

Feb. 26, 2018

Good afternoon,  
Here is an update on a few items on campus:

Feb 24 – important day in our history. A legislative bill to establish the school that became Frostburg State University (State Normal School #2, as it was known then) was introduced in the House of Delegates. What is interesting is that both this bill and the Senate bill would have two favorable votes each, but neither got the necessary third vote. That's what went on 120 years ago during the legislative session. So February and March are used for debating the idea of a school in Western Maryland. The next big important date happens in April!

Visit by Senator Cardin. We had a visit by U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and his staff to campus on Saturday. He heard about what we are doing to link our academic programs to needs in the state, in particular health care. We also briefed the Senator on our regional development efforts. He was very complimentary of FSU, and he indicated Congress is concerned about rural areas of this country, and he would support funding to improve rural areas like Western Maryland. We also discussed a recent federal grant to support research on autonomous vehicles here at FSU. He hopes that type of research can attract more high-tech industry to this region.



Brownsville. You may not be aware of this fact, but the area of the Upper Quad was once the community of Brownsville, home to Frostburg's African-American community. Members of the University community, under the leadership of Dr. Amy Branam Armiento, are working to establish a monument to the community and the families who were displaced as Frostburg State Teachers College grew. It is fitting to talk about Brownsville as we celebrate Black History Month. You can learn more about Brownsville through this recent story: <http://www.localdvm.com/news/maryland/frostburg-state-university-planning-on-honoring-brownsville-community-with-monument/987602833>.

Ricky Arnold. Our Astronaut alum. Ricky Arnold, class of '85, will be returning to the International Space Station next month. This will be his second trip to space and the longer of the two. He has arranged with NASA to do a broadcast from space back to FSU. It is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 9. We are hoping to host middle school students from the region to keep their enthusiasm for science high and to feature FSU and what we have to offer to them. We'll have more details later as the date approaches.

Over one month into the semester! We are now in week 5 of this semester. I hope everyone is progressing with his or her studies. However, if you feel you could use some advice or help, please reach out through our faculty and staff. You can do that informally or through one of the offices on campus that can assist you. What is most important is that you succeed. Don't wait too long to seek out advice and help. It is easier to get back on track now than in April. Also, if you are thinking about summer employment, internships, or what you will be doing after graduation, please stop by the [Career and Professional Development Center](#) or talk with your faculty, especially for those of you interested in graduate education.

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