

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from Annapolis. Seeing our students back on campus and taking classes online is refreshing. Thanks to everyone who signed up to staff a welcome table to provide a warm ACM welcome.

I am pleased to share several updates.

1. **Welcome New Faculty/Staff:** I warmly welcome our new faculty and staff, who were formally introduced to the ACM community last week. Welcome to the ACM family.

New Hire	Job Title
Andréa Beall	Director of Public Relations & Marketing
Sarah Bohn	Coordinator of Adult Basic Education
Emily Cramer	Administrative Associate, Tech Suite
Katelyn Davis	Intake and Student Support Associate – Pathways
Makennia Diehl	Accountant – Budgeting
Carol Ann Goodwin	HR Assistant & Activities Coordinator
Mari-Jane (Gracie) McLeod	Advance Manufacturing Program Manager
Elizabeth (Liz) Medcalf	Administrative Associate, Work Experience Program
Jessica Orndoff	Coordinator, Data Collection Specialist
Stephen Penrod	Security
Katelin Shook	Accounts Receivable Assistant
Lennae Trotter	Nursing, Faculty
Jordan Clark	Dental Hygienist Clinical Instructor
Melody Litten	MLT/Phlebotomy Part-Time Faculty
Kaitlyn Morral	LPN to RN Online Nursing Part-Time Faculty
William Poland	Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing – Part-Time Faculty

2. **Be My Guest:** I warmly invite you to visit my office on Friday, January 31st, between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. This will be an informal opportunity to meet, connect, and share thoughts as we embark on this exciting journey together. I look forward to getting to know each of you even better and discussing how we can continue to make our college an inspiring place to learn and grow.

3. **Budget:** Gov. Moore released the FY26 preliminary operational and capital budget request earlier this week. Although preliminary, Allegany College of Maryland is listed to receive an increase of 11.6% over FY25 in operational support. For the capital budget:
 - o \$543,000 was recommended for the design phase of the Workforce Development and Training Center (CE) Renovation.
 - o \$376,375 was recommended for the ACM Facilities Renewal Grant Program.

MACC is preparing our response and developing tactical and strategic talking points throughout the legislative session. I will keep you updated on how you can support our efforts.

4. **Enrollment:** As of January 16th, the Spring 2025 headcount is 1.3% over Spring 2024. I continue encouraging the ACM community to help spread the word and support our enrollment process. Thank you for the vital role that you play in supporting our students during the enrollment process. Your efforts are genuinely appreciated, and they do not go unnoticed.
5. **Connect Maryland:** ACM was recently awarded a grant in excess of \$60,000 to support the development of an Accessibility Mobile Lending & Computer Lab and technology upgrades for our Veterans Center and Cheer classroom. This technology, software, and supplies will support our veterans and students served through Academic Access & Disability Resources. Thanks to Courtney, Mo, Jennifer E, Gerry, and Jennifer L. for their work on this project.
6. **Southern Tier Education Council News:** We continue to be grateful for the support provided through the Southern Tier Education Council, receiving \$1,212,825 in FY2024-2025, an increase of \$250,000 from the previous year. Of these funds, \$311,938 has been appropriated for our Bedford County Campus facility improvements and campus operations, with the remainder used for PA tuition subsidy. A special thanks to the Southern Tier Education Council Board of Directors, Rep. Topper, Sen. Stefano, and Leah for their steadfast dedication to ensuring these funds are available for education and workforce development in PA.
7. **Program News:** Congratulations to the Multimedia Technology Program on receiving a \$250,000 grant, which includes replacing the MAC lab and purchasing other related equipment to support the Multimedia and Social Media Marketing programs. A special thanks to John, Matt, and others who worked to install the computers before the start of classes.
8. **A special thanks:** A special thanks to Jennifer E, Scott H, Arthur P., Meghan P., Derek Y., Rich C., Kass L., and Kurt H. 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*.
9. **Faculty/Staff:** Congratulations to our colleagues on their special recognition:
 - a. Renee Douthitt on being awarded the Dr. Peg E. Daw Nurse Faculty Annual Recognition (NFAR) award for Excellence in Teaching in FY 2025
 - b. Rick Cooper on being awarded the Dr. Peg E. Daw Nurse Faculty Annual Recognition (NFAR) award for Innovation in Education & Technology in FY 2025.

10. **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 scheduled meetings are February 6, March 6, April 3, and May 1, with the meetings starting at 3:30 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.
11. **Sign the Vision:** It is not too late to sign the ACM Vision Statement, which is currently in the College Center. I'll make sure that we rotate the sign to Bedford and other sites to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to sign.
12. **On A Personal Note:** Thank you for your feedback on the weekly "Forward Focus" communication. I'm open to including your updates and would encourage you to send them my way. Several faculty and staff have also requested that I conclude the weekly message with something more personal about myself so that you get to know me better. Starting next week, I will try to accommodate this request (including an announcement related to a new member of the Jones family).