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Subject: Reading Profs Meet at Ferris
Date: 01/25/2008 09:09 AM

Included below is a press release regarding a meeting of the Michigan Alliance of Reading Professors today at Ferris State University. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
Jan. 25, 2008

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Alliance of Reading Professors to meet at Ferris

BIG RAPIDS – The Michigan Alliance of Reading Professors have scheduled a meeting at Ferris State University at 10 a.m. today (Jan. 25) in FLITE to discuss a number of issues and to prepare for a panel discussion set for March at Cobo Hall in Detroit at the Michigan Reading Conference.

Approximately 20 professors representing all major universities in the state are expected to attend the meeting hosted by Ferris. The professors will participate in discussions of current legislation, reading research, ways to promote teacher expertise, and professional decision making in literacy assessment and instruction in addition to the continued preparation for the Detroit conference.

Among those expected to participate in Friday's meeting are the president of the association, Dr. Mark Conley, of Michigan State University; Vice President James Cipielewski, from Oakland University; Dr. Nancy Patterson, a secretary from Grand Valley State University; Dr. Patricia Gallent (University of Michigan-Flint), co-editor of the *Michigan Reading Journal*; and Dr. Julia Reynolds, president of the Michigan Reading Association. This is the first time the group has met at Ferris after holding prior meetings at Michigan State, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Grand Valley and Oakland.

“Since the College of Education and Human Services has a Language Arts minor and a reading master's degree, it is important for Ferris professors to keep up with current legislation and with information about other reading programs throughout the state,” said Dr. Nancy Lee Lashaway-Bokina, an associate professor in the College of Education, who also anticipates discussion about a recent review of Reading First programs by coordinators of Reading First and professors from around the state. “If FSU is going to maintain a quality program, the faculty must stay abreast with current research and to let our presence be known throughout the state.”

Lashaway-Bokina and Dr. Marlene Braunius, an assistant professor in Reading/Language Arts at Ferris, are members of MARP.

The group is scheduled to be welcomed to Ferris by Dr. Paul Blake, assistant dean to the COEHS, at 10 a.m. There is a sit-down luncheon scheduled for 11:45 a.m. in the Rankin Student Center.

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