FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Dr. Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director
bsadusky@mdacc.org; (410) 974 - 8117
www.mdacc.org

College Completions Rise Again at Maryland Community Colleges
Associate Degrees Awarded Up 48%; Certificates Awarded Up 51%

Catonsville, MD, December 2, 2016 – Hundreds of faculty from Maryland’s community colleges met today at the 7th annual Summit on Completion, to identify and collaborate on successful strategies to further enhance the colleges’ seven years of gains in student completion of both degree programs and career certificate programs. Organized by the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), the annual Summit is hosted by the Community College of Baltimore County in Catonsville, Maryland.

“Many students enter community college without clear plans for education and career,” said keynote speaker, Thomas Bailey, author of “Redesigning Community Colleges” and director of the Community College Research Center. “This lack of clarity can cause missteps and prevent students from completing. Community colleges need to provide guided pathways; and they must have sufficient financial resources to support that effort.”

Largely due to technological advances, demand for unskilled workers is steadily declining. Today’s marketplace needs workers with training and education beyond high school. To help address Maryland’s skills gap, the state’s community colleges launched a completion initiative in 2010, and have seen consistent increases in college completions since that time.

“The digital economy is creating the middle skills workplace. Middle skills jobs require training and education beyond high school, but don’t require a four-year degree,” said Dr. Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director of MACC. “In some cases, jobs requiring an associate degree or professional certification can actually pay better than jobs requiring a bachelor’s degree. Community college credentials add value and create opportunity.”

About Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC)

At 16 Maryland community colleges, 23 campuses and more than 1000 learning sites across the state, 500,000 community college students annually pursue academic degrees, 150+ certifications in career and technical training, and diverse courses that refresh and develop career and life skills. Key partners in local economic development, Maryland community colleges deliver customized training designed to meet immediate, local labor needs and ensure the availability of a skilled workforce to attract new businesses and employers. MACC is an advocate for the state’s community colleges and the educational needs of the students they serve. For more information about MACC and Maryland’s community colleges, visit www.mdacc.org or call (410) 974-8117.

###