

Good morning, ACM Family!

As the Spring semester begins, I want to share a gentle reminder that we thrive when we treat one another with mutual respect and civility. These values strengthen our learning environment, enrich our workplace, and remind us that even in times of challenge, kindness and professionalism carry us forward together.

Faculty and Staff Focus

This week's Faculty and Staff Focus celebrates the following employees:

Lindsay Miller

Nominated by: Robin Stayer

"Lindsay has worked very closely with the Online Nursing Program to get our applications running in Navigate. She has worked tirelessly on this project for quite some time. Lindsay is always there with a smile and helping hand if needed. We really appreciate all the work she has done for us! Thank you, Lindsay!"

This week, we also celebrate **Sarah Bohn, Ashley Kline, Taylor Reams, Jill Reinhard-Sudharsan, Harriet Douglas, and Amy Jo Felshaw**.

Nominated by: Jeremy Jensen

"[They] are the greatest coworkers I have ever had the pleasure of working with. In a department that thrives on teamwork, I am beyond blessed to work side-by-side with people who have a passion for helping students succeed."

Enrollment

As of the end of the day yesterday, after deregistration was run, the Spring 2026 headcount is 2503, down by 2.7% and total credits are 21,164, down 3.4%. Early college is reflected. Students may still enroll in class, so I encourage everyone to help spread the word and support the enrollment process.

Registration Details:

- Students can enroll in classes (if seats are available) **through Wednesday, January 21, 2026, without signatures.**
- Beginning **Thursday, January 22, 2026**, signatures will be required for all courses being added or for new registrations for full-term courses.
- Students who are deregistered will be re-enrolled into their courses without signatures until the end of the business day on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026**.
- The deregistration process was run on **Thursday, January 15, 2026**.

Legislative and Budget Update

The 449th session of the Maryland General Assembly will convene in Annapolis from January 14 to April 13, 2026. Addressing the significant state budget deficit will likely dominate the session this year.

I want to share a few key dates related to the FY27 State budget:

- **Jan. 16:** MACC Presidents' meeting — We will review the budget, provide an initial response, and begin developing tactical and strategic talking points.
- **Jan. 26-27:** MACC Trustee Leadership Conference.
- **MACC Legislative Committee:** I participate in this weekly meeting to discuss legislation that will impact ACM and Maryland Community Colleges.

At the All-College Assembly on January 8, I shared plans for an upcoming meeting to discuss the FY27 budget. Please note that the date for this assembly has been rescheduled to one week later, January 28th.

The change is due to two important factors:

- The Governor's budget will not be released until January 21; and
- A legislative event involving members of the Board and me will take place in Annapolis on January 26–27, providing additional information related to the State's fiscal outlook.

I want to ensure that our discussion reflects the most current information. During this assembly, representatives from CBIZ (our employee benefits broker) will also be in attendance to provide an overview of our medical/Rx projections for FY27 and the possible impact on the FY27 budget.

Special All-College Assembly

Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Location: Zimmer Theatre

Virtual Option: Zoom link available upon request

Financial Transparency

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, I want to remind you that the ACM-approved budgets and related finance documents are available for review. These resources provide a clear picture of how we allocate and manage our funding to support the mission and vision of ACM. You can access these documents using the following link: [Budget Portal](#) I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated finance staff for their diligent work in keeping ACM financially strong and well-managed.

Grant Highlight of the Week

ARC ARISE – Cybersecurity Expansion

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, Melanie, (Autumn as well before she left), and Jennifer for shaping the project's implementation.

Western Maryland Works

A big thank you to everyone involved in Chamber After Hours at Western Maryland Works, which took place this past Wednesday. A special thank you to the WMW and Advancement teams for their efforts to make the event showing our facility a success.

Board of Trustee Meeting Schedule

The Board of Trustee meeting schedule is listed below. As always, everyone is invited to attend, and anyone with questions can expect full transparency.

February 23, 2026

March 16, 2026

April 13, 2026

May 11, 2026

June 15, 2026

August 17, 2026

September 14, 2026

October 19, 2026

November 16, 2026

December 7, 2026

Cheer on the Trojans

Join me in supporting all of our student athletes. The next home game for the men's and women's basketball teams is scheduled for Monday, January 19th. Don't miss the action! For more details, visit: acmtrojans.com

Weather and Emergency Communication

Stay informed with eSAFE, ACM's emergency text messaging service! This system is designed to keep faculty, staff, students, and others updated during major emergencies, crises, disasters, or weather-related closings and delays. If you haven't already, sign up today to receive timely notifications: [eSAFE Sign-Up](#).

On A Personal Note

I've always loved the tradition of Christmas trees. Over the years, this love has evolved into a dream of owning a tiny farm where I can grow and give away trees to families who cherish the holiday as much as I do. Last weekend, I ordered 30 additional trees for planting, including a mix of Concolor Fir, White Spruce, Canaan Fir, Douglas Fir, Balsam Fir, and White Pine. Each one will take several years to mature, but the thought of these trees growing strong and eventually becoming part of someone's holiday memories is exciting.

Here's to planting roots—literally—and creating something that will bring joy for generations to come.

With ACM pride,

David