

Good morning. Here is this week's update.

Homecoming & Family Weekend

We had a very successful Homecoming/Family Weekend, our first time combining the two events. Over 2,000 alums returned to campus, and families enjoyed their time on campus as well. Thanks to everyone who welcomed our alums and families to campus for all the weekend events.

Also, thanks to the many retirees who attended the kickoff luncheon on the Thursday before Homecoming. We also honored several employees on significant anniversary dates.



FSU Foundation Board Meeting

Homecoming weekend also included a meeting of the FSU Foundation Board. Members of the FSU Foundation Board of Directors attended several Homecoming activities, and I want to thank them for their continuous generosity in reaching our financial goals to help support our students and our mission. An update of the budget and enrollments was provided to the Board. The Board also heard from students and advisors on Opportunity Grants, which are unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund.

- Funds provide unique opportunities for learning and discovery as well as meet the needs and challenges that faculty and students may be facing.

- Fund initiatives such as classroom and lab equipment, career development opportunities and hands-on training, music and arts events, student needs, STEM, travel opportunities and community programs.

HEDS Sense of Community Survey

A group has been formed called Bobcats Belong to lead our efforts as we focus on our Strategic Goal 2: Campus Environment and External Messaging – the promotion of a campus culture that emphasizes student success, enhances the well-being of our students and employees and fosters a sense of belonging.

An initial email with a link to complete a short survey went out to campus on 10/23/24 (faculty, staff, students and administrators). The survey closes 12/3/24 and asks participants to describe how they see our Frostburg campus community - Is it welcoming and supportive? Do you feel valued? We want to learn more about the sense of community that people at Frostburg State University experience so that we can promote an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. We hope that you will take the short survey (about 10 minutes) and share experiences that have encouraged or discouraged your feelings of connection to the Frostburg State University community.

Survey responses will be **anonymous**. The link in this survey will have you authenticate your affiliation with Frostburg State University, utilizing your FSU username, but it is not tied to your responses. Click the following link to complete the survey if you haven't already done so: https://heds.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_514G9zeaULH8v5Q.

State of the University Virtual Presentations

Our State of the University virtual presentations from our university divisions continue to be released weekly and include highlights from the past and key goals for the future of FSU. The presentations are available to view on the *Town Square* section of the faculty and staff portal as well as on our FSU website.

To date, we have heard from our vice president for Administration and Finance, Mr. Troy Donoway; our vice president for Student Affairs, Dr. Artie Travis; our assistant vice president for Student Affairs and senior Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Mrs. Robin Wynder; our acting vice president for Regional Development and Engagement, Ms. Jennifer Walsh; and our Interim Provost/VP for Academic Affairs, Dr. Larry Weill, and Dr. Sharman Adams (who served as the Acting Provost and VP for Academic Affairs for part of last year).

Still to come are presentations from University Advancement and my office.

Bobcat Innovation Launch Pad

FSU will host the 2nd Annual regional Bobcat Innovation Launch Pad competition this weekend (Nov. 1-3). The competition is an opportunity for teams to work quickly and collectively to develop business models and technology-based solutions to real world problems.

This year's theme is Revive & Thrive: Reimagining Rural Resilience. Participants will collaborate to create a comprehensive vision that addresses the economic, social and cultural needs of the region, fostering a strong sense of community and ensuring a vibrant future for Western Maryland.

The top three teams will receive starting funding, mentorship and resources to bring their innovations to life. FSU's partners include Maryland Innovation Initiative (MII), USM's Maryland Launch Fund, and TEDCO.

Please continue to enjoy the mild weather. Go Bobcats!

Ron