

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Ferris Trustee Haveman honored by Department of Defense**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University Trustee James K. Haveman Jr. of Grand Rapids has received the U.S. Department of Defense’s highest civilian award for his work as the Coalition Provisional Authority Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

Haveman last month was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service during a formal Pentagon ceremony hosted by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. The award recognized his “exceptionally distinguished service of significance to the Department of Defense” during his efforts in leading the restoration and rebuilding of the Iraqi healthcare system from June 2003 to April 2004.

He worked at the Ministry of Health headquarters in downtown Baghdad daily and was the Acting Minister of Health until the appointment of the Iraqi interim minister in September 2003. Haveman developed a budget and strategic plan reflective of the true healthcare needs of the Iraqi people, and led the effort for the travel of more than 44,000 Iraqi pilgrims to the Hajj. His award further cited that “his selfless dedication ensured the Iraqi healthcare system’s rebirth and rehabilitation is on track and poised for success.”

Haveman was appointed by Gov. John Engler in 2002 to an eight-year term on the Ferris Board of Trustees. He is currently with the Haveman Group, having previously served as director of the Michigan Department of Community Health since April 1966. Prior to that, he was director of the Michigan Department of Mental Health.

He received the National Governors’ Association Distinguished Service Award in July 1997. In May 2000, Haveman received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Calvin College. A social worker by training, he is a 1966 graduate of Calvin and earned his master’s degree in social work from Michigan State University.