

Good morning, ACM faculty and staff!

I hope everyone is finding their way back into their weekly routine and enjoying the temporarily warmer temperatures.

Faculty and Staff Focus

Submissions needed!

We are fortunate to work alongside dedicated colleagues who consistently go above and beyond in support of ACM and our students. Each day, their commitment makes a meaningful difference across our campus community. I invite you to nominate a faculty or staff member who deserves recognition for their outstanding contribution. Please limit your nomination to three sentences or fewer and email it directly to me.

Celebrating National Law Enforcement Day

As we celebrate National Law Enforcement Day today, please join me in recognizing the faculty and staff in the ACM Criminal Justice Program, which provides students with a learning-centered study of the core components of the criminal justice system—law enforcement, corrections, and the court system. Thank you, Brandon, Scott, Robert, Anne, and Heather, for your dedicated service in preparing our students. I am also proud to recognize ACM's Department of Campus Safety and Special Police. Thank you, Dave, Sarah, Corey, and team, for your work in ensuring a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Registration and Enrollment: Registration for spring 2026 continues. As of January 9, the Spring 2026 headcount is showing a slight increase of 0.18% over Spring 2025, while credits are down by 1.49% compared to last spring. Please note that these numbers do not include early college. ACM is currently in a peak enrollment period, and I encourage everyone to help spread the word and support the enrollment process.

<https://www.allegany.edu/registration/index.html>

Student Tuition Payment Reminder:

The tuition due date for the Spring 2026 semester was January 8. To help minimize the number of students who are de-registered due to outstanding bills, please encourage students to contact the Student Financial Aid Office to discuss financial assistance options or contact the Business Office for information on available payment plans.

Legislative Update: The 449th session of the Maryland General Assembly will convene in Annapolis from January 14 to April 13, 2026. Addressing the significant state budget deficit will likely dominate the session this year.

I want to share a few key dates related to the FY27 State budget:

- **Jan. 14:** Opening day of the 449th legislative session.
- **Jan. 14-15:** Governor Moore will introduce the operating and capital budgets.
- **Jan. 16:** Presidents' meeting — We will review the budget, provide an initial response, and begin developing tactical and strategic talking points.
- **Jan. 26:** MACC Trustee Leadership Conference and meeting with Governor and State Legislators.
- **MACC Legislative Committee:** I participate in a weekly meeting to discuss legislation that will impact ACM and Maryland Community Colleges.

Over the next 90 days, I'll be dedicating significant time in Annapolis and will keep you informed throughout the session.

Grant Highlight of the Week:

ACM submitted its full application for “Next-Gen Campus Connectivity for Workforce Readiness” to the Appalachian Regional Commission’s POWER program in October. This \$1.1 million proposal will enhance wireless infrastructure to support high-tech training, broadband-enabled instruction, and improved employer collaboration through the purchase of upgraded switches and network equipment. If awarded, implementation is expected to begin in spring 2026.

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

Weather and Emergency Communication

Stay informed with eSAFE, ACM’s emergency text messaging service! This system is designed to keep faculty, staff, students, and others updated during major emergencies, crises, disasters, or weather-related closings and delays. If you haven’t already, sign up today to receive timely notifications: [eSAFE Sign-Up](#).

Congratulations Pathways Team (Tara, RC, Beth, and Katie) for their outstanding dedication to the Pathways for Success (TRIO) Program. As highlighted at yesterday’s All-College Assembly, they have met and exceeded all grant objectives.

Cheer on the Trojans: Join me in supporting all of our student-athletes. The next home game for the men’s and women’s basketball teams is scheduled for January 10th. Don’t miss the action! For more details, visit: acmtrojans.com

Link to January’s Reader Commentary:

The following reader commentary appeared in the local media, and I wanted to share it in case you do not receive the newspaper. [Reader Commentary](#)

On A Personal Note:

The start of a new year is a chance to look ahead with hope and purpose. I’m excited for what we will accomplish together in 2026. Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!

With ACM Pride,
David