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Included below is a press release regarding Ferris State University's spring 2008 enrollment figures. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris State University reports record spring enrollment

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University school officials are once again reporting a record spring enrollment, with 12,407 students attending classes systemwide. This is an increase of 376 students, or 3.1 percent, above Spring 2007 enrollment of 12,031 students.

Historically not seeing spring enrollment at Ferris above 12,000 students, University officials are pleased with campus-wide efforts to increase enrollment.

“The University’s success is based upon the hard work of faculty and staff at Ferris to create a supportive and welcoming student environment,” Ferris President David Eisler said. “The continued increase in the number of students attending Ferris is great news.”

Eisler also noted that the enrollment growth is evidence that Ferris State University’s academic programs are serving the needs of Michigan citizens.

Not only is Ferris experiencing increased growth, but an increase in retention, as well.

Engaging students, as well as increasing admissions standards, have led to an 87 percent retention rate from fall to spring semester, noted Kristen Salomonson, dean of Enrollment Services. “We’re gaining ground and seeing the continued benefits of admissions standards being raised. With the number of continuing students remaining extremely strong, this is a clear indication we’re admitting students and keeping them.”

Also helping students continue their education at Ferris is more than \$100 million in financial aid, a record for the University, said Kathy Lake, interim director of Financial Aid. Scholarship money awarded to freshmen alone has increased to \$1.7 million for the 2007-08 academic year – almost \$120,000 more than last year.

“An increasing enrollment requires the collaboration and integration of a great many offices,” Vice President for Student Affairs Daniel Burcham said. “It really is a university-wide effort to increase enrollment.”

Burcham cited more Michigan high school visits, enhanced training for admissions counselors in financial aid, the establishment of a transfer student office and community

outreach through the Student Life Bus Tour by the Office of Multicultural Student Services as contributing positively to Ferris' enrollment growth.

On the University's Big Rapids campus, there have not been more than 9,000 students attending classes since 1995. There are 9,038 attending classes in Big Rapids, an increase of 83 students above last year's enrollment of 8,955 students.

Off campus, the University is also seeing growth with 2,211 students enrolled, an increase of 180 students more than spring enrollment in 2007 of 2,031 students. Ferris offers degree programs in Grand Rapids at the Applied Technology Center and at more than 20 additional locations throughout the state of Michigan.

Enrollment at the Applied Technology Center in Grand Rapids grew to 845 students this spring. Offerings in degree program areas such as Digital Animation and Game Design, and newly created Information and Security Intelligence have given students cutting-edge career choices.

The DAGD program also gives high school students in Grand Rapids a taste of college life and the opportunity to experience Ferris sooner through dual enrollment options, Burcham said. Students then are choosing to continue their education after high school at Ferris.

Expansion of the ISI degree program from its current location in Grand Rapids into Traverse City beginning in the fall of 2008 also will continue to increase career options for students. Traverse City is one of 23 off-campus sites located throughout the state where Ferris offers courses.

Kendall College of Art and Design set its own record for enrollment and is up 99 students to 1,042 above last spring's total enrollment of 943. Kendall has added offerings in photography, painting, digital media, sculpture and functional art, art education and metals/jewelry design, as well as a Master of Fine Arts and Master of Art Education. Most recently, Kendall collaborated with Ferris' College of Business to develop a core of courses in design and innovation management that have become a part of the University's MBA program.

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