

ACM Family,

Today, we pause to mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. Later that month, the ACM campus came together in a moving remembrance ceremony. We stood side by side, lifting voices and hearts in tribute. These images remind us of the strength we find in one another, then and now. As we reflect today, may we recommit ourselves to unity, compassion, and service. These values will continue guiding us as a college and community.



Faculty/Staff Focus:

Nominee: Shea Bonarigo

Nominator: Anonymous

"I would like to nominate Shea Bonarigo in recognition of her dedication to ACM, and especially to CE. Shea has consistently stepped up as a guiding force for CE, taking on numerous responsibilities and helping ensure that our operations run smoothly. She is also our go-to resource for the upcoming building renovation. Shea's hard work, dedication, and many contributions are greatly appreciated, and she is truly deserving of this recognition."

Upcoming Events

- a. Tues, September 15, Campaign Kick-off, Welcome Center, 9 a.m.
- b. Wed, September 16, Campaign Kick-off, Bedford, 9 a.m.
- c. Mon, September 21, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- d. Mon, October 19, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- e. Fri, October 23, State of the College, Zimmer Theatre, 1 p.m.
- f. Tues, October 27, Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, Zimmer Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
- g. Mon, November 16, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- h. Thurs/Fri, November 26 & 27, Thanksgiving Break, College Closed
- i. Mon, December 7, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- j. Thurs, December 10, All College Staff Meeting, Theatre, 9 a.m. Holiday Reception, 12 noon, College Center
- k. Fri, December 11, Commencement, Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

Cheer on the Trojans

Join me in supporting all our student-athletes. Don't miss the action for Women's Volleyball, Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer, Men's Cross Country, and Women's Cross Country! For more details, visit: acmtrojans.com

A Gift For You

As a gift to the ACM family, a free ACM-branded shirt will be provided to all faculty and staff. They will be available for pick up in the campus store starting October 1, 2026. A link will be provided for faculty/staff not able to travel to Cumberland. 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).

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.

Financial Transparency

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, I want to remind you that the ACM-approved budgets and related finance documents are available for review. These resources provide a clear picture of how we allocate and manage our funding to support the mission and vision of ACM. You can access these documents using the following link: [Budget Portal](#). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated finance staff for their diligent work in keeping ACM financially solid.

Community Engagement:

A special thank you to Diane McMahon and the ACM [College to Community Partnership Center](#) for their work in building partnerships with community leaders to connect college students, faculty, and staff with efforts to address unmet needs in our community. For several weeks, I have shared information showing a variety of impacts from these efforts, including the total community organization partnerships over the past ten years. Thank you, Diane and ACM family, for your efforts to support our community.

**Campaign Kickoff**

Please join us for the kickoffs for the Inspire Hope/Empower Tomorrow Campaign. The Cumberland campus kickoff will be on Tuesday, September 15 at 9 am in the Welcome Center and the Bedford County Campus kickoff will be on Wednesday, September 16 at the Bedford campus. We are excited to launch an ambitious campaign to ensure that ACM remains a place where lives are transformed.

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 September 21, 2026. The draft public session agenda is provided below for your convenience.

Board of Trustees Meeting
September 21st, 2026 draft agenda

1. Chairman's Update – Ms. Belt
2. President's Update – Mr. Jones
3. Board Member Comments/Reflections – Board Members
4. Adopt the August 17, 2026 Minutes
5. Statement of Closed Session – Ms. Belt
6. Continuing Education and Workforce Development Design Update – Mr. Daniel M. McDougal, Senior Associate, Noelker & Hull Associates, Inc.
7. Western Maryland Works Welding Fume Extractor Project (Action Item) - Ms. Kilduff
8. Food Auxiliary Fund Loss Transfer – Ms. Kilduff
9. Year-End Transfer of Sustainability Fee Funds (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff
10. Residency Policy (Action Item) – Dr. Conner
11. Bereavement Policy (Action Item) – Ms. Duckworth
12. Performance Accountability Report (Action Item)- Mr. Praidkin
13. Curriculum Committee Recommendations (Action Item) - Dr Hoffman
14. Statement for Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act – Ms. Belt

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Save The Date

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

Grant Update

Through the support of the Rural Maryland Council and the Community Trust Foundation, a log loader and UTV are being purchased to support the forestry program. We appreciate the ongoing support from both of these organizations and value their partnership.

Enrollment

Fall 2026 (does not include early college):

Headcount: up 1.5% over Fall 2025

FTE: Flat compared to fall 2025

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

- September 11
- September 25
- October 9
- October 23

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

Location: President's Office

Campus Conversations

One of the best aspects of my role is the opportunity to connect directly with our 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, 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

I enjoy playing in a few fantasy football leagues. It's the closest I'll ever get to being an NFL team owner, but I love the strategy of the draft, the thrill of trades, and the lighthearted camaraderie that comes with another season. And with Lamar Jackson as my QB and Jahmyr Gibbs as my RB, what could possibly go wrong 😊

With ACM Pride,
David