

ACM Family,

As we come to the end of 2025, thank you for your dedication and service to ACM, our students, and our community. I am pleased to share the following updates:

**Faculty/Staff Focus:** Beth Nightengale

Beth has been a great and supportive boss since she took over as the Director of Admissions/Registration and Advising. She is always there for us as a team, and her leadership does not go unnoticed.

Nominated by: Chelsey Bennett

**Faculty/Staff Focus:** Financial Aid Staff (Derek Young, Carrie Ford, Louise Stein, Amy Price, Trisha Wagoner, and Holly Montana)

Whether responding to time-sensitive concerns, helping students understand their award packages, or offering reassurance during stressful moments, the Financial Aid Office models what it means to create a supportive and student-centered environment. Their work has an immeasurable impact on the educational journeys of countless students each year and is an invaluable resource to our campus community. I am so proud to work alongside this wonderful group of people.

Nominated by: Meghan Palumbo

**Faculty/Staff Focus:** Sherry Buffenmyer

Sherry always prioritizes the college and our students in everything she does. Her dedication to the college mission dictates how she does her job and how she treats others.

Nominated by: Fiscal Affairs and Campus Store Team Members

**Faculty/Staff Focus:** Student Affairs Staff (Erin Yokum, Renee Gibson, and Amie Guthrie)

Erin, Renee, and Amie embody the spirit of ACM every day. They care deeply about students, work hard to achieve all their assigned tasks while fully meeting student needs, always rise to the occasion, and infuse everything they do with the highest standards of integrity. Icing on top? They bring smiles and laughter to even the most challenging days.

Nominated by: Renee Conner

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>

**Enrollment:** As of December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Spring 2026 headcount is down 0.1% over Spring 2025, and credits are down 2.4% compared to Spring 2025. ACM is currently in a peak enrollment period, and I encourage everyone to help spread the word and support the enrollment process.

## **"Be Social"**

With Spring 2026 enrollment open, please help us spread the word about the fantastic opportunities at ACM! By sharing posts from our official social media accounts, you can showcase enrollment opportunities, academic programs, events, and the successes that make our college stand out. Your voice can inspire others to join the ACM community and take the next step in their educational journey. Follow and share content from our official channels:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[TikTok](#)

[Snapchat](#)

[X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Thank you for being an outstanding ambassador for ACM! As an added benefit, if you share and let me know, I have a coupon for an ice cream treat just for you.

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

Elizabeth Simmons	Skills & SIM Lab Assistant - part-time
Christopher Pryor	Makerspace Technician
Austin Williams	Part-time Campus Custodian, 2nd Shift
Shelly Durst	Clinical Coordinator LPN to RN Program - PT
Layton Sagal	College Recruiter
Jennifer Burriss	Director of LPN to RN Program
Claire Sullivan	Content & Communication Specialist
Tina Verba	Director of Bedford County Campus
Robert Purdue	Security, Willowbrook Woods
Tara Michaels	Clinical Coordinator LPN to RN Program
Jacob Riis	Gateway Center Utility Custodian (Now Budgeted/non-t
Kiley Gilbert	Faculty, Biology
Elizabeth Simmons	Skills and SIM Lab Coordinator
Lonnie Gibson	Campus Custodian, 3rd Shift
Shelly Durst	Clinical Coordinator LPN to RN Program - FT
Jami Reynolds	Chief Information Office

## Winter Hitting Clinic – Spread the News

A promotional poster for a Winter Hitting Clinic. The top half features a large image of a softball player in a blue jersey and helmet, swinging a bat. Overlaid on this image is the text "WINTER Hitting Clinic" in a large, stylized font. Below this, there are three smaller inset images showing players in various batting stances. The bottom half of the poster has a dark blue background with white text providing event details. At the very bottom, there is a green banner with white text for registration fee and contact information.

**WINTER**  
*Hitting Clinic*

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING DAY OF SOFTBALL WHERE YOU CAN LEARN FROM THE  
ACM SOFTBALL TEAM AND COACHING STAFF! ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE ARE  
WELCOMED. AGES 5-12

**18 JANUARY, 2026 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**  
BOB KIRK ARENA  
12401 Willowbrook Rd, Cumberland, MD 21502

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$25**      **Questions? Email us!**  
**kayla.dodson5@allegany.edu**

### Grant Highlight of the Week:

Ask Every Student Implementation Grant. Through NEO Philanthropy's Students Learn Students Vote Coalition, ACM received \$7,000 to expand civic engagement and voter education across campus, building on the success of past "Ask Every Student" initiatives. A special thanks to Dione McMahon for leading this important effort!

### 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](http://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](mailto:jgetz@allegany.edu)



### On A Personal Note:

In our kitchen, we have a “family memories” board where we print and display photos of seasonal memories from over the decades. I wanted to share a photo from the December display, which provides a small glimpse into my family over the years. From our family to yours, wishing you a joyful and blessed holiday season! ✨ 🌲 May your Christmas be filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. 🌲



With ACM Pride,  
David