

Dear Bobcats,

As we begin our celebration of Women's History Month, I am proud to pause and recognize the remarkable contributions of women across our campus community and throughout the history of Frostburg State University.

For centuries, women have shaped FSU's character, strength and direction through their leadership and service. Today, that impact is reflected in the composition of our campus workforce. At FSU, women represent most of our employees. Currently, of our 277 total contractual and regular faculty members, 160 are women, or 57.8% of our faculty. Among our 480 total contractual and regular staff members, 256 are women, representing 53.3% of our staff. Taken together, women make up 55% of our total workforce.

These numbers showcase the important role women play every day - across each college, division and department - as educators, researchers, advisors, administrators and staff members. Our current leadership team is supported and strengthened by accomplished women serving in senior roles across campus, as well as by the women who serve as deans, vice presidents, department chairs and faculty leaders. They keep our university moving forward through their leadership, innovation and commitment to student success.

Equally vital are the women in staff roles whose work often happens behind the scenes but is essential to everything we do. Their expertise, institutional knowledge and daily commitment sustain the University's core business, academic and support operations and strengthen our mission in tangible, lasting ways. They ensure that Frostburg State functions with care, professionalism and continuity, thus allowing teaching, learning and student life to thrive.

We also stand on the shoulders of extraordinary women who have led FSU through times of growth and transformation. President Lillian Compton, vice president for Student Affairs Dr. Alice Manicur and President Catherine Gira guided Frostburg State with dedication and vision, building a strong foundation for future generations. I am humbled to have the opportunity to follow in their footsteps.

This Women's History Month highlights the women who are shaping a more sustainable future. As we reflect on the progress women have made, we must also recognize the work that remains and our shared responsibility to foster an inclusive and equitable campus where every member of our community is valued and respected.

I encourage you to take part in conversations this month that honor the achievements of women, both past and present, and to express appreciation for the colleagues, mentors and students whose leadership strengthens FSU every day.

Thank you for all you do to ensure Frostburg State University remains a place of opportunity where every member of our campus community is empowered to succeed.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD

Interim President

