ACM Family,

During this season of thanks, I would like to express my gratitude to you and for your service to ACM. I'm pleased to share the following updates:

Faculty/Staff Focus
Nominee: Liz Medcalf
Nominated by: Lori Sadlier
"Liz Medcalf is truly a rock star! She consistently goes above and beyond with a positive attitude, professionalism, and a willingness to jump in wherever she is needed. Whether supporting coworkers, helping program participants, or thinking outside the box to solve problems, Elizabeth brings dedication, flexibility, and a can-do attitude to everything she does. Her initiative, reliability, and team spirit make her an incredible asset to the program. We are lucky to have her on our team!"

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.

MEDCO – Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone (RISE Zone)
ACM is working closely with MEDCO (Maryland Economic Development Corporation) and was recently designated as a qualified RISE Zone institution. The Maryland RISE Zone program is designed to leverage higher education institutions as economic development anchors. We are working with Allegany County Economic Development and the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation to enable ACM to be a designated RISE Zone, further enabling ACM to work with our economic development partners to offer 1) enhanced state tax incentives; 2) waived business filing fees; 3) priority consideration for certain state grants; and 4) dedicated business concierge services and economic development support. This designation further positions ACM as a key partner in regional economic development and workforce innovation, while creating new opportunities for business investment and job growth throughout our region.

The Importance of Respect and Civility
As a college community, we thrive when we treat one another with mutual respect and civility. These values strengthen our learning environment, enrich our workplace, and remind us that even in times of challenge, kindness and professionalism carry us forward together.

Bedford Campus Open House Thank You
Please accept my appreciation to everyone involved in planning and executing the Bedford County Campus Open House. The attendance numbers were positive, but even more impactful were the personal stories shared by prospective students and their families. Throughout the morning, I heard about the warmth of the welcome they received, the

helpfulness of our faculty and staff, and the sense of excitement they felt about the possibilities at ACM. Your efforts made a real and lasting impression. Thank you for representing us so well. You made the college shine.



Foundation and Housing Audit:

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone in our Foundation/Development and Finance offices for your hard work and dedication throughout the audits of Allegany College Housing, LLC and the Allegany College of Maryland Foundation. Achieving clean audits is not simply the result of work done during audit season. It reflects a year-round commitment to strong financial stewardship, accurate recordkeeping, sound internal controls, and accountability. Thank you for the professionalism, teamwork, and diligence you bring to your work every day.

Spreading Holiday Cheer in Downtown Cumberland!

The holiday season is getting a little brighter thanks to local artist Jenna Linhart, who is bringing her creativity and festive spirit to the windows of Allegany College of Maryland's Gateway Center! We invite you to take a stroll through Downtown Cumberland, admire our holiday window display, and snap a festive selfie! Be sure to tag Allegany College of Maryland, Culinaire Café, and the Gateway Center so we can share the holiday fun!

Help Us Spread Hope This Holiday Season! ACM's Gateway Center is participating in the Season of Hope Fundraiser, hosted by the Family Crisis Resource Center (FCRC)! The contest will run November 26, 2026 – January 4, 2027, at noon. Every $1 donated equals ONE vote! All proceeds directly benefit FCRC and the important work they do in our community. The participating business receiving the most votes will be crowned the Season of Hope Fundraiser Champion!

A special thank you to Connie Milligan, Lori Spence, Shauna McQuade, Josh Getz, Culinaire Café, and ACM's PR & Marketing team for helping bring this beautiful holiday installation to life!

Come enjoy the display, celebrate local artistry, and help us turn holiday cheer into hope for our community!



Western Maryland Works Holiday Workshops

Did you know that monthly memberships to the Western Maryland Works makerspace are FREE for all employees and students? Please note that while membership is free, you may be charged for consumables related to your projects, such as wood, ink, paper, and other materials.

Are you looking to make a unique and simple gift this holiday season? Western Maryland Works has several fun workshops in November and December where you can create handmade gifts! Our technicians will guide you step-by-step through each project, making it easy for beginners and experienced makers alike.

Upcoming holiday workshops include:

- Wooden Bowls
- Charcuterie Boards
- Handcrafted Wooden Pens
- French Rolling Pins
- Customized Vinyl T-shirts
- Wooden Serving Trays

- Customized Embroidery

For a full list of upcoming holiday workshops including prices and available times, visit our Eventbrite page:
https://hubs.la/Q04DlDYL0

We hope to see you at Western Maryland Works soon!

Registration and Enrollment
Registration for the intersession and spring 2027 semester opened on November 2, 2026. Please continue to help spread the word and support our enrollment process.
https://www.allegany.edu/registration/index.html

Board of Trustees Meetings
The Board of Trustees met on November 16th at 4 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for December 7th. The following is a summary of the meeting:

Chairman's Update: Chair Jane Belt asked those in attendance to say something they are grateful for.

President's Update: David shared that leadership at the State level have stated that this will be a difficult budget year with an expected $3 billion deficit that will likely grow in future years.

Board Education: FAMLI (Family & Medical Leave Insurance) - Melinda Duckworth shared information on the FAMLI program beginning in Jan. 2028. Partial wage replacement will be provided for up to 12 weeks when an employee needs to be away from work to care for themselves or a family member. ACM will use a self-funded FAMLI private plan, as opposed to the state plan. HR will be communicating additional info with employees soon.

FY2027 Pay Scales Revision: The Board approved a pay scale adjustment for nursing clinical instructors.

Bedford County Regional Education Foundation & Southern Tier Education Council MOU: The MOU, which is very similar to past years, was approved.

FY2027 Fund Balance Designation: The FY27 fund balance designation list was shared and approved.

2027-2028 Academic Calendar: The 2027-2028 academic calendar was approved.

Program Advisory Committee Handbook: Dr. Hoffman presented for informational purposes.

Local Advisory Council Update: Dr. Hoffman presented a new member for the LAC, who was approved.

Statement of Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act: Ms. Belt

Stay Informed - President's Advisory Team (PAT)

The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets monthly to 1) provide advice and counsel to the President regarding the overall operation of the College; 2) assist the President in developing the College calendar; 3) collaborate with the President on creating and implementing strategic plans for the College; 4) recommend funding patterns and priorities to the President; and 5) develop the agenda for All-College Assembly staff meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd , starting at 2 p.m. 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.

Campaign Update

The Bedford County Regional Education Foundation is grateful to KLA Contractors for its generous investment in student success. Through a $25,000 commitment, the company has established the KLA Contractors Scholarship, which will provide $5,000 annually over the next five years. The scholarship will be available to Bedford County residents attending ACM in any program of study who are enrolled in at least six credits per semester and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher. By removing financial barriers and expanding access to higher education, this meaningful gift supports Allegany College of Maryland's comprehensive **Inspire Hope. Empower Tomorrow.** campaign, inspiring hope for today's students and empowering tomorrow's workforce and community leaders.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Congratulations to Melody Gaschler and the ACM Theatre Club for their weekend performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It was wonderful to see several ACM students, faculty, and staff involved in this performance.



Grantsgiving



Turning Funding into Results

When ACM receives a grant, the work is just beginning. Faculty and staff implement projects, measure outcomes, and ensure funding translates into real opportunities for students, employers, and communities throughout Western Maryland.

"Be Social"

With winter intersession and spring 2027 enrollment now open, please help us spread the word about the fantastic opportunities at ACM! By sharing posts from our official social media accounts, you can showcase enrollment opportunities, academic programs, events, and the successes that set our college apart. Your voice can inspire others to join the ACM community and take the next step in their educational journey. Follow and share content from our official channels:

Facebook
Instagram
TikTok
Snapchat
X (formerly Twitter)

LinkedIn

Upcoming Events
· Thurs/Fri, November 26 & 27, Thanksgiving Break, college closed
· Mon, December 7, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
· Tues, December 8th, Garrett Nursing Pinning, Garrett College, 6 p.m.
· Thurs, December 10, All college staff meeting, Theater, 9 a.m. Holiday reception, 12 p.m.
· Thurs, December 10, Cumberland Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Gymnasium, 6 p.m.
· Fri, December 11, Commencement, Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

Cheer on the Trojans
Join me in supporting our student-athletes. For more details, visit: www.acmtrojans.com

Campus Conversations
One of the best aspects of my role is the opportunity to connect directly with our faculty, staff, and 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, meeting with a department, or welcoming a group to my office, I'm eager to spend more time with our faculty, staff, and 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.

Countdown to 12 Days
PASSA's 12 Days of Christmas tickets are now on sale, with a deadline of December 1st at noon. All proceeds go towards PASSA's Student Assistance Fund. If anyone is interested in purchasing tickets, they can reach out to Emily Beck at ebeck2@allegany.edu or ext. 5449 or any other PASSA member.

On A Personal Note
As we enter this season of gratitude, I am especially thankful for the many blessings in our lives, the people who enrich our days, and the opportunities we have to make a difference in the lives of others. Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with joy, reflection, and thankfulness.
With ACM Pride
David