

ACM Family,

As we approach fall break on Monday and Tuesday, I hope you find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the beauty of the season.

Faculty/Staff Focus

Nominee: Matt Hay

Nominated by: Brandon Hoover

Matt Hay has provided exceptional library instruction for my POSC 101 course and other classes at ACM since Fall 2013. He is always well prepared, engaging, and thoughtful in helping students develop the research skills they need to succeed. Matt is also consistently kind and helpful to both students and faculty, making him a valued partner in teaching and learning.

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.

Annual Fall Employee Engagement & Satisfaction Survey (deadline extended)

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 Sunday at midnight and can be completed anywhere you have internet access:

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

Emergency Testing 10/12

Several emergency communication systems will be tested **Monday, October 12, at approximately 9 a.m.** The following message "*Code Green - All clear. Resume normal operations*", will be broadcast via various platforms, including Sangoma phones, employee and networked computers, emergency radios, the access control door system, and **BCC ONLY** Emergency Lockdown Buttons.

Students will receive an email and text this week informing them of our plans to test our emergency communication systems. In addition, an eSAFE message announcing plans to perform a test of our emergency communication systems will be sent on Monday morning.

Thank you for your cooperation while we conduct this important testing.

Healthiest Maryland Businesses



ACM was recognized at the Pacesetter level for the Healthiest Maryland Businesses 2026 Wellness at Work Recognition Program. Thank you to our HR team for your work in obtaining this recognition.

2025-2026 FISAP Submission

A special thank you to Meghan Palumbo for her hard work and dedication in successfully submitting the 2025-2026 FISAP. Your attention to detail, commitment to our students, and stewardship of this important process are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping ensure that ACM continues to provide vital financial aid opportunities for those we serve.

Stay Informed/Remain Engaged - President's Advisory Team (PAT)

The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets on October 9th at 3 pm. 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.

SAVE THE DATE:

1. Campus Visit by Congresswoman Delaney
Wednesday, October 7th
(open campus forum from 3:45 – 4:30 in the Welcome Center). Please let me know if you are able to attend.
2. Sophie Powell Pantry Dedication
Thursday, October 22nd at 3 pm (Pantry)
3. State of the College: Empowering Our Future
Friday, October 23rd at 1 pm (Zimmer Theatre)

A Special Thanks

A special thanks to Arthur P., Jennifer E., Meghan P., Shyann K., and others for their heavy lifting in submitting ACM's documentation to the US. Department of Education to ensure compliance with the Gainful Employment and Financial Value Transparency Requirement.

Enrollment

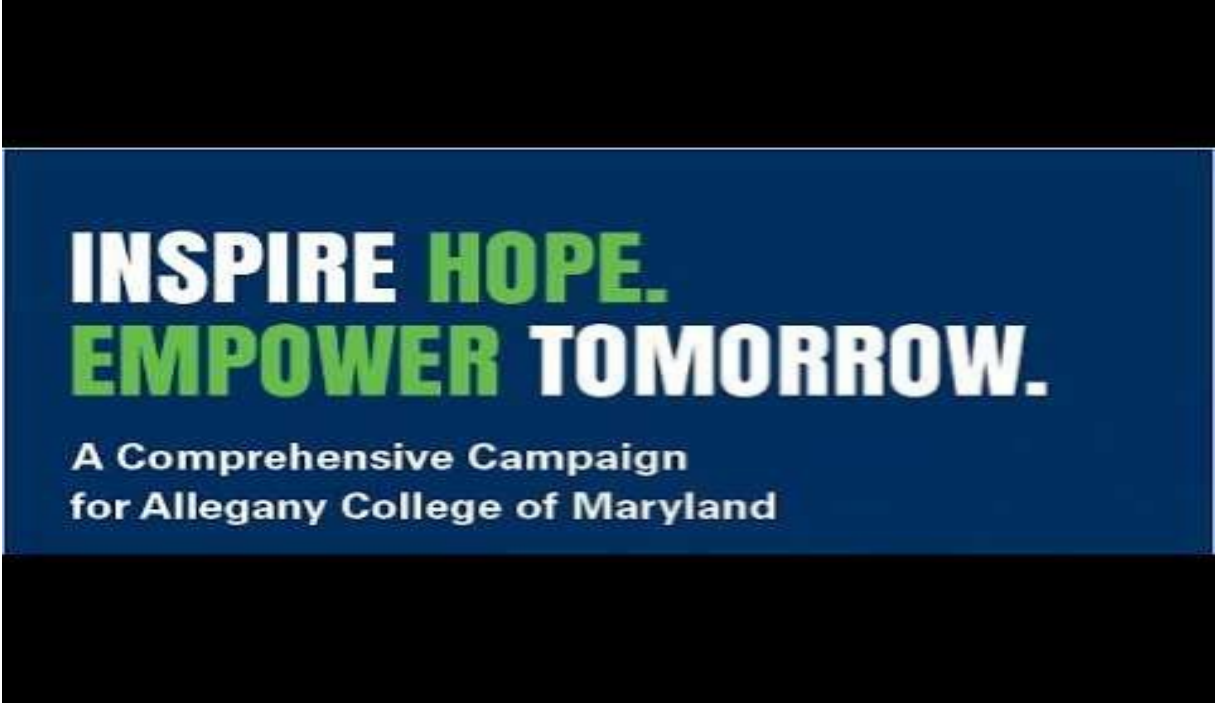
Fall 2026:

Total students: Up 4.8% over Fall 2025

FTE: Up .8% over Fall 2025

Campaign Update

In September, the ACM Foundation publicly launched a comprehensive five-year, \$65 million campaign designed to advance the College's mission and expand its impact across our region. This effort will support student scholarships, academic and workforce programs, facilities and technology improvements, and strategic initiatives that ensure ACM remains accessible, relevant, and responsive to the needs of future generations. Enjoy taking a look back at our history and a look forward to our future through the campaign [video](#).

A graphic for the ACM Foundation campaign. It features a dark blue rectangular background with white and green text. The top section is a solid black bar. The main text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The words 'INSPIRE HOPE.' are in white, with 'HOPE.' in green. Below that, 'EMPOWER TOMORROW.' is in white, with 'EMPOWER' in green. The bottom section is another solid black bar.

**INSPIRE HOPE.
EMPOWER TOMORROW.**

**A Comprehensive Campaign
for Allegany College of Maryland**

Grant Update (ARC-tober is upon us!)



There is nothing spooky about grants this October. Throughout ARC-tober, five projects that ACM is pursuing through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will be highlighted. Together, the projects represent more than \$1.2 million in potential investment in instructional facilities, workforce training, technology infrastructure, and student access across the College.

Dental Clinic Facility Upgrade for Workforce Training

ACM is pursuing ARC support to upgrade its Dental Clinic and strengthen the hands-on learning environment for Dental Hygiene students. The project would support improvements to cabinetry, equipment, and clinical training space, helping the program maintain a modern setting that better reflects the environments students will encounter in the workforce. These improvements would enhance both student learning and ACM's ability to prepare skilled dental professionals for the region.

Upcoming Events

- Tues, October 13, Tri-State College Night, Gymnasium, 6 p.m.
- Mon, October 19, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- Fri, October 23, State of the College, Zimmer Theater, 1 p.m.
- Tues, October 27, PTK Induction Ceremony, Theater, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, November 10, Cumberland Campus Open House
- Sat, November 14, Bedford Campus Open House, Bedford Campus
- Mon, November 16, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center 4 p.m.
- Thurs/Fri, November 26 & 27, Thanksgiving Break, college closed
- Mon, December 7, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- Thurs, December 10, All college staff meeting, Theater, 9 a.m. Holiday reception, 12 p.m.
- Fri, December 11, Commencement, Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

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

- October 9
- October 23

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

Location: President's Office

A Gift for You (Now available in the Campus Store)

As a gift to the ACM family, a free ACM-branded shirt is being provided to all faculty and staff. They are now available for pickup at the campus store as of October 1, 2026. 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).



Campus Conversations

One of the best aspects of my role is the opportunity to connect directly with our students, faculty, and staff, 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 you. 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:

Elaine Solomon was much more than a member of the ACM family. She was a mentor, a trusted confidant, and my friend. Elaine was a tireless advocate for our region and generously shared her time, talents, and resources in support of Allegany College of Maryland and the students we serve.

As a member of the ACM Foundation Board of Directors, Elaine beautifully captured her commitment to the College when she said:

"Being on the Foundation Board allows us to work as a team to promote the growth and general welfare of the College while allowing many an education to form a successful career in the future and make an impact on our community, state, and region."

That statement reflected exactly who Elaine was. She believed deeply in the power of education to transform lives and strengthen communities, and she worked tirelessly to make that vision a reality.

On a more personal note, whenever Elaine joined my wife, Elaine, and me at special events, she would jokingly remind me that she was my "second favorite Elaine" and always referred to me as "kiddo" in the most affectionate way. Her wit, warmth, and sense of humor brought a smile to everyone around her.

Elaine's legacy will live on through the countless lives she touched, the students she helped, and the community she loved so dearly. She will be deeply missed, fondly remembered, and forever appreciated.



With ACM Pride,
David

