PRESS RELEASE: Ferris State University Issues Final Round of Notices ,
Closes Investigation into Data Security Incident

Sandy C Gholston   to: Archive   09/24/2013 01:05 PM

Included below is a press release regarding the final round of notices and closure of the investigation into the data security incident at Ferris State University. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager.

To read the online version, visit: http://www.ferris.edu/notice/Sep-24-2013/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ferris State University Issues Final Round of Notices , Closes Investigation into Data Security Incident

BIG RAPIDS, Mich. - Ferris State University announced today that it is closing its investigation into the July 23 discovery of unauthorized software on its network and sending a second and final round of notices to individuals whose information may have been accessible. The investigation–led by the university and a top forensic team–found no evidence to suggest this information was viewed or taken.

Last month, letters were sent to a group of individuals whose Social Security and campus wide identification (CWID) numbers were initially identified as being accessible. Since then, the university has been working diligently to accurately determine other individuals whose information might be accessible.

The final round of letters were mailed today to 62,630 individuals, including 3,947 patients affiliated with the Michigan College of Optometry, as well as a group of students and employees whose Social Security or CWID numbers may have been accessible.

"Taking aggressive action early and confronting this issue is consistent with the university's core value of behaving in an ethical and transparent fashion," said Jerry Scoby, vice president for administration and finance at Ferris. "We are focusing now on further strengthening the security of our systems to help protect the information provided to us."

In addition to notifying all potentially affected individuals, the university has established a dedicated call center to address any questions and created a page on its website (http://www.ferris.edu/notice/Sep-24-2013/faq/) to articulate the facts of this issue. The university also is offering free credit monitoring services for one year to individuals whose Social Security number was accessible and is conducting a complete IT systems review to evaluate what more the university can do to further secure its computer systems.

For more information regarding those individuals affiliated with the Michigan College of Optometry, please visit: http://www.ferris.edu/notice/Sep-24-2013/optometry-patient-privacy/.

For general inquiries concerning students and university employees, please contact the data security incident call center at 877-332-6271.

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