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Contact Bill Taylor, Asst. Director, News Services
taylorb@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2065 or 591-5604

Emeritus Nelson establishes endowment for Ferris women student-athletes

BIG RAPIDS – Emeritus faculty member Joan Nelson, long a champion for women’s athletics at Ferris State University, has established an endowment to support Joan Nelson Scholarships for Bulldog women student-athletes.

The Nelson Scholarships will be awarded to a member of one of the eight Ferris women’s intercollegiate athletic teams, including basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field or volleyball. Candidates must have earned a minimum 3.0 grade point average and shall have demonstrated leadership skills through their participation in athletics or other University student activity programs.

Nelson taught physical education at Ferris from 1962 until her retirement in 1990. A graduate of Michigan State University, she is a member of the University’s Founder’s Club and the Ferris Emeriti Association. She received an Athletics Special Service Award from the Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame Selection Committee during the 2003 induction banquet.

“To who much is given, much is expected,” said Nelson. “I truly enjoyed my time at Ferris. Being recognized by the University and the Hall of Fame with a Special Service Award was an unexpected honor for me. I’m happy to be able to help our student-athletes to achieve their educational goals.”

The Big Rapids resident has been an avid supporter of Bulldog women's athletics since the program began in the early 1970s and is a contributor of both moral and financial support. Nelson resides in Charlevoix during the summer months.

For more information or to make a gift to the Joan Nelson Scholarship Endowment Fund, interested persons may contact Debra Jacks, director of planning giving, at 591-3817 or jacksd@ferris.edu.