Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today about a critically important project for the future of Frostburg State University and our region, the Education and Health Sciences Center.

This new academic space would meet a series of needs for our student body, our academic programs and the state’s workforce needs:

HEALTH CARE DISCIPLINES:
Our fastest-growing disciplines are in the health care field.

- Our Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN completion program has grown dramatically since its introduction in 2011. It is our largest undergraduate major after Business Administration. We awarded 155 bachelor in nursing degrees in the 2016-17 academic year. This accredited program produces the third-largest number of BSN graduates in the University System of Maryland.

- Last summer we received approval to offer a Nurse Practitioner master’s degree program with concentrations in Family Practice and Psychiatric-Mental Health. We are currently enrolling students to begin their studies in the fall of 2018. This program will focus on addressing the health care needs in rural areas, where primary care physicians and specialists are in particularly short supply. In addition, the shortage of mental health providers is far worse than even the shortage of primary care providers; shortages are especially critical in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. Frostburg’s psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program will be critical in helping to address the drug abuse crisis plaguing rural America.

- In support of this Nurse Practitioner program, the University is constructing a nursing skills laboratory and simulation center, with technologically advanced equipment, including high-fidelity adult and pediatric mannequins, funded by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Much of this technology will be transferable to this new facility once it is built.

- Our accredited Master of Science in Nursing also has tracks to prepare graduates to be nursing administrators and nursing faculty — helping solve the shortage at nursing schools, a situation that has exacerbated the shortage of nurses nationwide.

- We instituted a Health Science major in the fall of 2015 to prepare graduates to enter a range of health-focused careers, and by the fall of 2017, we had 167 students declaring that major.

- We are continuing to adapt as the demands of our students change. Starting in fall 2018, will will also offer our BSN program as a four-year, in-person program for nursing students who want the full college experience. Students currently can only find this opportunity by leaving the area. This is possible
through our collaboration with our regional partner, Allegany College of Maryland, where students will receive their clinical nursing courses. Students will graduate with both an associate and a bachelor’s degree.

- While our initial programs – the BSN and MSN – are online, newer programs, such as the Health Sciences major, the in-person BSN, and the Nurse Practitioner program, will require face-to-face facilities.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FACILITY NEEDS:**

- The Maryland State Board of Education continues to report teacher shortages, with every district in the state reporting difficulty in finding certified teachers, especially in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields, special education and English as a second language. It is essential that the University expands its capacity to deliver qualified graduates from state-of-the-art facilities to contribute to the training of Maryland’s knowledge-based economy and the creation of a solid cadre of educators for K-20. Modernization of both these programs is essential to meeting the Board of Regents’ Strategic Goals for graduation and degree rates for Maryland residents.

- **Framptom Hall**, the current home to the Department of Educational Professions – which it shares with the College of Business – was built in 1965 as the college library. Renovated in 1980, the building is not well-adapted for the current technological and educational climate, and the classroom sizes are not large enough for current enrollment. This reliance on improvised academic space does not serve our student population well and will become even more difficult to adapt in the future. Much of this older infrastructure is served by aging and inefficient HVAC and lighting systems.

- In particular, there is an urgent need for technologically enhanced instructional space, which is difficult to incorporate into older buildings. The teachers that FSU is preparing must be well-versed in the capabilities
and uses of the most current educational technology to properly serve in Maryland’s classrooms.

- Frostburg State University has begun awarding doctorates in our applied doctoral program in Educational Leadership, serving educational professionals across Western Maryland.

- The College of Education also houses health programs with a focus on prevention: Exercise and Sport Science, Athletic Training, and Health and Physical Education (for teacher certification). Exercise and Sport Science and Athletic Training, in particular, have a need for space to house modern equipment, as they currently use a building that opened in 1977 and offers too little room to accommodate new courses or the program’s demands.

CAMPUS HEALTH: ADDRESSING STUDENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

- The new facility will incorporate the Brady Health Center, the University’s ambulatory health clinic. It is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, meeting rigorous national standards. Brady has achieved accreditation for 16 years, but its facility is nearly 50 years old, built for a student population of 1,600 (our fall 2017 headcount was 5,396). A new facility would be better equipped to adapt to modern medical technology.

- This building will also house FSU’s Counseling and Psychological Services. This program, which offers a variety of counseling and developmental services to students, is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services. Individual and group counseling, as well as 24-hour crisis intervention, are among its services.
The construction of a building for the Education and Health professions, coupled with the campus health facilities, will accomplish several objectives as it contributes to academic life and the student life experience. It should:

- provide state-of-the-art, technologically based classrooms and learning environments for nurses, health professionals, teacher educators, and the growing fields of exercise and sports science and athletic training;
- continue Frostburg’s commitment to serve the state and the region by providing opportunities for advanced education in health care;
- build on Frostburg’s commitment to graduating highly qualified and sought-after teachers in the local, state and national education markets;
- establish a first-class student wellness center; and
- provide a new and modern health facility to meet the needs of the University’s student population.

We wish to express our appreciation for the support of the University System of Maryland and its Board of Regents in advancing the needed funding thus far. I urge you to proceed with the additional planning funds in this year’s budget, as we have already experienced one delay in planning funds; the time elapsed ultimately increased the building’s overall cost and set back our opening date. If the Board of Regents’ schedule is maintained, planning and design funding are designated for FY2019 and FY2021, with construction coming in FY2021 and FY2022. Equipment money would also be included in FY2021 and FY2022. We are eager to move forward with this project and ask for your support of the Governor’s capital budget.

Question from the analyst:

FSU should discuss how the university will accommodate the elimination of 2,400 sq. ft. of classroom space, given that an issue the facility is supposed to address includes the lack of adequate instructional space.

The simulation laboratory for nursing students will be used for instruction. It is filing the requirement for more specialized instructional space, rather than general classroom space. This specialized laboratory space is one of the greatest needs for this building. Health-related academic majors are the fastest-growing at Frostburg, both in student enrollment and in number of programs.

Thank you

We would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude for the state’s support of our Public Safety Building, which was dedicated last fall. In addition to helping us meet the standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, this new building is playing an important role in our ongoing collaboration with the city of Frostburg in keeping our shared community safe. Now that University Police officers are using the facility, they praise the building as a modern, sustainable, versatile base of operations that truly helps them serve their public safety mission.