

Good morning, Bobcats.

I trust that you enjoyed the three-day weekend and the “unofficial” end to summer. I also hope that you took a moment to recognize the significance of Labor Day to appreciate the contributions hardworking Americans have made to our country.

I’d like to begin by congratulating our football team on an awesome season-opening 41-27 win over Shepherd on Saturday! It was exciting to see so many Bobcat fans cheering our team on to this amazing victory! Frostburg’s fighting spirit was on full display and is a sign of a great year ahead.

With the first week of classes under our belts, hopefully everyone can begin to settle into a new routine. But please remember as you’re rushing to classes and studying for exams that college is about more than just academics – this is a time to explore your passions, find your people and, together, shape your future selves. I encourage all of you to get out and get involved. Bobcat Nation needs your time and talents to help enrich the lives of others and to build better, stronger relationships.

FSU has so much to offer, and we are committed to providing a welcoming campus environment where everyone is valued and respected. On our campus, everyone deserves the opportunity to be successful. And it is everyone’s responsibility to acknowledge, uphold and practice what it means to be part of an inclusive community.

Please know that “diversity, equity and inclusion” is not defined by one person or one office on campus. It is defined by our actions. Here at FSU, diversity is one of our greatest strengths, one that we celebrate every day. We create spaces where everyone feels welcome. Our Adams/Wyche Multicultural Center is available to our entire campus community to convene programs, meetings or educational and social gatherings. We offer programs that reflect the unique traditions of many cultures. Our Cultural Events Series (CES) is dedicated to bringing multi-cultural performing artists to our region and provides our community the opportunity to appreciate cultural differences.

So, I encourage you to listen and learn from one another while you’re here with us. The backgrounds, experiences and perspectives of others can be eye-opening and life-changing and are the foundation of our vibrant campus community. Here at Frostburg, your voice matters, and we’re excited to hear what you have to say.

Bobcat Nation truly *is* a family. And just like families, let’s continue to support and uplift one another. Embrace each other’s differences. Promote civility and respect. And work together to make Frostburg State University a place where everyone belongs.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD
Interim President