

For Immediate Release

## HONOR SOCIETY GRANTS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD TO ACM STUDENT

CUMBERLAND, Md. -- Allegany College of Maryland student Michael Kerns has been named a Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar by the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of the Two-Year Colleges.

Kerns, who earned an associate degree in business management last May, graduating with highest honors, is continuing his studies toward a degree in business administration. A small-business owner, he operates a custom screen-printing and embroidery firm.



Kerns has distinguished himself in multiple college service and leadership roles since enrolling at ACM as a returning student in fall 2013.

He's been president of the campus chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and president of the Student Government Association. Through the SGA, he has represented student interests on the college Budget Advisory Committee.

He has additionally participated in the college Honors Program and Alpha Sigma Lambda, the honor society for non-traditional students.

Kerns came to ACM after 24 years at the Cumberland Fire Department. With firefighting in his family, he joined the force three years after his 1987 graduation from Allegany High School. He continued until an on-the-job injury curtailed his career.

Kerns is among only 50 community college students nationwide to be named a Coca-Cola Community College Academic Gold Team Scholar for 2017. Each receives a \$1,500 scholarship. The Cumberland resident will use the scholarship to further his education and achieve a bachelor's degree.

After being nominated by administrators at their college, Coca-Cola Scholars are named in independent judging based on academic achievement, leadership and engagement in college and community service.

"We thank the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for recognizing these student leaders and for investing in their futures," said Dr. Lyn Tincher-Ladner, president and chief executive officer of Phi Theta Kappa.

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said J. Mark Davis, the Foundation's president.

“We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa and make it possible for deserving students to achieve their educational goals.”

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of community college students. The society has more than 3.2 million members in nearly 1,300 chapters on two-year college campuses in the United States and eight other countries.