

ACM Family,

Our community lost a giant with the passing of Bernice Friedland, just 12 days shy of her 100th birthday. She served on the ACM Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1998, including as both chair and vice chair, and was a founding member of the ACM Foundation Board in 1982. A few years ago, Bernice recorded the following video message — a lasting reminder of her deep love for education and our community:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4QZn5fJQq0>

Faculty/Staff Focus:

We're surrounded by dedicated colleagues who go above and beyond to support ACM and our students every day. I invite you to nominate a faculty or staff member who deserves recognition for their outstanding contributions. Please keep your nomination to three sentences or fewer, and email it directly to me. Beginning next week, I'll feature one of these individuals in each Forward Focus message to highlight and celebrate what makes ACM such a special place to work and learn.

Save The Date:

State of the College: Empowering Our Future
Friday, October 24th at 1 pm



Stay Informed – Board of Trustees Meetings

Attending the ACM Board of Trustees meetings helps you to stay informed. The Board meets at 4 pm in the Thomas Welcome Center, with the next meeting scheduled for October 20, 2025. The agenda follows:

1. Adopt the September 22, 2025, minutes
2. Chairman's Update
3. Board Member Comments
4. President's Update
5. Welcome and Updates from Darlene Smith, FSU Interim President (introduced by David Jones)
6. Fund Balance Recommendations
7. Great Colleges To Work For & Employee Survey Results
8. Dental Hygiene Program Admissions Revisions
9. Bedford County Campus Advisory Committee Membership

For additional information, visit: <https://allegany.edu/presidents-office/board-of-trustees.html>

UpNext: A Business and Skills Innovation Experience

Allegany College of Maryland, in partnership with the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, will host *UpNext*—a free, one-day event featuring business insights, hands-on workshops, networking, and innovation. Join us on Tuesday, October 29th, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Highlights include a networking breakfast, a vendor expo, rotating workshops on AI, entrepreneurship, marketing, and job skills, as well as prize giveaways and food trucks. Learn more [here](#) or register directly [here](#).

Tech at the Gap

Please join me in thanking Jennifer Light, Melanie Chapman, Emily Cramer, Jonathan Hutcherson from Provision IAM, and others for their hard work in planning the 9th annual Tech at the Gap conference earlier this week. Also, a big shout-out to Autumn Becker for her continued support. The mission of the conference is to instill a high level of interest in Information Technology business development in Western Maryland while educating a local workforce to meet the demands of IT business retention, expansion, and attraction. Well done, ACM team.



Bedford Campus 35th Anniversary

Congratulations to our Bedford Colleagues on 35 years of serving the community. The celebration held earlier this week was a powerful reminder of the impact of the Bedford County Campus of Allegany College of Maryland and the thousands of individuals and hundreds of businesses that have been impacted. A special thank you to Leah Pepple and our faculty and staff at the Bedford Campus, who helped to plan this milestone celebration.



Congratulations to the Massage Therapy Program:

Congratulations to Kirsten Hansen and the Massage Therapy program for their renewal of the COMTA Endorsed Curriculum through September 2029. Well done, Kirsten and team.

Employee Appreciation Fall Festival

Thank you to everyone who attended the combined Employee Appreciation/Student Life Fall Festival. It was a fun way to celebrate the season. A special thanks to Carol Ann and the following faculty and staff for making the day a success:

- Employee Appreciation Committee Team Members: Suzy D, Kim K., Stephanie M., Alicia P., Emily R., Heather S., Beth S., and Justin W.
- HR Crew: Carol Ann G., Emily B., Lauren B., Shanese W. & Will G.
- Physical Plant/Maintenance Crew: George B., Brandon K., Tommy M., Justin P., and Adam P.
- IT & the eLets Crew: Levi F., Issac R., and Jared R.
- Levi F. & his amazing family for the loan (& setup/breakdown) of their great party tents
- Work/Study Volunteers Jason (Print Shop) and Kelly (Student Life) & their supervisors, Marie W. and Erin Y., who gave them permission to assist
- Tiffany, Exec Chef @ ACM Cafe, for the amazing treats and her support of another ACM function.
- Athletics Dept. for the loan of their popcorn machine.
- Student Life Department for funding the inflatable obstacle course.



Tri-State College Night

Thank you ACM faculty and staff for your support of last night's 57th annual Tri-State College Night sponsored by the Allegany County School Counselor's Association and the Maryland College Application Campaign. A special thanks to the ACM recruitment and public relations team for your work in planning this event.

League for Innovation Excellence Awards:

The League for Innovation Excellence Awards, established in 2012, recognize outstanding teaching, leadership, and service by community college administration, faculty, and staff. Recipients receive a specially cast medallion, a certificate from the League, and recognition by the Allegany College of Maryland Board of Trustees. Please submit your nominations by noon on Friday, November 7, 2025, to Lori Spence at lspence@allegany.edu. Nominees will be evaluated and selected by a committee of peers from faculty, associate support staff, and professional and administrative support staff. The awards will be announced at the All-College Assembly in December 2025.

Welcome New Faculty/Staff: I warmly welcome our new faculty and staff to the ACM family.

Name

Joshua Saylor
Anita Krupa
Addison Stroup
Keshia Thompson
Sarah Wempe
Colin Sappenfield
Lance Dicken
Helen Stallings
Colton Bender
Abel Gonzalez
Lauren Winterberg
Rebecca Ruppert
Justin Piper
Melanie Chapman
Dr. Aimee Younkin
Jennifer Georgeson
Joshua Nolan
Kerri Caporale
Kaitlyn Wharton

Position Title

Part-time Faculty, LPN to RN
College Recruiter
Learning Specialist
Part-time faculty, LPN to RN
Clinical Instructor, Nursing, Hybrid
Assistant Coach, Men's Basketball
Security, Main Campus
Professional Science Tutor - Pathways for Success
Western Maryland Works Equipment Technician
Forestry Technician
Director, Workforce Innovation & Lifelong Learning (CEWD)
PT Coordinator, Community and Lifelong Engagement
Custodian/Technician 2nd Shift
Director, Western Maryland IT Center for Excellence
Associate Dean of Nursing Education
Coordinator, Resilience Institute
Part-time Campus Custodian, 3rd Shift
Director of Workforce, Wellness, and Adult Education
Makerspace Technician

Upcoming Events:

October 20, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
October 24, State of the College, 1 pm
October 27, PTK Induction Ceremony, Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
November 8, Bedford Campus Open House, Bedford Campus
November 10, Cumberland Campus Open House
November 17, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.
December 15, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, Welcome Center, 4 p.m.

On A Personal Note:

As a long-time member of the LaVale Lions Club, I wanted to share that our final chicken BBQ of the season is this weekend. I'll be serving on Friday evening and Saturday. Just follow the smoke, and you'll find us! Over the years, the LaVale Lions have provided more than \$93,000 to the ACM Foundation—that's a lot of chickens—and we're deeply grateful for their continued support of our students and community.

With ACM Pride,
David