

Dec. 12, 2019

Good morning,

Here's my final update for 2019 as the semester winds down.

Holiday Reception. I want to remind faculty, staff and students that the President's Holiday Reception will be held on Monday, Dec 16, from 2 until 4 p.m. in the Lane Center's Manicur Hall. We are collecting unwrapped gifts for children, so please bring a gift or two to brighten a child's holiday.

Old Police Building. The lease with the City of Frostburg to use our old police building was signed earlier this week, and we expect them to be settled in by the time Winter Break is over. This is a temporary arrangement while the city renovates its police building. I want to thank the SGA, FSUPD Chief Smith and City Police Chief Nick Costello, who are working on opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to get to know the city's police officers better.

Brownsville Monument. The working group that is finalizing the recommended wording for the Brownsville Monument on campus has been meeting and is scheduled to complete its work by early in January. We hope to have the monument, which will commemorate the African American community that was displaced as the campus grew, in place with an unveiling ceremony before the end of the spring semester.

Groundbreaking on the new Education & Health Sciences Building. I have been in contact with the Governor's Office, and we are hoping to have the governor visit campus this spring for the new academic building's formal groundbreaking ceremony. Progress continues, and we are on schedule for the building to be completed by fall 2022. The latest architectural renderings will be on display at this month's update meeting (two options: today, Dec. 12, at 2:30 p.m. or Monday, Dec. 16, at 1 p.m., both in Lane 111).

Exams and Commencement. I wish all of our students the best as we approach the exam portion of this semester. Congratulations as well to the 509 students scheduled to graduate on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. Commencement is always a special event for our faculty, staff, graduates, and their families. Regent James Holzapfel will be joining us for the event. Details at frostburg.edu/commencement.

"Moving Billboard": I have included a photo of one of two local Allegany Transit buses that promote FSU in the local area — increasing the pride and visibility of the University to our local population. The second "FSU" bus is scheduled to go into service sometime in 2020.

Holiday Greeting Video:
Finally, if you missed this year's holiday greeting, you can view



it [here](#). The video came about because of a wonderful joining together of our faculty, staff, students and the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. Students and staff in the Department of Theatre and Dance Scene Shop painted, assembled and placed the North Pole set used for the railroad's very popular "Polar Express" train rides. My family and I enjoyed taking part in the video, and on behalf of them, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a safe and relaxing break.

We look forward to a successful 2020! Go Bobcats!

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President

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