

Dear Frostburg State University community,

As my time at Frostburg draws to a close, I am filled with deep gratitude for the extraordinary people who make Frostburg State University such a special place. Serving as your Interim President has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life, and I will always be thankful for the opportunity to be part of this remarkable community.

I am deeply grateful to our faculty and staff, board members, elected officials, community partners, alumni, and friends for your steadfast commitment to our mission, to one another, and to the students we are privileged to serve. Your dedication to education, service, and excellence has inspired me throughout these past 15 months and deepened my admiration for all that Frostburg represents. Together, you will continue to strengthen lives and communities across Maryland and throughout the Appalachian region for years to come.

I have been proud to work alongside you to help strengthen the foundation for Frostburg's future. I am confident that the University will continue to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Shadow Robinson, whose vision and commitment will help guide Frostburg with strength and purpose in the years ahead.

As I prepare to conclude my service on June 30, I do so with deep gratitude and genuine affection for this remarkable community. Serving Frostburg has meant far more to me than words can fully express. It has been a privilege to witness your resilience, your generosity, and the care you bring to our students each day. That spirit is what makes Frostburg so extraordinary, and it is something I will carry with me always.

Thank you for welcoming me, trusting me, and allowing me to serve alongside you during this important chapter in the life of the University. I leave with deep pride in all we have accomplished together, abiding faith in the strength of this institution, and great confidence that Frostburg's future will be marked by continued purpose, progress, and promise. Above all, I leave with heartfelt appreciation for each of you and for the many ways you make this university a source of hope and opportunity. Your kindness, your commitment to this institution, and the care you extend to our students each day have touched me deeply and will remain with me long after this chapter ends.

Frostburg State University will always hold a special place in my heart. I will carry this community with me with deep gratitude, abiding admiration, and genuine affection for years to come. May Frostburg continue to rise with strength, lead with purpose, and transform lives for generations.

With heartfelt thanks and every good wish,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD
Interim President