

Dear Bobcats,

Today marks one year since the passing of President Ron Nowaczyk, a leader whose commitment to Frostburg State University and to its students, faculty, staff and alumni continues to be felt deeply across campus.

Dr. Nowaczyk led FSU for nine years, noting before his passing that those years were the honor and privilege of his career. An educator himself, he wholeheartedly believed in the power of education to transform and improve lives. Under his leadership, Frostburg made important progress – always guided by what was in the best interest of the University, its students, and the broader community.

Anniversaries such as this invite us to reflect on Ron's legacy with gratitude and bind us together in our collective loss. Many in our community worked closely with him, learned from him and were proud to call him their colleague, neighbor and friend. Today, we honor not only Ron's leadership, but also the compassion and humanity he brought to his role as Frostburg's president.

In one of his final messages to the campus community, President Nowaczyk shared his hope that we never lose sight of why we are here - to prepare future leaders and, in small and big ways, to make the world in which we live a better place. Even a year later, his words and values continue to guide us.

On behalf of the entire FSU community, thank you for supporting one another and for carrying forward Ron's memory. Please keep his wife, Maureen, and son, Jake, in your thoughts today.

With gratitude,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD  
Interim President