

Dear Bobcats,

As we approach the final stretch of the semester, I want to pause to recognize all that we've accomplished together this year—and to encourage each of you to finish strong.

This time of year always brings a mix of excitement, pressure, and anticipation. Finals week is upon us, and I know how much effort you've already invested to get here. Keep that momentum going—stay focused, take good care of yourself, and support one another. Your hard work is building toward something meaningful.

It's also a season of celebration. Commencement is fast approaching on May 21, and I'm truly looking forward to honoring our graduates and sharing that milestone with their families and friends. It's one of the most joyful moments of the year, and I can't wait to recognize all they have achieved.

Over the past few weeks, I've had the privilege of attending and speaking at so many wonderful events across our campus and community. From the grand reopening of the planetarium to the Leadership and Engagement Awards; from the inspiring SALUTE and Graduation Recognition to honor our FSU Veteran students and military families to the Spring Festival of Children's Literature; and from the *Forging Futures* capital campaign celebration to so many everyday moments of connection, I've been reminded again and again of the energy, creativity, and dedication that define Frostburg State University. It was also an honor to celebrate the reopening of Westernport Elementary School and to connect with so many of our proud alumni at the Alumni Awards Banquet.

Each of these moments reflects the collective effort of our students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for your commitment, your resilience, and your care for one another. Because of you, we reach this point in the semester with so much to be proud of—and so much to look forward to. What we do here matters: we open doors of opportunity, we strengthen our region, and we help students shape lives of purpose.

As we bring the academic year to a close, let's stay focused and continue to support one another. I have every confidence that, together, we will finish on a high note—grounded in our shared purpose and the values that make Frostburg State University such a remarkable place to learn, work, and serve.

As a reminder, we will host an introductory welcome event for FSU's incoming president, Dr. Shadow JQ Robinson, on Wednesday, May 13, from 10 a.m. to noon in the ARMAH. If your schedule allows, I hope you will join us in extending a warm Bobcat welcome to Dr. Robinson.

Wishing you all the best in the days ahead. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming celebrations.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD  
Interim President