

Dear Colleagues,

As part of the inaugural **ACM Forward Focus** message, I am pleased to share a few updates as we prepare for the Spring 2025 semester.

Enrollment:

While many colleges and universities across the nation are struggling with enrollment, we are both grateful and pleased that our enrollment for the Fall 2024 semester exceeded projections, as reflected below:

- An increase of 4.3% in headcount.
- Continuing Education/Workforce Development experienced record enrollment in FY24, with an increase of 10.2% in FTE.
- As of January 2nd, the Spring 2025 headcount is down 1.3% over Spring 2024. ACM is currently in a peak enrollment period, and I encourage everyone to help spread the word and support the enrollment process.

Western Maryland Works and Makerspace:

As approved by the Board, the Allegany County Government transferred the Western Maryland Works deed to Allegany College of Maryland in December.

Budget News:

As part of this strategic transfer, the County officially adopted a budget amendment related to the sale of Western Maryland Works, allowing the College to leverage a \$333,379 increase in operating funds from the State of Maryland in FY25. The State of Maryland anticipates FY26 as one of the most challenging budget years in decades, with a structural deficit of over \$2.6 billion. The College will continue demonstrating the importance of community colleges across the State, and I will keep the college community updated throughout the legislative session.

Program News:

Please join me in congratulating the faculty and staff from the Hospitality Management degree program, recently [accredited](#) by the Accreditation Commission for Program in Hospitality Administration (ACPHA). Congratulations, Deb and team.

Maryland Transfer Intensive: I am pleased to share that ACM was selected to participate in the Maryland Transfer Intensive, a cooperative project between the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Aspen Institute. Our participation will be a valuable opportunity to enhance transfer student outcomes through four-year institutions that will be affordable, timely, and barrier-free. Thanks to Kurt, Jennifer, Meghan, Miha, Scott, Barb, Gage, Beth, and Derek for representing ACM to support our students.

Faculty/Staff:

Congratulations to the three League for Innovation Excellence Awards recipients and all worthy nominees. Renee Douthitt, Courtney Jensen, and Brenda Mathews exemplify teaching, leadership, and service excellence. I am pleased to share that the three recipients will attend the 2025 Annual Innovations Conference in March.

Sidewalk/Restroom Enhancement News:

In December, the State of MD announced that ACM received a \$250,000 grant to support the renovation/replacement of campus sidewalks and restrooms. We anticipate that this will be Phase I of a multi-year project request to replace/repair these infrastructure needs on campus. A special thanks to Courtney, Adam, and others for your work in determining critical needs, securing cost estimates, and preparing this competitive proposal.

All College Assembly Reminder:

The All College Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9th, at 9 am in the Zimmer Theatre. The meeting promises to be memorable with surprise guests and unexpected moments you won't want to miss.

Welcome Back with Coffee/Hot Chocolate:

- a. On January 10th, coffee and hot chocolate (grab and go) will be provided to faculty and staff entering the Cumberland campus between 7:30 – 9:00 am. This station will be located near the CE building. Please stop by for a special treat to start the day.
- b. On January 23rd, from 8 - 11 am, we will provide treats at the Bedford County Campus.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation,

David