Daniel Bevagna, ACM Culinary Arts and Multi Media Technology student, received the National Student Access Award from Heiber Consulting, Inc. He was nominated by TRIO Advisement Coordinator, RC Cofield, and was recognized for his ability to overcome hardships to pursue his career goals. He enrolled in the TRIO Pathways for Success program during the summer of 2021. This cash scholarship is awarded to a TRIO participant each year, and the ACM Pathways for Success program has now had seven recipients!
Allegany College of Maryland celebrated First Generation college students on November 8 and 9, 2022. The TRIO program held a First-Generation Student Celebration in partnership with the Student Life Office. Several events were held over the two days.

On November 8th, students attended a vendor style event entitled ACCESS your SUCCESS. Several on-campus departments and off-site resources were in attendance to provide students with information on the following: financial aid, financial literacy, academic tutoring and resources, student life, voter registration, the food pantry, disability services, health and wellness resources and career programs. Students were given a “passport to success” and met with at least eight of the information booths in order to be entered into a drawing and receive first generation swag.

That afternoon, students attended a First-Generation Panel inclusive of six current First Generation Allegany College of Maryland students and a returning ACM alumnus. Our returning student spoke passionately to kick off the event and described the many barriers he faced when starting college as a first-generation student. An attending faculty member stated, “I was truly inspired by the panel discussion. The wisdom and insight shared by those students was powerful!” Students and staff in the audience were able to ask questions of the panelists regarding their experiences and tips for success. Nontraditional-aged students and traditional aged students along with students from varying nationalities and backgrounds sat shoulder to shoulder and all shared a common bond. They are the first! They will change the narrative.

TRIO student, Kylie Upole, was selected to do a First-Generation Takeover of the ACM Instagram account where she chronicled a day in the life of a first-generation student. The entire week, faculty and staff who self-identified as a first-gen student or first-gen student advocate wore a sticker identifying their pride in being first. The visual for our first-generation students helped them to see the value they bring to the institution, but also that many of the professionals that are now teaching them once walked in their shoes.

On November 9th, the “Proud to Be First (gen)” artistic expression contest was held in our College Center. Seven artistic expressions inclusive of poetry, painting, song lyrics and graphic designs were submitted that many of the professionals that are now teaching them once walked in their shoes. Students along with students from varying nationalities and backgrounds sat shoulder to shoulder and all shared a common bond. They are the first! They will change the narrative.

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On November 9th, the “Proud to Be First (gen)” artistic expression contest was held in our College Center. Seven artistic expressions inclusive of poetry, painting, song lyrics and graphic designs were submitted that told a story of a First-Generation student experience. cards were awarded to the highest vote earners. On November 9th, all first-generation faculty, staff and students were invited to gather with Dr. Bambara, Allegany College of Maryland’s President and proud first-generation student, for a photo opportunity. This event was made possible through a grant from the Center for First Generation Student Success/NASPA.