

ACM Family,

As we enter November, I would like to acknowledge your dedication and hard work during this crucial period of the semester. Your efforts, both inside and outside of the classroom, make a difference. I'm pleased to share the following updates.

Faculty/Staff Focus:

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Donna Bittinger and Sarah Hensley

Nominated by:

Courtney Eagan

Donna Bittinger

Donna is meticulous in everything she does and keeps our building spotless while constantly staying on the move. She goes above and beyond, often completing extra tasks without anyone even noticing. Her quiet dedication makes a huge difference every single day.

Sarah Hensley

Sarah is like an octopus—everywhere at once and handling it all with grace. Managing 135 athletes solo seems impossible, yet she makes it look effortless. Her energy, organization, and heart are unmatched.

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.

Open House Reminders – Bedford and Cumberland

<https://allegany.edu/open-houses/>

As we prepare for the Bedford Campus Open House tomorrow and the Cumberland Campus Open House on Monday, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your efforts in helping ACM shine. Whether you are greeting guests, leading tours, sharing insights about our programs and services, or working behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly, your contributions do not go unnoticed. I look forward to seeing you at the Open House events and showcasing the incredible work happening at ACM every day.

State of the County

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a "State of the County" (Allegany County) on 11/17 at 9 am in the ACM Theatre. Commissioner President Caporale and Administrator Bennett will provide the update. There is no cost, but an RSVP is required. If you would like to attend, please email Lori at lspeunce@allegany.edu or let me know, and we would be glad to reserve a spot for you.

"Be Social"

With winter intersession and spring 2026 enrollment now open, please help us spread the word about the fantastic opportunities at ACM! By sharing posts from our official social media accounts, you can showcase enrollment opportunities, academic programs, events, and the 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 an outstanding ambassador for ACM!

Dr. Patsy McKenzie's Death and Dying Class Debate

It was an honor to observe a Death & Dying class debate, along with Kurt H., Miha W., and Stephen G., on the legalization of the sale of human organs for transplant purposes in the United States. The students were well prepared and articulate throughout the debate. Thank you, Dr. Patsy McKenzie and ACM students, for providing this opportunity.

Environmental Science In The News

A special thank you to Professor Stacie Rafter and her Environmental Science class for their community service project, which involved collecting garbage along the C&O Canal Trail with members of the C&O Canal Trust organization. The following photo and caption made the front page of the Times-News. Well done, Stacie and students.



Canal cleanup

Ken Nolan-Times-News Oct 24, 2025

Allegany College of Maryland students Kaelen Dempsey, front, and Manny Cartagena pick up trash Friday afternoon along the C&O Canal towpat...

New Resource Available: FedLogic

We're excited to share a new resource available to all ACM employees—FedLogic. FedLogic offers free, confidential, one-on-one guidance to help you understand and navigate federal and state benefit programs. This service allows you and your household to find and apply for state and federal programs. Whether you have questions about Social Security, Medicare, disability, FMLA, or retirement, their team of experts is here to help you make informed decisions for yourself and your family. This partnership is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the health, financial security, and overall well-being of our employees. To learn more or schedule a session, visit www.fedlogicgroup.com or call 877-837-4196.

BOT Meeting – Draft Agenda

As always, the public is invited to the Board of Trustees public session at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2025, in the Board Room. A draft agenda follows:

1. Adopt the October 20, 2025, Minutes
2. Chairman's Update – Mr. Leonard
3. Board Member Comments/Reflections – Board of Trustees Members
4. President's Update – Mr. Jones
5. CE Year-End Report – Dr. McInroy

6. Educational Master Plan (Action Items) – Dr. Hoffman
7. College Audit (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff
8. Youth Protection Policy (Action Item) – Dr. Conner

League for Innovation Excellence Awards – Nominations Due Today:

The League for Innovation Excellence Awards, established in 2012, recognize outstanding teaching, leadership, and service by community college administration, faculty, and staff. Recipients receive a specially cast medallion, a certificate from the League, and recognition by the Allegany College of Maryland Board of Trustees. Please submit your nominations by noon on Friday, November 7, 2025, to Lori Spence at lspace@allegany.edu. Nominees will be evaluated and selected by a committee of peers from faculty, associate support staff, and professional and administrative support staff. The awards will be announced at the All-College Assembly in December 2025.

Trojan Spotlight

If you have a student or alumni 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

Grant Highlight of the Week: SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) Program

A \$323,999 proposal has been submitted to operate a three-year SNAP E&T program in partnership with Allegany County DSS. The initiative would support up to 153 participants through education, training, and job readiness activities that align with WIOA and EARN performance standards. While tentatively approved, with the current climate, this is on pause. A special thanks to Melanie Chapman for spearheading this effort, as well as the work of the grants and finance team.

Upcoming Events:

- November 8, Bedford Campus Open House, Bedford Campus
- November 10, Cumberland Campus Open House
- November 17, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- Thurs-Fri, November 27-28, 2025, Thanksgiving Holiday – College Closed
- Mon, December 8, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
- Thurs, December 11, 2025 – All College Meeting and Holiday Celebration, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Thurs, December 11, 2025 - Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Gymnasium, 7 p.m.
- Fri, December 12, 2025, Commencement Gymnasium, 7 p.m.
- Dec 22-Jan 4, Winter Break – College Closed
- January 5, 2026, College Reopens

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](#).

Student Emergency Supply Drive

During this season of giving, please consider supporting the Student Emergency Supply Drive. Information is provided at the end of this message.

STUDENT EMERGENCY *Supply Drive*

BENEFITS:
THE PANTRY AT ACM

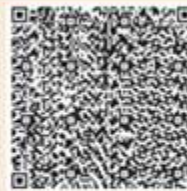
ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED:
PERSONAL CARE ITEMS
GRAB & GO SNACKS
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS
NEW OR LIKE NEW:
GLOVES/HATS
SCARVES/SOCKS
BLANKETS/SLEEPING BAGS

November 3rd-19th

DONATION DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

ADMISSIONS	CAMPUS STORE	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
ADVANCEMENT	CONTINUING EDUCATION	SCIENCE BUILDING
ALLIED HEALTH	GATEWAY CENTER	STUDENT & LEGAL AFFAIRS
AUTO TECHNOLOGY	HUMANITIES	TECHNOLOGY BUILDING
BEDFORD COUNTY CAMPUS	LEARNING COMMONS	THOMAS WELCOME CENTER

DONATE ONLINE:



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND

<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/AlleganyCollegeofMaryland/allegany-college-of-maryland-pantry-fund-fall-2025>

CONTACT ANY PASSA OR ASSA COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

On A Personal Note:

I've always had a lifelong interest in politics and government, so any visit to Washington, D.C., is a special experience. I especially enjoy touring the U.S. Supreme Court building: <https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/visiting.aspx>. Each visit deepens my appreciation for the history, ideals, and responsibilities of public service that shape our nation.

With ACM Pride,
David