



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE AWARDS  
AT INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

CUMBERLAND, Md. (Jan. 30, 2019) – Allegany College of Maryland President Dr. Cynthia Bambara is honored to announce that James “Jim” E. House, Jr., Tara L. DeVore and April L. Higson will receive John E. and Susanne D. Roueche Excellence Awards from the League for Innovation in the Community College. The awardees will attend the League’s Innovations Conference in February in New York City.

House is an associate professor and chair of ACM’s [Computer Technology Department](#). Hired in 1996 as a graphic design/print control manager at ACM, House moved to instruction in 2001. Known for his energetic and engaging classes, he teaches both computer and multimedia technology courses. “House’s passion for teaching is exemplary, and it shows. He learns where the students are coming from in so many aspects, and works with them to progress to goals,” said ACM Associate Professor John Bone.

Devore is the director of ACM’s [Pathways for Success](#) program (TRIO Student Support Services project funded by the US Department of Education) which is designed to increase student retention, graduation and transfer rates and improve student GPAs. She began working at ACM in 2009 as an adjunct instructor before moving into a professional staff position. “Many students credit Tara for helping them achieve their dream of earning a degree or certificate by improving their writing skills and helping them navigate their first semesters of college,” explained ACM Pathways for Success Advisement Coordinator Richard Cofield.

Higson in an administrative assistant for the [Athletics and Physical Education Department](#). Hired in 1992, she oversees regional athletic activities at ACM, maintains the College’s NJCAA compliance and tracks student athlete academic records, among her many responsibilities. “When the college didn’t have reliable lifeguards for swim and exercise classes, we joked about getting our own lifeguard certification. April actually took the course

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and became a certified lifeguard. Her love of this college and her fellow staff shine through in everything she does,” noted Administrative Associate to the Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Shea Bonarigo.

Bambara will accompany House, DeVore and Higson to the Innovations Conference.

The Excellence Awards are named for John E. and Suanne D. Roueche, leaders in the community college field and early proponents of the idea that teachers have major responsibility for students’ performance in the classroom. The [League for Innovation in the Community College](#) was founded in 1968.

#### ABOUT ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

Ranked among the top 20 community and technical colleges in the country by the Brookings Institution, Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) offers world-class education in a caring environment that transforms lives, strengthens communities and celebrates life-long learning. Serving more than 3,000 credit and 7,000 continuing education and workforce students annually, ACM offers over 80 associate degree, certificate, and letters of recognition programs at affordable rates. To learn more, visit [allegany.edu](http://allegany.edu) or call 301-784-5000.