

Jan. 13, 2017

Good morning,

I hope everyone's new year is off to a wonderful beginning. Please let me share a few items as we approach the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Graduation. We had a very successful graduation ceremony in December with nearly 600 graduates. We had our first graduates from our master's degree program in nursing. I am very proud (and know the faculty and staff are as well) of each graduate.

Governance. I just approved the by-laws for the creation of the Frostburg State University Staff Senate, which exists starting today. Thanks to Jay Hegeman and his committee, which spent last semester working with other staff to propose the senate concept. I think it complements well the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association as we continue to recognize shared governance on campus.

The ad hoc University Advisory Council also recommended making the Council permanent, which I support. The University Advisory Council consists of all of the executive cabinet, 3 faculty, 3 students, and 3 staff members. I am asking a subcommittee of a VP, faculty member, staff member, and student member from the Council to draft operating by-laws and a way for electronically sharing the work of the Council with the University community.

Small Business Revolution. The city of Frostburg was selected as one of eight semi-finalists in a national competition for funding to support downtown business development. The competition is sponsored by Deluxe Corporation. If we are selected as a finalist, there will be a Hulu TV-series produced here about Frostburg. The Small Business Revolution team visited Frostburg earlier this week, and I know they found FSU as an asset in the competition.

If we win, then Robert Herjavec, from ABC's *Shark Tank*, and Amanda Brinkman, from Deluxe and shown in the video link below, will be here to work with Frostburg, and I have a commitment from them to spend time with FSU students and faculty. The visiting team was [impressed with the number of young women who have businesses in Frostburg](#), as well as the possibility of having the university help shape the future of the town.

You can still help throughout January by liking, commenting on and sharing [this video](#) on your own social media (and ask all your friends to help, too), or make your own (public) posts about your love of Frostburg with the hashtag #MyFrostburg.

Finalists will be announced Feb. 9. If we are selected as a finalist, there will be a voting contest through social media, and I know our campus can help make Frostburg the winner!

Spring (semester) is coming: Finally, the beginning of the spring semester is coming soon, and I look forward to having the students and faculty back on campus. If any student has concerns or questions about returning for the spring semester, please let me know via [email](#), and we will do what we can to assist. And as we celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, please reflect on what you personally can do to help make this a better community.

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