

Good afternoon,

Here is a brief update from FSU as we begin the month of June.

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. LGBTQIA+ Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. You can learn more about this celebration [here](#). The campus organization, [Spectrum](#) “aims to provide a safe space for everyone on campus, to promote equality for everyone, and to make a positive impact on our community for LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and youth.”

Welcome. Dr. Traki Taylor begins her role as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs today. She is joining us from the State University System of Florida. Also, Dr. Mike Mathias has transitioned to his new role as Interim Dean of CLAS today. Welcome to them both in their new roles.

Graduation thank you. Thanks to all that made the May 19 commencement ceremony a success. It was wonderful to have everyone in attendance and to award the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to our alum, Major General Rob Edmonson. I hope the graduates found his thoughts on belonging and reaching for success inspiring.

Updates on Strategic Enrollment Plan. I’ll be scheduling monthly meetings this summer with the academic chairs to provide updates on the progress of our strategic enrollment plan. Updates will also be provided to the Staff Senate at their regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

Capital Improvements. Construction on the new Education and Health Sciences Center continues. We hope to see the heating and air conditioning units installed this month. They have been on backorder. Interior renovations to the Adams/Wyche Multicultural Center are underway with a completion date this fall. You will also see other projects underway as we begin spending our facilities renewal funds and some of the capital funds provided by the state for FSU. Frederick Hall will be the next major residence hall scheduled for renovations and we will begin some design work for Cambridge Hall as well.

Personal Health. Please continue to monitor your health as we move into the warm summer months. Allegany and Garrett Counties both continue to be listed by the CDC as “low transmission” areas for Covid-19. Many of the counties east of us have moved to “medium or high” transmission. Please assume responsibility for your health and be considerate of other community members.

FSU Foundation. The Board of Directors of the FSU Foundation will be meeting on campus this Friday. These Directors have been very supportive in advancing our capital campaign, “Forging Futures.” I very much appreciate their input and help, especially in terms of scholarships for our current and prospective students.

Chartwells hosting Chamber “After Hours” event. All FSU employees are members of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce. Chartwells is hosting the June “After Hours” event on June 15 from 5:30 until 7:30 in the Chesapeake Teaching Kitchen. It costs \$5 to attend and you can find out how to register for the event [here](#). This is a great opportunity to see the Teaching Kitchen and thank the Chartwells staff for all their efforts this past year. You can also meet with many others from the companies and organizations that make up the Allegany County Chamber.

Please use the summer to take some time for yourself and your family. Even though we've been through much over the past two years and still have some challenges ahead of us, we have overcome many of the obstacles we have confronted. I'm confident we will continue to succeed but want to be sure we don't lose sight of our own well-being and that of our family and friends.

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