tommy McBride

Bob Whitacre

Lonnie Van Meter

Bryan Hite

Shane Scott

"Thanks to their dedication and attention to detail, the campus grounds look fantastic and open house ready!" - Nominated by the physical plant dept.

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.

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.

Achieving the Dream: Transforming Community College Education Through the Humanities

Congratulations to members of our Humanities Division on receiving a grant to support the transformation of community college education through the humanities. ACM was one of only five community colleges nationwide selected to participate in this important initiative. This initiative will further support the College as we contribute to national conversations about the tools that help colleges articulate the value of humanities

education for student success, workforce preparation, and community well-being. A special thanks to Jenna, Miha, Kurt, and Courtney for their work on this exciting project.

FY27 Budget Update

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.

Math Program Review

Congratulations to the ACM Mathematics faculty for completing the Academic Program Review Process. I enjoyed learning even more about the program, its learning outcomes, needed resources, and the student success stories. Thanks to Mark, Clorinda, Cody, and Steve for your efforts in leading the mathematics department.

ACM Dental Hygiene News

Congratulations to the Spring 2026 Dental Hygiene students, who had a 100% pass rate on the ADHLEX clinical board exam that was administered on April 10th. Not only did the class have a 100% pass rate, but 1/3 of the class had either a 100% or 99%. Please join me in congratulating our students on this accomplishment but also thanking our faculty and staff for their commitment and dedication to the program. Congratulations Cathy, Jennifer, Danean, Tina, Clark, Susan, Melanie, Jordan, Colleen, Meghan, and Christine. Well done.

Earth and Arbor Day Events

Please consider celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day with us!

Earth Day Awareness Celebration on Wednesday, April 22, from 1-3 in the courtyard!

Program Advisory Committees

A special thanks to the ACM Program Advisory Committee members, who are vital to the success of our programs. It was a pleasure to attend the Medical Assistant and Medical Administrative Assistant Program Advisory Committee Meeting last week to learn more about program changes, challenges, and opportunities. Thanks to Lisa, Stephanie, Stacy, Amanda, and Jennifer for making me feel especially welcome.

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

As a special giveaway due to the generosity of a member of the community, I have 50 tickets and will provide faculty/staff up to 2 tickets each for the first 25 who reply directly to me.

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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!

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 May 11th.

The following is a summary from the 4/13/26 Board meeting:

1. Adopt the March 16, 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 Foundation. Beth Little and Courtney McKay provided an update on the ACM Foundation. This included recent successes, upcoming initiatives, and benchmarking results.
6. ACM Regional Digital Opportunity Planning Proposal – Courtney McKay and Melanie Chapman provided an overview of the grant-funded project to support the development of a regional digital opportunity plan.
7. Professor Emeritus/Emerita Policy (Action item). Dr. Hoffman presented, and the Board approved the policy.
8. Willowbrook Woods Students Housing Building #1 Siding and Window Replacement (Action Item). Cathy Zirk presented, and the Board approved the low bid from Merkel Contracting in the amount of \$132,000.
9. ACM, BCREF, and Southern Tier MOU (Action Item). David Jones presented, and the Board approved the MOU.

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:

Sat, April 18 - Spring Open House, 9 am – 12 noon

Tues, April 21 - Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 22 – Arbor Day, 12 noon

Wednesday, April 22 – Earth Day, Courtyard, 1-3pm

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

I have always dreamed of owning a small Christmas Tree Farm. My spring supply of 30 additional trees (6-8") arrived earlier this week, and I look forward to planting them soon. This includes a mix of Concolor Fir, White Spruce, Canaan Fir, Douglas Fir, Balsam Fir, and White Pine. Perfect timing for Arbor Day.

With ACM Pride,
David