

ACM Family,

Thank you, as always, for your tireless efforts and dedication to our College.

Faculty and Staff Focus

This week's nominee is **Thea Hosselrode!**

“For about 30 years, Thea Hosselrode has poured her heart into ACM and our students. She works hard to help students find worthwhile internships, many of which turn into full-time jobs, and she is committed to student success. As a devoted member of our division and college, she demonstrates her unending work ethic and generosity with actions ranging from significant contributions to assessment efforts to making homemade food for a Pathways event. I am continually grateful for her kindness and dedication to students, her colleagues, and the community.”

-- Nominated by Robin Imgrund.

Be My Guest

To uphold transparency, I encourage anyone with any questions to visit me at my office during the following dates below from 2:30 – 4 pm. I will be available from 2-2:30 pm on March 20th.

March 6

March 20 (2-2:30)

April 3

April 17

May 1

I warmly invite you to visit for an informal opportunity to meet, enjoy a cup of water/tea/coffee, connect, and answer your questions....or to say hello.

Continuing Education and Workforce Development Building Renovation

A special thanks to our facilities, finance, and CE team for their expertise throughout the renovation of the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Building. With the goal of creating an efficient, comfortable, and healthy instructional facility, this project will support the College's efforts to meet the community's educational and workforce needs. The design is expected to be finalized late this summer for State approval. The plan is to put the project out to bid this fall for an early 2027 start date for the 18-month renovation.

Professor Emeritus Recognition

I am pleased to share that Dr. Bill Rocks and Mr. Rick Cooper were approved as Professor Emeritus by the Board of Trustees earlier this week. This honor is earned through meritorious service and follows the approved nomination and selection process. **Congratulations**, Bill and Rick.

Budget:

The State of Maryland is more than 1/3 of the way through the legislative session, and I remain cautiously optimistic that the 3% increase from the State will remain intact. As I have shared earlier, under maintenance-of-effort legislation, ACM is tentatively scheduled to receive this increase, provided the County provides level funding. I will continue to work with the ACM Board, leadership, and others to advocate for ACM at the County and State levels, monitor any new developments, and provide updates as new information becomes available.

The latest estimate from our insurance broker, CBIZ, is still showing an approximate \$1.4 million projected increase in health/Rx costs over the current year. The College is continuing to meet and work with CBIZ to evaluate all relevant and practical health/RX options. It is important to note that health, dental, and other benefit changes are typically shared with the campus community in late April or early May, just prior to the open enrollment period, so we are still well ahead of the traditional schedule. Leadership plans to share additional details with faculty and staff over the next month as meetings with CBIZ continue, and all options and their projected price tags become clearer.

Board of Trustees Meeting Update

Attending the ACM Board of Trustees meetings helps you to stay informed. The Board meets at 4 pm in the Thomas Welcome Center, with the next meeting scheduled for March 16, 2026. The following is a summary from the 2/23/26 Board meeting:

1. Adopt the December 8, 2026, minutes. Minutes were approved.
2. Chair Report
3. President's Report
4. Board Reflections
5. Board Education: Kerri Caporale and Melanie Chapman provided an overview of the Work Keys, a comprehensive, nationally recognized system of assessments and curriculum that measures foundational, "real-world" employability skills.
6. Driver Safety Policy. Approved.
7. Academic Grievance Policy/Grievance Procedures. Approved.
8. Program Advisory Committee Updates.
9. ACM Engage. Miha Wood and Shanese Westfall provided an overview of ACM Engage, a professional development program designed to improve awareness and capacity to be involved in institutional operations.

Make a Difference Youth Summit

Thank you to everyone listed who participated in the Western Maryland Make a Difference Youth Summit! Thea Hosselrode, Courtney Jensen, Mo Pratt, Sandi Foreman, Jim House, Dione Lynn Clark-Trub, Kerri Caporale, Diane McMahon, Kara Kennell, Layton Sagal, Justin Warnick, Elaine Bridges, Susan Humbertson, Connie Milligan, Mari-Jane Grace McLeod, Andrea Beall, Debbie Hardinger, and Erin Yokum. Thank you for your dedication.

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

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

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

Stay Informed - President's Advisory Team (PAT)

The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets monthly to 1) provide advice and counsel to the President regarding the overall operation of the College; 2) assist the President in developing the College calendar; 3) collaborate with the President on creating and implementing strategic plans for the College; 4) recommend funding patterns and priorities to the President; and 5) develop the agenda for All-College Assembly staff meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4th, starting at 3:30 pm. I encourage you to stay engaged by attending PAT meetings, contacting your affinity group representatives for updates, sharing ideas, and asking questions. Your input is invaluable to shaping the future of our College.

Grant Highlight

SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) Program

A \$323,999 proposal has been approved to operate a three-year SNAP E&T program in partnership with Allegany County DSS. The initiative would support up to 153 participants through education, training, and job readiness activities that align with WIOA and EARN performance standards. Special thanks to Melanie Chapman for spearheading this effort.

Great Colleges to Work For

Allegany College of Maryland is once again participating in the *Great Colleges to Work For* program. This survey provides valuable data to inform decision-making and support our strategic plan as we work to create the best workplace possible. On March 2, 2026, a random selection of employees will receive an invitation from ModernThink LLC to participate. For questions, contact Scott Harrah (sharrah@allegany.edu) or visit www.ChronicleGreatColleges.com.

On A Personal Note

I thoroughly enjoyed this year's Winter Olympics. There's something uplifting about watching athletes from around the world push themselves to excellence. It is also a reminder of what focus, teamwork, and perseverance can achieve. I hope you had a chance to catch some of the events as well, as they serve as a source of energy and inspiration.

With ACM Pride,
David