

February 19, 2020

Here's our next vice presidential update, from Dr. Artie Lee Travis, vice president for Student Affairs.

Division of Student Affairs at Frostburg State University

"Where every day is a great day to work with students"

From the Desk of the Vice President:

I wanted to first say thank you to the Frostburg State University community for the welcome that I have been blessed to receive since I arrived on campus on Tuesday, January 29, 2020. I have been in my role for three weeks now and know that I made the right choice in accepting the offer to join Bobcat Nation.

The phrase "hitting the ground running" is so appropriate since my start. What is not unusual is that I have found Team Student Affairs to be a very committed group of professionals who understand that from entry to exit, we must be on top of our game to serve the students who have made/and will make a great choice in attending Frostburg State.

What I have also been impressed with are the students and student leaders that I have been able to meet, greet, and interact with on a daily basis, in particular, members of the Student Government Association, Black Student Alliance, the Bottom Line, Greek Life, Spectrum, the Society of Music Educators and others. Because I met so many passionate students at the Organization Fair, I plan to get out to visit as many student groups and organizations as I am able this semester.

Updates:

Celebration of Life for Donesha Chew;

The friends of Donesha and National Council of Negro Women really stepped up and provided support as Ms. Robin Wynder and the Lane University Center team assisted in helping the campus community come together to mourn/celebrate the life of one so dear to the community. The response by the student community was overwhelming and the family members of Donesha who attended were moved by the celebration and the love and regard that so many had for her. Special thanks to Chartwells for donating the food following the celebration.

"Can We Talk" (the SMART WAY)

Oftentimes, it takes a crisis and controversy to see real leadership emerge. After the video rant by one of our students emerged, the leadership in BSA, SGA and other groups came together to make a strong statement that the exhibited behavior is not something this Bobcat community supports. The "rant" stood in stark contrast to what many of our students believe and was condemned by the President and many others. "Can We Talk" is just the first step in healing and responding with the core values that we hold dear at Frostburg State University. The student who made the video is no longer a student at Frostburg State University. Bobcat Nation will move forward to celebrate diversity and inclusion with input from the students taking a lead role in finding answers.

Coronavirus Update

Dr. Jeff Graham and the Brady Heath team have been working overtime to keep the campus community updated on the impact of the Coronavirus, and we are convening an incident response team to make certain we have an updated Emergency Management Plan for this current health scare. The Center for International Education and Brady Health have been working hand in hand to support any of our students that may have traveled abroad before and during the initial outbreak.

Career & Professional Development:

Information regarding the Career Readiness certificate has been launched and emailed to faculty, staff, and students. The certificate includes developing basic career and professional competencies through individual consultations, seminars, and professional experiences. Please connect with Student Affairs in the [Career & Professional Development Center](#) to learn more about this opportunity for students.

Dr. Artie Lee Travis

Vice President, Division of Student Affairs