

From: [Leah D Nixon](#)
To: [Archive](#)
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Included below is a press release regarding Ferris State University's December commencement ceremonies. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris Students Prepare for December Commencement Ceremonies

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University will bestow degrees upon nearly 500 students during two commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 19, in Wink Arena.

Ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. for the colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Education and Human Services, and Engineering Technology. Ceremonies will be held at 1:30 p.m. for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Professional and Technological Studies. The College of Pharmacy and Michigan College of Optometry hold commencement exercises in May.

The commencement speaker for both ceremonies will be 2009 Distinguished Teacher Dr. Daniel Adsmond, professor of Chemistry, whose passion for education and learning dates back to his childhood when he tutored his older sister in geometry.

“I’ve always enjoyed teaching,” said Adsmond, who was nominated for the Distinguished Teacher Award by former recipient, Mary Murnik, a professor of Biology. “One of the things I’ve always enjoyed about teaching is watching the light bulb turn on in a student’s head and you know they get it.”

Through his passion for education and learning, Adsmond has inspired students by creating a teamwork environment in which students learn and work together – a staple of the hands-on educational experience Ferris has been known for since the university’s founding 125 years ago.

Adsmond received a bachelor’s degree from Northern Michigan University prior to earning his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, where he also carried out post-doctoral research in the department of Pharmaceutics. His main research, designing and synthesizing organic crystals, has applications in pharmaceutical solids and organic materials. He has been a faculty member at Ferris since 1998.

Ferris State University was founded in 1884 by educator Woodbridge N. Ferris, who later was elected Michigan governor and United States senator. Celebrating its 125th year of offering educational opportunities to Michigan’s citizens, Ferris is a four-year public university with campuses in Big Rapids, Grand Rapids and satellite locations across the state.

The university offers more than 170 degree programs, including doctoral, master's, bachelor's and associate degrees, through nine academic colleges: Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, the Michigan College of Optometry, Pharmacy, Engineering Technology, Kendall College of Art and Design, and the College of Professional and Technological Studies.

- 30 -

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