



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
ENGAGE YOUR FUTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SUSTAINABLE LAND RECLAMATION PROGRAM NOW OFFERED AT ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND:

National Grant to Fund First of Its Kind Program in Appalachia

CUMBERLAND, Md. (Oct. 15, 2018) – Funded by a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Allegany College of Maryland has entered into a unique 2+2 partnership with West Virginia University to prepare students for careers in land reclamation and environmental remediation.

Land reclamation is the process of transforming lands disturbed by mining, gas and oil extraction, logging, commercial development and natural disasters into viable ecosystems.

The ACM-WVU land reclamation program’s curriculum emphasizes hands-on education, provides critical thinking exercises and promotes laboratory experiments, projects and field work.

“This program prepares students to understand each site in need of reclamation; the interrelationships of the soil, vegetation, water, wildlife, topography, social demands and its potential economic productivity,” explained Program Facilitator Patrice Jastrzembski.

Program students spend their first two years of study at ACM where they may elect to take an array of science electives at a greatly reduced tuition cost. Upon earning an Associate of Science with a concentration in Biology, Chemistry, Physics or a Forest Technology degree, students transfer seamlessly to WVU for their junior and senior years. WVU offers students the experience of attending a large research university while taking advanced agricultural, environmental, forest, recreation and wildlife electives.

Upon program completion, students receive their Bachelor of Science Degree from WVU Division of Forestry and Natural Resources.

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The program is the first of its kind in the Central Appalachian states of Md., Ohio, Penn. and W.Va, and holds promise as an economic generator.

“Our hope is that it [the program] will be a catalyst for sustainable rural economic development and job growth in our region,” noted Jastrzembski. “This educational model is expandable, transferrable and adaptable across the entire Appalachian region as well as other states in the country.”

For additional information contact Program Facilitator Patrice Jastrzembski at pjastrzembski@allegany.edu.

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.