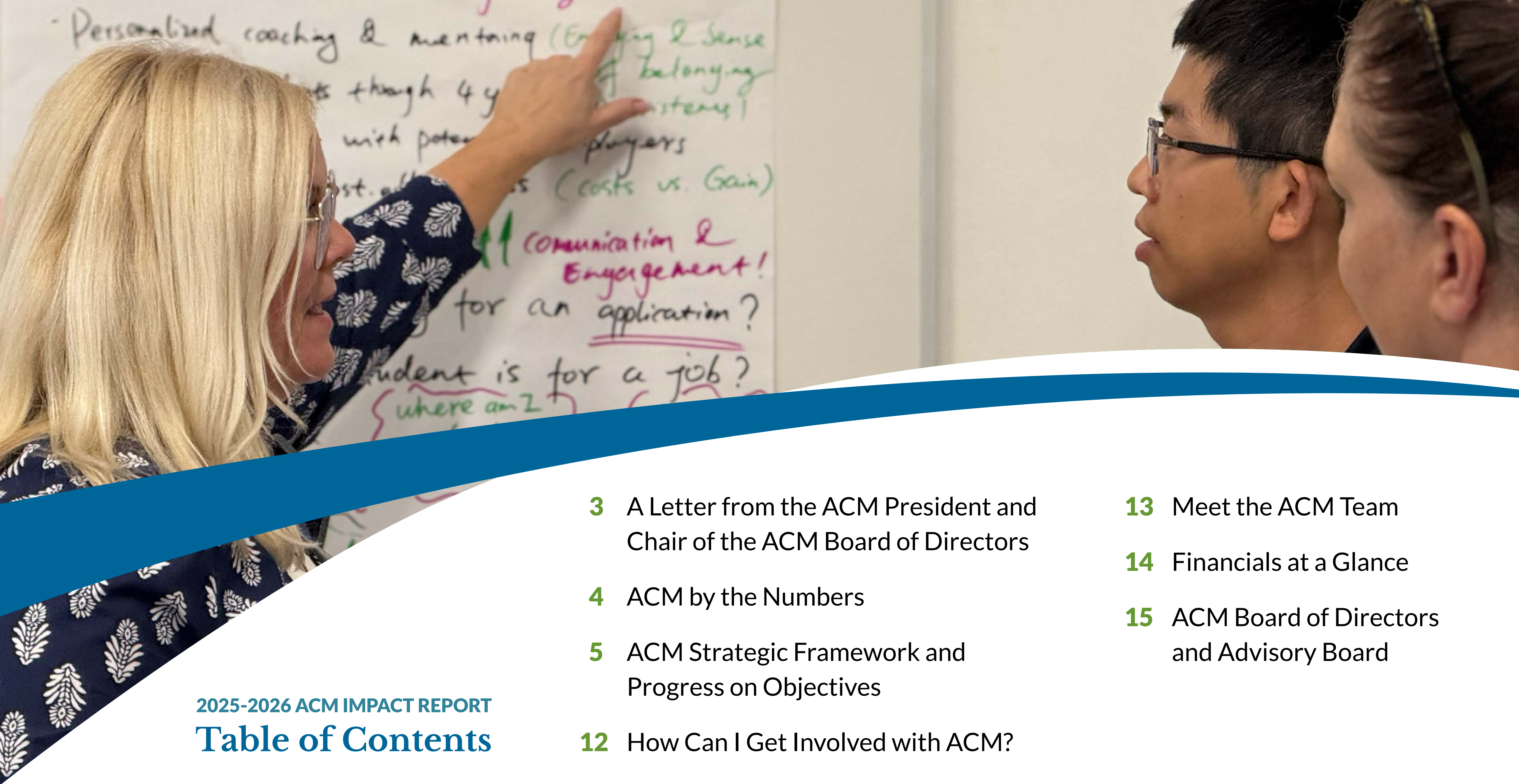






2025-2026 ACM IMPACT REPORT

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A Letter from the ACM President and Chair of the ACM Board of Directors

We are pleased to share the Associated Colleges of the Midwest’s 2025–2026 Annual Impact Report.

The stories and data in this report reflect the shared commitment of ACM and its member institutions to enrich liberal education through partnership, collaboration, innovation, and shared learning.

We remain all too aware that the past year brought considerable challenges for small, private, residential liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. Across the five

In turbulent times, we remain steadfast in our belief that community and collaboration are among our most important resilience strategies for small colleges.

states where ACM member colleges are located, campuses navigated hard conversations about resources and rising costs, campus safety, academic freedom,

the rights and experiences of international students and scholars, and the growing presence of artificial intelligence in the classroom and workplace.

In turbulent times, we remain steadfast in our belief that community and collaboration are among our most important resilience strategies for small colleges.

The power of community and collaboration is clearly seen in the activities and programs launched under ACM’s five-year strategic framework, [*Together We Go Further 2025–2030*](#). In the first year of the plan’s implementation, ACM expanded its reach by launching new professional development programs for staff, continuing academic leadership development opportunities, strengthening support for consortial groups and peer networks, funding collaborative faculty projects, and improving our data resources and reporting.

This report offers both a record of what we accomplished together and an invitation to imagine what deeper collaboration can make possible in the years ahead. We invite you to review the report, reflect on the conversations and insights generated through ACM programs and resources, and consider how this shared work can continue to strengthen your campus.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to the work that has always defined ACM: helping our member colleges accomplish together what none of us can do alone.



Lisa Jasinski
President, Associated Colleges of the Midwest



Anne Harris
President, Grinnell College
Chair, ACM Board of Directors

ACM by the Numbers

2025–2026



93
Grants Lab
attendees

23
in-person
consortial
group
meetings

with

346
attendees

6
new
consortial
groups

Accessibility
Services, Advising
and Student
Success, Chaplains,
Chiefs of Staff,
CTL Directors,
and Chief Student
Affairs Officers



193
students
participated in the
**ACM Tuition
Remission Exchange
Program**



30,000+
approximate total miles
traveled by ACM staff to serve
our members!

This is greater than the circumference of the earth.



\$652,631
in grant dollars
invested in
**ACM member
campuses**

359
participants in ACM-led
professional development
programs

23 Department Chairs
10 Academic Leadership Fellows
168 Navigating a Changing Higher Ed Landscape
84 Athletics Academy
74 Sustaining Belonging Webinars



3 presidents
and
5 chief
academic
officers
welcomed to
the consortium

ACM Strategic Framework

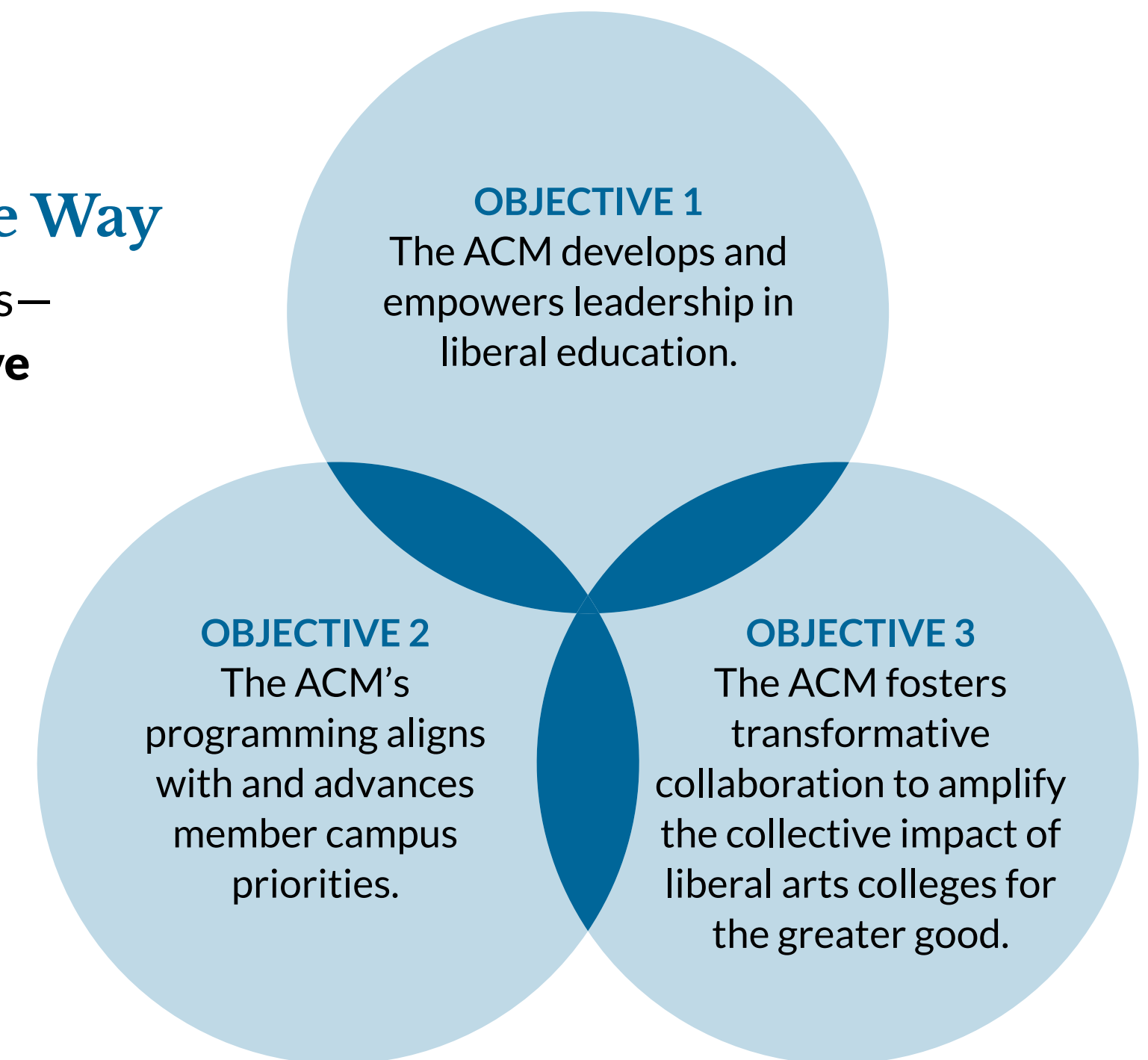


In spring 2025, the Board of Directors of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest unanimously approved the strategic framework, *Together We Go Further: ACM's Commitment to Excellence Through Collaboration*. The plan charts a bold course for the consortium's work through 2030.

The framework reflects ACM's renewed commitment to high-quality programming, innovative professional development, and responsive support for member colleges as they navigate the changing landscape of higher education.

Three Objectives Guide the Way

The framework's three core objectives—**Leadership, Alignment, and Collective Impact**—emerged through extensive stakeholder engagement during a yearlong listening tour.



Each year, ACM leaders present a set of priority initiatives, shaped in large part by stakeholder feedback, to the Board of Directors for approval. During the 2025-2026 academic year, the organization made substantive progress on several priority initiatives.

OBJECTIVE 1

ACM Develops and Empowers Leadership in Liberal Education

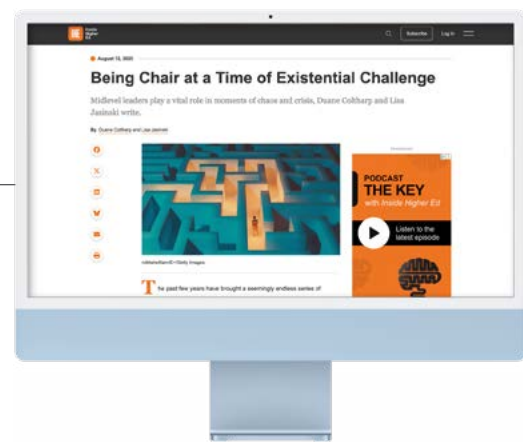


Continue Leading Effectively as a Department Chair at an ACM College

STATUS: COMPLETE PROGRAM PAGE

Department chairs play a pivotal role in shaping the academic culture, faculty experience, and student learning environment of a liberal arts college. Over a two-year pilot that began in 2024, ACM offered a yearlong virtual professional development series for new and experienced department chairs across member campuses. Nearly 50 participants later, with the pilot’s value clearly proven, ACM will make this program a standing offering.

ACM is also helping shape the national conversation about midlevel leadership. In August 2025, President Lisa Jasinski and Program Lead Duane Coltharp co-authored “Being Chair at a Time of Existential Challenge” for *Inside Higher Ed*, making the case that department chairs are too often asked to lead through crisis without the support the role deserves.



READ THE ARTICLE
[Being Chair at a Time of Existential Challenge](#)
Inside Higher Ed
August 2025



“Participating in ACM’s Leading Effectively as a Department Chair program over the past academic year offered camaraderie, connection, and timely advice.”

BRIGID VANCE
Associate Professor of History, Lawrence University

OBJECTIVE 1

ACM Develops and Empowers Leadership in Liberal Education

“Really understanding how to best deliver my messages, show grace and patience where I can, while not sacrificing the standard—those are some things that I am very eager to bring with me to meetings and practices so we can continue to elevate as a program.”

MELANIE HUGHES
Head Women’s Volleyball Coach
Lake Forest College



Pilot Professional and Leadership Development for Staff

STATUS: ONGOING

Providing accessible and high-quality professional development for staff is a major focus for ACM. This year, more than 250 staff members participated in programming tailored to them, covering student success and retention, change management, and peer-to-peer learning. ACM will continue to expand and diversify this work in the year ahead. Programs this year included:



ACM Athletics Academy

Upwards of half of all students on ACM campuses compete in intercollegiate athletics, and the coaches and trainers who support them matter enormously to student success. 84 coaches and athletic trainers came together for daylong, in-person workshops at Lake Forest College and Cornell College to sharpen the skills they need to support today’s student-athletes.

PROGRAM PAGE ↗

READ THE STORY ↗



Navigating a Changing Higher Education Landscape

Shifting student demographics, a national mental health crisis, tightening budgets, and the sudden arrival of AI are forcing small colleges to rethink how they deliver programs and services, often all at once. More than 160 student-facing staff members worked through these challenges together at daylong workshops hosted at Ripon College, Coe College, and St. Olaf College.

PROGRAM PAGE ↗

READ THE STORY ↗

OBJECTIVE 1

ACM Develops and Empowers Leadership in Liberal Education



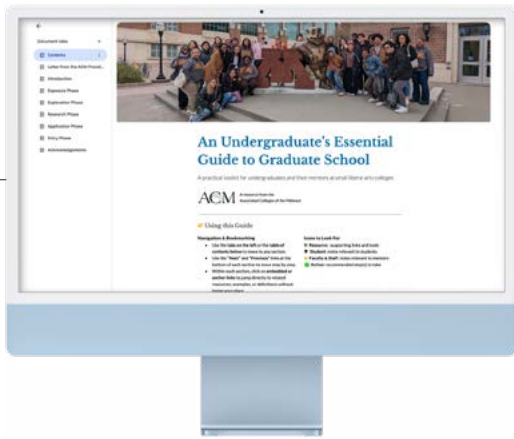
Develop Future Faculty for Liberal Arts Colleges

STATUS: ONGOING

ACM is committed to preparing and supporting the next generation of teacher-scholars on liberal arts campuses. Marking the culmination of an \$8.1M grant with the Big Ten Academic Alliance, ACM launched An Undergraduate’s Comprehensive Guide to Graduate School in fall 2025, a resource to help students, and the faculty and staff who mentor them, prepare for academic careers.

GRANT PAGE ➔

To strengthen the talent pipeline and ensure the success of early career academics, ACM actively supports consortial groups for faculty developers and academic deans.



EXPLORE THE GUIDE
[An Undergrad’s Essential Guide to Graduate School](#)



“If we’re growing, we bring back new ideas to help our students grow, and, ultimately, that’s what we’re modeling to our students: that learning is a lifelong endeavor.”

MARY HATLEN
Director, Center for Career & Professional Development and
Adjunct Instructor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ripon College

OBJECTIVE 2

ACM’s Programming Aligns with and Advances Member Campus Priorities

“I found [the Grants Lab] incredibly collaborative. Every session, talk, or activity—there’s been something positive or new to take from them.”

COLLIN O’LEARY

Assistant Professor of Biochemistry
Cornell College



Support Grant Seeking and Capacity Building on ACM Campuses

STATUS: ONGOING PROGRAM PAGE ➔

Member colleges face growing pressure to diversify funding streams, support faculty research, and launch new institutional initiatives. To help, ACM hosted two multi-day Grants Lab proposal-writing accelerators at Macalester College and Coe College that drew more than 90 faculty and staff members and have already generated new proposals and awards. ACM also launched Resources for Seeking External Funding, an online guide to help grant seekers identify potential funders.

[READ THE STORY ➔](#)

[EXPLORE THE GUIDE](#)
[Resources for Seeking External Funding](#)



Seek External Support to Expand Strategically Aligned Programming

STATUS: ONGOING

With several of ACM’s signature grants coming to a close in 2025, the consortium is seeking new funding to expand programming addressing campus priorities: supporting innovation in resource-constrained environments, preparing graduates for careers, and cultivating campus cultures that promote student, faculty, and staff retention.

No new awards have been finalized yet, but the groundwork is underway. ACM is in active conversations with several foundations about future support, and the consortium recently hired a grants consultant to identify prospects, sharpen proposals, and build relationships with funders. This work will continue to be a priority in the year ahead.

OBJECTIVE 3

ACM Fosters Transformative Collaboration to Amplify the Collective Impact of Liberal Arts Colleges for the Greater Good



Complete a Comprehensive Review of ACM’s Data Collection and Sharing

STATUS: **COMPLETE**

Reliable data is essential to the daily operations and long-term vitality of small, private liberal arts colleges, helping leaders make informed decisions about enrollment, academic programs, and finances. For more than 40 years, ACM member colleges have exchanged data to support benchmarking and shared decision-making.

This year, ACM completed an ambitious review of how it collects, reports, and shares that data. Thanks to direct stakeholder feedback, ACM reduced the reporting burden on member colleges, improved the design and functionality of its reports, strengthened data security, and adopted a comprehensive data-sharing agreement.



EXPLORE THE RESULT

[Access ACM’s current data-sharing practices](#)



“The recent trends report is a great example of how ACM builds intelligence across institutions and helps us understand our position.”

MATT BONSER
Director of Admission, Colorado College

OBJECTIVE 3

ACM Fosters Transformative Collaboration to Amplify the Collective Impact of Liberal Arts Colleges for the Greater Good



Renew Our Commitment to Supporting Consortial Groups

STATUS: **COMPLETE** | [WEBSITE ↗](#)

Since ACM’s founding in 1958, consortial groups have been the engine of peer learning and community across our campuses. This year, ACM reviewed its internal processes and allocated resources to support nearly 40 of these groups, including six entirely new ones, such as chaplains, student success leaders, chiefs of staff, and student accessibility services professionals.

[MEET THE CONSORTIAL GROUPS ↗](#)



“In a year when international students and scholars faced many challenges, the ACM supported my colleagues and me by allowing us to organize the biennial international students roundtable meeting with our Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) counterparts.”

LUYEN PHAN
Director, International Student Programs, Macalester College



THE RESULT

This year alone:

23 in-person consortial meetings
346 total attendees

How Can I Get Involved with ACM?

Connect with Peers

Join a Consortial Group

Pose a Question to a
Role Group Listserv

Join Us at an
Upcoming Event



Find New Opportunities

Follow ACM on [LinkedIn](#)

Check Out Our Current
Grant-Funded Opportunities

Check Our Website for Upcoming
Programs, Webinars, and Events

Connect with your HR department
to learn about the [Tuition
Remission Exchange Program](#)



Spread the Word

Let Your Campus Colleagues
Know About ACM

Share ACM Opportunities with
Faculty, Staff, and Students

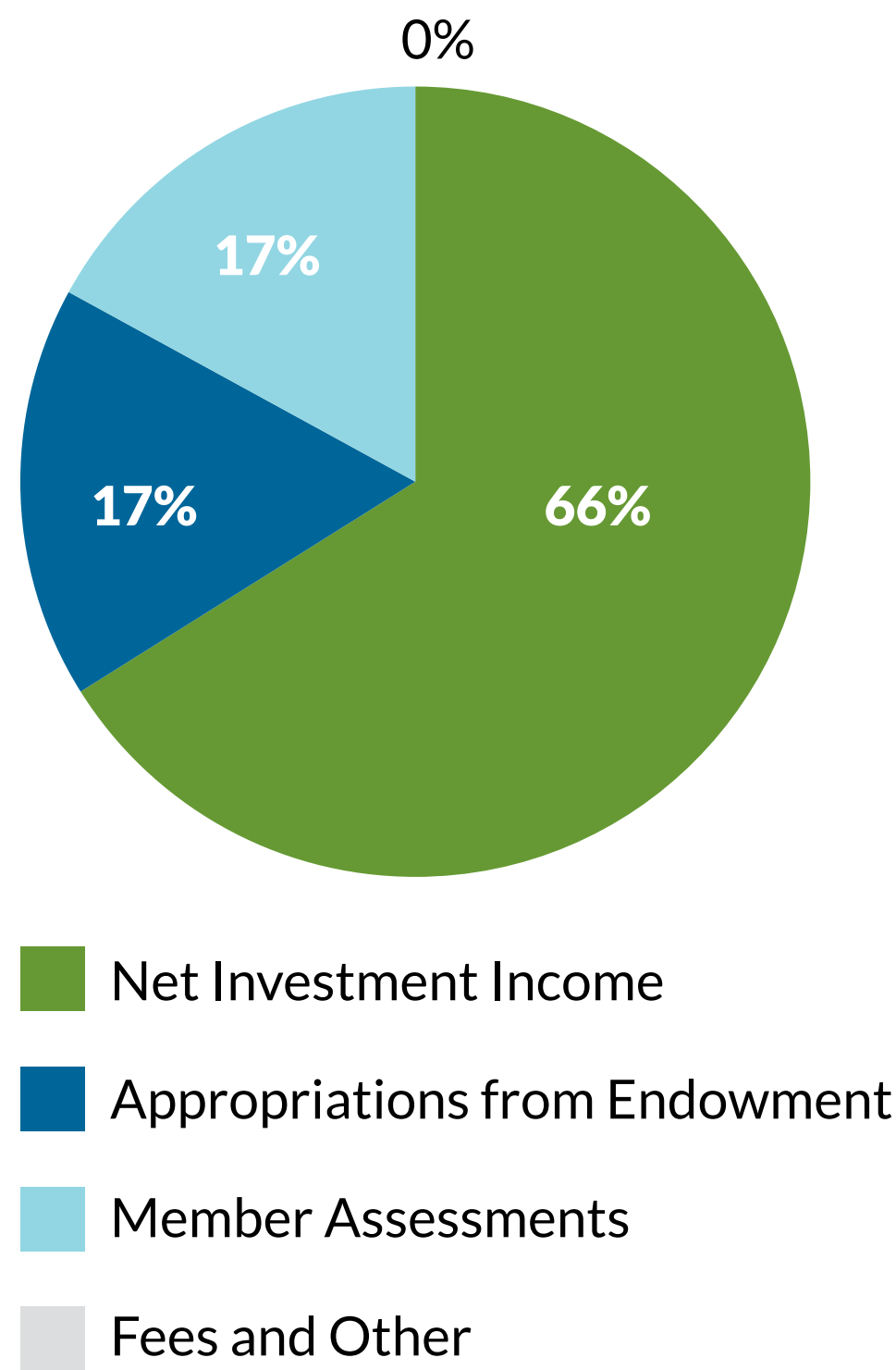
Reach Out to an ACM Staffer with
an Idea or Question



Financials at a Glance

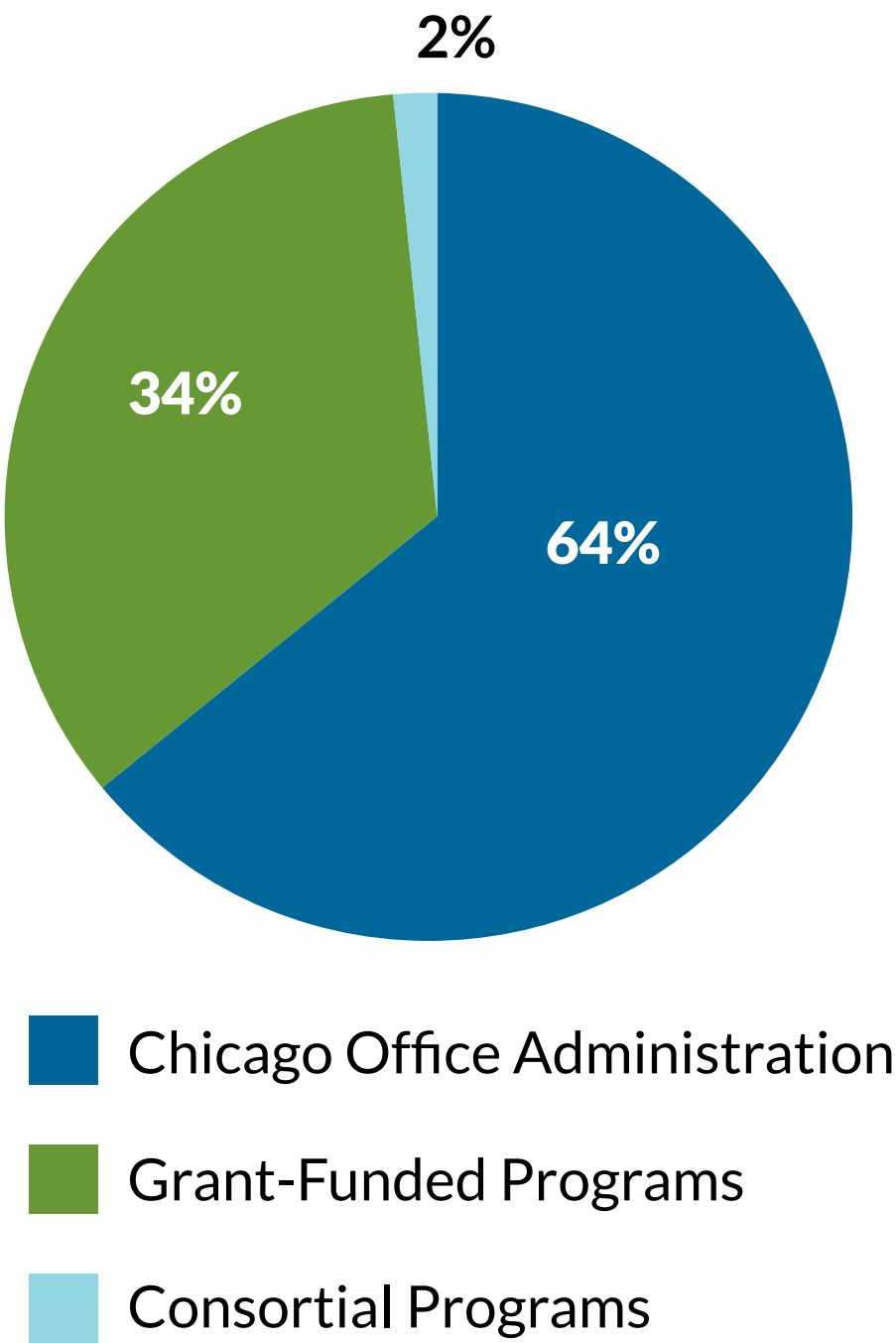
FISCAL YEAR 2026
REVENUE*
By Activity | Year Ending June 30, 2026

\$3,526,002

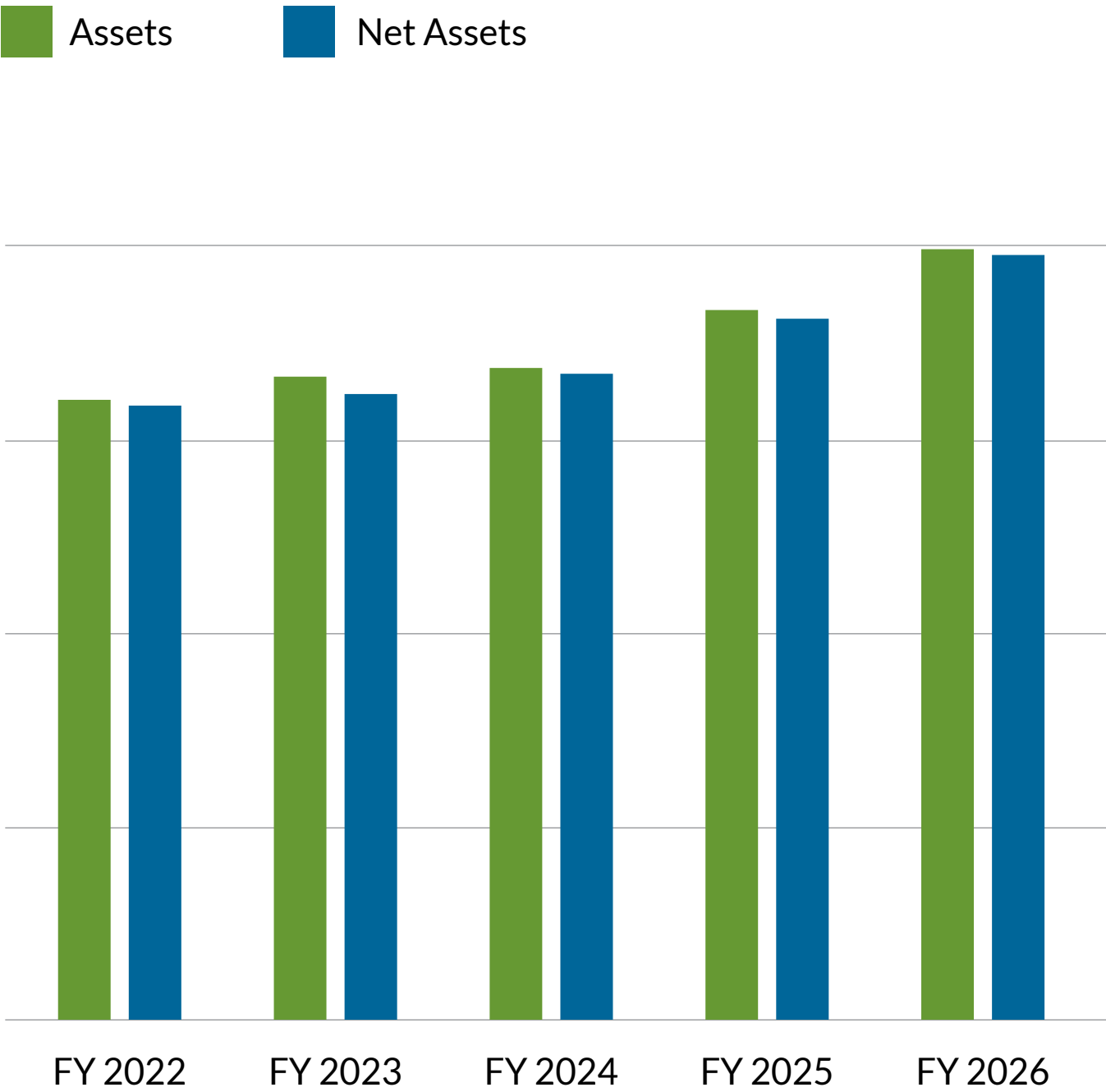


FISCAL YEAR 2026
EXPENSES*
By Activity | Year Ending June 30, 2026

\$1,897,367



FY2022 - FY 2026
ASSETS AND NET ASSETS*



*Unaudited numbers as of July 1, 2026.
Audited financial statements will be provided upon request

Meet the ACM Team



LISA JASINSKI
President



CARRIE CONZELMAN
Vice President for Finance



BETSY HUTULA
Chief Operating Officer and
Vice President for Administration



ALLEN LINTON II
Senior Director of Equity,
Diversity, and Inclusion



GRACE MCKEE
Data Specialist and Executive
Assistant to the President



LYNN MURRAY-CHANDLER
Vice President for Programs and
Professional Development



MICHAEL VERTOVEC
Associate Program Manager and
Communications Coordinator



2025-2026

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President, Beloit College
- JONATHAN BRAND**
President, Cornell College
- ALISON BYERLY**
President, Carleton College
- LAURIE A. CARTER**
President, Lawrence University
- BRADLEY CHAMBERLAIN**
President, Luther College
- PATRICIA DRAVES**
President, Monmouth College
- VICTORIA N. FOLSE**
President, Ripon College
- ANNE HARRIS**
President, Grinnell College*
- DAVID HAYES**
President, Coe College

- LISA JASINSKI**
President, Associated Colleges of the Midwest**
- C. ANDREW MCGADNEY**
President, Knox College
- SUZANNE M. RIVERA**
President, Macalester College
- SUSAN RUNDELL SINGER**
President, St. Olaf College
- MIKE SOSULSKI**
President, Lake Forest College
- MANYA WHITAKER**
President, Colorado College

* Board of Directors Chair
** Ex officio member

2025-2026

ACM Advisory Board

- LISA ANDERSON-LEVY**
Executive Vice President and Provost, Macalester College
- PAMELA BACON**
Provost, Luther College
- PETER BLITSTEIN**
Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Lawrence University
- EMILY CHAN**
Vice President & Dean of the Faculty, Colorado College
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Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Grinnell College
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- TARA NATARAJAN**
Krebs Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty, Lake Forest College
- DONNA OLIVER**
Provost and Dean of the College, Beloit College
- DANIEL PROSTERMAN**
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Cornell College
- JOHN SISCO**
Vice President and Dean of Faculty, Ripon College*
- TARSHIA STANLEY**
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, St. Olaf College
- MARK WILLHARDT**
Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Monmouth College
- ANGELA ZISKOWSKI**
Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Coe College

* Advisory Board Chair



ACM
ASSOCIATED COLLEGES
OF THE MIDWEST

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acm@acm.edu