ACM Family,

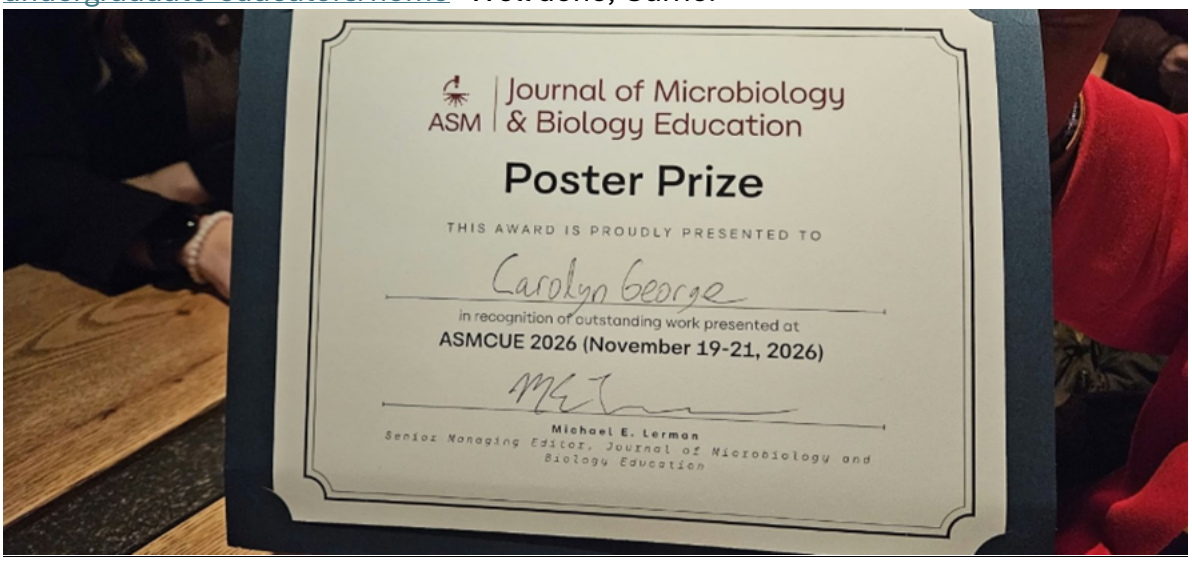
As we prepare for Thanksgiving and receive this edition of *Forward Focus* three days early, I wanted to share a few updates with you, along with a brief video message highlighting ACM students who participated in last evening's Willowbrook Woods Thanksgiving Dinner.
ACM Students at the Willowbrook Woods Thanksgiving Dinner

Faculty/Staff Focus
Nominees: The Wonka crew
Nominated anonymously
"Working on a musical takes countless hours of teamwork to bring a production together. From backstage, on stage, house and front of house--thank you for the gift of your time and talents to make a memorable experience."

- Melody Gaschler for her devotion and guidance to students while directing Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.
- To Brenda Mathews for organizing and operating our theater box office.
- To Isaac Tice for his many, many hours of technical wizardry.
- To Heather Kephart for her vivid costume creations.
- To Tasha Stitcher for her clever choreography.

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.

Congratulations, Carolyn George
Please join me in congratulating Carolyn George, Associate Professor, who won the Poster Prize at the ACMCUE conference last week. https://asm.org/events/asm-conference-for-undergraduate-educators/home Well done, Carrie.



TIME Magazine Recognition

I am pleased to announce that ACM has been recognized in *TIME* magazine's *America's Best Community Colleges 2027*, earning a place among the nation's community colleges recognized for their performance in student outcomes and learning environment. Thank you everyone for your continued dedication to ACM students.



Breakfast with Santa: Thank you Culinary Café Faculty, Staff and Students

Please join me in thanking our Culinary Café Faculty, Staff, and Students for a fantastic Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday. I continue to hear positive comments from community members who were grateful for this opportunity.



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 next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on December 7th at 4 pm.

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.

Grantsgiving



Why Grants Matter

Grant funding helps ACM expand educational opportunities, strengthen workforce development programs, support student success, and partner with organizations across the region. Together, these investments help build a stronger future for our region. What programs and partnerships have you seen change lives in our region?

Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Success Summit

Congratulations to Dr. Hoffman, who served as a panelist in a breakout session at the Student Success Summit. Thank you for representing ACM and the Maryland Community College sector by serving on this panel.



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

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

The JFK 50-mile ultramarathon is held annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. On Saturday, my son, his wife, and my youngest daughter completed the race. My father-in-law completed the race 30 times, and my wife completed it twice. I registered for the race in March, conditioned, and was planning to run, but backed out as I was running a fever on Saturday (I am already planning to run next November).

This ultramarathon is a reminder of an enduring lesson: no one runs 50 miles all at once. You do it one step at a time. That same mindset applies beautifully to our work at ACM. Whether it's a student working toward a degree, a faculty member advancing an idea, or a team striving toward institutional goals, success comes from steady, consistent effort, one step at a time. And when we keep our eyes on the finish line and support one another along the way, we can all finish strong.



Happy Thanksgiving,
David