

Hello Colleagues,

Spring is just one month away—a gentle reminder that warmer days are on the horizon! I am pleased to share the following updates.

Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Recognized as 2024 REACH Chapter: Allegany College of Maryland's Phi Theta Kappa chapter has been named a 2024 REACH Chapter. This recognition honors our chapter's success in expanding membership and providing students with valuable opportunities for engagement, leadership, and academic achievement. As part of this honor, our chapter will receive Phi Theta Kappa graduation stoles to celebrate the accomplishments of our student members. Congratulations to our chapter advisors, Melody and Erin, and student leaders for their dedication to fostering student success and strengthening our Phi Theta Kappa community.

Budget:

I attended an Allegany County Commissioners session yesterday to discuss Governor Moore's proposed budget. As currently outlined, the budget could result in a **\$5.1 million revenue loss** for the county. In response, the County has sent a letter to Governor Moore, the Western Maryland Delegation, and key members of the General Assembly, highlighting these concerns.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1104054178400610&set=pcb.1104055631733798>

I want to keep the ACM community informed, as this potential funding shortfall could impact the entire County and the agencies it supports (including ACM). I will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as more information becomes available.

Legislative:

I will provide testimony supporting the Maryland Community College Capital budget on March 3rd and 4th. This includes \$543,000 for the design phase of the Workforce Development and Training Center (CE) Renovation.

I provided written and oral testimony earlier this week to support the Rural Maryland Council, which has provided ACM with several large grants (Western Maryland Works, Forestry, Theatre Renovation, etc). We are grateful for the partnership between ACM and RMC.

Student Meet & Greet: I have scheduled a time for an informal meet & greet with ACM students next week. Please encourage your students to attend.

Date: *Wednesday, February 26*

Time: 12:30-2 p.m.

Location: Cafeteria, College Center

Leadership Allegany Rising: A heartfelt thank you to the ACM faculty and staff for your efforts in making ACM shine during the Chamber's Leadership Allegany Rising visit yesterday. Your dedication to hands-on activities and leadership experiences showcased ACM and our many programs. A special thanks to the planning team—Autumn B., Miha W., and Karin S. —, as well as the many others who contributed, including Paula F., Tara M., Brandon H., John B., Jim H., Levi F., Cassie F., Steve H., Joy F., Lori S., Susan H., and Josh G. Your hard work and commitment are greatly appreciated.

February is Financial Aid Awareness Month: Please remind students that ACM's [Financial Aid Office](#) is available to answer questions about completing or renewing your 2025-26 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Maryland residents: March 1 is Maryland's priority deadline for completing the [FAFSA](#).

Governor Moore Serving as ARC Federal Co-Chair: Elected by his fellow Appalachian state governors, [Maryland Governor Wes Moore](#) is now ARC's 2025 States' Co-Chair. In his year-long position, Gov. Moore will work alongside ARC's Federal Co-Chair and his fellow governors to continue investing in economic growth and innovation across the region. In this role, I would anticipate that Governor Moore will visit ACM later this year. I'll share more details as they become available.

Stay Informed – Board of Trustee Meetings

You are invited to stay informed by attending the ACM Board of Trustee meetings.

The Board meets at 4 pm in the Thomas Welcome Center on the following dates through the remainder of the fiscal year:

February 24, 2025

March 17, 2025

April 14, 2025

May 12, 2025

June 16, 2025

For additional information, visit: <https://allegany.edu/presidents-office/board-of-trustees.html>

Student Notes: I love hearing from ACM students and wanted to share a few recent messages that I hope you enjoy as much as I do:

"Thank you for helping me create a better future for myself, my family, and my community."

"I will forever remember that you took a chance on me. I promise it was worth it."

"Thank you so much for making my dreams possible."

Communication Feedback: As president of ACM, I welcome your feedback on my communication—both in terms of email frequency and relevance—as well as my visibility on campus. My goal is to maintain open, meaningful communication and to be present by walking around our Cumberland and Everett campuses, as well as our education sites, to connect with faculty, staff, and students. To add a little fun to your day, the first two people to reply to this email will receive a free Chick-fil-A coupon! I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

On a Personal Note: Spending time with our three adult children (27, 24, and 21) and our daughter-in-law is always special, and this past weekend was no exception. We had the opportunity to meet in Baltimore and enjoy the Broadway performance of *The Lion King* together.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

David