

Dear ACM Family,

During this season of thanks, I would like to express my gratitude to you and your service to ACM. I'm pleased to share the following updates:

Faculty/Staff Focus:

Will Giles, Lauren Byler, Shanese Westfall, Emily Beck, and Carol Ann Goodwin

Nominated by: Melinda Duckworth

I've received many comments on each of them individually about how they have been very responsive, considerate, thorough, patient, and/or kind in working with others for a variety of needs, each in their own area. All are willing to go out of their way to assist anyone who needs any assistance, question, problem, training, or advocacy to others for assistance. I would like to recognize them for the compassion they show and the caring attitudes they bring to their role.

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.

Registration and Enrollment: Registration for intersession and spring 2026 is open. Please continue to help spread the word and support our enrollment process. <https://www.allegany.edu/registration/index.html>

Pennsylvania Budget 2025/2026

Last week, Governor Josh Shapiro signed into law the \$50.1 billion 2025/2026 State of Pennsylvania Budget. Through our legislative efforts and with the support of Rep. Topper, Senator Stefano, and others, funding will be provided to support PA Tuition Subsidy, support facility improvements, provide for instructional equipment and technology enhancements, and support campus operations. Additional details will be provided in the weeks ahead.

Board of Trustees Meetings

The Board of Trustees met on November 17th at 4 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for December 8th. The following is a summary of the meeting:

- a. The October 20, 2025 minutes were approved, as presented.
- b. Chair Kim Leonard provided remarks.
- c. Board members provided comments/reflection.
- d. President David Jones provided general ACM updates.
- e. Dr. Tom McInroy presented the CE year-end report.
- f. Dr. Kurt Hoffman presented a revised nursing admissions policy. Board approved.
- g. Dr. Kurt Hoffman presented the new Educational Master Plan. Board approved.
- h. Christina Kilduff presented the College audit. Board approved.
- i. Dr. Renee Conner presented the Youth Protection Policy. Board approved.

Stay Informed - President's Advisory Team (PAT): The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets monthly to 1) provide advice and counsel to the President regarding the overall operation of the College; 2) assist the President in developing the College calendar; 3) collaborate with the President on creating and implementing strategic plans for the College; 4) recommend funding patterns and priorities to the President; and 5) develop the agenda for All-College Assembly staff meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd, starting at 3 p.m. I encourage you to stay engaged by attending PAT meetings, contacting your affinity group representatives for updates, sharing ideas, and asking questions. Your input is invaluable to shaping the future of our College.

Countdown to 12 Days

PASSA's 12 Days of Christmas tickets are now on sale, with a deadline of December 2nd at noon. All proceeds go towards PASSA's Student Assistance Fund. If anyone is interested in purchasing tickets, they can reach out to Emily Beck at ebeck2@allegany.edu or ext. 5449 or any other PASSA member.

The Wizard Of Oz

Congratulations to Melody Gaschler and the ACM Theatre Club for their weekend performance of The Wizard of Oz. It was wonderful to see several ACM students, faculty, and staff involved in this exceptional performance.



Grant Highlight of the Week:

The Bedford County Regional Education Foundation received \$6,500 in grant funding to purchase a headwall for the ACM Bedford County Campus nursing simulation lab and to purchase cybersecurity equipment, which will enhance Computer Technology hands-on learning opportunities. The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies provided \$4,500 towards the project, and the Everett Area Fund awarded \$2,000. Equipment will be ordered this month and will be operational for the Spring 2026 semester.

Respiratory Students – Partnering with FSU

Kudos to second-year Respiratory Therapy students Vanessa Heavener, Kyleigh Viar, and Tanderia Taylor, who participated in a pilot project with several Frostburg State students in an exciting community project. Our students, under the direction of Paula and Scott, worked with AgingIN and Live Together to pilot the Person-Directed Living Certificate (PDLIC). This initiative aimed to introduce emerging professionals to the principles, practices, and systems fundamental to person-directed living—an approach that prioritizes autonomy, dignity, and meaningful engagement in aging services. Well done, ACM Paula, Scott, and students.

Trojan Spotlight

If you have a student or alum that goes above and beyond, and believe he or she not only deserves the recognition, but would also be a great representative of ACM, you can nominate them with the form found on the Trojan Spotlight webpage (as well as view past features)

at www.allegany.edu/trojan-spotlight Additionally, if you have any non-traditional students (current or alumni) or former students who successfully transferred from ACM to continue towards an advanced level degree at another college/university, and believe they would be willing to share their testimonial (and would be a good representative for ACM), please share their name and contact information. You can email jgetz@allegany.edu

Student Emergency Supply Drive

During this season of giving, please consider supporting the Student Emergency Supply Drive.

ACM Giving Back

A special thanks to the [Women's Basketball team](#) and coaches Allen and Eagan for serving the community this past weekend by volunteering at the Allegany County Fairgrounds, setting up lights and decorations for Lights by the Mountainside. Thank you for giving up your day to make the community a little brighter. <https://www.facebook.com/jayceeslightsonthelake> Well done ACM.



ACM Student Focus – Nursing 120

A special thanks to Professor Kim Kaisner for sharing the photo project (below) with Nursing 120 students. I hope that these happy and smiling faces will help to brighten your day.



On A Personal Note:

The [JFK 50-mile ultramarathon](#) is held annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. My wife has completed the grueling ultramarathon twice and my son completed it once. Even more remarkable, my father-in-law completed this race 30 times and is part of an elite 1,500-mile finisher's club. His last finish was at the age of 73. Watching three generations run this race is a reminder of an enduring lesson: no one runs 50 miles all at once. You do it one step at a time. That same mindset applies beautifully to our work at ACM. Whether it's a student working toward a degree, a faculty member advancing an idea, or a team striving toward institutional goals, success comes from steady, consistent effort, one step at a time. And when we keep our eyes on the finish line and support one another along the way, we can all finish strong.

Happy Thanksgiving,
David