

Welcome back to campus, Bobcats!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer! It has been great to see the energy of the fall semester across campus the past few days!

I am excited to announce a campus challenge in honor of Frostburg State University's 125th Anniversary! At 9:30 a.m. on April 9, 2018, nearly 1,500 middle school students were seated either in Bobcat Arena or the Pealer Recital Hall. At that time, the International Space Station was nearing Australia and preparing for a downlink with Frostburg State University. For 25 minutes, those middle school students listened and watched while NASA astronauts Ricky Arnold and Drew Feustel answered questions posed to them by some of those middle school students. Ricky Arnold, a graduate of FSU, was sharing his time that morning with his alma mater and young people from Western Maryland.

April 9, 1898, was also a special day. The Maryland State Legislature passed its budget, which included authorization for the establishment of Normal School #2, a teacher's school in Western Maryland. That authorization required the citizens of Frostburg to raise the funds necessary to purchase the land where the school would be located and to share in the expense of establishing that school, which opened its doors in 1902 in what is now known as Old Main.

As President of Frostburg State University, I was humbled that morning in 2018, realizing how far Normal School #2 had come in 120 years. As those young boys and girls asked questions to the two astronauts floating in micro-gravity, I thought about the miners and families in 1898 who saw the need and had a vision for a school to educate teachers.

I don't think any of them would have believed me if I told them back in 1898 that in 2018, 120 years later, there would be nearly 1,500 young children at their normal school who would be watching a graduate of that school talk to them from a space station orbiting the earth! That normal school, housed in one building as the 20th century began, has evolved into something few, if any, could have imagined! That brings me to today and this challenge. As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our founding, what do you think Frostburg State University will look like in 2098? Our campaign tagline is Forging the Future. I would like to hear from campus and community members about that future, specifically the year 2098 when we celebrate our 200th anniversary.

I welcome your thoughts and entries. Be creative! You can draw, paint, sculpt, write a poem or news article. You're limited only by your imagination!

Entries will be displayed on campus and included on the 125th website and Frostburg State University social media accounts.

Terms and Conditions:

- Entries will be judged by the 125th Anniversary committee and winners will be announced at Homecoming on October 7. The committee's decision is final and binding. Entry implies acceptance of these terms and conditions.
- Multiple entries are welcome; each entry will be eligible to win. Prizes will be awarded to the top three submissions.
- Entries are due to the Office of University Advancement no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 22.

- Frostburg State University cannot accept any submissions with unsecured copyright permissions; consent must be secured from any individuals shown within photographic submissions.
- Prizes must be accepted as offered by the named winner. There is no cash or alternative prizes, in whole or part.