



NEWS RELEASE

(9-09-05)

Leah Nixon
(Assistant Director of News Services)

Ferris to accept students displaced by hurricane

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University faculty, staff and students are coordinating a variety of fund-raisers to help victims of Hurricane Katrina, while its campus communities are preparing to open their doors and accept students displaced by the disaster.

Ferris President David L. Eisler announced the university would admit displaced students on a visiting or provisional basis, coordinating with the individuals' home institutions. Students who paid tuition to their college or university will not be charged tuition or fees, and students who have not paid tuition will be charge Ferris' tuition – an amount which will be forwarded to the students' home institutions, Eisler said.

“As a university, we have worked to develop an approach to assist these students without disadvantaging their home institutions during this challenging time,” Eisler added. “Like Americans everywhere, we have been stunned by the devastation and personal suffering caused by Hurricane Katrina. Ferris State University and the members of its campus communities want to help students displaced by Katrina and provide support to the victims of this natural disaster.”

Vice President for Student Affairs Daniel Burcham said each student's situation will vary and Ferris will approach helping them on an individual basis at the university's Big Rapids campus, Ferris-Grand Rapids and Kendall College of Art and Design.

“Ferris State officials will help students coordinate financial aid needs, housing assignments and educational requirements to help situate students in their new environment,” Burcham said.

There already has been an outpouring of support from the campus communities of Ferris State with more than \$1,000 being collected in one day after university officials announced plans for relief efforts, Burcham added. Future fund-raisers, including a dance-a-thon, will be scheduled throughout the semester to raise money for hurricane victims.

Students in the Law Enforcement Academy in Ferris' School of Criminal Justice also have donated 300 khaki uniforms for Gulf Coast police officers in three Mississippi counties, including Hancock, Jackson and Harrison, said Frank Crowe, School of Criminal Justice director. The uniforms will go to officers that lost everything in the disaster but who continue to help their friends and neighbors.

“I am very proud of our students who worked hard to provide uniforms for our law enforcement personnel who continue to work together after losing everything themselves in one of the greatest natural disasters in our history,” Crowe said.

NEWS SERVICES AND MEDIA RELATIONS UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND MARKETING

Leah Nixon, Assistant Director 420 Oak Street, PRK 108D Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: (231) 591-5604 Fax: (231) 591-2985 E-mail: LeahNixon@ferris.edu
Web: <http://www.ferris.edu/news>