

Good afternoon, Bobcats!

I hope that everyone had a nice weekend and enjoyed the chance to spend time with family and friends.

Springtime on our campus is in full bloom. This season of growth is the perfect time to reflect on our accomplishments and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead. I would like to congratulate our Exercise and Sport Science programs for being awarded continued accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences. Thank you to the faculty and staff in our Department of Kinesiology for their hard work and dedication.

I would also like to extend my **congratulations** to Christina Burke-Poland, the director of our Student Health Center, for being recognized as a 2025 Health Care Hero by The Daily Record. This award honors individuals and organizations for the impact they have made on providing quality health care and for demonstrating strong empathy, compassion and listening skills.

Our Department of Admissions recently hosted two very successful events that will continue to help us increase our enrollment. Frostburg had a total of 118 students and their families on campus for Admitted Students Day March 28, and we already have 135 students registered for the next one scheduled for later this week. We also had the opportunity to host 142 students and their families on Campus Visit Day April 12. Thank you to Dave Garcia and his staff in Admissions for ensuring these events were successful.

Several of our student leaders also had the unique opportunity to engage in a conversation with Maryland Senator Angela Alsobrooks, giving them the chance to better understand her current initiatives, the complex social and political issues facing Marylanders today and the chance to contribute to solutions moving forward. Thank you to our Office of Civic Engagement and the Beall Institute for Public Affairs for arranging this visit with the Senator.

FSU also played host to the Tri-State Growth and Commerce Coalition's (TGCC) spring networking luncheon where attendees had the opportunity to learn more about TGCC and ways to collaborate on FSU's initiatives.

Frostburg's 166th Commencement is just around the corner. I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our graduates on May 22. During the 9:30 a.m. ceremony we will present an Honorary Doctorate degree to current member of the FSU Foundation Board of Directors and retired director of information management for the CIA, **Mr. Joseph W. Lambert '79**.

As the semester winds down, I would like to commend our faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication this year as we work collectively to move FSU forward. Your efforts are inspiring and give me confidence that Frostburg will remain a beacon of “affordable excellence” and innovation in our region.

I would be remiss if I didn’t also applaud our students who have remained resilient in their academic journeys and who continue to be enthusiastic about their futures. It brings me great joy to see their smiling faces throughout campus knowing that each step they take at FSU brings them closer to achieving their goals.

Now let’s remain focused and do the hard work necessary to end this year on a high note and with the momentum to carry us into the fall. And in the spirit of springtime, let’s continue to foster a sense of belongingness on our campus that supports collaboration and growth.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD

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