

ACM Family,

I'm grateful for the energy and dedication you bring to our students and each other every day.

Faculty and Staff Focus

This week's Faculty and Staff Focus goes to **Sandi Foreman**!

"I'd like to nominate Sandi for always going above and beyond to help our students in the foundation. She is always ready with a smile, a listening ear, and the extra effort to make sure they feel heard. Sandi truly cares about our students and coworkers alike, and she deserves recognition for being her authentic self when dealing with our students. They respond in kind and share openly with her their struggles and accomplishments at ACM." - Nominated by Connie Milligan.

Welcome New Faculty/Staff

I warmly welcome our new faculty and staff to the ACM family.

Anna Saweikis – Coordinator, Industry and Employer Solutions

Joseph Litten – Adjunct Faculty, MLT

Francis Mouse – Main campus security

Daniel Smith – Math learning specialist

Robert Whitacre – Grounds keeper, general maintenance

Samantha Upole – Adjunct, Respiratory Therapy

Student Advocacy Day

It was a pleasure to spend the day in Annapolis yesterday with Erin Yokum and five ACM students to participate in the Maryland Association of Community College's Student Advocacy Day (see photo below). Students attended a rally at the Calvert House, toured the [Maryland State House](#), and met with legislators to discuss continued support and funding for Maryland community colleges.



Be My Guest

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

February 13

February 20

March 6

March 13

March 20

March 27

April 3

April 10

April 17

May 1

I warmly invite you to visit between 2:30 – 4pm. This will be an informal opportunity to meet, enjoy a cup of water/tea/coffee, connect, and answer your questions....or to say hello.

CTE Month

It's February, which means it's Career and Technical Education Month. Throughout the month, ACM shines a spotlight on the opportunities CTE provides to empower students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to succeed. Check out ACM's 40+ CTE degrees and certificates in high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand careers - that can be completed in two years or less, at allegany.edu/cte

As we celebrate the national initiative of February being Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, we wanted to extend our sincerest thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff who make each of our career programs possible. Our ACM career programs are an essential part of the College's mission, preparing students for high-skill and in-demand careers while strengthening our institution and the surrounding community. Your commitment and expertise play a vital role in student success and workforce development, and your contributions are essential to the impact ACM has across our region.

PTK Induction Ceremony

Save the date! The Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony will take place on April 21st at 6:30.

Grant Highlight

Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund – Makers Ultimate Challenge

ACM was awarded \$45,000 to launch the third year of the Makers Ultimate Challenge, transforming an externally led event into a college-branded, community-focused competition. The program engages students and local partners in solving real-world challenges using modern design and manufacturing tools.

Enrollment

As of Wednesday, the headcount for Spring 2026 was 2515, a -1.9% change compared to last spring. Total credits are at 20929, down by 2.6%. Early college is reflected.

CEWD Catalog Available

We're excited to announce that the Spring 2026 Allegany College of Maryland Continuing Education & Workforce Development (CEWD) Catalog is now available!

This catalog represents more than just classes—it reflects opportunity, growth, and the power of education to strengthen our workforce and community. From career training and professional development to personal enrichment, there's truly something for everyone this spring.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our dedicated staff, instructors, and partners whose hard work and creativity make these programs possible. We are also deeply grateful to our community members, employers, and supporters who continue to champion lifelong learning and workforce development across our region. Explore the catalog, share it with your network, and join us as we continue to learn, grow, and build a stronger community together.

<https://www.allegany.edu/college-catalog/>

Budget Update

Thank you to all faculty/staff who attended the All College Assembly last week. The budget is still in the very preliminary stage of development, and I will continue to update the ACM community as more details are provided by the State and County and as we work with CBIZ to address and evaluate all relevant and practical options before open enrollment in May, with additional information to be provided as it becomes available.

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

Legislative

I will provide testimony supporting the Maryland Community College operating budget on February 26th and March 2nd. I will also provide written and oral testimony later this spring to support the Rural Maryland Council, which has provided ACM with several large grants.

Thank you, UPMC-Western Maryland and Maryland Physicians Care

UPMC Western Maryland and Maryland Physicians Care publicly announced a \$350,000 gift to Allegany College of Maryland, all to provide scholarships for Nursing and Allied Health students! This investment isn't just a donation. It's a commitment to ACM, our community, our patients, and the next generation of caregivers who will change lives right here at home. I'm thankful for our partners, inspired by our students, and excited for our future.



ACM Shared/Participatory Governance

As part of the participatory governance process, a routing form was created to assist individuals and groups in submitting suggestions for new policies, policy changes, or non-operational major institutional issues. The issue raised should first be vetted by the parties affected, and if no resolution can be found, a routing form may be submitted.

Click this link to access a [blank routing form](#).

On A Personal Note

I enjoy helping out at the scorer's table for a local high school basketball team. Whether running the shot clock, game clock, or keeping the official book, it's a small way to support the program and connect with students, parents, and teachers. Plus, the courtside seat gives me the best view in the house.

With ACM Pride,
David