

Dear Colleagues:

*This will pass.* I find myself repeating these words throughout my day. They are words frequently accompanied by a direct follow-up question: *But, when?*

As state governments weigh the reopening of businesses and institutions, we're already planning for the ever elusive *when*.

We're currently formulating plans about our college operations. As you can imagine, our campuses and extension sites will be staffed far differently than before when Stay-At-Home Directives are lifted. ACM supervisors are being surveyed as part of our plans for returning nonessential staff to campus. Our expectation is that some staff may return to campus to work in partial shifts while others may continue to telework. It won't be business as usual. I know you have questions. I assure you that more information will be coming in early to mid-May, and we will do all that we can to keep you and our college community safe.

This week I have several updates and reminders to share with you, from my freshly cleaned office to yours.

#### ACM FOUNDATION COVID-19 STUDENT RELIEF FUND

The ACM Foundation has approximately \$12,000 remaining in its ACM Cares COVID-19 Student Relief Fund. To date, the Foundation has served 21 students and funded 100% of its COVID-19 Student Relief Fund requests. If you know of a student in need of financial help, please advocate for them to receive assistance. It's important that we expend these funds to help additional students. Email David Jones at [djones@allegany.edu](mailto:djones@allegany.edu) or Vicki Smith at [vsmith@allegany.edu](mailto:vsmith@allegany.edu) to request assistance. Describe the rationale, need, and amount, and be sure to include the student's name in the subject line and student ID number within your email. These funds are making a difference in the lives of our students, as evidenced by these quotes from several of the recipients:

- *Thank you so much for your help! I am beyond grateful for this!*
- *I can't thank you enough for your financial support in this time.*
- *Thank you so much. I could cry. You have no idea how much of a weight has been lifted off my chest.*
- *I am beyond grateful. Thank you for your time and helping me figure all this out!*
- *Thank you so much! This really relieves so much stress. You just made my birthday.*

#### FEDERAL CARES ACT

As you may be aware, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which includes an Education Stabilization Fund, into law on March 27, 2020. We've been tasked by the U.S. Department of Education to award emergency relief funds to our students to help with expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus outbreak. Like other colleges across the nation, we are currently waiting for additional federal guidance about student eligibility. Once that guidance is received, we'll distribute relief checks as soon as possible to eligible ACM students.

#### REGISTRATION

We're delighted to share that our numbers for the first week of registration for summer session are up from last year's tallies. We currently have 397 students registered – an increase of 99 students as compared to the 2019 first week of registration numbers. Registration for the fall semester opens on May 4. Please encourage students to reach out to the Advising Center for email or virtual advising sessions by contacting Jennifer Engelbach at [jengelbach@allegany.edu](mailto:jengelbach@allegany.edu).

#### VETERANS

Being overlooked is the last thing we want for any student, especially a student who's served our country. The Armed Forces do not identify student veterans, so we have to rely on our students to self-identify their military status. Please remind students to contact Beth Nightengale at [bnightengale@allegany.edu](mailto:bnightengale@allegany.edu) to learn about available programs and services designed specifically for vets.

#### WIFI

Due to on-campus construction projects, our wifi signal is no longer available in the parking lots adjacent to our Tech and Allied Health Buildings. It has been moved to the Physical Education/Gymnasium Building parking lot. Students will need to remain in their vehicles and practice social distancing while using our extended wifi signal.

#### ACCESS ACM

Are you missing ACM? Take a moment to virtually leaf through our [ACCESS ACM Magazine](#). Copies of this biannual publication for ACC/ACM alum, supporters, and friends of the college were mailed earlier this month.

Wishing you continued good health,

Dr. B.