For Immediate Release

ACM PLANS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF ARBOR DAY APRIL 22

CUMBERLAND, Md. – Allegany College of Maryland will celebrate Arbor Day on Wednesday, April 22, with a presentation on the benefits of trees around us that concludes with a campus tree planting. The public is invited to participate.

The event, which begins at noon in the Center for Continuing Education, features a program by Becky Wilson, urban and community forestry coordinator with the Maryland Forest Service’s Western Region.

Her presentation will discuss the lessons that trees teach, the strong link between people and trees and the important role that each person has in promoting and maintaining the urban tree canopy.

Wilson, who provides technical services and other support to promote urban forestry, serves the local communities in Western Maryland to manage and care for tree resources.

She has assisted ACM in developing the Cumberland-campus tree canopy as a longtime member of its Tree Care Plan Committee. She was instrumental in guiding ACM through the recent process of gaining Tree Campus USA status from the Arbor Day Foundation.

The distinction, which recognizes colleges and universities for promoting healthy trees, increasing the tree canopy and conserving natural resources, is shared by only four other Maryland institutions of higher education. ACM was the first community college to be granted the honor.

Others on the Arbor Day program include: Dr. Jim Howell, botanist and ACM professor of biology; Dr. Cynthia Bambara, ACM president, who will offer a presidential proclamation; and ACM forestry faculty and students will plant trees on the campus and demonstrate proper tree-planting technique to attendees.

Howell’s remarks will include an appreciation of the late Dr. Donald L. Alexander, who served as ACM president from 1980 to 2008.

Alexander, who died last year, was highly supportive of efforts to increase the number of trees on campus, including the establishment of a college arboretum. He was also an avid supporter of ACM forestry education programs.
The event is coordinated by the college’s Human Resources Development Committee in collaboration with Professor Howell and ACM’s Physical Plant. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call 301-784-5152.

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