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September 28, 2009

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

Dear Governor O'Malley,

As required by legislation, the Frostburg State University Board of Visitors respectfully submits its annual report for Academic Year 2008-2009. During this reporting year, Dr. Jonathan Gibraltar entered his third year as president. Dr. Gibraltar is a strong and innovative leader whose commitment to students, faculty, and the community has resulted in a number of highly recognized accomplishments for Frostburg State University. For the reporting period, some of the most important institutional achievements that have strengthened the University include:

- A growing, talented, and diverse student body, which includes an increasing number of transfer and international students. This fall semester, the University enrolled the largest number of undergraduate students in the history of the institution.
- The development of a branding document and a new University logo to guide the institution's marketing efforts.
- New undergraduate programs in Engineering, Information Technology, and International Business, as well as a Leadership in Psychology certificate.
- Approval to offer a B.S. in Nursing (R.N. to B.S.N. completion program) in collaboration with Allegany College of Maryland and an award of \$250,000 from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to quickly advance the program.
- Dual admission agreements with Allegany College of Maryland, Hagerstown Community College, and Frederick Community College.
- Participation in the University of Maryland, College Park's Ed.D in Educational Policy and Leadership at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown.
- A partnership with the Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) University Consortium to offer a collaborative B.S. in Engineering through the Arundel Mills Regional Higher Education Center.
- An award of a \$738,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy for the planning and development of an on-campus Sustainable Energy Research Facility.
- Continued funding for the Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies (ACES) through a federal appropriation of \$348,543.

- The highly successful *Staking Our Claim: The Campaign for Frostburg*, a \$15 million fundraising effort that focuses on the themes of academic, regional, and cultural enrichment.
- The rapid growth of the Allegany Business Center at Frostburg State University (ABC@FSU) and the location of the FSU Foundation, the Office of Alumni Programs, and a branch of the University bookstore in the newly renovated Lyric Building in downtown Frostburg.

In the upcoming year, the University will complete a major renovation of the Lane University Center and the Allen Residence Hall, and its Center for Creative Writing will move to the Lyric Building. Planning also continues for the approved Center for Communication and Information Technology (CCIT) and the development of a new Education Professions and Health Science Center (EPHSC), which, if approved, will provide facilities for state-of-the-art teacher preparation as well as instructional spaces for the nursing program.

The commitment of the University to the region and to its students and alumni remains steadfast, and the institution has never been stronger. We believe, however, that the future excellence of Frostburg State University requires strong State support of its programs and plans to upgrade its present facilities.

1. *We strongly encourage you to maintain your important support of the University System of Maryland and Frostburg State University in these difficult economic times in Maryland and the country.*

Frostburg State University continues to play an active and important role in the economic development of western Maryland. Continued State support of the University, one of the most important employers in the region, is critical to the economic well-being of the region and to the prosperity of its citizens.

2. *We thank you for your expedited approval of the University's new Center for Communication and Information Technology (CCIT).*

The Center for Communication and Information Technology (CCIT) was formally approved by the Department of Budget and Management in January 2009. We respectfully ask that you include in the FY 2011 budget Phase II funding for CCIT planning and design to keep this critically important campus facility and western Maryland economic development project moving forward toward completion.

3. *We congratulate Frostburg State University on achieving, during this present fall semester, the largest undergraduate enrollment in the history of the institution.*

We highly commend Dr. Gibraltar and his Enrollment Management Committee for their work in reversing the University's recent decline in enrollments and bringing to the campus young men and women of all backgrounds who greatly value scholarship, healthy lifestyles, the environment, and the world around them.

4. *We are very pleased to learn of the progress of the FSU Foundation's "Staking our Claim: The Campaign for Frostburg."*

This important development campaign focuses on the academic and cultural enrichment of the University community and the surrounding region. Last year, the Campaign had its most successful year ever, raising almost \$2.8 million and is now experiencing a highly successful start of a new year of fundraising. As of this September, it has achieved 70% of its goal of \$15 million dollars, raising approximately \$10.5 million.

5. *We endorse and commend the University's investment in environmental and physical wellness by including the Learning Green, Living Green (LGLG) Climate Action Plan and the Creating Healthy, Informed, Lasting, Lifestyles (CHILL) Program into its new strategic plan.*

We congratulate Frostburg on its comprehensive strategic plan for the University, which has been finalized and is in the process of being implemented. One important aspect of this plan is the University's commitment to sustainability through the inclusion of an extensive Climate Action Plan (CAP). Crafted by the University's Learning Green, Living Green (LGLG) committee, the CAP provides a detailed blueprint of specific and tangible methods by which FSU can achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2030. It also calls for the development of new curricula on sustainability, including an interdisciplinary minor.

We are also excited to learn that Frostburg State's commitment to sustainability not only applies to the environment, but also to the health and wellness of its students, faculty, and staff. Through its campus-wide CHILL program, the University provides health screenings, wellness promotion, and the development of a variety of activities and educational outreach efforts. CHILL furthers FSU's commitment to endorse overall good health through prevention of disease and disability by promoting nutrition, exercise, and active lifestyles to all members of the University community.

6. *We commend Frostburg State University for its strong efforts to enhance the international climate of the campus by entering into important partnerships with universities in the People's Republic of China.*


Dr. Gibraltar's October 2008 visit to China to attend and address the Hunan Normal University 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, make presentations to university students in the cities of Changsha and Chengdu, and meet with Chinese educators, government officials, and community and business leaders resulted in a series of important agreements with a number of universities in China. These agreements have paved the way for collaboration in specific areas of faculty, student and cultural exchanges as well as joint research and development programs. Two FSU faculty members are presently teaching and conducting research in China and the University welcomed 25 students from throughout China to Frostburg State University this fall.

7. *We congratulate the University's leadership in helping to develop a STEM strategic plan for western Maryland.*

Through a grant from the University System of Maryland, Frostburg State University is leading an effort by the Western Maryland Education Consortium (WestMEC) to develop a regional STEM strategic plan. The purpose of the plan is to increase regional STEM literacy, involvement, accomplishments, and career readiness to meet the current and future workforce needs of western Maryland. The plan is scheduled for completion in January 2010 and we look forward to reviewing its strategies for STEM development in Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties.

As in the past, much has been accomplished this year and Frostburg State University continues its remarkable service to all Marylanders and to the western Maryland region. We strongly urge your continued interest in and strong support of this remarkable institution of higher education.

Sincerely,

  
Mr. David Turnbull, Chair

cc: Hon. Thomas V. Mike Miller  
Hon. Michael Busch  
Dr. William E. Kirwan  
Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr.  
Members Board of Visitors FSU  
FSU Executive Committee