

Good morning,

Here are a few items for the campus community.

Some events:

- *Chancellor's Visit today.* Coffee with the Chancellor - Atkinson Room 9:30 – 10:40 a.m. (open to all faculty and staff); Student lunch with the Chancellor – Chesapeake noon – 1:15 p.m. (open to all students)
- *Family Weekend.* Family weekend events are [on our website](#). Please join in welcoming family members who are on campus this weekend. Looks like good weather!
- *Campus Visit Day.* We'll be holding our first campus visit day for prospective students and their families on Saturday. Again, with all the activities on campus, it should be a good event to showcase the campus. We've already admitted over 50 students for next fall's class.

Appalachian Festival. It was very nice to be able to host the Appalachian Festival on campus once again. Thank you to all who helped put on the festival. The community clearly enjoyed the chance to be back on campus for this celebration.

Census Numbers. Our fall undergraduate enrollment census numbers were lower than hoped for. Our graduate enrollment numbers showed another year of increase with much of that attributed to online programming. Another bright spot was undergraduate retention. We saw retention increases at all undergraduate levels compared with last year. We had hoped for a total headcount of 4270. Our headcount at census was 4068. As I mentioned in the State of the University address last week, we have a target of over 4600 students for next fall. We are forming a strategic enrollment council to keep us on track for that goal, an ambitious but achievable goal.

Nursing Programs. Congratulations to the Nursing faculty and the leadership in Academic Affairs and CLAS for successfully navigating two new programs. MHEC approved both a 4-year on-campus nursing program and an online LPN to BSN program. We will be submitting these programs for review by the state board of nursing and preparing to recruit students into both programs.

PA Program. Congrats also to our PA students who won a "jeopardy-like" contest on medical knowledge featuring seven other PA programs (including all Maryland programs) this past week in Ocean City.

Homecoming. Homecoming is two weeks away. I hope everyone is planning on enjoying the many events and welcoming many alumni(ae) back to campus. More info on the events can be found on our website. The opening of a photo exhibit by our alum, Dr. Ricky Arnold, will be one of the weekend highlights. The exhibit features photos taken by Ricky from the International Space Station.

Please continue to be safe. Go Bobcats!

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
President
Frostburg State University
101 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532-2303

(v) 301.687.4111 ; (f) 301.687.7070

You may also seek assistance by contacting:

Mrs. Donnell H. VanSkiver, CAP, MEP, OM

Executive Administrative Assistant

Email: dhvanskiver@frostburg.edu



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