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October 3, 2012

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Governor O'Malley:

The Frostburg State University (FSU) Board of Visitors respectfully submits its annual report for Academic Year 2011-2012. During this reporting year, Dr. Jonathan Gibraltar entered his sixth year as the University's president providing strong and innovative leadership to the campus community, region, and state of Maryland. Once again this year, we thank him for his continued and nationally recognized commitment to addressing important contemporary educational priorities, including environmental sustainability; experiential learning; international education; and student success, retention, and wellness. For the reporting period, some of the most important institutional achievements that have strengthened the University include:

- Enrolling in the fall of 2012 the targeted number of academically prepared freshmen and one of the largest groups of transfer students in the history of the institution. This fall, the University once again attracted a growing number of international students to its campus and realized a substantial increase in graduate enrollments, including new online Master of Business (MBA) students. For fall 2012, total enrollment equaled 5,421 (4,631 undergraduate and 790 graduate students).
- Receiving Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaffirmation of the University accreditation in November 2011. The MSCHE commended the University for the quality of both its internal review and the Periodic Review Report submitted to the Commission.
- Gaining Maryland Higher Education Commission approval for the University's new Mission Statement in January 2012. The statement clearly identifies Frostburg State University as a student-centered teaching and learning institution featuring experiential opportunities, providing a distinctive and distinguished baccalaureate education along with a select set of applied master's and doctoral programs. The Mission Statement reaffirms the University's commitment to regional economic growth, cultural enrichment, and preparing future leaders who will meet the challenges of a complex and changing global society.
- Gaining external approvals for a new doctorate (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership. This interdisciplinary degree program, the first-ever applied doctorate to be offered by the University, will expand career opportunities for professionals in the region and enhance graduate education at the institution. The first cohort of 25 students entered the program in fall 2012 and the program will be offered at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown in fall 2013.

- Gaining national accreditation for the University's online R.N. to B.S.N. program from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in November 2011. This important workforce development program has grown from an enrollment of two students in fall 2008 to 100 students in fall 2012.
- Enhancing student health and wellness through the University's CHILL (Creating Healthy, Informed, Lasting Lifestyles) program and reducing student high-risk drinking rate to below the national average through positive and proactive intervention strategies and community alliances. The University is also associated with the National College Health Improvement Project (NCHIP), a learning collaborative that uses a public health model to address high-risk drinking. It is facilitated by Dartmouth College and involves 32 colleges and universities across the United States. Dr. Gibraltar also serves as Co-Chair of the President's Working Group for the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, which will soon be releasing a number of intervention strategies for all colleges and universities.
- Winning the designation of Military-Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs*, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life. The 2012 Military-Friendly Schools list honors the nation's top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students.
- Continuing to develop and implement strategies to address achievement gap issues at the University. These strategies include course redesign (see below); adopting a sophisticated early warning system (Beacon) for students having difficulty adjusting to college life; offering extensive study support and tutoring; and increasing need-based financial aid. The University's *Closing the Achievement Gap* work is led by its new Assistant Provost for Student Success and Retention.
- Receiving a Maryland College Access Challenge Grant in February 2012 to improve the persistence rate of Pell-awarded, academically at-risk freshman and sophomore male students. The main components of the *Championship Forum* program are intrusive advising with academic coaches; mandatory workshops covering financial literacy, learning strategies, personal growth topics; and weekly study hall sessions. Participants who fulfill program requirements are eligible for a stipend of \$250 each semester.
- Implementing course redesign strategies on campus in large introductory courses and remedial classes to improve student success and reduce instructional costs. The Department of Communication Studies applied the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) course redesign model to its Introduction to Human Communication course beginning in the fall of 2011, with full implementation in spring 2012. Course redesign for developmental mathematics took place in the fall of 2011, with a primary goal of reducing a gender achievement gap in the course. The redesign of the University's Freshman Composition course using the NCAT model will pilot in the fall of 2012, with full implementation in the spring of 2013.
- Growing summer 2012 online course registrations to 1,735, an increase of 23.3 percent from the summer of 2011. A total of 171 online course sections were offered in the summer of 2012. Overall enrollment for online summer courses has grown 423 percent between 2003 and 2012. Online Intersession course enrollments grew to an all-time high of 813 in January 2012. Overall, total online enrollments during Intersession have grown 270 percent between 2004 and 2012.
- Breaking ground on the University's new Center for Communications and Information Technology (CCIT) in the summer of 2012. This important educational facility will house the University's radio and television studios and academic programs in computer science, mass communication, mathematics, and graphic design. The new CCIT will enable the University to better prepare students for emerging career opportunities in technology-based enterprises.

- Nearing the completion of the University's new Sustainable Energy Research Facility (SERF), scheduled to open in the Allegany Business Center at Frostburg State University in October 2012. This facility will help the University to better position itself as a regional and national leader in renewable energy research and development.
- Being recognized for its commitment to sustainability and environmental education with a Second Nature award for Institutional Excellence in Climate Leadership in June 2011 at the Fifth Annual American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment Summit. The University was also recently included in the list of top 96 "cool schools" in the United States in the Sierra Club's *Sierra Magazine*. Frostburg is currently participating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), which rates sustainability in higher education. Select staff and faculty members have been asked to provide relevant information to complete the STARS assessment.
- Being honored in April 2012 by the Corporation for National and Community Service as a leader among institutions of higher education for its support of volunteerism, service-learning, and civic engagement.
- Internationalizing its campus over the last year by significantly expanding the number of international students attending the University, including those from Europe, Taiwan, China, and the Middle East. In the fall of 2012, 82 F1 and J1 students from 21 countries are attending the University. Over the last five years, the number of international students attending FSU has increased by 356 percent (from a level of 18 students in fall 2007).
- Expanding international opportunities for FSU students and faculty. The total number of student participants enrolled in international experiences administered by the FSU Center for International Education increased from 42 students to 15 countries in AY 2010-2011 to 83 students to 26 countries in AY 2011-2012, including China, Uganda, the Czech Republic and the United Arab Emirates.

The University's Strategic Plan

We congratulate the University on the continued implementation of its innovative strategic plan's top priorities of increasing student quality and improving student persistence to graduation, enhancing experiential and applied learning opportunities for students, and improving the University's facilities.

We are also especially pleased that Frostburg was recognized in September 2012 as a College of Distinction by the Colleges of Distinction organization, which identifies colleges and universities that excel in four key areas: student engagement, quality of teaching, vibrancy of the college community, and success of graduates. Colleges and universities are nominated for participation in Colleges of Distinction through the recommendations of high school counselors as well as quantitative research.

We highly commend Dr. Gibraltar and the Frostburg State University Foundation for committing University resources to support its important strategic directions. In particular, the establishment of the Presidential Merit Scholarship for students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance will help the University bring undergraduate students of great promise to the University. In addition, the President's Experiential Learning Enhancement Fund supports a wide range of student experiential learning opportunities including internships, volunteerism and leadership development activities, undergraduate research, and study abroad. The Frostburg State University Foundation must also be commended for establishing FSU Foundation Opportunity Grants, which are competitively awarded to projects developed by students, faculty, and staff that support the University's strategic planning priorities.

New Facilities and the Future of Frostburg

The University's strategic priority of improving its facilities must also be supported and acted upon. The construction of the new Center for Communications and Information Technology (CCIT) and Energy Research Facility (SERF) are important new additions to the University, but much more must be done for FSU to maintain its excellence and attract the very best students and faculty. This year, we once again call for the expedited planning and construction of the University's proposed Education Professions and Health Sciences Center. This critically needed facility will allow the University to continue its historical excellence in the training of future teachers and health educators. Construction of this facility will also allow for the renovation of Framptom Hall as the sole home of the Frostburg's rapidly expanding and internationally recognized College of Business. Finally, the construction of a new 425-bed campus residence hall is essential if the University is to modernize student housing on campus. We again ask you for your support and endorsement of these important capital projects.

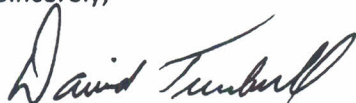
Looking Forward

As members of the Frostburg State University's Board of Visitors, we applaud the important contributions that the University makes to the region and the state of Maryland. We commend the University for the steps it has taken over the last year to expand its educational offerings, provide students and faculty with exciting learning and teaching opportunities, internationalize its campus, and position itself as a leading university in Maryland for environmental sustainability education and research. Frostburg State University's quest for continued excellence will be assisted by the findings of a marketing study currently underway. We look forward to the study's recommendations and suggestions on ways to move this outstanding institution of higher education in Western Maryland forward into the future.

The Future of the Board

During the current cycle the President has undertaken a review of the makeup of the Board of Visitors and has determined that, although it has continued to offer valuable input due to the dedication of its core members, it is no longer able to field a quorum of its full authorized membership after attrition has reduced its membership dramatically. Therefore the President has determined to suspend the operations of the Board until such time as he may propose such changes as he deems necessary after some 25 years of operation. The remaining members of the Board thank President Gibraltar for the opportunity to have served in this capacity and look forward to serving in this or some other capacity in the future.

Sincerely,



Mr. David Turnbull
Chair, FSU Board of Visitors

cc: Hon. Thomas V. Mike Miller
Hon. Michael E. Busch
Dr. Danette Gerald Howard
Dr. William E. Kirwan
Mr. James L. Shea, Chair BOR
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