

ACM Family,

In three months from today (December 18, 2026), ACM closes for winter break. Over the next three months, I would encourage you to continue investing in our students through your teaching, mentoring, and support so that they can finish the semester strong and feel confident about the next steps in their journey.

I'm pleased to share the following updates:



Exciting News for ACM!

I am pleased to share that Allegany College of Maryland has been selected as the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year for 2026. The selection was based on several criteria, including economic impact, community involvement, innovation and adaptability, and leadership within the industry. The award will be presented at the Chamber's awards ceremony on November 5. **Congratulations** to everyone at ACM on this outstanding achievement!

Faculty/Staff Focus

Nominee: Courtney Eagan

Nominated by: Rick Twigg

Courtney does so much for all the Student-Athletes and the Athletic Department; Court has boosted our Social Media profile across all platforms to be at the top in Region 20 and beyond! Her development and the constant work that she puts in towards our athletic website makes it absolutely one of the best if not the best in our Region. Courtney was instrumental in developing and implementing the HUDL livestreaming for all of the athletic venues, which is of real value to the Student/Athletes and their families, as well as us coaches to be able to view games as a scouting and recruiting tool to be able to move our athletes to the next level. Among all of her successes as SIC, Courtney organizes Media days for every athletic team for the last several years. Her behind-the-scenes work to ensure all Athletes are visible is so valuable to us as coaches and to our Student Athletes.

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 remain open through midnight, Friday, October 2, 2026, and can be completed anywhere you have internet access:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACM_EmployeeSurvey_2026

Enrollment

Fall 2026 (includes early college, but not final):

Total students: Up 3.35% over Fall 2025

FTE: Up .36% over Fall 2025

65th Anniversary Campaign



A big thank you to everyone who helped us kick off ACM's 65th Anniversary Campaign in Cumberland and Bedford!

Board of Trustees Meetings

Attending the ACM Board of Trustees meetings helps you stay informed. The Board meets at 4 pm in the Thomas Welcome Center, with the next meeting scheduled for September 21, 2026. For additional information, visit: <https://allegany.edu/presidents-office/board-of-trustees.html>

September 21st, 2026, 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

League for Innovation Excellence Awards

Stay tuned for information about the nomination process for the League for Innovation Excellence Awards.

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 next week 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).



Save The Date

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



ACCESS ACM

The ACCESS ACM 2026 celebrates the 65th anniversary through the theme “Then & Now,” reflecting on the people, programs, places, and moments that have shaped the College since its founding in 1961. Through historic photographs paired with present-day stories, alumni memories, and highlights of ACM’s continued growth and innovation, the magazine honors the traditions and relationships that have endured across generations while showcasing how the College has evolved to meet the changing needs of its students and communities. [Read Now](#)

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 25
- October 9

- October 23

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

Location: President's Office

On A Personal Note:

Recently, I received a special gift from Dr. Chip Zimmer, son of Dr. Robert Zimmer, the founding president of Allegany Community College. Chip graciously entrusted me with the original sign that hung on his father's office door. It reads:

**"STUDENTS PLEASE INTERRUPT
VISITORS WILL UNDERSTAND"**

Though simple, those six words speak volumes about the values upon which this institution was founded. They reflect a philosophy that students always come first, a principle that continues to guide Allegany College of Maryland today.

As President of Allegany College of Maryland, I am honored to display this sign in my office. It serves as a daily reminder of our enduring mission and the legacy of those who helped build this great institution. Regardless of how much higher education may change, our commitment to students must remain at the center of everything we do.





With ACM Pride,
David