

ACM Family,

As we enter the month of December and the excitement of the end of the semester and calendar year, I wanted to share a few updates.

Faculty/Staff Focus: Jennifer Light

Nominated by: Colleagues

Jennifer Light has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment. She ensured the continued success of Tech at the Gap while also supporting P-Tech students and IT Center of Excellence training initiatives, in addition to her current role as program director of Industrial Technologies at Western Maryland Works. Her dedication to excellence and continuous improvement also shines through with her recent acceptance of a leadership role on the Assessment Committee.

Faculty/Staff Focus: Susan Humbertson

Nominated by: Andréa Beall

Susan greets every person with a warm smile and genuine kindness, making everyone feel valued and welcome. Susan is always the first to step up and help whenever there's a need, no task is too small or too big for her to take on. Her positive attitude and willingness to lend a hand make a lasting impact on everyone around her. Susan goes above and beyond in everything she does. Whether she's assisting a colleague, supporting a student, or volunteering her time, she approaches every situation with compassion, professionalism, and dedication.

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.

Operation Gratitude – Teddy Bear Stuffing Event

ACM Athletics will host a volunteer event with CSX on December 9, 2025, from 12:00–2:00 PM in the Special Functions Room. The goal is to help assemble 250 teddy bears for Operation Gratitude. The event is open to our men's and women's basketball teams as well as any staff interested in participating. For additional information, please contact Courtney Eagan at ccrislip@allegany.edu

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.

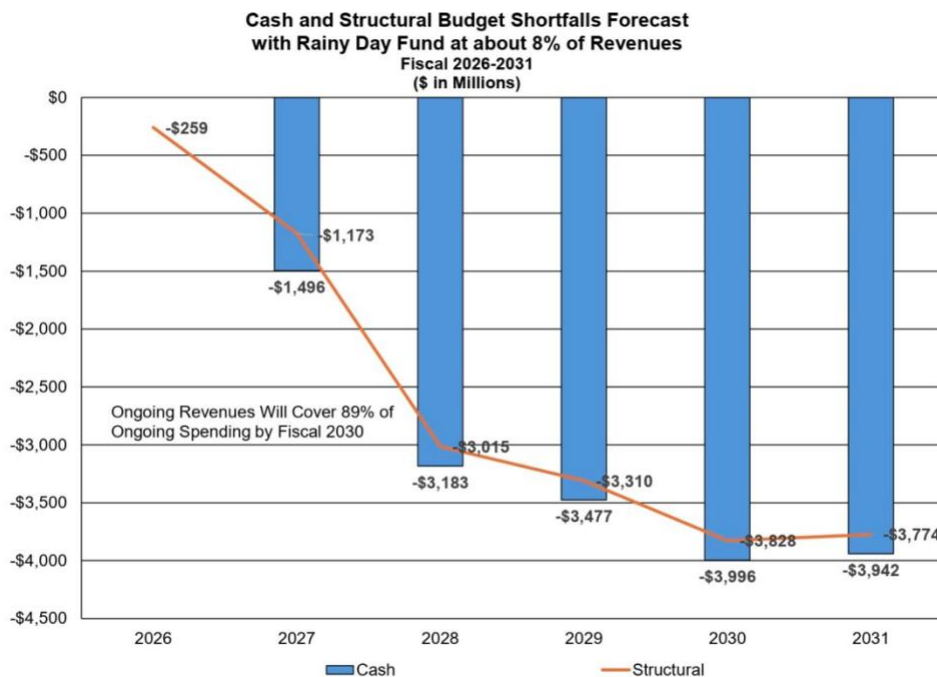
Registration and Enrollment: Registration for intersession and spring 2026 is open. Please continue to help spread the word and support our enrollment process. <https://www.allegany.edu/registration/index.html>

From The Kitchen To The Court

I thought the campus community would enjoy viewing the video, "From the Kitchen to the Court." A special thank you to Justin and Caitlin for their vision and high-quality production of this commercial. <https://youtu.be/E9CFu1fNpE0>

FY2027 State of Maryland Budget

As I have previously shared, Maryland budget analysts presented a FY27 budget update/projection to the State's Spending Affordability Committee. Below is the projected State of Maryland operating deficit for FY27 through FY31 (from a deficit of nearly \$1.5 billion to almost \$4 billion. Governor Moore will present his FY27 budget request in January, which will help guide our budget planning for FY27 and beyond. To ensure continued transparency and open communication, I will keep the ACM community updated throughout the legislative session on matters related to ACM and the budget.



Maryland Secretary of Commerce and Maryland Secretary of Labor Visit ACM

It was a pleasure to host Secretary Harry Coker and Secretary Portia Wu, who visited ACM on December 1, 2025. I am grateful for their support of community colleges and their investment in several programs that benefit Allegany College of Maryland and our students.



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.

BOT Meeting – Agenda

As always, faculty, staff, and the public are invited to the Board of Trustees public session at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2025, in the Board Room. The agenda follows:

1. Adopt the November 17, 2025, Minutes
2. Chairman's Update – Mr. Leonard
3. Board Member Comments/Reflections – Board of Trustees Members
4. President's Update – Mr. Jones
5. Preliminary List of Graduates (Action Item) – Ms. Nightengale
6. Board Education: ACM Pantry – Ms. Clark-Trub
7. Workforce Development & Training (CE) Building renovation Design Services – Addendum for Green Building Standards (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff
8. Memorandum of Understanding--Allegany College of Maryland, Bedford County Regional Education Foundation, and Southern Tier Education Council (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff
9. Middle States Commission on Higher Education Update – Mr. Harrah
10. Academic Calendars 2026-2027 (Action Item) – Dr. Hoffman
11. Academic Regulations (Action Item)– Dr. Hoffman

Grant Highlight of the Week:

ACM has been awarded funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission's ARISE initiative to expand its Cybersecurity program and strengthen regional workforce capacity in high-demand technology fields. The project supports faculty and staff salaries and includes monthly training opportunities for participants, advancing ACM's role as a regional leader in cybersecurity education and workforce development. Special recognition goes to Jim House, Karin Savage, Melanie Chapman, Jennifer Lashbaugh, and the ACM grants team for their contributions to shaping the project's implementation.

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

On A Personal Note:

Over Thanksgiving weekend, our family watched *Wicked 2*, and the words from "*For Good*" stayed with me: "*Because I knew you, I have been changed for good.*" As we approach the end of the calendar year, it serves as a reminder that your presence and purpose at ACM continue to have a profoundly positive impact on our students and all of us. For Good.

With ACM Pride,
David