For Immediate Release

RENEWED FEDERAL GRANT ENABLES CONTINUED STUDENT SUPPORT

CUMBERLAND, Md. – An Allegany College of Maryland program that provides support services to students who are income-eligible, are the first in their family to attend college or have documented disabilities has earned a competitive federal TRIO grant that enables it to continue for another five years.

Renewed support of the student support services program, which the college calls Pathways for Success, is evidence of its effectiveness since it was launched in 2010.

The initiative falls within the U.S. Department of Education’s TRIO Student Support Services area, which provides outreach and student services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The academic support it enables allows for individual focus and specific measures that help participants achieve their academic and professionals goals. Full-time ACM students who are seeking their first degree and who meet eligibility criteria may apply.

The program, which provides academic support services to 140 students annually, is designed to increase retention, raise grade point averages and boost graduation and transfer rates.

The effort further assists participants through an exploration of the many career and transfer opportunities available to them at the open-admissions college.

The federal agency is providing 98 percent of the local program’s $224,050 annual operating budget. Renewal means that ACM will receive $1.1 million over the next five years to continue these services to students.

DeAnn Greenawalt, director of Pathways for Success, greeted the news of continued funding with praise for the college community that hosts her program and its staff.

“We are truly happy and blessed to be sponsored by an institution that has provided outstanding support and commitment toward helping Pathways for Success achieve substantial progress since it was first funded in 2010,” she said.

Greenawalt added, “On behalf of the PFS staff and students, we thank ACM for support in carrying out our mission of improving the academic success of first-generation college students, students from low-income backgrounds and students with disabilities.”

Pathways students work with an advisor to develop an individualized Student Success Plan that outlines specific services designed to meet their needs.
Professional tutoring, with an emphasis on developmental and introductory-skills courses, is conducted in small groups. Students also benefit from mentoring by their peers.

They also benefit from workshops and other activities, including visits to four-year colleges, and from appropriate college and community services that offer leadership opportunities.

Testimonials from students the program serves speak to its value.

“Pathways for Success has helped me tremendously to achieve my goals,” said Josh Spade, a recent ACM graduate in a transfer curriculum.

“The staff is devoted to helping every student succeed. Their commitment to every student has a personalized touch. These wonderful people will be friends for life.”

For more information go to www.allegany.edu/pathways or contact the program directly. Debby Hardinger, its office manager, can be reached at 301-784-5630 or dhardinger@allegany.edu.

The office can be reached via ACM’s Pennsylvania campuses in Bedford and Somerset counties by dialing 814-652-9528 or 814-445-9848, extension -5630.

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