

Oct. 8, 2019

As I mentioned in my last update, I have asked each of the vice presidents to take turns sharing updates from their respective divisions. Our first update is from Ms. Arlene Wesley Cash, VP for Enrollment Management and Student Success:

Greetings Frostburg State University Team!

It is hard to believe that we are already at mid-term, and mid-term warnings have been collected and distributed across the campus. As you might imagine, this is one of the most important milestones in our students' academic experience each semester. It is a time when they can take stock of their progress in each of the classes while there is still a chance for them to make adjustments and improvements where necessary. I am hoping that soon we will have an opportunity to not just send these warnings, but accolades as well, providing our students with words of encouragement and kudos for jobs well done so far. If you have a student working in your area, this is a good time to ask how things are going and remind them of the many resources available, designed specifically to enhance their chances for success. Whenever you can, send them our way; we look forward to helping in any way possible.

Speaking of success, soon you will see four new faces on campus belonging to our newly hired "Student Success Coaches." These individuals will be working with first-year students with the sole purpose of leading, guiding, cajoling and encouraging them to get connected with the very best parts of FSU. While we hoped that all four would be starting on October 9th, one of those hired stepped away to take a job at another college for a significantly different position. We are well on the way to hiring a new #4 and expect to have that process completed no later than October 24th. An important role of the coaches will be to connect first-year students with our most valuable institutional resources, you! Whether they are giving students some encouragement to drop in on a professor's office hours, or walking them to the counseling center to talk to someone about a personal problem they are having, Success Coaches are expected to know each of their students (185 each!) and be available to all of us to help us help them. We will have some information sessions later this month, and I would love to hear from anyone who would like them to visit their departments and talk to their staffs. "HomeBase" for the coaches will be 138 Pullen, but we are also setting up meeting spaces across the campus where they can connect with students in more comfortable and convenient places. If there is a space they can use in your area from time to time, please let us know! We are also looking for couches and comfy chairs for the offices. Look for a short video chat from them later this week as they introduce themselves to our students and the University on our Instagram site. Later they will be posting on our website as well.

Thanks to everyone who helps out with our Open House Programs for prospective students. These all-campus events are our most productive programs with students and parents leaving feeling a very real and supportive vibe from the community as a whole. These are GenZ students, and authenticity is a required aspect of every interaction they have with us. As of today, we are about 35% ahead with completed applications and have admitted 25 students already. (We hadn't admitted any last year at this time). If there is additional information you'd like to know about

our progress in bringing in more students, please feel free to ask or connect with either of these sites for reports:

- Assessment and Institutional Research: <https://www.frostburg.edu/academics/air/index.php>
- Fast Facts 2019: <https://www.frostburg.edu/academics/air/files/pdfs/fast-facts/factsheetfsu2019.pdf>

Finally, I'd like to share some news. Our top Admissions administrators, Wray Blair (Associate VP for Admissions and Financial Aid) and Patricia Gregory (Director of Admissions) have decided to retire from the university at the end of this semester. If you see them, please add your well-wishes to mine and congratulate them on their retirement. They have seen FSU through some very difficult times and extenuating challenges, and I am extremely grateful for the expertise, energy and passion they brought to their every single day. They will be missed.

Again, thank you for all that you do to make our enrollment and student success work better and in a more meaningful way here.

Arlene Wesley Cash
Vice President for Enrollment Management
and Student Success