

Welcome to February 2023. Here are a few updates:

Black History Month. February begins Black History Month. While Black History month began under President Ford in 1976, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926. A theme is highlighted each year. This year it is [Black Resistance](#). You'll be hearing more about our events for Black History Month.

Gov. Moore Visit. Gov. Wes Moore is scheduled to meet with the USM presidents next Monday in Baltimore. Among the topics I hope we discuss is his proposal for service to the community and what that might mean for state colleges and universities. Service was a major theme in his inaugural address. When I met with then-Candidate Moore earlier in 2022, he talked about his ideas regarding service to the citizens of Maryland.

MSCHE Self-Study. Our Self-Study co-chairs, Sara Beth Bittinger, Sudhir Singh and Sara Wilhelm, met with our MSCHE VP liaison, Dr. Terence Peavy, to plan the initial months of action for our self-study – which culminates in a site visit in spring 2025. I met with the co-chairs yesterday evening to review the self-study committee membership. Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be finalizing the committee structure and membership. The committees will be organized around the seven standards for accreditation.

Federal funding to support FSU initiatives. As was reported in FSU StateLines this week, FSU was awarded \$1.25 million to support the FSU Regional Science Center (\$750K) and the College of Education's Maryland Accelerates program (\$500K). Both of these initiatives are in keeping with FSU's commitment and history in terms of Education and STEM. Congrats to those who helped make this happen.

Update on Strategic Planning. Please save Feb. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. for an in-person meeting to discuss the summary findings from our strategic planning session held in November. The goal is to develop two or three priorities that will be our focus for the next two to three years. When USM consultant, Dr. Rick Legon, visited FSU in December he concurred with the concept of a shorter strategic timeline than the traditional 5+ year strategic plan because of all the uncertainty nationally in higher education as we come out of the pandemic and technology advances.

125 years ago. Three interesting pieces in the Frostburg Mining Journal of Feb. 5, 1898.

The first is this brief editorial:

The Journal hopes that when Hon. James Campbell is informed, in connection with the location of the Normal School in Frostburg, that "the Sixth District wants everything," he will respond by announcing that Frostburg is not in "the Sixth District" referred to. That district, coming westward, stops at Cumberland. All Frostburg has is a post-office, and it is reported that Cumberland, the western terminus of the district, has selected for us an incumbent of that place. Can't we, then, have something – just something; in fact, just one thing? Can't we have the Normal School?

The second article focuses on Baltimore vs. Western Maryland:

The *Baltimore American*, referring to “the Sixth district,” said concerning the Normal School —

Of course they want it.

Next day the *Cumberland News*, referring directly to the movement of “a number of leading citizens of Frostburg” toward obtaining its location here, echoed the same innuendo —

Of course, they want it.

What has this region got to show for the millions of tribute its labor has paid to both Cumberland and Baltimore?

Nothing whatever but the right to keep on working and contributing!

The third article on Page 1 (a bit of a spoiler alert for stories to come later), talks about the value of “pure water” and the social and economic impact of water-borne diseases, especially typhoid fever.

Lastly, I thank VP Artie Travis for his thoughtful email to campus earlier this week regarding the unnecessary and tragic death of Mr. Tyre Nichols in Memphis. His sentiments and thoughts are shared by members of the executive team and me. I hope for the day when this country can focus on helping all people achieve their full potential and replace the violence that continues to plague this country.

Please continue to be healthy and safe. Go Bobcats.

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD

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