

ACM Family,

I hope everyone had some safe, cozy downtime during the recent inclement weather.

Faculty and Staff Focus

This week's nominee is **Tonia Letrent!**

"The Face-to-face nursing enrollment has increased due to Tonia reaching out to all Pre-Nursing students and guiding them to get their gen-ed classes better organized. Her advising skills are excellent." - Nominated by Sandy Clark

Gratitude for Ensuring Campus Safety During Winter Weather

Please join me in thanking our Physical Plant colleagues for their dedication and hard work in clearing the snow and ensuring a safe and accessible environment. Your efforts, especially during challenging weather, do not go unnoticed and are appreciated by the entire campus community.

Grant Highlight

Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program

The \$100,000 grant from the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program supports equipment purchases, operations, workforce training, and community innovation programming at Western Maryland Works. Recent acquisitions include advanced woodworking and fabrication tools, expanding training capacity for regional employers, artisans, and entrepreneurs.

ACM Staff and Faculty Art Exhibition

From today through Feb. 10th, all are encouraged to drop by the Hazen Gallery in the college center to see the work of our talented colleagues. A special thanks to Design and Mail Services staff, Shannon Burnside, Ken Nolan, Shannon Redman, and event organizer Tino Wilfong for making this event possible.

Stay Informed/Remain Engaged - President's Advisory Team (PAT): The President's Advisory Team (PAT) meets on February 4th at 3:30 pm. 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.

Budget Update

Thank you to all faculty/staff who attended the All College Assembly this week (in person or Zoom) to discuss the FY27 budget and its potential challenges. Video link: [All College Meeting 1-28-2026.mp4](#) The update included a review and context on the FY26 budget, a discussion of the FY27 budget, and key external factors as part of the budget development, including State Funding, County Funding, and nationwide increases in Health/Prescription (RX) costs. As I shared, things are still very preliminary, but I reiterated our commitment to communication, transparency, and sustainability/stewardship. As discussed by CBIZ at the meeting, Health/Prescription costs have risen and continue to rise significantly, with an estimated increase of \$1.4 million over the current year. CBIZ is reviewing and working with the ACM leadership team to address and evaluate all relevant and practical options before open enrollment in May, with additional information to be provided as it becomes available.

MACC Trustee Leadership Conference

It was a pleasure to participate in the 2026 MACC Trustee Leadership Conference earlier this week with ACM Trustees Jane Belt, Kim Leonard, and Jim Pyles. Although it was virtual due to the weather, the event featured guest speakers Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller, MHEC Secretary Sanjay Rai, and AACC President/CEO DeRionne Pollard. The conference included updates on the budget, legislative priorities, and national issues affecting community colleges. The 2026 MACC legislative agenda was also discussed.

New Resource Available: FedLogic

We're excited to share a new resource available to all ACM employees—**FedLogic**. FedLogic offers free, confidential, one-on-one guidance to help you understand and navigate federal and state benefit programs. This service allows you and your household to find and apply for state and federal programs. Whether you have questions about Social Security, Medicare, disability, FMLA, or retirement, their team of experts is here to help you make informed decisions for yourself and your family. This partnership is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the health, financial security, and overall well-being of our employees. To learn more or schedule a session, visit www.fedlogicgroup.com or call 877-837-4196.

Board of Trustee Meeting Schedule

The Board of Trustee meeting schedule is listed below. As always, everyone is invited to attend, and anyone with questions can expect full transparency.

February 23, 2026

March 16, 2026

April 13, 2026

May 11, 2026

June 15, 2026

August 17, 2026

September 14, 2026

October 19, 2026

November 16, 2026

December 7, 2026

On a Personal Note:

I've come to really enjoy a cup of coffee on a cold morning. I used to add cream and sugar, but over time, I found I prefer it without anything added. Holding the warm cup in my hand and taking that first sip as-is feels simple and satisfying, and it's an easy way to start the day.

With ACM Pride,
David