ACM Family,
The December 11, 2026, ACM Commencement is just four weeks from today. Thank you for your work with our students to help them finish the semester on a strong note. I'm pleased to share the following updates:

Faculty/Staff Focus
Nominee: Cathy Zirk
Nominated anonymously
After 28 years at ACM, Cathy Zirk has amassed an unmatched level of expertise and overall knowledge of the inner workings of the college. Cathy has helped literally everyone employed by the college, either through a direct question or something behind the scenes that most people are not even aware of. We should all be grateful for Cathy's dedication to ACM and willingness to share her time and knowledge with anyone who needs assistance. We're surrounded by dedicated colleagues who go above and beyond to support ACM and our students every day. I invite you to nominate a faculty or staff member who deserves recognition for their outstanding contributions. Please keep your nomination to three sentences or fewer and email it directly to me.

Congratulations Advancement Team
Congratulations to our advancement team for winning gold on ACCESS ACM and silver on the ACM 2026 Recruitment Viewbook by the Annual Education Digital Marketing Awards.





HRDC Community Recognition Award
Allegany College of Maryland was selected as the recipient of the HRDC's Community Recognition Award for outstanding commitment, dedicated service, and contributions to the community. This recognition belongs to the entire ACM family and reflects our shared

commitment to education, service, and community impact. The important work of HRDC reminds us that meaningful progress is achieved when people come together with compassion, purpose, and a shared commitment to helping others succeed.





Leadership Allegany Education Day 2026

A heartfelt thank you to the ACM faculty and staff for your efforts in making ACM shine during the Chamber's Leadership Allegany Education Day visit earlier this week. Your dedication to hands-on activities and leadership experiences showcased ACM and our many programs.

A special thank you to the planning team, led by Courtney McKay, as well as the many others who contributed, including Lauren Winterberg, Gracie McLeod, Andrea Beall, John Bone, Marie Perrin-Miller, Brandon Hoover, Melanie Chapman, Scott Harrah, Steve Gibson, Beth Little, Miha Wood, Layton Sagal, the AV team and Marketing team. Your hard work and commitment are greatly appreciated.



Western Maryland Works Holiday Workshops

Did you know that monthly memberships to the Western Maryland Works makerspace are FREE for all employees and students! Please note that while membership is free, you may be charged for consumables related to your projects, such as wood, ink, paper, and other materials.

Are you looking to make a unique and simple gift this holiday season? Western Maryland Works has several fun workshops in November and December where you can create handmade gifts! Our technicians will guide you step-by-step through each project, making it easy for beginners and experienced makers alike.

Upcoming holiday workshops include:

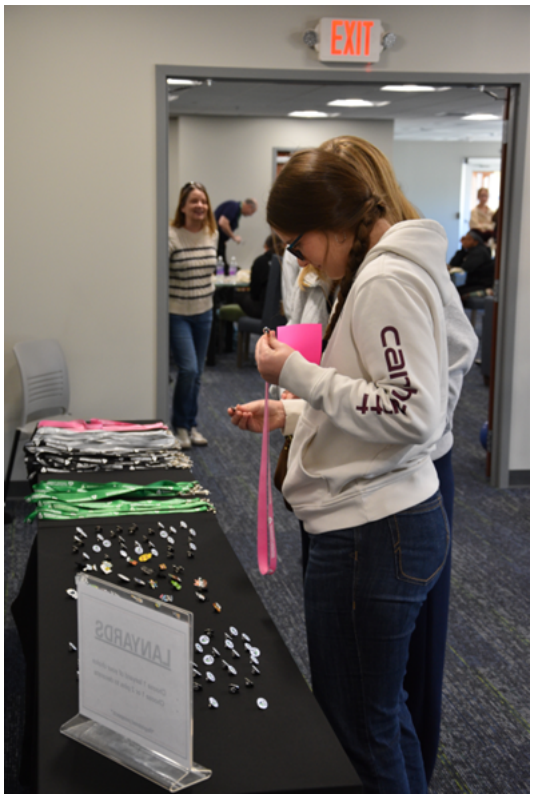
- Wooden Bowls
- Charcuterie Boards
- Handcrafted Wooden Pens
- French Rolling Pins
- Customized Vinyl T-shirts
- Wooden Serving Trays
- Customized Embroidery

For a full list of upcoming holiday workshops including prices and available times, visit our Eventbrite page:
https://hubs.la/Q04DlDYL0

We hope to see you at Western Maryland Works soon!

Cumberland Tour and Explore Day

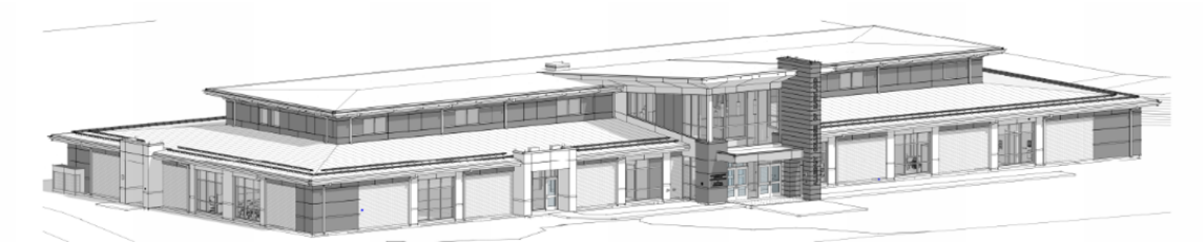
Please accept my appreciation to everyone involved with planning and executing the Cumberland Campus Tour and Explore Day. The attendance numbers were positive, but even more impactful were the personal stories shared by prospective students and their families. Throughout the day, I heard about the warmth of the welcome they received, the helpfulness of our faculty and staff, and the sense of excitement they felt about the possibilities at ACM. Your efforts made a real and lasting impression. Thank you for representing us so well. You made the college shine.





Continuing Education Workforce Development Renovation

I am pleased to share that the Bid/RFP Information Package & Instructions to Bidders is available: https://www.allegany.edu/rfp/index.html Thanks to everyone who worked incredibly hard to make this project a reality. Bids are due on December 21, 2026 and it is anticipated that a recommendation will be made at the public meeting of the Board on January 18, 2027.



Bedford Campus Open House Reminder

Join us on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 10:00 AM to noon for the Bedford Campus Open House! Here's what you can look forward to:

- Guided tours
- Explore our academic majors and programs

- Meet faculty, staff, and current students
- Learn about Early College opportunities
- Discover how college credits transfer
- Get information about paying for college
- Learn how to enroll in six easy steps!

BOT Meeting – Draft Agenda

As always, the public is invited to the Board of Trustees public sessions. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2026, at 4:00 pm in the Board Room.

1. Chairman's Update – Ms. Belt
2. President's Update – Mr. Jones
3. Adopt the October 19, 2026 Minutes – Ms. Belt
4. Statement of Past Executive Session from October 19, 2026 – Ms. Belt
5. Board Member Comments and Reflections – Board Members
6. Board Education: FAMLI (Family & Medical Leave Insurance) - Ms. Duckworth
7. FY2027 Pay Scales Revision (Action Item) - Ms. Duckworth
8. Bedford County Regional Education Foundation & Southern Tier Education Council MOU – Ms. Kilduff
9. FY 2027 Fund Balance Designation (Action Item) - Ms. Kilduff
10. 2027-2028 Academic Calendar (Action Item) -Dr. Hoffman
11. Program Advisory Committee Handbook (Information Item) -Dr. Hoffman
12. Local Advisory Council Update (Action Item) – Dr. Hoffman
13. Statement of Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act – Ms. Belt

Registration and Enrollment

Registration for the intersession and spring 2027 semester opened on November 2, 2026. Please continue to help spread the word and support our enrollment process.
https://www.allegany.edu/registration/index.html

Grantsgiving



Local Needs, Local Solutions
Many grant-funded projects begin by identifying a need in our region, whether it's workforce shortages, student support services, healthcare training, or economic development. ACM works with employers, schools, nonprofits, and community leaders to develop solutions that create lasting impact. What challenges or opportunities do you see in our community? Great ideas often become future grant projects.

"Be Social"
With winter intersession and spring 2027 enrollment now open, please help us spread the word about the fantastic opportunities at ACM! By sharing posts from our official social media accounts, you can showcase enrollment opportunities, academic programs, events, and the successes that make our college stand out. Your voice can inspire others to join the ACM community and take the next step in their educational journey. Follow and share content from our official channels:
Facebook
Instagram
TikTok
Snapchat
X (formerly Twitter)
LinkedIn

A Conversation with MMC
Join Mountain Maryland Cares on Friday, November 13, in T-121 for a conversation on compassionate end-of-life care. An RSVP is encouraged but not required.



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.

Student Emergency Supply Drive

I encourage everyone to participate in the supply drive as the cold weather approaches. Please see the drop off locations listed below.



Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

Please come out and support the ACM Theater Club and their production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The dates are Friday and Saturday, November 13, 14 at 7 pm and Sunday, November 15 at 2 pm. At the request of several Theater Club members, I have accepted a small role in the play and look forward to this experience. Thank you to Melody Gaschler for providing our students with an outlet for creative expression on campus.



Upcoming Events

· Sat, November 14, Bedford Campus Open House, Bedford Campus, 10 a.m.
· Mon, November 16, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center 4 p.m.
· Thurs/Fri, November 26 & 27, Thanksgiving Break, college closed
· Mon, December 7, Board of Trustees meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
· Thurs, December 10, All college staff meeting, Theater, 9 a.m. Holiday reception, 12 p.m.
· Thurs, December 10, Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Gymnasium, 6 p.m.
· Fri, December 11, Commencement, Gymnasium, 7 p.m.

Cheer on the Trojans

Join me in supporting our student-athletes. For more details, visit: www.acmtrojans.com

Campus Conversations

One of the best aspects of my role is the opportunity to connect directly with our faculty, staff, and students, and I'd welcome your help in making that happen. Whether it's visiting a class, meeting with a club, stopping by a team practice, meeting with a department, or welcoming a group to my office, I'm eager to spend more time with our faculty, staff, and students. If it works best over dinner, I'll even provide the pizza and drinks. These visits are an excellent way for me to listen, answer questions, and share in the experiences that make ACM such a special place.

On A Personal Note

Veterans Day is a meaningful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have served our nation. I am grateful for the veterans in our ACM family and throughout our community whose courage, commitment, and selfless service have helped preserve the freedoms we

enjoy every day. As we pause to honor them this week, let us also take a moment to thank the military families who have served alongside them through their unwavering support.

With ACM Pride
David