



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of The Board of County Commissioners

701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-777-5912 FAX 301-777-5819
www.gov.allconet.org

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

William R. Valentine, *President*
Creade V. Brodie, Jr.
Jacob C. Shade

David A. Eberly, *County Administrator*
William M. Rudd, *County Attorney*

ALLEGANY COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASE DECEMBER 17, 2015

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Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship

The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Program received the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance County Best Practices Award at the Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference on December 10, 2015 in Cambridge, Maryland.

Photo Description: William R. Valentine, President, the Board of County Commissioners, center, accepted the award. Allegany College of Maryland President, Cynthia S. Bambara, left, and Frostburg State University Interim President Thomas L. Bowling, right, also made remarks at the awards presentation.

These documents are provided:

- MACo News Release December 14, 2015
- The Board of County Commissioners Award Application Letter September 30, 2015
- The University System of Maryland Board of Regents Chairman and Chancellor Letter January 7, 2014
- Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Detailed Information
- Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship IMPACT Report (Allegany College of Maryland Foundation).



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2015

Contact:

Virginia White

Meetings & Events Director

410.269.0043, vwhite@mdcounties.org

Annapolis, MD

Allegany County Creates Opportunities, Boosts Workforce Through Award-Winning Scholarship Program

Annapolis, MD (12/14/2015) – The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship (ACOS) Program received the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance County Best Practices Award at MACo's Winter Conference on December 10, 2015 in Cambridge, Maryland to highlight the program's success with creating opportunities and boosting the local workforce.

Since the ACOS program's inception, more than 700 scholarships have been awarded. This program funds merit awards and tuition subsidies to individuals of all ages who have been a resident in the county for at least 3 years and are studying at either Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) or Frostburg State University (FSU). The scholarship applies to credit courses in any major at all levels [including doctoral], as well as professional certification, and non-credit/continuing education.

This program improves the quality of the local workforce and encourages population retention and enrollment at ACM & FSU. Also, the scholarship is funded exclusively from the operating revenues of the state-licensed casino and does not create a burden on the county budget. The amount designated for this program totaled \$1.2 Million through June 30, 2015.

Allegany County Commissioner William R. Valentine, who accepted the award at MACo's banquet said, "Forward thinking in the creation of the scholarship program will benefit Allegany County both financially and socially for decades."

-MORE-



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September 30, 2015

University of Maryland School of Public Policy
Maryland Association of Counties

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

As President of the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County, I wish to nominate the **Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship** for The Academy for Excellence in Local Government Rural County Best Practices Award.

The Board of County Commissioners established the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship by unanimous vote on August 8, 2013 at the Allegany County Commissioners' public business meeting. The first awards were given in 2014.

At the time the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship was established fewer than one in five Allegany County residents age 25 and older had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The county ranked 22 of the state's 24 jurisdictions. This lower educational attainment level is a contributing reason for the lower economic achievement of our residents which in turn affects the county as a whole. The county's median household income is less than \$40,000 – only 55% of the state's \$72,345.

The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship offers residents of all ages and stages of life access to a broad spectrum of educational opportunities. It applies to credit courses in any major at the associate, bachelor, master, and doctorate level as well as professional certification and to non-credit/continuing education professional and workforce development courses.

The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship is designated for individuals who have been residents of Allegany County for a minimum of three years and who study at Allegany County's two institutions of higher education, Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) and Frostburg State University (FSU). The program encourages academic excellence with merit awards and recognizes financial need with tuition subsidies.

This program is funded exclusively by revenue received by Allegany County Government from the operation of the state-licensed casino here. The amount designated for the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship totaled \$1,200,000 through June 30, 2015. Over 700 awards have been made through the 2015 spring semester (June 30, 2015).

The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship is professionally administered by the foundations of ACM and FSU. The Allegany County Finance Department is responsible for the quarterly transfer of funds for the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship to the two foundations. This program does not require any other administration by Allegany County Government.

The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship improves the quality of the local workforce for current and prospective employers, supports economic development, encourages population retention and growth and enrollment at ACM and FSU. It improves the overall quality of life for the awardees and the economic vitality and general well-being of the county as a whole.

The University System of Maryland Board of Regents Chairman and the Chancellor commended the Allegany County Commissioners for the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship. They stated: "We are very hopeful that this innovative policy approach to parlay casino revenues in support of educational attainment and workforce development is adopted across the state – and nation – as a model plan. It represents a wonderful opportunity to simultaneously expand individual opportunity and local economic growth. We look forward to the success of the program growing through the upcoming years."

ACM President Dr. Cynthia Bambara stated: "...the county commissioners are to be commended for their insight into the needs of our community and for enhancing the on-ramp to higher education that will transform the lives of our residents." FSU President Dr. Jonathan Gibraltar stated: "I cannot emphasize enough how forward-thinking and innovative this plan is..." Overall, at the time the program was initiated, it received favorable reception and this continues to the present time.

Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship One Paragraph Description: The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship was established to address the lower educational attainment and associated lower economic achievement of county residents. This provides educational opportunities across all areas of interest and all levels of education - credit courses (associate/bachelor/master/doctorate) and non-credit/continuing education professional and workforce development courses. It applies to Allegany County residents who study at Allegany College of Maryland and Frostburg State University. This supports economic development, encourages population retention and growth and enrollment at ACM and FSU. It improves the overall quality of life for the awardees and the economic vitality and general well-being of the county as a whole. This is funded exclusively by revenue received by Allegany County Government from the operation of the state-licensed casino here. Established in 2013, over 700 awards totaling \$1,200,000 have been made. This is administered by the two collegiate foundations. The Allegany County Commissioners were commended by The University System of Maryland Board of Regents Chairman and the Chancellor for establishing the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship.

You are welcome to contact me about this program: Mobile: 301-268-1598,
Email: Commissioner.Valentine@alleganygov.org.

Thank you for your thoughtful review and kind consideration of the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship for the Rural County Best Practices Award.

Sincerely,



William R. Valentine

President

The Board of County Commissioners

Attachments:

The University System of Maryland Board of Regents Chairman and Chancellor
January 7, 2014 Letter

Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Detailed Information

Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship IMPACT Report (Allegany College of Maryland
Foundation)



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

January 7, 2014

Allegany County
Board of County Commissioners
Allegany County Office Building
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, MD 21502-2803

1807
University of Maryland,
Baltimore

1856
University of Maryland,
College Park

1865
Bowie State University

1866
Towson University

1886
University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

1898
Frostburg State University

1900
Coppin State University

1925
Salisbury University

1925
University of Baltimore

1925
University of Maryland
Center for Environmental
Science

1947
University of Maryland
University College

1966
University of Maryland,
Baltimore County

Commissioners McKay, Brodie, and Valentine:

On behalf of the University System of Maryland, we wanted to commend you on your recent decision to set aside a portion of the revenue generated by the video lottery machines at Rocky Gap Casino Resort to establish the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship. Thanks to your leadership and vision, the doors of higher education—at both Allegany College of Maryland and Frostburg State University—will be open to many more Allegany County residents.

As you know, education beyond high school has become increasingly important both to secure individual prosperity and to promote a thriving economy. By making education more affordable, the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship will enable county residents to pursue degrees, enhance skill levels, and increase prosperity. At the same time, the increase in well-educated, skilled workers will strengthen economic development and promote the well being of Allegany County overall.

We are very hopeful that this innovative policy approach to parlay casino revenues in support of educational attainment and workforce development is adopted across the state—and nation—as a model plan. It represents a wonderful opportunity to simultaneously expand individual opportunity and local economic growth. We look forward to the success of the program growing through the upcoming years.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of James L. Shea in black ink.

James L. Shea
Chairman, USM Board of Regents

Handwritten signature of William E. Kirwan in black ink.

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor



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The Academy for Excellence in Local Governance Rural County Best Practices Award 2015

Allegany County Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Detailed Information

Nominator

William R. Valentine
President

The Board of County Commissioners
Allegany County, Maryland
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, MD 21502-2803

Email: Commissioner.Valentine@alleganygov.org
Mobile: 301-268-1598

Establishment

The Board of County Commissioners established the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship by unanimous vote on August 8, 2013 at the Allegany County Commissioners' public business meeting. The first awards were given in 2014.

Source of Funding

This scholarship is 100% funded by revenue received by Allegany County Government from the gaming operation of the Rocky Gap Casino and Resort located in the eastern section of the county. This is a self-sufficient funding source which does not use any Allegany County taxpayer generated funds.

Specifically, according to State of Maryland legislation, as a host county to this casino operation, Allegany County receives 2.25% of the annual gross revenue generated by the video lottery machines at Rocky Gap.

In turn, the county commissioners designated 70% of this revenue for the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship at Allegany County's two higher education institutions. Allegany College of Maryland, a two year community

college, receives 45% and Frostburg State University, a member of the University System of Maryland, receives 25%.

Need Addressed

At the time the scholarship program was established, fewer than one in five Allegany County residents age 25 and over, 16.3%, had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The county ranked 22 of the state's 24 jurisdictions. Statewide, 37.4% had a bachelor's degree or higher and 17.1% had an advanced degree. The disparity is significant.

This lower educational level attainment level is a contributing reason for the lower economic achievement of our residents which in turn affects the county as a whole. The county's median household income is less than \$40,000 – only 55% of the state's \$72,345. The county's average household income is \$54,063 as compared to the state's \$94,841.

Furthermore, a rural county, Allegany County has not experienced the population growth enjoyed by its metropolitan counterparts. The 2020 projected population is 75,150 as compared to 75,087 in the 2010 Census.

This program improves the quality of the local workforce for current and prospective employers, supports economic development, encourages population retention and growth and enrollment at ACM and FSU. It improves the overall quality of life for the awardees and the economic vitality and general well-being of the county as a whole.

Amount of Funding

Rocky Gap Casino and Resort initially opened for operations over Memorial Day Weekend 2013. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015 Allegany County Government has given a total of \$1,200,000 for the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship to Allegany College of Maryland and Frostburg State University. In these two fiscal years ACM and FSU received \$720,000 and \$400,000, respectively, for this scholarship program. There is a required distribution of no less than 90% of the scholarship funds received on an annual basis.

Administration

Memorandums of Understanding were signed with ACM (December 19, 2013) and FSU (January 16, 2014) and are in effect through December 31, 2018.

The scholarship program is professionally administered by the foundations of ACM and FSU. The Allegany County Finance Department is responsible for the quarterly transfer of funds for the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship to the two foundations. This program does not require any other administration by Allegany County Government.

Scholarship criteria is established, award decisions are made, academic progress is monitored, and all student related financial transactions are handled/managed by the foundations. Most importantly, no representative from Allegany County Government plays any role in determining which applicant receives an award or the amount of any award.

There is a three year minimum residency requirement.

Population Served - Qualitative Results

The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship has helped Allegany County residents of all ages and stages of life access educational opportunities across all areas of interest and all levels of education. It encourages academic excellence with merit awards and recognizes financial need with tuition subsidies.

This assists students taking credit courses across all majors and seeking associate/bachelors/masters/doctoral degrees as well as professional certification.

This assists students taking continuing education/non-credit courses for professional and workforce development training. It assists those who are entering the workforce, strengthening skills for a current job, or retraining for new careers.

To date, the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship has helped residents who were educated in public and private high schools as well as home schooled students and GED (General Education Diploma) students.

Population Served - Quantitative Results

Over 700 awards have been made through the 2015 spring semester (June 30, 2015). Specifically, 556 credit awards and approximately 150 workforce and professional development awards were made.

Allegany College of Maryland: 444 scholarship awards for associate degree credit courses and 150 professional and workforce development awards for continuing education/non-credit courses. The award levels varied. Visit www.alleganygov.org to view ACM's public business meeting presentation on July 16, 2015 at 6:03 presented on the right side of the homepage.

Frostburg State University: 112 students received scholarship awards at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels and for professional certification. The award levels varied. The FSU presentation is scheduled for November.

Public Recognition

At the time the program was initiated, it received extremely favorable reception and this continues to the present time.

The University System of Maryland Board of Regents Chairman and the Chancellor commended the Allegany County Commissioners. They stated: "We are very hopeful that this innovative policy approach to parlay casino revenues in support of educational attainment and workforce development is adopted across the state – and nation – as a model plan. It represents a wonderful opportunity to simultaneously expand individual opportunity and local economic growth. We look forward to the success of the program growing through the upcoming years."

ACM President Dr. Cynthia Bambara stated: "The Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship reflects a genuine commitment on the part of the Allegany County Commissioners to enhance the quality of life and increase economic opportunity for our citizens and community through expanded access to higher education...the county commissioners are to be commended for their insight into the needs of our community and for enhancing an on-ramp to higher education that will transform the lives of our residents."

FSU President Dr. Jonathan Gibraltar stated: "I cannot emphasize enough how forward-thinking and innovative this plan is. The Allegany County Commissioners deserve the thanks of those many, many Allegany County residents who can now anticipate being able to follow a path of higher education that had previously been out of reach."

Educational Institutions

Allegany College of Maryland, www.allegany.edu, a county-supported institution, meets wide-ranging needs in our community through credit program offerings in career and transfer areas and courses and training programs in continuing education and workforce development. ACM enrolls approximately 1,500 credit and 4,500 continuing education and workforce development students from Allegany County per academic year demonstrating a direct and unduplicated headcount of approximately 6,000 Allegany County residents receiving education and job training annually.

Frostburg State University, www.frostburg.edu, is one of the 12 institutions of the University System of Maryland. FSU is a comprehensive, residential regional university and serves as an educational and cultural center for Western Maryland. FSU's 2014 fall semester total enrollment was 5,674 students. This included 705 undergraduate, 138 masters, and 32 doctoral students who were Allegany County residents.



Allegheny County Opportunity Scholarship

IMPACT



Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW: The Allegany County Commissioners understand the impact of Allegany College of Maryland and the education and job training provided to the community. Funds will be provided to eligible community residents to receive education and job training, bettering themselves and the community.

FY 2015 FAST FACTS:

- > Recipients of this investment represent every community in our County.
- > All public and private schools in Allegany County, as well as homeschooled and GED students, have been awarded funding through this program.
- > Recipients have included students from nearly every major/ curriculum.
- > The age range of recipients is from 17-54, with an average age of 24.
- > The Allegany County Opportunity Jump Start Early College Scholarship is providing assistance to students from the Allegany County Public Schools who receive free and reduced-cost school meals. This \$100-per-course award covers the full family cost for taking a three-credit course.
- > The Allegany County Opportunity Merit Scholarship encourages academic excellence. Over 270 awards have been made.
- > The Allegany County Opportunity Tuition Subsidy for Credit Students is intended to offset tuition costs not covered by federal or state aid or by other support. Over 170 awards have been made.
- > The Allegany County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship supports Allegany County residents who are taking Professional and Workforce Training. Nearly 150 awards have been made.

AWARD TYPES:

Allegany County Opportunity Tuition Subsidy for Credit Students

Scholarships will be provided to help support the cost of tuition that is not covered by federal, state, and/or scholarship aid. Applicants must complete the FAFSA to determine federal and state awards, preferably before March 1, and apply for ACM Foundation scholarships. After these considerations, it is expected that up to ½ the Allegany County cost per credit hour will be provided through this scholarship, if students apply and meet all other eligibility requirements.

Allegany County Opportunity Merit Scholarship Award

Allegany County Merit Scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000 or more, will be awarded each academic year to students who have at least a 3.0 grade point average and meet all other eligibility criteria. Special consideration will be given to students who express their intention to transfer to Frostburg State University upon graduation from Allegany College of Maryland.

Allegany County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship

Funding will be utilized by the Center for Continuing Education to support Allegany County residents who are taking Professional and Workforce Training.

Allegany County Opportunity Jump Start Early College Scholarship

Early College students currently pay ½ of the regular tuition rate for early college courses. To make up the difference for early college courses offered in Allegany County High Schools, students/families pay \$100 and the Board of Education pays the remainder. This fund will support FARM (Free and Reduced Meals) students who have resided in Allegany County for a minimum of three years by paying 100% of the student/family cost of \$100 per course.

Program Impact

NUMBER OF AWARDS

- Summer 2014:
22 scholarship awards
- Fall 2014/
Spring 2015:
422 scholarship awards
- Nearly 150 Workforce Development awards have been made.

AVERAGE AGE AND RANGE

Average: 24
Range: 17-54

GPA

Average: 3.26

- 23 recipients had a GPA of 3.75 or above

CREDIT MAJORS:

Accounting	Human Service Associate
Applied Technical Studies	Massage Therapy
Art	Mathematics
Automotive Technology	Medical Assistant
Biology	Medical Laboratory Technology
Business Administration	Multimedia Technology
Chemistry	Nursing
Computer Science and Technology	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Criminal Justice	Office Technologies
Culinary Arts	Phlebotomy/EKG
Dental Hygiene	Physical Therapist Assistant
Economics	Political Science
Education <i>(early childhood, elementary, and secondary)</i>	Pre-Pharmacy
Engineering	Psychology
English	Radiologic Technology
Forest Technology	Respiratory Therapist
General Studies	Social Work
Hospitality Management	

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COURSEWORK:

Allegany County Opportunity Continuing Education and Workforce Development Scholarship provides support for residents who are taking Professional and Workforce Training with a focus on Advanced Manufacturing and support of the Western Maryland IT Center for Excellence. This includes support for students who are entering the workforce, strengthening skills for a current job, or retraining for new careers. Examples of training supported include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Shielded Metal Arc Welding | 7) Advanced Manufacturing
CNC Computer Numerical
Control |
| 2) Mig Tig Welding | 8) Computer Technician
Program |
| 3) Computer Tech A+ Training | 9) CompTIA Network Training |
| 4) IT Workplace Essentials
Training | 10) Backflow Prevention |
| 5) Interrogation for Law
Enforcement | 11) Heart of a Leader |
| 6) Advanced Manufacturing
CNC Tool Technology | 12) Principles of Real Estate |

HIGH SCHOOLS:

Allegany High School
Bishop Walsh School
Calvary Christian Academy
Center for Career and
Technical Education
Fort Hill High School
GED
Home School
Lighthouse Christian Academy
Mountain Ridge High School

CITIES REPRESENTED):

Barton	Lonaconing
Cresaptown	Midland
Cumberland	Mount Savage
Ellerslie	Oldtown
Flintstone	Rawlings
Frostburg	Westernport
LaVale	
Little Orleans	

Economic Impact

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND AND INVESTMENT IN TRAINING:

- > Students enjoy a 15.2% rate of return on their investment in ACM.
- > Higher earnings of ACM students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Maryland by about \$10.8 million each year.
- > For every dollar of this support, taxpayers see a return of \$1.30 (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided costs).
- > State and local governments see an annual rate of return of 4.3% on their support for ACM.

Your investment greatly enhances the economic opportunities for our citizens and our community by supporting education, job training, and career preparation as well as supporting families and the core values that reflect our community.

Direct Quotes

FROM STUDENT THANK YOU LETTERS

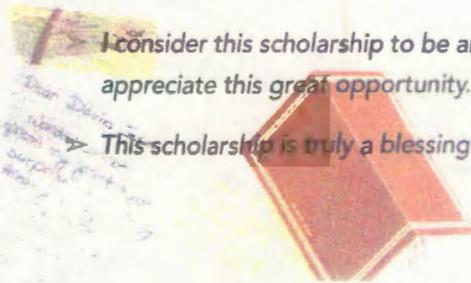
- > I take my schooling very seriously and I promise that every penny will go to good use in helping me create my future.
- > This scholarship will help me pursue my goal of becoming an RN and bettering the lives of my two children and myself.
- > Because of this scholarship, I am able to concentrate on my education and not have to worry about the financial burden of my education. Your generous support is helping me fulfill a lifelong dream of going to college.
- > Your financial support has allowed me to be one step closer to my goal and has inspired me to help others by giving back to the community.
- > I was a homemaker until I got the opportunity to attend Allegany College of Maryland to pursue my educational goals. Now, I will be the first person in my family to attend college and I hope that my success will inspire my children and extended family to develop and achieve educational goals of their own.
- > Your choice will help me to become a better provider for my family and a pillar of our community.
- > Because I am a non-traditional student with a family, this scholarship is much appreciated.

I will continue to work hard to ensure that the scholarship donor's investment in my future will have a positive outcome.

- > Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community.

I consider this scholarship to be an investment in my future and appreciate this great opportunity.

- > This scholarship is truly a blessing and a wonderful opportunity.





ALLEGANY COLLEGE  MARYLAND

FOUNDATION

12401 Willowbrook Road, SE • Cumberland, MD 21502-2596
301-784-5200 • www.allegany.edu
