

Dear ACM Family,

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and receive the Forward Focus a few days early, I wanted to share just a few updates.

Faculty/Staff Focus: Cathy Zirk

Nominated by: Brandon Robinette, Jennifer Lashbaugh, Renae Holt, and Christina Kilduff

Cathy embodies the notion of a learning centered college culture for the accounting department. She has vast institutional knowledge and loves to share what she knows with those in the department, as well as everyone else at the college who wishes to have a better understanding of how the college budget and finances operate. Cathy works hard every day but always has time to answer questions or to help others grow in their own roles and understanding.

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.

Transform Mid Atlantic's Most Engaged Campus Award

I'm honored to share that Transform Mid Atlantic has selected Allegany College of Maryland as the recipient of the 2025 Most Engaged Campus Award. This recognition celebrates the work that ACM has done and continues to do alongside our partners to advance our community.

Did you know:

ACM participated in 415 community-engaged events
1,938 ACM students contributed 31,615 hours

A special thank you to the [ACM College to Community Partnership Center](#) and the ACM Family for their efforts in building partnerships with community leaders to connect college students, faculty, and staff with initiatives addressing unmet needs in our community.



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 next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd, starting at 3 p.m. 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.

Countdown to 12 Days

PASSA's 12 Days of Christmas tickets are now on sale, with a deadline of December 2nd at noon. All proceeds go towards PASSA's Student Assistance Fund. If anyone is interested in purchasing tickets, they can reach out to Emily Beck at ebeck2@allegany.edu or ext. 5449 or any other PASSA member.

Registration and Enrollment: Registration for the intersession and spring 2026 is now open. Please continue to help spread the word and support our enrollment process. <https://www.allegany.edu/registration/index.html>

Grant Highlight of the Week:

Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion. ACM has been approved for a second year of Behavioral Health Workforce Hub funding totaling \$634,225. Building on last year's successful pilot, this renewal expands "Mind-Body Skills" sessions in the K-12 school system, adds new parent workshops and school presentations, and introduces "Mindful Reset" wellness programming for educators and community members.

Trojan Spotlight

If you have a student or alum that goes above and beyond, and believe he or she not only deserves the recognition, but would also be a great representative of ACM, you can nominate them with the form found on the Trojan Spotlight webpage (as well as view past features) at www.allegany.edu/trojan-spotlight. Additionally, if you have any non-traditional students (current or alumni) or former students who successfully transferred from ACM to continue towards an advanced level degree at another college/university, and believe they would be willing to share their testimonial (and would be a good representative for ACM), please share their name and contact information. You can email jgetz@allegany.edu

Student Emergency Supply Drive

During this season of giving, please consider supporting the Student Emergency Supply Drive.

On A Personal Note:

As we approach Thanksgiving, I'm reminded of how fortunate I am to be part of the remarkable ACM community. I hope this Thanksgiving offers each of you a moment of rest, reflection, and connection with those who matter most to you.

Happy Thanksgiving,
David