

Good morning, Bobcats, and Happy Memorial Day!

The month of May was filled with numerous exciting events across campus that showcased the outstanding talent, dedication and hard work of our FSU community.

We recognized our students, faculty and staff with prestigious awards at the Leadership and Engagement Awards reception; several Bobcats were honored at the Chamber's Outstanding Business Students awards breakfast; and the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, the Deans' Student Colloquium and the CSIT Student Showcase shined a spotlight on phenomenal student projects.

Our Department of Theatre and Dance put on a magnificent spring production of *Legally Blonde!*, and countless students performed in recitals, concerts and expos. I also had the opportunity to attend the Hunan University of Technology and Business exhibition in the Stephanie Ann Roper Gallery, which also featured an array of other exhibits this spring.

Student-athletes made us proud too. Our women's lacrosse team won its 3rd consecutive MEC championship – way to go, ladies! It was a pleasure getting to know the mighty mission of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee at the President's lunch, seeing first-hand the commitment of its members and the positive impact our student-athletes have on campus and in the community. Likewise for the SGA awards. The depth and breadth of student leadership across the campus speaks volumes to the power of the FSU Bobcat Nation!

And, of course, the celebrations just kept coming. We held a Hooding Ceremony for our Educational Leadership Program, and I wish this year's cohort much success as they shape and change the future of education. I attended the graduation of our students in the Physician Assistant program in Hagerstown. I am certain that these graduates will make us proud as they will become the next generation of healthcare providers in our region.

We celebrated the achievements of outstanding graduating seniors and recognized several faculty members for excellence in teaching, academic achievement and university and community service at our Honors Convocation.

And we were excited to celebrate our first Nursing Pinning Ceremony for 90 nursing graduates, marking the completion of their academic journey and their official entry into the nursing profession.

I would like to personally acknowledge and thank the faculty and staff listed below. Our graduates named them specifically when asked who has made a positive and significant impact on them during their time here at FSU.

Thank you Phillip Allen, Martin Barrett, Justina Bennett, Jennifer Bishoff, Fannia Boayue, Kiersten Bradley, Jackie Brown, Latisha Cooper, Annie Danzi, Troy Dell, Jay DeWire, Jodi Eirich, Jenna Epstein, Jennifer Flinn, Nancy Giunta, Toni Hathaway, Kim Hinds-Brush, Audra Houser, Kate Kinsinger, David Lewis, Angie Luvara, Christopher Maschiocchi, Nicole Mattis, Fayan Meng, Emily Milleson, Dan Moorehead, Kumudini Munasinghe, Evan Offstein, Elisha Ruminski, Darrell Rushton, Ming Shou, Rubin Stevenson, Jaime Striplin, Ballard Suiter, Jamelyn Tobery-Nystrom, Jamie Winters and Lilly Ye. I promise that your dedication to our students does not go unnoticed.

Finally, it was heartwarming to see so many of you at our 166th Commencement to cheer on our graduates in the Class of 2025. I know I speak for our faculty and staff when I say that we are so proud of them and excited to see the incredible contributions they will make to society for years to come.

I couldn't be prouder to have had the opportunity to celebrate all these accomplishments and accolades. They are a testament to the vibrant spirit of excellence that defines Frostburg State University. Please join me once again in congratulating our Bobcat family for their remarkable contributions, and let's continue to support and celebrate with one another as we strive for even greater heights together.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD