

Dear FSU Campus Community,

I am writing with an update on an initiative we launched earlier this year that advances our mission and responds to today's student realities. In partnership with Allegany College of Maryland, Frostburg State University is moving forward with the ACM–FSU Transfer Intensive to strengthen transfer pathways, expand access and support student success.

Many students, especially working adults and first-generation learners, begin at community college while balancing work, family and financial demands. Their success depends on clear, coordinated pathways. Through our participation in the Maryland Statewide Transfer Intensive, supported by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Aspen Institute, this work is helping us remove barriers and improve outcomes.

The ACM–FSU Transfer Intensive is a joint effort to redesign the transfer experience—from entry at ACM through bachelor's completion at FSU. Our initial focus areas are:

- Business
- Teacher Education
- Psychology

These programs were selected based on student demand, workforce relevance and strong potential for seamless transfer.

Our teams are aligning curricula and advising, streamlining processes and improving communication. Key strategies include earlier recruitment and academic planning; enhanced orientation, campus visits and engagement; and coordinated use of student support tools. A dedicated FSU advisor at ACM will provide continuous, personalized guidance to help ensure credits transfer smoothly and degree pathways remain clear.

Beyond individual student success, this work strengthens Western Maryland by supporting degree completion, meeting workforce needs and promoting regional economic vitality.

This initiative will continue to develop over the summer, and it directly advances a key strategic growth objective for FSU: increasing transfer enrollment and ensuring transfer students persist to degree. Importantly, to date we have seen a 17% increase in deposits from transfer students for this fall—an early sign that clearer pathways and stronger partnerships are making a difference. In August, we will share updates on goals, timelines and specific opportunities for faculty and staff to engage as we scale this work.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and our mission.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD
Interim President