

Good morning, Bobcats.

At Frostburg State University, we are committed to providing a welcoming campus environment where learning is inclusive, dialogue is encouraged and every member of Bobcat Nation is valued and respected for their human diversity.

As we continue our celebration of 100 years of Black History Month commemorations by honoring the profound contributions of Black Americans, we are provided an important opportunity for reflection and action. As I mentioned in my message last week, our students, faculty and staff are continuously helping define what that civic responsibility and community engagement look like today.

Black history comes to life through service and advocacy, whether done in the classroom or within the community. Our Bobcats are engaging with history in ways that connect the past with present-day challenges and opportunities, and this type of leadership is a reminder that Black history is not a single moment or something we study, it is something we actively carry forward every day.

Throughout February, I encourage students, faculty and staff to take time to participate in Black History Month celebrations happening across campus. These programs and events reflect the richness of Black history and our shared commitment to an engaged and informed campus. Our Office of Alumni Relations has kicked off a social media campaign to highlight African American alumni who have achieved success in the workplace, advocated for equality or helped pave the way for future generations. If you would like to nominate a Bobcat for this recognition, please do so using this [form](#).

Some other events taking place this month include:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon will be held on Friday, February 13, from noon to 3 p.m. in CCIT 235. Students, faculty, staff, administrators and community members are invited to assist organizers with transcribing materials related to the Colored Conventions Project. Contact Dr. Amy Branam Armiento for more information.
- The University Programming Council and the Black Student Alliance are partnering to host comedian Joyelle Nicole Johnson, who made her network TV debut on Late Night with Seth Meyers and more recently performed on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon twice in one year. Her first stand-up special LOVE JOY was nominated for a Critics' Choice Award and is available on Peacock. This free event will be held on Wednesday, February 18, at 6 p.m. in the ARMAH.

I am grateful to those of you who have worked to create meaningful opportunities for learning, and I am proud of our students for their compassion and willingness to lead with purpose. As

we recognize Black History Month, I ask that we all recommit to learning from each other and to upholding the principles of community that unite us as a university.

Thank you for being part of a community where we all belong.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD  
Interim President