

Dear Colleagues,

As we complete the first full week of 2025, I am pleased to share several updates as we prepare for the Spring 2025 semester classes to begin on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Be Inspired in 2025:** I trust that the stories shared during yesterday's All College Assembly inspired you and reminded you of the meaningful impact you make every day. A heartfelt thank you to the following individuals for their contributions: Jennifer/Annie, Haleigh, Hayley, Robert, Kali ([Watch here](#)), Bill, Ben, Dillan, and Hailey. Your stories and insights set the tone for a fantastic year ahead.

**Sign the Vision:** As shared yesterday, a large-format copy of the ACM Vision Statement is now available in the College Center for all faculty and staff to sign, affirming our shared commitment to the college's vision to transform lives, strengthen communities, and make learners the center of everything we do. I invite you to join me in this meaningful act and celebrate our collective dedication to this mission.

**Gratitude for Ensuring Campus Safety During Winter Weather:** Please join me in thanking our Physical Plant colleagues for their dedication and hard work in clearing the snow and ensuring a safe and accessible environment. Your efforts, especially during challenging weather, do not go unnoticed and are appreciated by the entire campus community.

**Enrollment:** As of January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Spring 2025 headcount is down 1.2% over Spring 2024, but it continues to rebound. I encourage everyone to help spread the word and support our enrollment process.

**Legislative Update:** The 447th session of the Maryland General Assembly will convene in Annapolis from January 8 to April 7, 2025. Addressing the significant state budget deficit will likely dominate the session this year. I want to share the Maryland Association of Community Colleges' (MACC) Legislative Agenda: [MACC 2025 Legislative Priorities](#). While all items on the agenda are critical, the top priority for ACM is restoring the Cade Funding Formula to 29% of funding per full-time equivalent student (FTES) by 2029.

I want to share a few key dates related to the FY26 State budget:

- **Jan. 8:** Opening day of the 447th legislative session.
- **Jan. 15:** Final date for Governor Moore to introduce the operating and capital budgets.
- **Jan. 17:** President's meeting — We will review the budget, provide an initial response, and begin developing tactical and strategic talking points.
- **Jan. 27:** MACC Trustee Leadership Conference.
- **Feb. 6:** Aid to Community Colleges Budget Hearing in the House Appropriations Education & Economic Development Subcommittee.
- **Feb. 10:** Aid to Community Colleges Budget Hearing in the Senate Budget & Tax Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee.

Over the next 90 days, I'll be dedicating significant time in Annapolis and will keep you informed throughout the session.

### **Weather and Emergency Communication:**

Stay informed with eSAFE, ACM's emergency text messaging service! This system is designed to keep faculty, staff, students, and others updated during major emergencies, crises, disasters, or weather-related closings and delays. If you haven't already, sign up today to receive timely notifications: [eSAFE Sign-Up](#).

## **"Be Social"**

Help us spread the word about the amazing opportunities at ACM! By sharing posts from our official social media accounts, you can showcase enrollment opportunities, academic programs, events, and the incredible successes that make our college stand out. 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](#)

Thank you for being outstanding ambassadors for ACM!

**Faculty/Staff:** Congratulations to Dr. Aimee Younkin for being selected as the inaugural recipient of the President's Vision in Action Award. This honor was presented in recognition of Aimee's exceptional dedication to advancing the ACM vision.

### **Student Reminder:**

The tuition due date for the Spring 2025 semester was January 9. Students now have until Monday to pay their tuition and fees. To help minimize the number of students who are de-registered due to outstanding bills, please encourage students to contact the Student Financial Aid Office to discuss financial assistance options or contact the Business Office for information on available payment plans.

**Congratulations Pathways Team (Tara, RC, Beth, Katie, and Deb)** for their outstanding dedication to the Pathways for Success (TRIO) Program. As highlighted at yesterday's All-College Assembly, they have met and exceeded all grant objectives, earning a perfect score on the 2023-2024 Annual Performance Report.

**Cheer on the Trojans:** Join me in supporting all of our student-athletes. The next home game for the men's and women's basketball teams is scheduled for January 15th. Don't miss the action! For more details, visit: [acmtrojans.com](http://acmtrojans.com)

### **Reminder: Welcome Back with Coffee/Hot Chocolate:**

- On January 10<sup>th</sup>, coffee and hot chocolate (grab and go) will be provided to faculty and staff entering the Cumberland campus between 7:30 and 9:00 am. This station will be located near the CE building. Please stop by for a special treat to start the day.
- On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8 - 11 am, we will provide treats at the Bedford County Campus.

With heartfelt thanks,

David