

Dear Campus Community,

I am writing to share that effective July 1, Dr. Boyce C. Williams will step down from her role as Dean of the College of Education, Behavioral and Health Professions (CEBHP) after many years of distinguished leadership and dedicated service to Frostburg State University.

Since joining Frostburg as interim dean in 2017 and being appointed dean in 2020, Dr. Williams has provided visionary, steady, and deeply committed leadership to the College. She has helped strengthen academic programs, expand regional partnerships, and position the College for continued success. A nationally respected educator and advocate for teacher preparation, she brought extraordinary experience to Frostburg across higher education, accreditation, education policy, public school administration, and national educational organizations.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Williams led the College through successful accreditations, championed innovative academic programs, and built strong relationships with school systems and educational partners across the region. Her leadership has helped advance major initiatives that address critical workforce needs in education. Most recently, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Frostburg State University \$4.1 million over five years for the Maryland Accelerates program, a partnership designed to increase the number of certified teachers in Maryland schools. The grant, which focuses on the sciences, mathematics, and computer science, provides a career pathway for experienced teachers to mentor and support new educators.

Dr. Williams also played an instrumental role in shaping the vision for the University's new Education and Health Sciences Center, which opened in 2023 and has become a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration among education, health, and science programs. The facility reflects her commitment to creating innovative learning environments that foster partnership, discovery, and student success.

Above all, Dr. Williams has remained deeply committed to Frostburg's mission as a teaching institution. Her passion for educator preparation, community engagement, and student achievement has left a lasting impact on FSU and on the communities we serve. She has consistently championed opportunities that connect K-12 students, educators, and community partners with the resources, expertise, and care that define Frostburg State University.

Although she is stepping away from the deanship, Dr. Williams will continue to support the University through her work on educator grants, her continued engagement with regional school districts, and her service as a consultant to leadership as needed. We are grateful that Frostburg will continue to benefit from her expertise, relationships, and dedication as we move forward.

On behalf of the entire University, I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Williams for her leadership, her commitment to students and faculty, and her many meaningful contributions to Frostburg State University.

To ensure a smooth transition, Dr. Yum Nguyen will serve as Interim Dean beginning July 1 while the University begins a national search for a permanent dean.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Williams for her outstanding service, celebrating the impact of her leadership, and wishing her continued success in this next chapter.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD  
Interim President