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# THE TRANSFORMATION OF FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

CITY OF FROSTBURG  
DELEGATION EVENT SUMMER 2015

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## **The Transformation of Frostburg State University**

Frostburg State University (FSU) is being transformed through the University's development of new STEM degree programs, the creation of applied doctoral programs, the expansion of regionally offered academic programs, the growth of online education, the establishment of a strong global presence, and the addition of new and planned facilities. These important programs and initiatives are described below under the heading, *A Summary of Frostburg State University's New Directions*. What is occurring today at the University will keep FSU vibrant, competitive, and strong in years to come as well as help the City of Frostburg and the region to prosper.

Many of FSU's new degree programs are in STEM-related areas, particularly in the health sciences. Frostburg has established a new bachelor's degree in health sciences and is building upon the success of its RN to BSN program by offering a Master of Science degree in nursing. The University has recently been awarded close to \$2.5 million by the Maryland Higher Education Commission to further develop its nursing programs in part by forming stronger partnerships with community colleges, including Allegany College of Maryland.

Frostburg also continues to study the feasibility of establishing a Physician Assistant program to serve the health needs of those in the region. The University's new partnership with Cecil College to offer its Engineering program at the Cecil College campus amply demonstrates the University's commitment to STEM education in the state of Maryland.

Frostburg State University has also turned its attention to developing applied doctoral programs designed to meet the educational needs of working professionals. The University's in Educational Leadership is intended for those who aspire to be educational leaders as administrators, supervisors, master teachers, and policy specialists. The planned Doctor of Business Administration offers career tracks that include teaching and research, education and business consulting, and leadership in organizations.

Additionally, the University continues to reach out regionally in the expansion of new and existing academic programs. Beginning in fall 2015, a new and cooperative Bachelor of Science degree in Adventure Sports Management will be offered by Frostburg to students on the Garrett College campus. Furthermore, Frostburg will begin offering its Master of Education in School Counseling program at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown in fall 2015.

On a more global scale, beginning in fall 2015 the University's new Hospitality Management concentration will be offered to Frostburg students in collaboration with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and Vanung University in Taiwan. These students will take selected UMES coursework online and participate in a faculty-led, six-week immersion experience in Taiwan that provides courses in Asian cuisine, hospitality, and culture. The program also offers opportunities for internships at area resorts such as Rocky Gap, the Wisp, Nemaquin, Bedford Springs, and beyond.

In addition, a collaborative program launched in 2014 between Frostburg State University and the University of Maryland, University College provides a path to Maryland state teacher certification for active duty military personnel and their dependents stationed in Europe. The program is currently based at Ramstein Air Force Base in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

As a strong adopter of technology, FSU has long used online instruction to deliver courses to students during summer and winter sessions. The University is now beginning to offer fully online academic programs to students throughout Maryland and across the nation. The University's undergraduate- and graduate-level nursing programs are both entirely online, and students now have the option of earning a master's degree in computer science fully online. Additionally, the proposed doctoral program in business administration will be delivered partially through online education. These curricular offerings join the University's other fully online graduate programs in Business Administration (MBA), Recreation and Parks Management, and Special Education.

In the area of international education, Frostburg actively recruits international students both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The number of international students has increased by 250% since 2007. The University partners with The Language Company (TLC), a large English-language school with locations nationally, including TLC-Frostburg, to bring well qualified international students to Frostburg.

Over the last two years, Frostburg has worked to establish joint-degree programs with five of its university partners located in China, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Once fully implemented, these programs promise to bring additional international students to the Frostburg campus. Finally, Frostburg has also encouraged its domestic students to participate in the growing number of study abroad opportunities available through the University, including the global experiences offered by the College of Business. In addition, students selected for the elite President's Leadership Circle have participated in study trips to countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, South America, and Africa.

Modern facilities are needed to support important academic programs and initiatives at Frostburg. The University's Catherine R. Gira Center for Communications and Information Technology is now the center piece of the campus and a superb instructional facility. The planned \$200,000 Geochemistry Laboratory, partially funded through a \$100,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant, will allow students to explore the science of natural resource extraction. Planning for the University's new Public Safety building is well underway, with construction expected to begin in spring 2016.

While this is significant progress in regard to facilities, a new Education and Health Sciences Building is needed if the University is to meet the important curricular and technological requirements of its educational professions program, in addition to establishing and growing its health science programs. A new residence hall is also critical if the University is to attract, accommodate, and retain additional students to Frostburg.

The University respectfully requests that the Western Maryland Delegation fully supports:

- Frostburg's STEM programs, including those in the health sciences, in your remarks, presentations, and funding initiatives for the region.
- Changes in MHEC regulations that will help Maryland institutions of higher education offer online courses and degrees in other states.
- The construction of new campus facilities, including an Education and Health Sciences Building and a modern residence hall.

## **A Summary of Frostburg State University's New Directions**

### **New STEM Programs and Initiatives The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

#### *Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Science*

This interdisciplinary program provides an alternative to traditional bachelor degrees for students interested in a health-related field and will prepare students who are qualified to enter a variety of graduate and professional programs in the health sciences. The program begins in fall 2015 with a projected enrollment of 150 students once fully implemented.

#### *The RN to BSN Program*

Established in 2009, this completely online program has grown from an enrollment of eight to 375 students in fall 2014. The program enrolls students from throughout the United States (primarily Maryland and the Tri-State area) and allows registered nurses to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing from Frostburg. The RN-BSN program has been expanded to include dual-enrollment options with Maryland community colleges for nursing students seeking to pursue their associate degree and bachelor's degree simultaneously.

#### *Master of Science in Nursing*

In fall 2014, Frostburg's Master of Science in Nursing began offering two specialty tracks in administration and education. This completely online program has been accepting students for one academic year and had an enrollment of 10 students in fall 2014. The program prepares BSN graduates for the complexities of health and nursing care in today's contemporary, urban, and rural care environments.

#### *Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Development Grant for Nursing*

Frostburg has recently received Nursing Development Grants from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) totaling close to \$2.5 million to develop articulated programs with community colleges, including Allegany College of Maryland, which will bring more students to study nursing at Frostburg. One of these programs is a nurse practitioner program, an

addition to Frostburg's existing Master of Science in Nursing, with tracks in primary care and mental health. Additional funding will be sought to implement the nurse practitioner program in fall 2017 or fall 2018.

### Physician Assistant Program

Planning for a Physician Assistant program is underway. Research on local, regional, state, and national workforce shortages was completed through both a review of literature and through meetings with the leadership of regional health systems. A preliminary feasibility study was drafted, outlining basic timelines for program development, along with some preliminary cost estimates, space considerations, and structural requirements. FSU submitted a letter of intent to the accrediting agency and has entered into an agreement for a site visit in 2019. The next two years will be used for more planning, which includes identifying funding opportunities.

### M.S. in Computer Science - Online Program

Beginning in spring 2015, FSU offered students the option of completing the M.S. in Computer Science degree fully online. This option is being offered in addition to the traditional face-to-face program. Online delivery for the program further addresses the recognized shortage of higher-level computer science professionals in the region and the state. The online program format enables students to quickly and conveniently complete coursework without interrupting their employment or personal commitments.

### B.S. in Engineering (Materials Engineering Concentration) at Cecil College

Frostburg State University (FSU) is partnering with Cecil College to offer a Bachelor of Engineering program with a concentration in materials engineering at the Cecil College campus. Students complete their Associate of Science degree at a regional community college and are then admitted into the program. The University offers the remaining courses for completion of the baccalaureate degree on-site and via distance learning. The program is designed to foster economic development in Cecil County and the surrounding region by producing more bachelors prepared engineers in the region to meet workforce needs. The program begins in fall 2015. At full implementation, enrollment of 25 full-time students is anticipated.

## **New Business Administration Programs and Initiatives College of Business**

### Bachelor's in Business Administration, Hospitality Management Concentration

This program is offered to Frostburg students in collaboration with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and Vanung University in Taiwan. Frostburg students take selected UMES coursework online and participate in a faculty-led, six-week immersion experience in Taiwan each fall that provides courses in Asian cuisine, hospitality, and culture. The program also offers opportunities for internships at area resorts such as Rocky Gap, Wisp, Nemaquin, Bedford Springs, and beyond. The hospitality management concentration will begin in fall 2015.

### Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Program with a Concentration in Management

This proposed program is an applied doctorate that is consistent with FSU's character as a regional comprehensive institution. The doctoral program, which will be delivered using face-to-face and online instruction, is specifically designed to meet the needs of the full-time, working professional and offers a choice of viable career tracks that include: (a) teaching and research at colleges and universities nationwide; (b) educational and business consulting; and/or (c) promotion to leadership within existing organizations. Students will be able to complete the program in three and a half years. Expected starting date of the program is fall 2017.

### Global Experiential Learning [CoBGEL] Signature Program

This College of Business endeavor is designed to assist students in developing a sense of global citizenship and increasing their capacity to participate effectively in global business environments through faculty-led, short-term study-abroad educational experiences offered every summer. Over 55 students at both undergraduate and graduate levels and 11 college faculty members have participated in one or more global experiential learning visits to China, Peru, Ecuador, and Brazil. Proposed trips planned: France (Summer 2016) and India (Summer 2017).

## **New Programs and Initiatives: College of Education**

### Doctorate in Educational Leadership

The applied doctorate in education at Frostburg State University is designed to provide an avenue for a practitioner to complete a terminal degree in the profession. The target audience includes individuals aspiring to be educational leaders, including administrators, supervisors, master teachers, and policy specialists.

A significant reason for the development of the Educational Leadership doctoral program at Frostburg State University was the absence of terminal degree programs in educational leadership in public institutions west of Baltimore. The program accepts cohorts of up to 25 students at the University of Maryland at Hagerstown in odd numbered years and similar cohorts on the main campus on even numbered years. The program is delivered primarily in a "face to face" modality. As of fall 2014, there were 69 students enrolled in the program. The 2012 cohort of twenty-two graduated 13 members in May of 2015, and the remaining nine are expected to graduate in the 2015-16 school year.

### Master of Education in School Counseling at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown

Frostburg State University will begin offering its Master of Education in School Counseling program at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown in fall 2015. The school counseling program, which incorporates standards of the American School Counseling Association, prepares students to work as professional school counselors. Upon completion of the program, students will be certified by the Maryland State Department of Education to work in Maryland's K-12 schools. The program is offered on a full- and part-time basis and includes a 500-hour internship.

### Bachelor of Science in Adventure Sports Management

A cooperative program developed by Garrett College and Frostburg, a Bachelor of Science degree in Adventure Sports Management will be offered by Frostburg on the Garrett College campus to students who have earned their Associate degree from that institution. The program, which will begin in fall 2015, prepares students for outdoor leadership and management positions in the expanding adventure sports industry.

### Bachelor of Science in Secondary Teacher Education

This revised B.S. in Secondary Teacher Education program has received Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) approval and is awaiting Maryland State Department of Education approval. The program significantly reduces the credits to graduation required of secondary teacher candidates and it raises the status of the secondary education program at Frostburg to that of a major.

### Secondary Education Instruction at the Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

A collaborative program between Frostburg State University and the University of Maryland University College launched in 2014 provides a path to Maryland state teacher certification for active duty military personnel and their dependents stationed in Europe. The first program being offered is in secondary teacher education, with an initial cohort of 18 students. The program is currently based at Ramstein Air Force Base in Kaiserslautern, Germany. In the future the University hopes to add additional education programs to the collaborative and seek to expand those offerings to military bases in the United Kingdom and Italy.

## **Frostburg State University's International Connections**

### Growth of International Education at Frostburg

The University actively recruits international students in order to promote the understanding of international cultures at Frostburg. Between fall 2007 and fall 2014, the number of international students at Frostburg has increased by 250 percent. Over 120 international students are expected to attend Frostburg in the fall of 2015. International students come to Frostburg from all parts of the world including China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Ireland, Great Britain, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and other countries.

### Partnership with The Language Company

Frostburg State University works in partnership with The Language Company to bring international students to its campus. The Language Company (TLC), a large national company with one of its 17 centers located on Frostburg's campus, offers English language and culture training to international students who wish to attend college in the United States. TLC-Frostburg promises to be an important source of well-qualified international students for the University.

### The Development of Joint-Degree Program

Over the last two years, Frostburg has worked to develop important joint-degree programs with five of its overseas partner universities. Once fully established, these programs will bring a large number of international transfer students to the campus to earn a degree from Frostburg State University. The following universities are presently partnering with Frostburg to develop joint-degree programs:

- Hunan University of Commerce – B.S. in Economics
- China University of Mining and Technology – B.S. in Accounting
- Communication University of China – M.S. in Computer Science
- National United University (Taiwan) – B.S. in Engineering and Business Administration
- Hanoi University of Industry – B.S. in Computer Science

### Study Abroad and Experiential Learning

At Frostburg State University, student study abroad is considered an important form on experiential learning. In 2014, 64 Frostburg students studied overseas. These students were able to bring a wealth of experiences back to their classes at Frostburg.

Another international opportunity for students at Frostburg State University is the President's Leadership Circle (PLC). The PLC is an elite group of exceptional students nominated by faculty and staff members. In the past, PLC students have testified in front of the state legislature, shadowed the University President, networked with alumni, and made other lifetime connections. These experiences also include study trips to China, the United Arab Emirates, Uganda, the Czech Republic, and Ecuador.

In AY 2014-2015, the President's Leadership Circle included 12 top-performing student leaders who divided into two smaller groups. The first group of students traveled to India where they spent time not only learning about the culture of both Indians and refugees from Tibet, but also working and volunteering to promote education for all. The second group traveled to Uganda in March 2015 to assist the Water School in Nebbi with water purification as well as furthering educational opportunities for rural Ugandans.

### **New, Planned, and Requested Campus Facilities**

#### The Catherine R. Gira Center for Communications and Information Technology

Frostburg State University's newest academic building is now known as the Catherine R. Gira Center for Communications and Information Technology, following an unveiling ceremony in May 2015. The naming honors Dr. Gira's 15 years of service to FSU and her distinguished career in higher education. The Gira Center for Communications and Information Technology, which opened in the fall 2014 semester, is a \$71 million structure housing the facilities for computer science, communication, mathematics, and graphic design, as well as studios for WFWM radio, the FSU-TV3 cable channel, and the Multimedia Learning Center featuring the Planetarium.

### Geochemistry Laboratory

This \$200,000 laboratory, in part funded by an ARC grant to the University, will train students in the applied science of geochemistry and form the foundation of new courses being developed in the Earth Science program by the Department of Geography. This 20-seat facility will help attract and retain quality students into the program and will give them the opportunity to take laboratory courses associated with geology, soils/water analysis, and geochemistry, all of which are applicable to natural resource extraction via fracking and associated activity. The laboratory is schedule to open in the spring of 2016.

### Frostburg State University Public Safety Building

This modern facility will replace the present and antiquated building on University Drive and provide members of the University police with the space and equipment they need to perform their responsibilities on campus and in the community. Construction of the building is expected to begin in spring 2016.

### Education and Health Sciences Building

The University's proposed Education and Health Sciences Center is in the Governor's Capital Budget to begin design in 2019. However, construction is not scheduled to be funded until FY 2021. This project has been in the planning stages with DBM for five years. A new Education and Health Sciences building is needed if the University is to meet the important curricular and technological needs of its education as well as establish and grow its health science programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

### New University Residence Hall

A modern undergraduate student residence hall is an important need of the University. The University currently has on-campus space for only 2,000 of its 4,915 (fall 2014) undergraduate students, less than half the population. This student population is mostly traditional-aged and living away from home. The University System Board of Regents Finance Committee will discuss this fall Frostburg's need for a new residence hall. A June 2011 housing market study by Anderson Strickler, LLC, revealed a demand for 437 additional beds, based on FSU's undergraduate headcount. The Board of Regents at its June 2014 meeting stated that a new residence hall will be considered as Frostburg's enrollment grows, and this fall the board's Finance Committee will discuss Frostburg's new student residency hall request.