

Good afternoon, Colleagues.

I would like to extend a special note of thanks to everyone who helped to plan and execute the August 7, 2020 livestreamed commencement ceremony as we honored 318 spring and summer graduates. Special thanks to Mr. John Bone who made this virtual celebration possible. Our commencement reiterated the incredible impact that ACM has made and continues to make in our region. It was especially apparent in the remarks by our student speakers, Carol Lusk and Khushmani Singh.

Khushmani Singh shared the following as part of her remarks and I thought that it would be most appropriate to share them with you:

*I would like to start with a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, "When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on."*

*The future will always hold uncertainty, but do not stop dreaming. As we step into the real world, get excited about your next journey. It's officially time to let go of this old rope and grab onto a new one. And if you ever feel that you are at the end of your rope again, remember our graduating class. Remember this time. Tie that knot and hold on. I know you can do it.*

Please continue to visit the [ACM Outlook – Plans for Fall 2020 page](#) for the most up-to-date information about the fall semester.

The COVID-19 Command Team, consisting of faculty and staff, has developed our response plan to navigate any positive tests that may be experienced. The document, which is being finalized, is named the Allegany College of Maryland COVID-19 Exposure Procedures and provides the steps necessary when Allegany College of Maryland is made aware of a positive COVID-19 test result from a student, faculty/staff, or member of the community who visited the College. I'm grateful to this team and their expertise to ensure that we have a solid plan. My goal is to share this document with the college community by early next week.

Please reach out to the Vice-President in your area to share your questions, so that they can be part of our discussions during leadership team meetings or COVID-19 Command Team meetings.

As we quickly approach the start of classes, please know that I'm grateful for all that you have done and continue to do to prepare for the fall 2020 semester.

With great appreciation,

*Dr. B.*