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From: Sandy C Gholston
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 8:50 AM
To: Archive
Subject: UNIVERSITY STATEMENT: Statement from the Ferris State Board of Trustees Issued by Chairman Gary Granger and University President David Eisler

Included below is a statement of support from Ferris State University Board of Trustees Chairman Gary Granger and University President David Eisler for Oliver Evans, interim president of Kendall College of Art and Design, and Sandra Davison-Wilson, vice president for Administration and Finance at KCAD. Any media requests regarding this release can be directed to Communications Officer Marc Sheehan at (231) 591-3965 or (231) 250-8274.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 14, 2014

Statement from the Ferris State Board of Trustees Issued by Chairman Gary Granger and University President David Eisler

On behalf of the Ferris State Board of Trustees and the University generally, we want to express in strong and unequivocal terms our support of Interim Kendall College of Arts and Design President Oliver Evans, and Vice President for Administration and Finance Sandra Davison-Wilson.

President Evans led KCAD for 18 years, during which the college merged with Ferris State University. In the 12 years he led KCAD as a college of Ferris, Dr. Evans oversaw enrollment growth that nearly tripled the student body; saw the opening of new student housing at The Lofts @ 5 Lyon; brought new and innovative degree programs to the college; began the mutually beneficial relationship with the city's ArtPrize competition; and was instrumental in the public-private partnership that led to the renovation of what is now the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building. Simply put, it is not possible to see how Kendall College of Art and Design would be the thriving educational institution it is today without the leadership of Oliver Evans.

The same is true for Sandra Davison-Wilson. All of these projects that contributed to the building of the Kendall College of Art and Design we know today relied heavily on Davison-Wilson's dedication and expertise. Her hard work facilitated these projects – especially the renovation of the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building. During times that were the toughest for Kendall financially, Davison-Wilson was the glue that helped hold the institution together.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that Oliver Evans and Sandra Davison-Wilson will be key personnel during this time of transition at KCAD.

Additionally, we want to make it clear that there have been no other decisions made regarding the future of the existing leadership staff at Kendall, outside the resignation of Dr. David Rosen, despite reports to the contrary.

When Ferris State University merged with Kendall College of Art and Design, the college was struggling financially. It had an enrollment of approximately 500 students who attended classes in one building that was in poor condition and lacked modern technology. Today, the college enrolls more than 1,400 students studying, living and creating in a vibrant, technologically sophisticated urban campus.

Having worked through plans for growth of the college together, the entire Ferris State Board of Trustees and University administration are fully aware of the contributions that President Evans and Vice-President Davison-Wilson have made over many, many years.

The relationship between Kendall and Ferris has made it possible for thousands more students to advance their creative and career skills. Faculty are critical to this process. We look forward to continuing and strengthening a partnership that has so successfully expanded opportunities for students and the communities we serve.

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Sandy Gholston

News Services and Social Media Manager
University Advancement and Marketing
Ferris State University
(231) 591-2021
ferris.edu

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