



BEDFORD COUNTY CAMPUS CELEBRATES SPRING 2022 COMMENCEMENT

Seven graduates celebrated their academic accomplishments at the Allegany College of Maryland Bedford County Campus Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony on May 16, 2022. These graduates, along with five others graduating in absentia, earned degrees in the areas of Business Administration, Business Management, Computer Technology – Programming, Computer Science – Secure Computing and Information Systems, General Studies, Psychology and Sociology.

The Spring 2022 graduates bring the total number of Bedford County Campus graduates to 723. Thanks to the generosity of community members and businesses, the Bedford County Regional Education Foundation provided \$19,569.50 to seven of the graduates through scholarships, tuition assistance awards, and emergency book funding.



Row 1: Kasey Brown, Hallie Hillegass, Paige Taylor and Jazlyn Angel-Skye Logue
Row 2: Elizabeth Emerick, Ryan Kisner and Kasandra Faulkner
Graduating in absentia: Lee Cogan, Garrett Danfelt, Faith Diehl, Landon Defibaugh and Olivia Kagarise

STUDENT SPEAKERS SHARE THEIR ACM EXPERIENCES

Three academically deserving students were selected to serve as graduation speakers during the May 16, 2022 Bedford County Campus commencement ceremony. Kasey Brown of Burnt Cabins, Elizabeth Emerick of Fairhope, and Ryan Kisner of Everett each spoke about their experiences at the Bedford County Campus.

Dr. Diane McMahon, Associate Professor of Sociology, introduced Kasey Brown who earned Associate Degrees in Sociology and General Studies. Dr. McMahon described Kasey as an outstanding student with a generous spirit who is able to take challenges and make them opportunities.

Kasey, who graduated Summa Cum Laude, celebrated both her high school and college graduations in May



ACM Graduates: Kasey Brown, Ryan Kisner and Elizabeth Emerick

2022. She began taking college classes during her sophomore year of high school and completed her ACM degrees with a 4.0 GPA. She even took college classes during the summer semesters to ensure degree completion.

Kasey was one of 341 high school students taking ACM college coursework through the Bedford County Campus during the 2021-2022 academic year.

She benefitted from the generosity of ECM Insurance Group who provided an Educational Improvement Tax Credit donation (EITC) to cover the cost of tuition and fees for early college students. EITC donations from Hometown Bank of PA, Rutters, the Mellott Company, and Weis Markets made it possible for students to receive their textbooks for their classes.



Kasey Brown

She began her commencement address by thanking the Bedford County Regional Education Foundation and the donors for their investment in her education. “The donors gave money so early college students like myself could take classes. I will forever be grateful for their hand in my education.”

Kasey encouraged graduates to view their degrees as “tickets to change the world.

We are not just graduates; we are people. Kind, caring, inspirational, courageous people who are capable of changing the world. So as we leave today, remember that you are strong and powerful and you have the ability to change the world and make a positive impact on it and other people’s lives.”

Kasey plans to continue her studies at Shippensburg to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology.



Elizabeth Emerick

Mr. Matthew Marafino, Professor of English, introduced Elizabeth Emerick who earned an Associate Degree in Psychology. Mr. Marafino described Elizabeth as a conscientious student who was eager for information and whose discussions served as a role model for others.

Elizabeth, graduating summa cum laude, shared gratitude to her family for the role they played in her homeschool education. “I am so grateful for the many hours my mother spent teaching my brother and I. We were homeschooled and it gave me the ability to learn at my own pace and taught me to take the initiative to learn new things.”

As she reflected on her time at ACM, she shared, “ACM helped me grow into the person I am today. When I first started at ACM, I was nervous and afraid. Growing up as a homeschooled student many people believed I would be ill-equipped for life, especially college. On my first day of college, I walked into Mr. Marafino’s English class and felt nothing but excitement and anticipation.

ACM is filled with kind and compassionate instructors and staff. We have overcome many obstacles and fought battles within to reach this moment. We are celebrating not only our successes, but our ability to persevere. The lessons we have learned during our time at ACM will carry on with us in life.”

Elizabeth plans to continue her education at Frostburg State University with a goal of earning a Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology and a minor in Art. Her hope is to one day become an art therapist.



Ryan Kisner

Dr. Derek Jones, Associate Professor of Computer Technology, introduced Ryan Kisner who earned an Associate Degree in Computer Science – Secure Computing and Information Systems. Dr. Jones acknowledged Ryan’s passion for the IT field and described him as a detailed student who always wanted to discuss the latest IT trends.

Ryan, graduating summa cum laude, recognized the challenges of the pandemic and thanked ACM for continuing to provide an education for the student body. “There were ups and downs like everywhere else, but we pushed through together and learned how to deal with the situations presented before us. We learned to thrive even in the harsh season with purpose and determination.”

As Ryan reflected on his time when the pandemic forced face-to-face classes online, he shared, “When we moved online, the classroom moved in with us. Beds and couches became desks. We had it pretty good too. School lunches were home-cooked meals, mask breaks were all the time, and gas was cheap because we didn’t even have to start the car. We passed family members in the hall instead of classmates. Although our college days may have looked different from how we expected, these memories are things we learned to appreciate. The ability to adapt our mindset and view the positives in our situation is what will truly catapult us into our journey ahead.”

Ryan plans to continue his education at Regent University to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree in either Cybersecurity or Computer Science.