

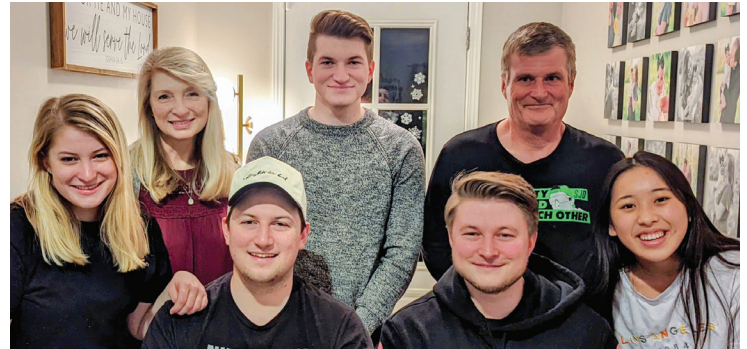


LOCAL FAMILY BENEFITS FROM LOCAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Mitch and Cherie Steele family from Martinsburg, PA are grateful to the ACM Bedford County Campus for “setting up their children for academic success”. Cherie shared, “The Campus allowed our children to start at a gentler pace where they could get their feet wet in higher education. All the staff at ACM respected my thoughts about my children’s education and were so kind and helpful with all our questions.”

The Steele children, Mitchell, Matthew, Christian, Anna Grace, and Faith, ranging in ages from 29 to 15, have taken a combined total of 294 credits from ACM. The Steele children benefitted from early college opportunities while dually completing home school high school requirements. Cherie first discovered the early college opportunity when Mitchell was in ninth grade. “As a mom, I started to think about how we were going to help give our five children a good education. I started looking for options on how to help them take advantage of all kinds of opportunities and discovered the early college program at ACM.” Cherie was nervous when she first took her ninth grader to the Bedford County Campus for his placement test. She credits Mary Ann Clark, Coordinator of Student Services at the Bedford County Campus, for her calming words that assured her she was doing a good job with her son.

Mitchell Steele, age 29, graduated from high school in 2010 with 35 ACM credits and shared that “ACM allows for a very easy dual enrollment process”. He earned his associate’s degree in General Studies from ACM in 2011. Mitchell then transferred to Belmont University in Nashville, TN and earned his bachelor’s degree in Music Business. He worked for Universal Music for several years and now serves as an executive in the cloud technology



▲ **The Steele Family**
Front row: Anna Grace, Mitchell, Matthew, and Faith
Back row: Cherie, Christian, and Mitch

service integration field. Cherie shared, “Mitchell had Belmont University in his mind as a dream college but it was expensive. ACM gave him the opportunity to get two years of his schooling done while working to save money. Thanks to ACM he was able to get his dream education without going into debt.”

Matthew Steele, age 26, completed 9 ACM credits during high school and then continued his studies with ACM to earn his associate’s degree in Applied Technical Studies and letters of recognition in Computer Science Web Page Development and Leadership Development in 2015. Both Matthew and Cherie were grateful to his instructors, Dr. Bill Rocks and Dr. Bev Wilcox, for incorporating a tour of museums and the Statue of Liberty during his Leadership NYC trip. Matthew is now a licensed minister serving as a House Church pastor in Nashville, TN. He is also employed by Verizon Wireless.

Christian Steele, age 23, earned his associate’s degree in Physical Therapist Assistant from ACM in 2021. He began his educational journey as an early college student earning 26

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credits. When reflecting on his ACM experience, he shared, “The teachers at ACM are very helpful and left a big impact on me as a student.” He appreciated Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Dr. Kathleen Thompson’s passion for the field and commitment to her students. Christian shared, “ACM offers a top notch medical program where students are set up with the best scenario.” He credits Associate Professors of Physical Therapist Assistant Karen Savage and Jeremy Oldham for really caring about their students and their success. Christian currently works as a PTA at Cross Roads Physical Therapy in Hollidaysburg, PA and is working towards on a Doctoral Degree in Physical Therapy.

Anna Grace, age 19, graduated from high school in 2020 with her high school diploma and 31 ACM credits. She stayed with ACM another year earning a total of 52 credits from ACM before transferring to The Belonging Co. College, an extension of Southeastern University, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a Worship Music minor. Anna shared these thoughts about the Bedford County Campus. “I had my first ever classroom experience in a kind, safe, and supportive environment. I am

still grateful to Melody Gashcler, ACM Associate Professor of Music, because of her passion for what she taught and for how much she cared about the students’ learning.”

Faith, age 15, is currently a ninth grader who is also taking college classes while in high school. Faith aspires to complete her ACM Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene and then go on to become a pediatric dentist. Cherie shared, “Faith was definitely ready to take college classes. She doesn’t drive yet so it’s great that she can complete her credits virtually from a distance.”

As Cherie continued to reflect on her family’s ACM experience, she shared, “I recommend ACM so highly to others. Financially, it is an affordable college. Faith is benefitting from the generosity of the early college donors and we are so grateful for their financial support. The Bedford County Regional Education Foundation has helped our family tremendously with scholarship support. When you have a large family, you worry about how to put your children through college and the Campus and Foundation have been a blessing.”

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY

Join us for an evening of fun that will raise scholarship dollars for Bedford County Campus of Allegany College of Maryland students. The Bedford County Regional Education Foundation’s *Generosity for Generations* dinner fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 20, 2022 at the Clearidge Event Center in Clearville, PA. Comedian Jeff Jena will share some funny thoughts about the differences among generations. Guests will enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Catered Affairs and will have the opportunity to bid on some wonderful items during the silent auction. Doors open at 5:00 pm with the program/dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. To reserve your tickets, at the cost of \$35 per person, please contact Leah Pepple, Director of PA Advancement and Community Relations at 814-652-9528, extension 6223, or lpepple@allegany.edu.

MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

by supporting the Bedford County Regional Education Foundation. Here are some options that you may want to consider:

PROVIDE
AN ANNUAL GIFT

CREATE
A NEW SCHOLARSHIP

CONTRIBUTE TO
AN EXISTING FUND

ESTABLISH
A PLANNED GIFT



BEDFORD COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION
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