



NEWS RELEASE

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Ferris officials report record-high enrollment

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University officials are reporting a record-high enrollment of 12,547 students system-wide for the Fall 2005 semester, 744 more students than last year.

Officials say this is the first time since 1992 the University has posted an enrollment of more than 12,000 students, with Ferris State's previous high being 12,461 students in 1991.

“This is a day to celebrate,” Ferris President David L. Eisler said. “The idea is not to go to college but to graduate from college and I think we are retaining and have some of the best prepared students that we've ever had entering Ferris State.”

First-year retention for the University's four-year students increased to 70 percent, up 335 students, and is attributable to stricter academic standards that lead to better prepared students enrolling at Ferris, officials said.

“A large part of our enrollment growth results from our higher retention rates,” Ferris Vice President for Student Affairs Daniel Burcham said, adding Ferris faculty and staff should be commended for their dedication and commitment to helping the University grow.

Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University in Grand Rapids also is experiencing historic growth posting its first enrollment of more than 1,000 students with 1,036 students enrolled for the Fall 2005 semester.

The University Center for Extended Learning also is surpassing the 1,000 student mark with 1,120 Ferris students working toward their degrees from one of 26 off-campus locations.

“We knew we had a good recruiting year, but our final results were even better than expected,” Burcham said. “Any excellent recruitment year is the collective work of hundreds of employees of the University. I thank them all for their dedication and commitment.”

Other increases for UCEL include a 30 percent jump in the number of credit hours taken by students, which result from a combination of the launch of 15 new degree programs, the start of seven new program cohorts and the trend that students are taking more credits each semester, officials said.

The trend of students taking more credit hours also is extending to Ferris-Grand Rapids, where officials report the number of credit hours taken by students has increased 25 percent.

NEWS SERVICES AND MEDIA RELATIONS UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND MARKETING

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