Good Afternoon,

We are quickly approaching one of the busier and more entertaining weekends of the academic year — Homecoming. We will be welcoming hundreds of alums back to campus this weekend, starting on Thursday. I encourage each of you to enjoy the events and weather that is forecast. Here are just a few of the events going on:

- Thursday: Retirees' luncheon. This is an opportunity for retired faculty and staff to get together on campus to share memories and see the changes on campus. The combined number of service years of the attendees often exceeds 1,000 years!
- Thursday: Campus Pep Rally. The Student Homecoming Committee is holding a pep rally at 7 p.m. in the main arena in the PE Center.
- Friday: Career Expo "Engage." From 9 a.m. until noon, alums will be talking about their careers and answering questions. It is a great opportunity for current students to network with alums and learn more about potential careers. Info about the expo can be found at the link here.
- Saturday: Veterans Center Dedication. At 11 am, we will dedicate the new home of the Veterans
 Center at the corner of Park and Braddock. The Veterans Center is one example of why FSU
 continues to receive national recognition as a "Military Friendly" school.
- Saturday: Bobcats vs. Montclair State. The nationally ranked FSU football team will be taking on Montclair State in a conference game at 1 pm.
- Saturday: "All Fired Up" Ceramics Opening Reception. An alumni and student ceramics show will have its opening reception from noon until 2 p.m. at the Ann Roper Gallery in the Fine Arts Building. The exhibit will also be open Sunday afternoon.
- Saturday: Women's and Men's Soccer. FSU women and men take on Salisbury University in soccer at 5 and 7 p.m., respectively.
- Saturday: Oktoburgfest. Festivities conclude with an evening of music and activities for students and alumni in the Lane Center from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.
- Enjoy the weekend and please be thoughtful, considerate of others, and safe!!

<u>Coppin State partnership in Education</u>. We are proud of a program bringing Coppin State education majors to Western Maryland and taking FSU education students to Baltimore. This collaborative program is an example of how we can enhance the learning experience by working with other system schools. You can learn more about this program at the link <u>here</u>.

Office of Regional Development & Engagement. The Governor announced on Friday that he would be adding \$300,000 to our annual budget to support an Office of Regional Development and Engagement (RDE) at FSU. The RDE will support regional businesses and organizations as they address economic and community needs in Western Maryland. The Office will look for ways for faculty and students to get involved in regional projects that utilize faculty expertise and allow students to apply what they have learned in the classroom through internships and course credit. The Office will not replace what county and regional governmental agencies do; but rather bring the human resources of FSU to the table in an effort to improve our region. Partnerships among entities in the region and FSU will be essential for

success. We hope to secure additional funding to support this office as it matures. The Office will begin operations in July of 2018.

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