



ACM Campus Community,

As we complete the “first week of the shortest month,” I am pleased to share several updates.


**A Sweet Treat for ACM Employees:** Join us for a special treat! Stop by and enjoy a **Grab-and-Go** sweet along with hot chocolate or coffee.


 **Wednesday, February 12 | 7:45 AM – 8:45 AM** | Bedford County Campus


 **Enjoy:** Iced Sugar Cookie, Hot Chocolate, or Coffee


 **Friday, February 14 | 7:45 AM – 9:00 AM** | Entrance to CE Building


 **Enjoy:** Iced Sugar Cookie, Hot Chocolate, or Coffee

 **Monday, March 17 | 7:45 AM – 9:00 AM** | Entrance to CE Building


 **Enjoy:** Irish Crème Brownie, Hot Chocolate, or Coffee

 **Thursday, March 20 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** | Bedford County Campus

 **Enjoy:** Irish Crème Brownie, Hot Chocolate, or Coffee

 **Wednesday, April 9 | 7:45 AM – 8:45 AM** | Bedford County Campus

 **Enjoy:** Caramel Bird Nest Cookie, Hot Chocolate, or Coffee

 **Monday, April 14 | 7:45 AM – 9:00 AM** | Entrance to CE Building

 **Enjoy:** Caramel Bird Nest Cookie, Hot Chocolate, or Coffee

I look forward to seeing you there!

### **Budget:**

I remain cautiously optimistic that the budget line item to support community colleges will remain intact. I provided testimony to the House earlier this week and will provide testimony to the Senate next week. Allegany College of Maryland is listed to receive an increase of 11.6% over FY25 in operational support. For the capital budget, \$543,000 was recommended for the Workforce Development and Training Center (CE) Renovation design phase. In addition, \$376,375 was recommended for the ACM Facilities Renewal Grant Program.

**Enrollment:** As of February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Spring 2025 headcount is up 0.4% over Spring 2024.

**Program Accreditation** A special thanks to our faculty and staff who work tirelessly on their program accreditation reports, visits, and compliance. In 2025, the Automotive Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, and Occupational Therapy Assistant programs are undergoing their accreditation. Thank you Ray H., Mathew M., Stacey R., Tracie K., Stacy S., Jeff H., Alex G., Emily R., Danielle S., Elaine B., Jamie A., Lynn G., Karin S., the Program Advisory Committees for each program, and others who provide the required documentation and support as part of the accreditation process.

**Student Advocacy Day:** On February 13<sup>th</sup>, I have the privilege of joining several of our students in Annapolis for Student Advocacy Day. This annual event is an important opportunity for students to meet with state legislators, share their experiences, and advocate for issues that matter to them and our college community—a special thanks to Erin Y. and our students for showcasing the importance of ACM.

**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.

February 10 from 1-2 pm

February 19<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 am

February 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 pm

The forums will be held in the Welcome Center, and a Zoom option will be available upon request.

**Cosmetology Workforce Development Good News.** Congratulations, Allissa, Melanie, and the CE team, on the recent approval as a Continuing Education Provider by the Maryland Board of Cosmetologists. Three courses have been approved, allowing stylists to earn CEUs and further enhance their skills.

**PTK Induction Ceremony:** Hold the Date. The spring 2025 PTK induction ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. Please join me as we celebrate the success of our students.

**IT Shout Out:** A special thanks to Matt Knopsnider for his quick response to a faculty computer issue during the first week of the semester. Within minutes of receiving an email, he personally went to the Gateway Center and had the problem resolved quickly. Thank you for prioritizing this issue and ensuring minimal impact on student learning.

**Cheer on the Trojans:** Join me in supporting all of our student-athletes. For more details, visit: [acmtrojans.com](http://acmtrojans.com)

**Western Maryland Works Open House.** If you know of someone interested in a future in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, invite them to the Open House on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM at Western Maryland Works in LaVale, MD. As an added benefit, this program is tuition-free for juniors and seniors at the CCTE.

- ✔ Hands-on training with cutting-edge equipment in precision machining, computer design, and 3D printing.
- ✔ A chance to earn 39 college credits and a Certificate in Engineering – Automated Manufacturing Technology from ACM
- ✔ Up to 14 industry-recognized certifications, including NIMS credentials
- ✔ A CTE Completer Certification in Manufacturing Engineering Technology from the State of Maryland

**A Word From Our Students:** One of the most rewarding parts of my job is hearing directly from our students. Whether it's a note of appreciation or an inspiring story, these unsolicited messages are a powerful reminder of why our work matters. I wanted to share a few recent notes from students that I hope you'll enjoy reading them as much as I did.

- Thank you for helping me create a better future for myself, my family, and my community.
- Thank you for the words of encouragement and guidance. I can honestly say my sacrifices have all been worth it. Your Professors have gone above and beyond to assist and be present.
- I am enjoying my college experience a lot! I'm constantly amazed at all the support built into the experience here. It's hard to believe that I am actually in COLLEGE!! Seems too good to be true! Thank you for making ACM the best.

**On A Personal Note:** One of my all-time favorite movies is *Apollo 13*, a story of teamwork, perseverance, and problem-solving under pressure. And who doesn't love a good "failure is not an option" moment? 🚀

With appreciation for all that you do.

David