

For Immediate Release

NATIONAL STUDY LISTS ACM AMONG TOP-20 “VALUE-ADDED” COLLEGES

CUMBERLAND, Md. – The Brookings Institution has ranked Allegany College of Maryland among the top-20 community and technical colleges in the nation for the value they add to the future economic success of graduates.

The think tank’s Metropolitan Policy Program took a “value-added” approach to ranking the nation’s higher education institutions to capture the benefits they deliver to students and the contributions they make toward their success.

ACM ranked 18th among two-year schools in the Brookings study, which focuses on factors that predict measurable economic outcomes beyond what student backgrounds would suggest at time of admission.

“Beyond College Rankings: A Value-Added Approach to Assessing Two-and Four-Year Schools” used “value-added” measures to assist students and families in making among their most important investment decisions: choosing a college.

The study uses government and private sources for a valued-added analysis that calculates “the difference between actual alumni outcomes (like salaries) and the outcomes one would expect given a student’s characteristics and the type of institution.”

In ranking the colleges nationwide, Brookings researchers honed in on five quality factors that portend how well students perform economically in the years after college.

These capture curriculum value, the market value of graduates’ skills, the completion rate of students, financial aid provided and the share of students preparing for careers in STEM fields – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

ACM benefits in the Brookings report by having a large number of students who graduate from the college’s many academic programs in STEM and allied health care fields.

ACM ranks near the top of the list because of graduates’ mid-career earnings, which are 11 percent higher than would be predicted based on characteristics upon entry -- \$58,300 annually vs. the predicted \$52,138.

“Compared to conventional rankings [U.S News, Forbes and Money], these value-added measures more accurately predict alumni economic outcomes for a given student,” according to study authors Jonathan Rothwell and Siddharth Kulkarni.

Nearly 5,000 community and technical colleges nationwide graduate nearly two million students annually, which accounts for about 39 percent of all post-secondary graduates, the report states.

More information about the Brookings study is available on the institution's website, www.brookings.edu. More information about ACM is available at www.allegany.edu.