

Good morning, Bobcats!

I trust you had a great weekend! I want to remind you about a few upcoming events planned for this week that you won't want to miss.

First, our FSU Welcome: Updates and Celebration (formerly State of the University) will be held tomorrow in the ARMAH with a light breakfast at 8 a.m. followed by our program at 8:30 a.m. The event will not be livestreamed but will be recorded and posted on our webpage afterwards. I encourage everyone to attend in-person, if possible, as it will be an exciting morning with a lot to celebrate.

I will provide divisional updates, and Dr. Mathias will share the vision for the new Division of Academic and Student Affairs, including priorities and key initiatives for the year.

As in the past, we will also announce the recipients of the President's Distinguished Faculty and Staff Awards and the three winners of the Human Resources Staff Awards for Excellence. The President's awards recognize a faculty and staff member who has provided exceptional service to the University and who has advanced our mission, goals and priorities. The annual staff awards recognize those individuals who have provided exceptional service to the University. I am looking forward to the surprise!

On Thursday, September 18, FSU, in cooperation with the Maryland Arts Council, will host an art dedication for two unique pieces that were installed on our campus last year. We are honored to welcome David Hess, the artist behind the "*Allegany Survey*" sculpture located outside of the Education and Health Sciences Center. The opening reception begins at 9:30 in EHSC Room 209. I hope that you can join us.

Also on Thursday, our much-anticipated Appalachian Festival will return to campus for its 20th year and will run through Saturday, Sept. 20. I encourage everyone to stop by to experience the performances, workshops and displays, sample the food and peruse the wide variety of artisans in attendance.

Finally, FSU will host a Family Fun Day on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the home football game vs. West Liberty. You should have received an email last week outlining all the details of this family-friendly occasion.

I hope you will take the opportunity to stop by one of more of these exciting events to make the most of all that FSU has to offer and to show your Bobcat pride. I am also looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of some of our faculty and staff and highlighting our priorities for the upcoming academic year at the FSU Welcome.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD

Interim President

