

Dear Colleagues,

In less than one week from today, Allegany College of Maryland officially begins its 59<sup>th</sup> year of academic classes. As we expect a challenging semester ahead, I'm ever-mindful of our community charge – to be a higher education institution of value and impact.

Our impact this semester has never been more important. Whether you're teaching in-person or online, or providing support services from your office or kitchen table, your role at the college matters in the lives of our students.

To protect their (and our) futures, I ask you to continue to practice safe behaviors while on campus to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While it's easy to slip into pre-COVID-19 behaviors, we have to model appropriate behaviors for our students: [wearing face masks properly](#) while indoors or outside when physical distancing is not possible, practicing hand hygiene, following directional flow signs, engaging in social distancing, using sanitizing supplies, and taking additional precautions. Please continue to visit the [ACM Outlook – Plans for Fall 2020 page](#) for the most current updates.

Like all of us, our students naturally have questions, ranging from *“What if I'm scared to come to class?”* to *“If there's an outbreak of COVID-19 on campus, will all of my courses be held online?”* among others. While our [Academic Year Disclaimer](#) may offer answers for students inquiring about tuition and fees refunds, there are some questions that we simply cannot answer at this time. If you're uncertain as to how to respond to a student's question, ask for guidance from your supervisor or program director.

Our COVID-19 Command Team has finalized the college's [COVID-19 Exposure Procedures](#) – an outline of our anticipated actions in the event of a positive case or test at our college.

As we prepare to [cautiously] celebrate our students' presence on campus, you may have additional questions and concerns as well. Please reach out to your area's Vice-President to share those matters for discussion during our leadership or COVID-19 Command Team meetings.

I am, as my distant predecessor President Dr. Robert Zimmer surely was in 1961, proud of our students and grateful to you – our faculty and staff – who make this all possible.

With great appreciation,

Dr. B.