

September 15, 2016

The regular meeting of the County Commissioners of Allegany County was held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Room 100, 701 Kelly Road, Cumberland, at 5:00 p.m. on the above date. The following were present: Commissioner Jacob C. Shade; Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.; Commissioner William R. Valentine; County Attorney William M. Rudd; and County Administrator David A. Eberly. The following business was transacted:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Danny Williams.

**MOTION**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**MOTION**

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Valentine, and Motion carried, the Commissioners approved the minutes of the August 25, 2016, public business meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Item 1 – Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk, President, Frostburg State University**, thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak at this meeting. He presented an update on what is currently going on at Frostburg State University. A copy of Dr. Nowaczyk's presentation is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Dr. Nowaczyk said that he wished to thank everyone for the warm welcome and acceptance everyone has extended to him and his family. He remarked that they have been here four months and they are really enjoying the community, and are glad to be part of it.

Commissioner Shade welcomed Dr. Nowaczyk and told him that the Commissioners are looking forward to working with him. He then asked Commissioner Valentine to elaborate on an award to be presented to Frostburg State University.

Commissioner Valentine reported that Allegany County received an award at the Winter MACo Conference, given jointly by MACo and the University of Maryland. To be considered for the award, each County submits programs to be judged, and the main deciding factors are that the judges want to see a program that has the largest possible positive impact on the greatest number of people; a program that is sustainable; and a program that does not cause debt to the County. Commissioner Valentine pointed out that the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship Program definitely meets all of those criteria. Of the two awards given, one for an urban county and the other for a rural county, Allegany County, competing with seventeen other counties, won one of the awards. Commissioner Valentine commented that it was a great honor to receive the award, then explained that the Scholarship Program would be nowhere without the County's partnership with FSU and ACM (Allegany College of Maryland). He further explained that Allegany County had two additional plaques made, with one already awarded to ACM, and the other to be presented to FSU at this meeting.

The Commissioners then presented the plaque for FSU to Dr. Nowaczyk. There was a round of applause.

**Item 2 – Allegany Soil Conservation District 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation** – Thomas Butler, District Chairman, remarked that it has been a privilege to work with Allegany County over many years, and that his agency continues to strive to bring much resources and work together with County staff to meet mandated needs that are often unfunded. Mr. Butler went on to say that, over the years, Allegany Soil Conservation District has continued to work to provide high water quality, to decrease nutrients that go into the Bay, and to also decrease sediment and erosion in Allegany County. He thanked Allegany County Commissioners and County staff for all that they have done for and with the Soil Conservation District.

Mr. Butler asked the supervisors and staff of the Allegany Soil Conservation District to stand, and as they did so he acknowledged their many hours of dedicated service and thanked them. Mr. Butler presented them all with a token of appreciation.

Commissioner Brodie commented on the significance of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and on the impact the Soil Conservation District has on the County. Commissioner Shade then called everyone forward for the reading and presentation of the Proclamation.

**Item 3 – Allegany Center for Lifelong Learning First Anniversary Proclamation** – Nick Clulee, Founding Member, told the Commissioners that he was happy to be present, and explained that although he was listed on the meeting agenda as the founding member of the Allegany Center for Lifelong Learning, he was not the only one. Mr. Clulee explained that he and a number of other people began meeting in the summer of 2015 to talk about developing programs that would provide intellectual stimulation and learning opportunities as well as social engagement for retirees and older adults to keep their minds active, among other things. He reported that the group launched its first program in September 2015, and has been going strong ever since that time. Mr. Clulee expressed the Center for Lifelong Learning's appreciation for the Commissioners' recognition of its first anniversary, as well as of the importance that the community sustain lifelong learning and cultural, social, and intellectual activities for adults. He pointed out that his group hopes the Lifelong Learning programs could serve as an incentive for people to retire in this area, and also contribute at least in a small way to economic development.

The Commissioners called forward the group, including most of the founding members and the board of directors, representing the Allegany Center for Lifelong Learning, to receive their Proclamation. One of the individuals commented that the Center partners with Allegany College of Maryland. Commissioner then read and presented the Proclamation, which was followed by a round of applause.

**Item 4 – Electronics Recycling Event** – Paul F. Kahl, PE, Public Works Director (See News Release). Paul Kahl, PE, Allegany County Public Works Director, presented details about the upcoming Electronics Recycling Week, to be held from Monday, September 26, through Sunday, October 2, 2016. He acknowledged the hard work and assistance to be provided by the Solid Waste Management Board, and also referred back to the previous electronic recycling event held in January 2015. Mr. Kahl pointed out the enormous response to this previous event and remarked on the need to have another one. Mr. Kahl reported that this year's Electronic Recycling Week will include not only Allegany County, like the previous one, but also the City of Cumberland, City of Frostburg, Town of Lonaconing, and Town of Westernport., all of whom have received grants, for a total of \$33,000 to conduct the event. There will be no cost to citizens for the recycling, except for televisions, which will be \$5 each. Mr. Kahl provided information about Allegany County Recycling Week, and a press release summarizing this information is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

At the end of his presentation, Mr. Kahl added that there is the opportunity to recycle electronic items throughout the year, back at Penn-Mar Recycling. There is a cost to do this when done other than during Electronic Recycling Week, but it is not a huge cost.

Commissioner Shade asked Mr. Kahl when the next hazardous waste event will be held. Mr. Kahl replied that County staff is going to try to do this next year, but there have been issues with such events in the past. He pointed out that the State paid for the first hazardous waste event held, but has not since jumped in to assist with funds for succeeding events.

Commissioner Valentine asked about another tire recycling event. Mr. Kahl explained that every time Allegany County has done one of those sponsored by the State, the County has had to kick in money. He further explained that now, tires are collected at outlying sites, and recyclers are only charged a couple of dollars. The tires are hauled in to the County Complex, then periodically hauled away for a fee.

Mr. Kahl clarified that the September 26 through October 2, 2016, Electronics Recycling Event is for Allegany County residents only, and that those participating will be asked to provide identification.

**Item 5 – Quit Claim Deed Petition Request** – Stephen C. Wilkinson, Attorney at Law, introduced himself. Attorney Wilkinson explained that he was present to represent Sean McCagh and Gary Blake regarding their request of the County to issue a quit claim deed to a tract of land located basically west of State Highway Administration right of way east of Shades Lane in the City of Cumberland. Attorney Wilkinson went on to explain that a quit claim deed is a deed whereby a governmental entity or property owner simply says "whatever interest we have in a property, we deed to you, even if we don't believe we have any interest in the property, and even if we do not, in fact, have any interest in it". He described a quit claim deed as a vehicle to tie up loose ends in terms of title to a property.

Attorney Wilkinson reported that regarding this particular property, he has also, on behalf of his clients, requested a quit claim deed from the City of Cumberland and from the Maryland State Highway Administration. He explained that the issue regarding the property goes back to the 1950s, when SHA acquired, for purposes of development of I-68, what was then the "Joseph Lindner Farm". This farm property was part of the Lindner family property, going back to the very early 1900's and late 1800's. Attorney Wilkinson pointed out that the SHA acquired the property

during the process of platting the I-68 right of way, and that in the option they also acquired “any and all other lands owned by the Lindner Estate”. The deed to SHA was from the trustee of the Lindner Estate, as well as any other remaining heirs of the Lindners. Attorney Wilkinson went on to further explain the chain of title regarding the property and the issues concerning it. He said that it is unlikely that Allegany County or City of Cumberland has any interest in the property, but that it is possible that either may, if any of the property is actually vacant, and that is why both are being asked to sign a quit claim deed. Attorney Wilkinson added that he is also asking SHA to sign a quit claim deed for the same purpose: to clean up the title.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the issue with Attorney Wilkinson. Commissioner Valentine asked if the Lindner Estate would have any claim to the property to be quit claimed, and Attorney Wilkinson replied that it would not. In both the option agreement and the deed to the SHA, the Lindner Estate conveyed any and all interest it had in any of the property to SHA.

Attorney Wilkinson commented that obtaining the quit claim deeds requested would not only accomplish getting the property back on the tax rolls, but would also possibly cause economic development on the property.

Attorney Wilkinson also confirmed to Commissioner Valentine that he has run title on every other parcel of property in the area of the Lindner Farm Property, and that no other property owner would have any claim to the property the County is being asked to quit claim.

Attorney Rudd requested that the quit claim deed for the County to sign contain language that provides an explanation as to why the County is being asked to quit claim its interest in the property. He suggested that the Commissioners could, this evening, approve the execution of the deed, subject to Attorney Rudd’s final review and approval.

Commissioner Brodie made a Motion that the Commissioners approve and agree to sign the quit claim deed when the final draft is presented, subject to final review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Shade seconded the Motion, and Motion passed unanimously.

At Attorney Rudd’s request, Attorney Wilkinson left a copy of the current draft of the quit claim deed.

#### **ACTION AGENDA**

**Item 6 – Local Management Board of Allegany County, Inc.** – Authorize the Board of County Commissioners to sign the Community Partnership Agreement for Fiscal Year 2017 between the State of Maryland, acting by and through the Children’s Cabinet, and Allegany County, acting by and through the Local Management Board – Lesa A. Diehl, Director, Allegany County Health Department Mental Health System’s Office, told the Commissioners that she was present this evening to ask them to approve and sign the Community Partnership Agreement for the Local Management Board. Ms. Diehl described the Local Management Board (LMB) as a private non-profit consisting of mandated local child and family-serving agencies, as well as elected members representing parents and the community at large. She explained that the LMB oversees approximately \$463,000 in community partnership agreement funding through the State Children’s Cabinet, and uses that money to purchase services locally to meet the needs of the community’s children and families. Ms. Diehl concluded by thanking the Commissioners for their ongoing support.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Valentine, seconded by Commissioner Brodie and duly carried, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to sign the Community Partnership Agreement for Fiscal Year 2017 between the State of Maryland, acting by and through the Children’s Cabinet, and Allegany County, acting by and through the Local Management Board.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Diehl for the work she is doing.

**Item 7 – Transfer Real Property** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the transfer of real property described as S/S Railroad Street, N/S, Eutaw, Lot 11, Irregular Lot 9089 square feet, Barton, Maryland, to the Town of Barton to be used for construction of a garage for the Town’s Street Department, and authorize the County Commissioners to sign the deed and any closing documents – William M. Rudd, County Attorney, explained that a deed has been prepared by the County’s Legal Office for the transfer of property in Barton to the Town of Barton, to be used for a garage for their Street Department.

Commissioner Brodie moved that the Commissioners approve the transfer of real property described as S/S Railroad Street, N/S, Eutaw, Lot 11, Irregular Lot 9089 square feet, Barton, Maryland, to the Town of Barton to be used for construction of a garage for the Town’s Street Department, and agreed to sign the deed and any closing documents. Commissioner Valentine seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Brodie thanked Attorney Rudd, and commented that the Town of Barton is really excited about the opportunity to move their garage from its present location on a hillside down next to the Town Hall.

**Item 8 – Real Property Acquisition Negotiations** – Board of County Commissioners to authorize county staff to engage in formal negotiations for a portion of the Cumberland Chase Property owned by Summit Community Bank – Jeffrey S. Barclay, Economic Development Specialist, explained that County staff is looking for authorization to pursue formal negotiations for a portion of Cumberland Chase property owned by Summit Community Bank. Mr. Barclay remarked that, to put it simply, the timing is right for County staff to do this. He asked the Commissioners to recall that, three years ago, the Board of Commissioners for Allegany County approved a master development plan with Site Resources and Vantage Point Site consultants, to identify the needs for the once proposed residential development. Mr. Barclay reported that this Plan revealed many of the costs and consideration associated with land acquisition, infrastructure, and building construction for Phase I of that development. He added that since that time, informal discussions have taken place on possible scenarios to make a project viable at that site. Mr. Barclay went on to say that with all of the discussions there have been since then, the bottom line remains that, despite the difficulties of its development, this property is still very vital to the long-range stability and sustainability of the County's tax base and the growth potential that exists. He pointed out the good location of the property, as well as its size, over 8,000 acres, and that it is the County's single largest potential for residential development. Mr. Barclay also explained that the property is adjacent to the County's largest contiguous area of available industrial property, and within a stone's throw of two of the County's major employers, ATK and the IBM Center.

Mr. Barclay concluded by explaining to the Commissioners that the step of pursuing formal negotiations for the Cumberland Chase property would be consistent with goal number three in the Allegany County Economic Development Plan, which says to increase infrastructure development to open new areas of the County for housing and business development. The step would also be consistent with one of the acts that the Competitiveness Committee has brought before the County. Mr. Barclay asked the Commissioners for their authorization to purchase formal negotiations for a portion of the Cumberland Chase property.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Valentine, and seconded by Commissioner Shade, the Commissioners unanimously authorized County staff to engage in formal negotiations for a portion of the Cumberland Chase Property owned by Summit Community Bank.

**Item 9 – Section 3 Plan Required for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the Section 3 Plan and authorize the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign renewal – David K. Nedved, Economic and Community Development Representative asked for the Commissioners' approval of the Section 3 Plan. He explained that this Plan is required by HUD and then, in turn, by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, in order for the County to receive project funding. Mr. Nedved reported that at this time, the County has accepted Community Block Grant funds of \$400,000 for the Sunnyside/Prince Albert Water Project, which will not come through if the Plans in Agenda Items 9, 10 and 11 are not signed. Mr. Nedved provided brief details about this Plan.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Valentine, seconded by Commissioner Brodie and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved the Section 3 Plan and authorized the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign renewal.

**Item 10– Minority Business Plan for Community Development Block Grants** – Board of County Commissioners to adopt the CDBG Minority Business Plan required for receiving Community Development Block Grants and authorize the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign renewal – David K. Nedved, Economic and Community Development Representative, requested that the Commissioners adopt and the CDBG Minority Business Plan and authorize the President to sign this Plan. He explained that this Plan is also required by HUD and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to allow the County to receive funding. Mr. Nedved provided brief details about this Plan.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Valentine and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, the Commissioners unanimously adopted the CDBG Minority Business Plan required for receiving Community Development Block Grants and authorized the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign renewal.

**Item 11 – Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan for Community Development Block Grants** – Board of County Commissioners to approve the CDBG Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan required for receiving Community Block Grant funding and authorize the

President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign renewal – David K. Nedved, Economic and Community Development Representative, told the Commissioners that he was seeking their approval, and authorization for the President to sign, for the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan. Mr. Nedved pointed out that this Plan, too, is required by HUD and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, for project funding. Mr. Nedved provided brief details about this Plan.

Upon Motion by Commissioner Valentine, and seconded by Commissioner Brodie, Motion unanimously carried to approve the CDBG Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan required for receiving Community Block Grant funding and authorize the President of the Board of County Commissioners to sign renewal.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

As recommended by the County Administrator

Upon Motion by Commissioner Brodie, seconded by Commissioner Valentine, and Motion carried, the Consent Agenda as recommended by the County Administrator is adopted.

**Item 12 – Library Board of Trustees Board Appointment** – Board of County Commissioners re-appointed Thomas B. Finan, Jr., as a member of the Library Board of Trustees. His term will expire on June 30, 2021.

**Item 13 – Adult Guardianship Review Board Appointment** – Board of County Commissioners appointed James Walsh to the Adult Guardianship Review Board. He will fulfill the unexpired term of Jamie Speis. His term will expire on June 30, 2018.

**Item 14 – Travel Request Approval** – Board of County Commissioners approved the travel request from the Allegany County Sheriff's Office to send Sergeant Wade Sibley to New Smyrna Beach, Florida for K9 purchase and training, September, 2016.

**County Administrator Eberly** reported on a Bid Opening held earlier in the week for the Braddock Run Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation, Phase V, Contract S-83. Mr. Eberly said that hopefully within two weeks, County staff will be able to present a Motion for bid award on that Project.

County Attorney William Rudd read, on behalf of the County Commissioners, a Statement Regarding the Closed Session held on Thursday, August 25, 2016. A copy of this Statement is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

### **Commissioners' statements, comments, recognition**

**Commissioner Valentine** reported on the tour he took the previous day of the AES Warrior Run power plant with the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, Ben Grumbles. He commented that now with a new Governor, people know where Allegany County is, and there are frequent visits by Secretaries, as well as by a member of one of the House of Delegates' Committees. Commissioner Valentine remarked on the cleanliness of the AES facility, in spite of it being coal-generated. He also shared some information, that AES sells a byproduct of burning coal, CO<sup>2</sup>. The CO<sup>2</sup>, which is captured and purified by AES, puts the head on Coors beer and the fizz in Pepsi, which are two of the biggest purchasers of the by-product. Commissioner Valentine added that the CO<sup>2</sup> sent out by AES is 99.9% pure, and meets or exceeds any and all food standards. He remarked that Allegany County is lucky to have such a high-tech power plant, and that it has a great economic benefit to the County. Also, AES is the national leader in backup power for generation plants.

**Commissioner Brodie** mentioned a visit he made to AES Warrior Run a few years ago, for a tour with then Lt. Governor Brown, who was also very impressed with the plant.

Next, Commissioner Brodie congratulated Paul Kahl on the County's infrastructure projects, sewer projects, and water projects. He also told Mr. Kahl that he wanted to speak with him further about issues with the County's infrastructure.

**Commissioner Brodie** then, on a personal note, offered his condolences to the Patterson Family of Frostburg, Walter and Jolene. He also expressed his sympathy to the family of Sgt. Lenny Youngblood. Commissioner Brodie said that he had a story he would like to share about Sgt. Youngblood, closer to Veterans Day. Commissioner Shade remarked on the possibility of doing something special during the Veterans Day commemoration to be held at a Commissioners' meeting in November.

**Constituents** – In order of sign-up sheet (No one signed up to speak at this meeting.)

**Commissioner Shade** mentioned that last week, one of the major economists in the Hogan Administration and in the private sector, Anirban Basu, was in Cumberland for a speaking engagement. Commissioner Shade commented that he found it interesting that, the things Mr. Basu thinks the County should be working on, it is so close to doing. They include internships for young people, having Frostburg State University play a bigger role, especially in health sciences and information fields. The first batch of retail has come in, with hopefully more to come, as well as additional development and more high-paying jobs. Commissioner Shade pointed out that there is opportunity in Allegany County, and that if you want to bet on someplace in Maryland, Allegany County, Cumberland, and Frostburg are pretty good places to do it, and that they are poised for some revival.

**Commissioner Valentine** added on that note that one of the reasons the Commissioners decided to develop the Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship was that, at a seminar run by Anirban Basu, he brought up the point that one of the problems with many rural counties was lack of higher education. At that time, thirteen percent of Allegany County's population had a bachelor's degree or more. Last week, Commissioner Valentine learned at a Greater Cumberland Committee meeting that that percentage is now up to seventeen percent. He remarked that when high-end jobs come into Allegany County, the County needs to have high-end employees to take those jobs.

**Reminders/Upcoming Meetings -**

**Next Public Business Meeting – Thursday, September 29, 2016, 5:00 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Jacob C. Shade, President

True Copy  
Attest:

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Cynthia A. Young  
Recording Secretary

# Allegany County **2016** Electronics Recycling Week

Mon, September 26 - Sun, October 2

**What**  **Televisions** (Any size flat screen & CRT) -- \$5.00 each\*

*All other electronics - FREE*

**COMPUTERS & ACCESSORIES:**



Computers (desktop & laptop)  
Monitors (flat screen & CRT)  
Computer accessories (mice, keyboards, speakers, etc.)  
Cables & all TV accessories  
Storage devices (external hard drives, memory cards, etc.)  
Computer power supplies  
Printers (NO ink cartridges & toner)  
Circuit boards/cards  
Scanners

**DATA CENTER EQUIPMENT:**



Servers  
Network devices  
Power distribution units  
Routers & switches  
Cabling  
Switchgear  
Panelboard  
Mainframe computer equipment  
Motor generator sets  
Server racks

**ENTERTAINMENT EQUIPMENT:**



Gaming devices  
Stereo equipment  
Speakers  
Video players  
Digital cameras  
Video cameras  
Game consoles  
Accessories & cables  
DJ equipment  
Cable & satellite boxes

**MOBILE DEVICES:**



Cell phones/smart phones  
Tablets  
PDAs  
MP3 players  
Cameras

**OFFICE EQUIPMENT:**



Copiers & multifunction devices  
Fax machines  
Video & audio equipment  
Phone systems  
Projection equipment  
Printers  
Security equipment  
Receivers & transmitters  
Answering machines

**MISCELLANEOUS:**



Rechargeable dry cell batteries (nickel cadmium, nickel hydride, lithium ion) (NO alkaline)  
GPS units  
Wires & cables  
Fitness trackers/smart watches  
Microwaves  
Small appliances (NO Freon)  
NO vacuum cleaners

\* TV sticker can be purchased at Residential Refuse Tag Sellers.

## Where & When

**Locations**

**Days & Times**

**TV Sticker\* Sold at Site**

Cumberland, Penn-Mar Recycling	Monday - Friday; 8am - 4pm Extended hours: Wednesday; 4pm - 7pm	Yes
Flintstone Refuse Site	Thursday; 10am - 6pm Sunday; 9am - 5pm	Yes
Frostburg, Mountainview Drop-off Area	Monday - Friday; 7am - 3:30pm Saturday; 7am - 2pm	No
Little Orleans Refuse Site	Friday; 10am - 6pm	Yes
Lonaconing Town Hall	Monday - Friday; 9am - 4pm	Yes
Oldtown Refuse Site	Wednesday; 10am - 6pm Saturday; 9am - 5pm	Yes
Westernport Town Hall	Monday - Friday; 9am - 4pm	Yes

Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional firms call for more information

**Only Allegany County Residents**

proof of residency required

For More Information

visit: [gov.allconet.org/recycle](http://gov.allconet.org/recycle)

call: 301-777-5933 x 210



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### ***Frostburg State University: At a Glance***

#### **Strategic Planning**

- Frostburg State University plans to complete a new strategic plan by June of 2017. The plan will include three to five strategic themes or goals, with measurable outcomes, that will guide the University's thinking, planning, budgeting and actions.
- Frostburg's new strategic plan will cover six years (2017-2023), concluding with the celebration of the University's 125th anniversary in 2023.

#### **Regional Economic Development**

- As reported in a 2013 regional economic impact study, Frostburg State University institutional, employee and student expenditures directly and indirectly generate \$121 million for Allegany County businesses and total \$173 million for businesses across Maryland.
- The University has joined with the City of Frostburg and the Appalachian Regional Commission, to fund a University-based Targeted Industry Analysis for the local community:
- Summer conferences held at the University draw approximately 8,000 guests to the Frostburg campus each year.
- Frostburg State University is joining with local chambers of commerce, city officials, and county government to undertake economic development projects that will involve University faculty and students.
- Frostburg State University's Cultural Events Series, now celebrating its 60th anniversary, brings international-caliber performing artists to the University, providing a valuable cultural resource to the community and further enhancing economic development in the region.

#### **Student Success and Recognition**

- *MONEY Magazine* listed Frostburg State University as a "Best Value College," based on the University's quality, affordability and outcomes.
- Frostburg State University was ranked 113 among all U.S. four-year public universities in terms of lowest average student debt per borrower by LendEDU, an online student loan comparison service. Frostburg was second-lowest among all Maryland schools, public and private, based on class of 2015 lending data.
- Frostburg State University was named 2016 Public University of the Year by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, the largest academic internship program in the country, which partners with more than 500 U.S. colleges and universities.
- In value-added college rankings, the Brookings Institute and the magazine the *Economist* both found, on average, Frostburg alumni earned between \$5,000 and \$6,000 more each year by their career midpoints than researchers estimated for graduates of comparable institutions.

- For five straight years, Frostburg has been named a Military Friendly School for how well it serves its military and veteran students by *GI Jobs Magazine*, a monthly print and digital publication of Victory Media, a company founded by veterans to help other service members transition back to civilian life. In 2015, the University opened a Veterans Center to house the array of services it provides, but also to offer a welcoming gathering place for these students.
- Frostburg State University's Academic Success Network includes a range of partnered programs focused on student success and achievement, including freshman monitoring to identify and address barriers to academic achievement and eight-semester plans of study in each major to help students graduate in four years.
- The University is presently reviewing how to better serve transfer students and adult learners, including articulation and reverse transfer agreements with regional community colleges.

### **New Academic Programs**

- New STEM Degree Programs
  - Online Master of Science in Nursing
  - Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences
  - Bachelor of Science in Secure Computing and Information Assurance
  - Master of Science in Applied Computer Science is now also offered online
- Bachelor of Science in Adventure Sports Management
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Hospitality Management (includes an international experience at Vanung University in Taiwan)
- Joint Degree Program with Hunan University of Commerce in Economics with a minor in Finance
- Dual Elementary-Middle School Teacher Certification
- Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

### **Resources and Facilities**

- The University's new Public Safety Building is now under construction and on track for completion in spring 2017.
- Funding has been approved to renovate the University's largest residence halls. This is the first major renovation for these halls, which were constructed between 1967 and 1976.
- Funding for a new residence hall has been approved with the design underway. Completion is scheduled for fall 2019.
- Planning funds for the Educational Professions and Health Sciences building have been approved. Under optimal conditions, construction would begin in July 2019, with occupancy for fall 2021.

### **Allegany County Opportunity Scholarship**

- In the current year, 197 local students at FSU have received a total of \$182,500 in scholarships of up to \$1,000 each. (Another \$8,180 will be awarded during the current academic year.)
- Since the scholarship began, 525 local students have received \$521,565 to help them advance their education. Undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students are eligible.
- Allegany County Commissioners chose to spend this revenue to provide additional educational opportunities to the citizens of Allegany County.