

Sept. 29, 2021

Good afternoon,

Here is an update on several FSU items:

**CARES Act Funding for Students.** Frostburg State University will soon be distributing approximately \$2.5 million to students as part of the Cares Act Funding this fall semester. *All full-time undergraduate students registered this fall will receive financial aid.* The awards will be based on the level of unmet student need along with their family's ability to contribute to college (Expected Family Contribution). **Students should watch for an email indicating how much they will receive and asking them how they want their funds to be applied.** We anticipate distributing another \$2.5 million this coming spring as well.

**State of the University Address.** This year's [State of the University Address](https://www.frostburg.edu/about-frostburg/office-of-the-president/state-of-the-university/index.php) will be virtual. I have recorded my portion of the address and it is available at [www.frostburg.edu/about-frostburg/office-of-the-president/state-of-the-university/index.php](https://www.frostburg.edu/about-frostburg/office-of-the-president/state-of-the-university/index.php). As we have done in the past, each of the Vice Presidents will also talk about activities in their divisions. These additional presentations will be coming out over the upcoming weeks, approximately one each week. Those presentations will also be available on the same [web page](#). We also are recognizing our new faculty and staff on this same site.

**Family Weekend.** This upcoming weekend we are welcoming families to campus. A listing of all weekend activities can be found at [www.frostburg.edu/student-community-involvement/student-life/family-weekend/family-weekend.php](https://www.frostburg.edu/student-community-involvement/student-life/family-weekend/family-weekend.php). There is plenty to choose from. We ask everyone to follow our [masking and safety guidelines](#). *I ask that students who have family members visiting remind their family to follow our masking and safety guidelines as well.* It is important that we all work together to keep the campus community safe.

**COVID-19.** Please continue to use the check-in app every day. This is an important that we use to assess the safety of campus. The app helps us monitor not only the testing of individuals who use our testing protocol, but also reports from individuals who are displaying symptoms or have taken tests elsewhere. I also encourage everyone to get a flu shot as soon as you can.

**Professional Certificates.** People often ask about how FSU will change because of this pandemic. We are finding many working adults are considering career or job changes. I am very pleased that we have launched the [Working Professional Certificates](#) program this fall in Manufacturing Leadership, Retail Management, Small Business Management and Nonprofit Management. The Working Professional Certificates program is designed to take one year of part-time study, earning 12-18 credits. Coursework will be entirely online, with accessible scheduling for working adults. Since courses are offered for undergraduate credit, students can take the certification or apply the courses toward a bachelor's degree in the future.

**Enrollment Update.** Now that we have passed our official census date, we can report where we are on enrollment. We saw a small decline in first-time students (new first-year students and

transfer students) from 980 last year to 919 this year, a 6% decline. Our number of returning undergraduates showed a larger decline from 4,119 students to 3,677 students this fall. As I mention in my State of the University address, we are investing significant additional funds this year for recruiting efforts as well as implementing recommendations to improve university advising — which is designed to help us retain students through graduation. At the graduate level we saw a 4% increase from 739 graduate students a year ago to 772 students this fall.

I hope everyone continues to be safe. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on campus during Family Weekend. Go Bobcats!

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