

ACM Campus Community,

As we step into this last week of January, it's comforting to think that spring, with all its warmth and renewal, is now less than two months away.

I am pleased to share several updates.

Budget: I remain cautiously optimistic that Governor Moore's FY26 budget line item to support community colleges will remain intact. I will be meeting with Governor Moore on January 27th and will provide testimony to the House on February 6th and to the Senate on February 10th. It is important to share that not all MD Community Colleges are as fortunate with several currently proposed to see a decrease in State funding. The budget is still preliminary,

Enrollment: As of January 23rd, the Spring 2025 headcount is 1.6% over Spring 2024, which includes early college. We will have more finalized Spring 2025 enrollment data over the next month, and I will keep the ACM community updated.

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 better and discussing how we can continue to make our college a great place to learn and grow.

ACM Staff and Faculty Art Exhibition: I encourage you to stop by the Hazen Gallery to view the ACM Staff and Faculty Art Exhibition, which is currently on display through February 24th. It is wonderful to see the magnificent work of our colleagues. A special thanks to Tino W, Shannon R., Shannon B., and Ken N. for their work preparing this exhibition.

Alums Giving Back: I am excited to share a generous act of giving from one of our proud alumni (details to be shared soon), who has graciously partnered with us to provide a no-cost monthly meal to all our students living in Willowbrook Woods. This thoughtful gesture aims to support our housing community and ensure all students have access to a warm, satisfying meal. It is an incredible way to give back to our students. Thanks to Renee, Erin, Mike, Ryan, and others for our work on this initiative.

ACM Day: Thank you to Erin Yokum and the ACM Student Government Association for organizing **ACM Day** on the Cumberland Campus next Wednesday, January 29, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This event will take place in the College Center lounge area. Please encourage students to attend and learn about the numerous student clubs and organizations they can join to stay engaged and connected outside the classroom.

ACM Economic Impact: According to a recent [economic outlook study](#), ACM students gain \$3.40 in lifetime earnings for every dollar invested in their education. For many of our students, their college degree is what moves them out of the cycle of poverty. After graduation, the average ACM alumni with an associate degree annually earns \$7,500 more than a person with a high school diploma or GED. Over their working life, this amounts to \$255,000 more in higher income. As ACM builds opportunity for students, we continue to create wealth for our region. From 2022-23, our college added \$95.8 million in income to our service area's economy — roughly 2.0% of our region's total gross regional product. If we consider \$95.8 million instead in terms of jobs, we supported 1,533 positions. Because our graduates generate larger incomes over time and are less likely to use government services, the present value of ACM amounts to \$18.0 million in total taxpayer benefits.

WOW (Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Complex): Allegany College of Maryland is grateful for our partnership with the Allegany County Government and the entire community to directly support this high-quality, multi-generational recreational facility. The Willowbrook Outdoor Wellness Complex (WOW) is geographically accessible and offers a variety of recreational resources for members of our community, no matter their age, ability, or interests.

Phase II (anticipated fall 2025)

Artificial turf football/soccer field

Two multi-use grass fields

Extended nature/walking trail

Parking

Restroom/storage

Phase III (future 2026-2028)

Playground

Pickleball courts

Parking

Turf field lighting

Stay Informed – Board of Trustee Meetings

You are invited to stay informed by attending the ACM Board of Trustee meetings.

The Board meets at 4 pm in the Thomas Welcome Center on the following dates through the remainder of the fiscal year:

February 24, 2025

March 17, 2025

April 14, 2025

May 12, 2025

June 16, 2025

For additional information, visit: <https://allegany.edu/presidents-office/board-of-trustees.html>

Sign the Vision: It is not too late to sign the ACM Vision Statement. Please let me know if you wish to sign, and I will ensure you have this opportunity.

Building a Bright Future in 2025: The following reader commentary appeared in the Cumberland Times News and Bedford Gazette, and I wanted to share it in case you do not receive the newspaper. [Reader Commentary](#)

On A Personal Note: Our family adopted an 8-week-old shelter kitten on 12/31/24.

First name: Indy

Middle name: Anna

We call her Indiana Jones.

With appreciation for all that you do.

David