

ACM Family,

I hope everyone has been enjoying the recent thaw in ice and rise in temperature.

### Faculty and Staff Focus

This week's nominee is **Susan Humbertson!**

"Susan is the heart of ACM's Welcome Center. She turns it into a warm, welcoming spot for everyone who walks in. She's full of energy, always ready to help, and somehow keeps everything running smoothly without needing any recognition. Susan's the person you can always count on, whether you're a student, faculty member, or staff. She's a total team player, always has your back, and just makes the place brighter (and more fun) to be in."

--Nominated by Connie Milligan.

### Serving Today's College Students

I invite everyone to read a collaborative piece between myself and FSU's Dr. Smith. This commentary serves as a look into the importance of the transfer intensive relationship between ACM and FSU, and how we will continue to work together to further benefit students in the future. You can find the commentary [here](#).

### 2024-25 PA State Review

**Congratulations** to **Holly Montana** and the ACM Financial Aid Team on their successful 2024-2025 PA State Review. Thank you for your work to ensure that ACM is fully compliant with all State regulations. I'm grateful for your hard work to ensure that resources are provided to students to ensure their access and success.

### Great Colleges to Work For

Allegany College of Maryland is once again participating in the *Great Colleges to Work For* program. This survey provides valuable data to inform decision-making and support our strategic plan as we work to create the best workplace possible. On March 2, 2026, a random selection of employees will receive an invitation from ModernThink LLC to participate. For questions, contact Scott Harrah ([sharrah@allegany.edu](mailto:sharrah@allegany.edu)) or visit [www.ChronicleGreatColleges.com](http://www.ChronicleGreatColleges.com).

### Budget Update

The budget is still in the preliminary development stage, and there remains uncertainty at both the State and County. As shared earlier, the Governor's budget includes a 3% increase to ACM, which totals \$324,281. Under maintenance-of-effort legislation, ACM is tentatively scheduled to receive this increase, provided the County provides level funding. As we plan for FY27-FY31, the State of Maryland is still projecting a budget deficit that will exceed \$4 billion annually, requiring ACM to plan for FY27 while remaining cognizant of potential impacts over the next five years.

ACM is anticipated to see an approximate \$1.4 million increase in health/Rx costs over the current year. The College is working with CBIZ to address and evaluate all relevant and practical health/RX options before open enrollment in May. Additional information will be available soon and shared with the ACM community.

### Be My Guest

To uphold transparency, I encourage anyone with any questions to visit me at my office during the following dates below from 2:30 – 4pm.

February 20

March 6

March 20

April 3

April 17

May 1

I warmly invite you to visit for an informal opportunity to meet, enjoy a cup of water/tea/coffee, connect, and answer your questions....or to say hello.

### [Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Recognized as 2025 REACH Chapter:](#)

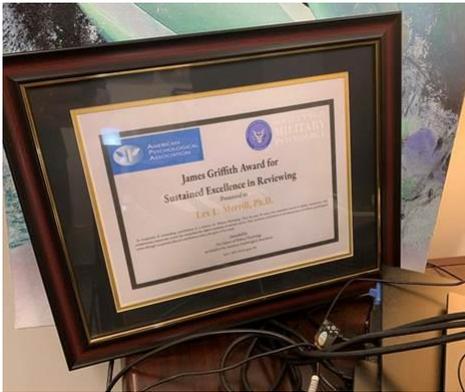
Alllegany College of Maryland's Phi Theta Kappa chapter has been named a 2025 REACH Chapter. This recognition honors our chapter's success in expanding membership and providing students with valuable opportunities for engagement, leadership, and academic achievement. **Congratulations** to our chapter advisors, Melody and Erin, and student leaders for their dedication to fostering student success and strengthening our Phi Theta Kappa community.

### [Well done, ACM students](#)

**Congratulations** to exceptional ACM students who achieved Dean's List honors for the Fall 2025 semester! To qualify, students earned a 3.8+ GPA while completing at least five semester hours—an incredible achievement showcasing dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence. See the full list of honorees [here](#).

### [Congratulations to Dr. Lex Merrill](#)

Today, we celebrate Dr. Lex Merrill's accomplishment in receiving the James Griffith Award for Sustained Excellence in Reviewing from the American Psychological Association.



### [Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule](#)

The Board of Trustees 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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2026, in the Thomas Welcome Center. The agenda follows:

1. Adopt the December 8, 2025, Minutes
2. Chairman's Update – Ms. Belt
3. President's Update – Mr. Jones
4. Board Reflections
5. Board Education: Works Keys – Ms. Chapman and Ms. Caporale
6. Drive Safety Policy (Action Item) – Ms. Kilduff
7. Academic Grievance Policy/Grievance Procedures (Action Item) – Dr. Hoffman
8. Program Advisory Committee Updates (Action Item) – Dr. Hoffman
9. ACM Engage – Dr. Wood, Mr. Harrah, Ms. Westfall

### Grant Highlight

#### Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grant

ACM's FY2026 Perkins allocation has been approved for \$290,972—an increase of \$33,803 from last year. The funding supports equipment, instruction, and program enhancements in healthcare, applied technology, and business programs. Special thanks to Lynn, Karin, Luanne, and Renae for all their work to keep this grant successful!

### Welcome FSU President Shadow Robinson

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Shadow J.Q. Robinson as the next President of Frostburg State University: <https://www.frostburg.edu/news/2026/02/shadow-jq-robinson-president.php> It was an honor to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. I've already reached out to Dr. Robinson and have had multiple conversations with him to discuss our continued collaboration.

### Make a Difference

All are invited to attend the Volunteer Fair on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Make a Difference! All Are Invited!**  
**Volunteer Fair**  
Tues., Feb. 24, 2026  
11:00 am to 12:30 pm  
ACM College Center Lounge & Theater.  
Register to attend at the QR code

**Organizations Attending**

Allegany County Board of Elections	Habitat Restores in Laysle
Allegany County Choose Quality	Holding Hands for Haley
Allegany County Library System	Laysle Rescue Squad
Allegany Museum	Laysle Lions
Allegany Preservation Society	Rem's Place
Changemaker Scholarship (ACMAC)	Salvation Army
Community Resilience Network	University of MD Extension Center
C & O Canal Trust	Western MD Health Department

### On A Personal Note

I've really enjoyed getting to know our students this semester. Their enthusiasm and character show through our interactions. What's been especially rewarding is hearing so many positive comments from community members about ACM students. Over the past week, I've received unsolicited comments about their professionalism, kindness, and work ethic. I'm proud of the way they represent our college.

With ACM Pride,  
David