



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND OPENS *THE PANTRY* FOR STUDENTS:

More Than 75 Students Attend Grand Opening

CUMBERLAND, Md. (Apr. 9, 2019) – For Heather Greise, an Allegany College of Maryland assistant professor of Developmental Education, finding out that many students were food insecure – not knowing where their next meal was coming from – was her motivation. For Academic Access & Resource Advisor Dione Clark-Trub, it was wanting to do something to reduce the barriers (hunger, lack of reliable transportation and housing problems) to success that some students face. As co-chairs of the ACM Student Emergency Task Force, Greise and Clark-Trub lead a group of 21 who are tackling hunger and homelessness on the College’s Cumberland campus.

For over ten years, ACM employees have been quietly providing canned and boxed food, personal hygiene supplies and emergency funds to ACM students in need at multiple locations on the college’s Cumberland campus. But that’s all about to change.

“We realized that far too many students were falling through the cracks. Students had to be aware that we had a Student Emergency program, know who to trust to ask for help, and locate the designee during work or office hours. We wanted to take steps to remove inadvertent barriers to this resource,” explained Greise.

Charged by ACM President Cynthia Bambara to expand and improve the process for students, the Task Force opted to streamline the process and centralize assistance. “Thanks to funding through the College’s micro-grant program, we’re proud to be one of the more than 200 college food pantries in the country,” said Clark-Trub.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2019, Bambara, Student Emergency Task Force members and the college community held a grand opening for **The Pantry** – a permanent food and supply pantry for ACM students in need. More than 75 students attended to learn about available resources and be part of the college’s Hashtags for Hunger campaign. **The Pantry**, located in College Center Room 54, is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to current ACM students with valid student identification.

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Students request assistance using an online form (allegany.edu/pantryform) on the College’s website or by emailing thepantry@allegany.edu. ACM employees prepare their requests and students to pick up their bagged orders during office hours. During its three-week ‘soft’ opening, employees filled over 35 requests for assistance.

“We know the need is there,” noted Task Force Member/Pathways for Success Office Manager Debby Hardinger. “Even small efforts can make a big difference for a student struggling to pay for basic necessities. Whether you’re donating boxes of breakfast bars or unopened hotel shampoo bottles from a recent trip, it makes an impact.”

Donations of canned (pull-tabs preferred) or boxed goods, personal hygiene supplies (deodorant, shampoo, soap, feminine hygiene items, individual wrapped rolls of toilet paper) and basic First Aid supplies may be made during **The Pantry’s** open hours.

The Pantry receives the majority of its donations from ACM employees throughout the year and through the ACM Professional and Support Staff Association’s annual Student Emergency Supply Drive. In addition, **The Pantry** is sponsored by the Centenary United Methodist Church in Cumberland, and has established a partnership with the Western Maryland Food Bank.

The ACM Foundation is also able to accept tax-deductible donations to **The Pantry** online at <https://www.givecampus.com/schools/AlleganyCollegeofMaryland> or by calling 301-784-5200.

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 or call 301-784-5000.

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PHOTO CAPTION 1== L-R: Tara DeVore, Dione Clark-Trub, Debby Hardinger, Cynthia Bambara, and Heather Greise at ACM’s The Pantry, one of more than 200 food pantries on college campuses across the country.

PHOTO CAPTION 2== L-R: Student Emergency Task Force Members Debby Hardinger, Heather Greise, Tara DeVore, and Dione Clark-Trub are stocking shelves at The Pantry and knocking down barriers to student success at ACM.