

Dear Colleagues:

As we see the continued rise in the number of COVID-19 cases within our rural community, I hope you and your loved ones are staying well.

I do want to take a moment to recognize our college's essential personnel who are reporting to campus. Thank you for taking precautions to ensure your safety and that of your colleagues.

As we, and our state governments, wait for the number of new COVID-19 cases to plateau with our region, we are continuing to work on a plan to safely bring you and your fellow ACM family back to campus. We hope to share our tentative plan with you later this month.

Today, on this first day of [fall registration](#), I have several updates and reminders to share.

PASSING OF LONG-TIME TRUSTEE



Our condolences to the family of James "Jim" Ortiz. Jim, a retired Kelly-Springfield Tire Company administrator, was the longest-serving member of our Board of Trustees. For 29 years, Jim helped to guide our college through incredible times of growth, from the creation of the Bedford County campus and extension sites to the construction of on-campus housing in Cumberland. He was a wonderful advocate for our college, and a friendly face at college events and commencement exercises. Jim retired from our Board of Trustees in 2018.

CONTINUATION OF PAY

As a large number of colleges and universities struggle with staying afloat during this pandemic, many are resorting to furloughs and layoffs. We want to assure you that we are continuing our dedication to keep you, our ACM family, employed and financially secure during these difficult times. We are extending our commitment to you and will continue to pay our employees through June 30, or through your original FY20 contract if end date is prior to June 30. If you have questions, please reach out to Melinda Duckworth by emailing mduckworth@allegany.edu.

ALL COLLEGE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Be sure to join us for a virtual All College Assembly Meeting on Thursday, May 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A meeting agenda and your Zoom invite will be sent later this week. In addition to general housekeeping issues, we'll celebrate our new retirees, honor the achievements of our faculty and staff through our annual awards presentation, and recognize #ACMawesome employees. (See below.)

#ACMAWESOME RECOGNITION

Want to recognize a colleague who's gone above and beyond for ACM and our students during the COVID-19 pandemic? Please send a one-sentence statement to Nicole Frost with #ACMawesome in the subject line by Friday, May 8.

FEDERAL CARES ACT

Letters will be mailed this week to students who are eligible to receive funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Once eligible students accept their funds through WebAdvisor, we will post their checks.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the fall semester opens today. Please encourage students to reach out to the Advising Center for email or virtual advising sessions by contacting Jennifer Engelbach at jengelbach@allegany.edu.

Kim Leonard, chair of our Board of Trustees and a constant at our employee and student events, asked that I relay the Board's great appreciation for you – our employees. The Board is grateful for your dedication to our students and our college during these challenging times. I know that it's been far from easy for you and your families, but you and your work are invaluable as we navigate this crisis.

With gratitude,
Dr. B.