



BEDFORD COUNTY CAMPUS CELEBRATES SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Twelve graduates celebrated their academic accomplishments at the Allegany College of Maryland Bedford County Campus Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony on May 20, 2024. These graduates, along with five others graduating in absentia, earned degrees and certificates in the areas of Applied Technical Studies, Business Administration, Business Accounting, Business Management, Business Entrepreneurship, Computer Science – Secure Computing and Information

Systems, Computer Technology – Web Development, General Studies, History, Legal Studies, and Psychology.

The Spring 2024 graduates bring the total number of Bedford County Campus graduates to 778. Thanks to the generosity of community members and businesses, the Bedford County Regional Education Foundation provided over \$60,000 to these graduates through scholarships, tuition assistance awards, early college support, and emergency book funding.



Graduates:

1st Row - Left to Right

Makenzie Pyle; Kendall Beegle; Amber Middlesworth; Evelyn Long

2nd Row - Left to Right

Deidra Williams; Brooke Colledge; Quinton Spade; Noah Laird; Jessica Dibert; Ashton George

3rd Row - Left to Right

Morgan Partner and Linkyn Harmon

Graduating in absentia: Addison Bagley; Erica Brubaker, Jillian Morral; Brady Miller; Tory Miller

STUDENT SPEAKERS SHARE THEIR ACM EXPERIENCES

Three academically deserving students were selected to serve as graduation speakers during the May 20, 2024 Bedford County Campus commencement ceremony. Ashton George of Bedford, Linkyn Harmon of Big Cove Tannery, and Evelyn Long of Loysburg each spoke about their experiences at the Bedford County Campus.

Dr. Derek Jones, Professor of Computer Technology, introduced Ashton George who earned Associate Degrees in Computer Science/Secure Computing and Information Systems and Applied Technical Studies. Dr. Jones described Ashton as a respectful student leader during group projects who served as a true ambassador for the Bedford County Campus.



Ashton George

Ashton, who graduated summa cum laude, referred to his time at ACM as a community. “We’ve been fortunate to attend a college deeply rooted in the heart of our community. Whether through local internships, community service projects, or simply engaging with local events, we’ve seen firsthand how our academic journey is intertwined with the well-being of the community around us. This relationship has not only broadened our perspectives but also instilled in us a sense of responsibility to give back and contribute in meaningful ways.”

He thanked the faculty and staff for their “unwavering dedication and belief in our potential. Your encouragement has been a cornerstone of our journey, and we are deeply grateful for the wisdom you have shared.”

Ashton will be transferring to St. Francis University to complete a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science, focused in Software Engineering and Data Science.

Dr. Christina Ramsey, Superintendent of Central Fulton School District, introduced Linkyn Harmon who earned an Associate Degree in General Studies. Dr. Ramsey recognized



Linkyn Harmon

Linkyn as a soon to be McConnellsburg High School graduate and an ACM graduate. “This is a huge accomplishment and a true testament to the hardworking and dedicated student that he is.”

Linkyn, graduating summa cum laude, benefitted from early college funding

provided by the Bedford County Regional Education Foundation and made possible by generous Educational Improvement Tax Credit donors. He began by taking a couple of classes each semester during high school, but as his interest in the classes grew, he shared, “I decided I wanted to earn my associate’s degree by the end of my senior year.”

Linkyn discussed his rigorous academic schedule sharing, “I have experienced cases of juggling high school classes with college classes, leaving me to have to work more than the usual student. There have also been personal burdens upon my shoulders. When I was four years old, my doctor diagnosed me with Asperger Syndrome. Despite everything, I have managed to succeed in life. No matter what challenge presented itself or what obstacle got in my way, I managed to overcome them all and show just how much I’ve grown as a student.”

Linkyn plans to continue his education at Shippensburg University to study Biotechnology. He will enter Shippensburg as a junior.

Dr. Kathy Thompson, Professor of Biological Sciences, introduced Evelyn Long who earned an Associate Degree in Psychology. Dr. Thompson described Evelyn as a “hard-working, smart, kind, and generous student with leadership skills she doesn’t even realize she has.”

Evelyn, graduating summa cum laude, began her college path during high school.

“My educational journey with ACM started my junior year in high school. I was able to collectively gather 21 credits before my high school graduation. I was extremely appreciative of being able to start my college journey as it took a lot of stress off my shoulders later.”

Originally attending another college after high school, Evelyn “found it was not a suitable fit”. She decided to come to ACM, sharing, “I took their classes in high school and enjoyed it then so why not now. I am also graduating as the first person in my family without any student debt. ACM is extremely affordable, and I am appreciative as I have been able to put money into my new career as a baker, while also learning.”

Evelyn is the owner of an at home bakery called Grumpy Bakes. As an entrepreneur she “strives for home bakes made with love, passion and meticulous attention to detail.”



Evelyn Long