

Happy Valentine's Day to our incredible campus community. I am pleased to share several ACM updates.

1. **Upcoming Forums on Employee Survey Results & Open Discussion:** I invite you to join me in attending an upcoming forum where Scott Harrah and I will share the results of the Fall 2024 employee survey and engage in open dialogue about the issues that matter most to you. This is an opportunity for us to review key findings, discuss areas for improvement, and collaborate on ways to enhance ACM. The forums will take place in the Welcome Center with a Zoom option available upon request.

February 19th from 10-11 am

February 20th from 2-3 pm

2. **Budget:** I remain cautiously optimistic that the budget line item to support community colleges will remain intact. I provided testimony to the House last week and the Senate earlier this week. I'll continue to keep you updated throughout the legislative session

3. **Enrollment:**

Credit:

Fall 2024: Headcount up 4.3% and FTE up 1.8% compared to Fall 2023.

Spring 2025: Headcount up 0.4% and FTE down 1.4% compared to Spring 2024.

CE:

FY24: Continuing Education/Workforce Development experienced record enrollment in FY24, with an increase of 10.2% in FTE.

CE FY25 Period 1: 26% increase in Period 1 over the same timeframe last year.

4. **Student Advocacy Day.** It was a pleasure to spend the day in Annapolis yesterday with Erin Yokum and five ACM students to participate in the Maryland Association of Community College's Student Advocacy Day (see photo below). Students attended a rally at the Calvert House, toured the [Maryland State House](#), and met with legislators to discuss continued support and funding for Maryland community colleges.



5. **CTE Month:** It's February, which means it's Career and Technical Education Month. Throughout the month, ACM shines a spotlight on the opportunities CTE provides to empower students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to succeed. Check out ACM's 40+ CTE degrees and certificates in high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand careers - that can be completed in two years or less, at allegany.edu/cte
6. **Congratulations to our Nursing Faculty and Students:** ACM recently received the NCLEX first-time pass rates for Spring 2024, and the results are outstanding. The Cumberland Day program achieved a 100% pass rate, while the online program had an 86.66% first-time pass rate, with all graduates successfully passing thereafter. The Practical Nursing program reported a 94.4% first-time pass rate (17/18), with all graduates now licensed. With a historical NCLEX pass rate of 90.63%, these results highlight the exceptional preparation our nursing faculty provide to ACM graduates for success in the workforce. Well done, ACM Nursing!
7. **Formation Mini-Retreat:** A heartfelt thank you to Laura F. and Miha W. for facilitating last week's *Finding Light in Winter* mini-retreat. Your efforts provided a meaningful opportunity for renewal and reflection.
8. **Well done, ACM students:** Congratulations to the nearly 850 students named to the Fall 2024 [Dean's](#) and [Honors](#) Lists. Thanks to all faculty and staff who supported these students in becoming high academic achievers.
9. **SAVE THE DATE:** Professional Development Day 2025 - Wednesday, May 14, 2025. A call for facilitators will be forthcoming in March.
10. **Emergency Communication System Test:** ACM will conduct a test of our emergency communication systems on Monday, February 17, at approximately 8:45 a.m. The following message will be broadcast across multiple platforms:

"Code Green – All clear. Resume normal operations."

11. **A Safe and Secure Campus:** ACM has secured a Safety and Security grant of \$375,000 to provide access control systems to be set up for all buildings on campus, except CE, as this building will be updated when it is renovated. The systems, as well as new security cameras for the WRCTC and College Center buildings, will be added to our Genetec system, allowing consolidated monitoring and the ability to lock down all buildings in the event of an emergency on campus. Work is expected to start soon and be completed before the end of June. A special thanks to ACM security, IT, finance, facilities, and the grants/development team members for helping to make this project a reality.
12. **Campus Sustainability and Workforce Training:** Allegany College of Maryland successfully applied for and received \$414,300 through the Higher Education Clean Energy Grant to advance campus sustainability initiatives. This funding will support solar panel installation, the development of a Campus Clean Energy Master Plan, and clean energy sector training programs.
13. **A Delightful Dinner Experience:** A heartfelt thank you to the talented faculty, staff, and students of the ACM School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts for an unforgettable Valentine's Day dinner last night. The food, presentation, and service were truly exceptional. While every dish was outstanding, the red velvet cheesecake was my favorite. Well done, ACM—your hard work and dedication shone through in every detail!

14. **On A Personal Note**, Valentine's Day isn't just about romance—it's about celebrating the people who make our lives richer. For me, it is a special reminder of my own journey. My wife, Elaine, and I met in 1993, married in 1995, and this October, we'll celebrate 30 years of marriage. Today, let's take a moment to appreciate the friendships, mentors, and community that make our College a truly special place. Happy Valentine's Day! ❤️

With appreciation for all that you do.

David