

Dec. 17, 2020

Good afternoon,

This will be the last update of 2020.

Accomplishments. We've seen several recent announcements about successes at FSU. On an individual level, congrats to [Ms. Kaoutar Sahmoudi](#), [Ms. Bria' Johnson](#) and [Professor Scott Johnson](#). The local news also reported on the successful reaccreditation efforts of our [Department of Physics and Engineering](#) with ABET. And, of course, congratulations to the **December 2020 graduates** who had a [virtual celebration](#) on Dec. 11, as our in-person commencement ceremony is delayed until we can have large gatherings.

Spring 2021 Semester. We will provide an update about the spring semester, which starts Jan. 25, during the first week of the New Year. As stated earlier, our plan for now is a blended-format semester as in the fall, although the status of the pandemic may force changes. We will be monitoring the conditions in the region and consulting with the University System of Maryland. We will also be announcing testing protocols for spring in advance of the semester's start. You should also be aware that we have offered to be a point of delivery location for the vaccines if the local health department needs us.

Challenger Center. Frostburg State University was approached by the Challenger Center in 2018 about becoming a Center site. Given our strong education and sciences program and the fact that there were no other Challenger Centers nearby, the organization felt we could serve an important educational need in the region. We recently submitted a letter of intent to the Challenger Center to further those discussions. This could be an opportunity to enhance the relationship of our science and education faculty and students with school districts within an hour's drive of FSU. You can learn more about the Challenger Center at challenger.org.

Additional Holiday on July 2. You may be aware that the Governor announced an additional holiday next week. Given that we had already scheduled that day as a holiday, we will use July 2 as that holiday, providing employees a 4-day weekend break from July 2 through July 5.

Ongoing Position Searches. I was pleased to announce that Ms. Natalie Wagoner has agreed to be our next Director of Admissions. Many thanks to Mr. Bill Kraus for his work with us this fall as Interim Director. I anticipate you will be getting updates on the search for the Provost position as the search committee completes its initial interviews with a selected set of candidates.

In closing, I wish everyone a continued safe and relaxing holiday season. I think everyone will be glad to see 2020 over with, and we all hope for a better 2021 for our families, loved ones, communities, nation and world. Please be safe.

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
President

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