

Good morning, Bobcats.

I want to begin today by congratulating our Bobcat football team on their outstanding victory over Johnson C. Smith on Saturday, securing their spot in the next round of the tournament! I know I speak for our entire community when I say how incredibly proud we are of you. We will be cheering for you next weekend in California, Pa. Go Bobcats!

As we approach the Thanksgiving break beginning on Wednesday, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each of you. I hope the coming days provide you with rest and connection and serve as an opportunity to pause, reflect and express gratitude for one another.

Consistent with our core values here at FSU, we have been deeply committed to enhancing belongingness across campus, because a strong sense of belonging fosters connections and reflects our commitment to ensuring that every member of our community feels welcomed and valued.

I am pleased to share that as part of this work we are launching a new initiative called U Belong at Frostburg. Upon returning to campus on December 1, this initiative will celebrate the vibrant spirit of FSU and elevate opportunities for pride, engagement and further connection. I hope you will join us in one of the following upcoming activities:

- Celebrate Cultural Heritage Week in the Chesapeake Dining Hall December 1-5 from 4:30 – 8 p.m. each evening. Specially curated ethnic cuisine from renowned chefs across the globe will be featured. Visit the U Belong webpage at <https://www.frostburg.edu/student-life/ubelong/> to view the menu.
- Join us for the inaugural “Wednesdays at Lane” social event on December 3 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the ARMAH to enjoy good music, good food and great company. This hopes to become a monthly Bobcat tradition. We will also be giving away free t-shirts featuring the new U Belong at Frostburg logo. You won’t want to miss it!

These efforts reflect our shared responsibility and collective pride in making Frostburg a place where everyone feels a true sense of belonging.

In closing, whether you are traveling or staying close to campus this Thanksgiving, please take care, stay safe and enjoy a well-deserved break. I look forward to all we will accomplish together after we return from the holiday as we continue to build a campus community where every Bobcat belongs. Thank you for all you do to make our University such a remarkable place.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD
Interim President