

Dear ACM Family,

It's the most wonderful time of the year. I hope that you will be able to participate in commencement this evening as we celebrate ACM and our students. I'm pleased to share a few updates.

Faculty/Staff Focus: **Adam Phipps**

Adam is dedicated to the college with a strong work ethic and servant leadership. He is a problem solver and someone who gets things done effectively and efficiently. His staff, as well as most everyone on campus, respects him for his vast knowledge, approachability, and willingness to help anyone anytime, or do anything that is needed.

Nominated by:

Bryan Hite, George Beck, Paul Blank, Janna Lee, and Christina Kilduff

Faculty/Staff Focus: **Tara DeVore**

Tara is a true champion for our students—she is the hero they need in their hardest moments, the cheerleader who lifts them with a well-timed pep talk, and the coach who provides structure and accountability when it matters most. To her fellow staff, Tara leads by example. She empowers us to try new things, trusts us with meaningful responsibility, and celebrates every achievement, big or small. Her guidance, compassion, and unwavering dedication make our program stronger every day.

It is genuinely an honor to work with her, and we believe she would be an exceptional representative of ACM for the Faculty/Staff Focus.

Nominated by:

RC Cofield, Katie Davis, and Beth Stallings

Faculty/Staff Focus: **Chelsey Bennett**

Chelsey is outstanding in every aspect of her job. Her professionalism, communication, assistance, and accuracy are greatly appreciated. She is competent, patient, and incredibly helpful. Chelsey Bennett is an ACM Rockstar and one of the kindest people you will ever meet.

Nominated by:

Tina Imes, Tina Kravets, Landon Defibaugh, and Tina Verba

Faculty/Staff Focus: **PASSA (Shannon Redman), ASSA (Elaine Bridges), Jenna Price, Carla Emerick, and Aimee Younkin**

These individuals continuously go above and beyond within their roles here at ACM. Over the past few days, they have worked diligently and quickly with me to support a student. Through their efforts and generosity, not only did this alleviate a huge stressor on our student, but it also provided an opportunity for our student to move forward towards the next essential steps on their career path. Their continued support and contributions have a truly significant impact on our ACM students.

Nominated by: Renee Gibson

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.

A Gift of Education:

I am pleased to share that the ACM Foundation will receive a \$350,000 gift later this month from UPMC Western Maryland in conjunction with Maryland Physicians Care. I am very grateful to Michele Martz and the UPMC Western Maryland leadership team for selecting ACM to receive these funds, which will be used to support student scholarships.

Second Annual Basketball Alumni Reunion

Join us on January 10, 2026, in the Bob Kirk Arena for our second annual Basketball Alumni Reunion.

Women's game begins at 1:00 PM, followed by the men's game at 3:00 PM, with a special halftime recognition honoring alumni and remembering former players who have passed. Alumni are encouraged to submit a brief biography, including the years played, post-ACM playing experience, and current career updates. Contact JR Perdew at 240-522-9535 or jperdew@allegany.edu for additional information.

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

Enrollment: As of December 10th, the Spring 2026 headcount is up 0.3% over Spring 2025, but credits are down 1.6% compared to Spring 2025. ACM is currently in a peak enrollment period, and I encourage everyone to help spread the word and support the enrollment process.

"Be Social"

With Spring 2026 enrollment 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! As an added benefit, if you share and let me know, I have a small coupon for an ice cream treat that's yours.

BOT Meeting – December 8th

I am pleased to share the following general updates from the December 8, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting:

The November 17, 2025, minutes were approved.

Comments from Board Chair Kim Leonard and other Board members.

ACM update from President David Jones.

The preliminary list of Fall 2025 graduates. Board approved.

ACM Pantry Update from Dione Clark-Trub

Continuing Education Workforce Development Building Renovation and Design Addendum to Green Building Standards. Board approved.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education Update

Academic Calendar for 2026-2027. Board approved.

Academic Regulations. Board approved.

AI Taskforce – Call for Members

At the December 3rd PAT meeting, the establishment of an Employee AI Task Force was approved following the submission of a routing form. This is a good example of Shared Governance in action. The purpose of this Taskforce is to support and guide the responsible, secure, and ethical use of AI tools by college employees. The Taskforce will be charged with reviewing and revising the current draft Artificial Intelligence Policy, providing practical guidance, vetting tools, recommending training and resources, and assisting employees with AI-related challenges and opportunities. This work will help ensure that AI is incorporated safely, strategically, and in alignment with the college's priorities. If you are interested in serving on this Taskforce for 2025–2026, please share your interest with me. I will coordinate with PAT and affinity group leadership to populate the Taskforce.

Mandatory Cybersecurity Training and Protecting Personal & Institutional Data:

Just a friendly reminder to complete your required Cybersecurity Training by January 31, 2026. Cybersecurity training can help protect College data and systems, as well as personal information, by improving overall awareness of cyber risks and threats.

Allegany College of Maryland utilizes Vector LMS, Higher Education Edition, to provide online training courses for your convenience. Follow these easy steps to complete your Allegany College of Maryland training requirements: Using your web browser, go to the Vector LMS, Higher Education Edition website for Allegany College of Maryland: <https://allegany-md.safecolleges.com/>

Grant Highlight of the Week:

Allegany College of Maryland submitted a \$150,000 EARN Maryland grant to launch the Western Maryland Health & Wellness Workforce Partnership, a regional initiative designed to address healthcare workforce shortages and create new training pathways in the emerging cannabis industry. The project, totaling \$218,000 with leveraged resources, unites employers such as UPMC Western Maryland, Rehab 1st, Grow West, Egle Nursing & Rehab, and PharmaCare with community partners including the Western Maryland Consortium and Allegany County Local Management Board. Over the course of two years, the partnership will train 75 participants—expanding ACM's Pharmacy Technician and Allied Health programs while introducing Maryland's first Dispensary Technician pathway—and connect graduates to credentialed, family-sustaining employment opportunities across Western Maryland.

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

Faculty/Staff:

Congratulations to the three recipients of the League for Innovation Excellence Awards and all the worthy nominees. Diane McMahon, Isaac Tice, and Brandon Robinette exemplify excellence in teaching, leadership, and service. I am pleased to share that the three recipients will attend the 2026 Conference in March.



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND

is proud to recognize 2025-2026

LEAGUE EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS



DR. DIANE MCMAHON
*Faculty/Director of
College to Community Partnership Center*



ISAAC TICE
Ed Tech Support Technician



BRANDON ROBINETTE
*Budget Coordinator,
Finance & Accounting*

Congratulations!

from ACM faculty & staff

On A Personal Note:

December 12th holds a special place in my heart—it was the date of my undergraduate graduation in 1992. I had been selected as the commencement speaker and vaguely remember crafting my remarks on an Apple Macintosh computer and printing them on a dot-matrix printer. Unfortunately, a major snowstorm swept through the region, dropping several feet of snow, and forcing the cancellation of the ceremony.

I'm especially grateful that today's commencement at Allegany College of Maryland will proceed as planned, and that we have the privilege of celebrating 180 graduates and their remarkable achievements.



(Click to View)

With ACM Pride,
David