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Ferris' Hurley named FPW Woman of the Year

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University's Jana Hurley, dean of student life and director of housing, has been selected as the 2005 Woman of the Year by the Ferris Professional Women (FPW).

Hurley, who was chosen for participating in activities to enhance the status of all women, encouraging women to exercise their rights and roles in the Ferris community and continuing to be a model of professionalism to students and other colleagues, was honored during the FPW's annual luncheon held recently.

A Ferris administrator since 1994, she was cited for her ability to handle two challenging positions while earning the respect of those who have worked for her. Her duties as Dean of Student Life include administrative responsibility for the Orientation Office and Office of Student Judicial Services.

Hurley has encouraged those women students who were verbally, physically and/or sexually abused or assaulted to confront their fears and stand up for their rights. Although these duties can be highly stressful, she consistently serves all students by encouraging them to exercise their rights and be responsible for their behavior.

In her role as Director of Housing, she has extensive interactions with the University's Physical Plant, which is a predominately male work environment. Despite the relative differences in communication and management style, labor negotiations and conflict resolution techniques, she has bridged many potential difficulties through hard work and determination. Hurley has developed her own leadership style, earning respect from male and female colleagues alike and serving as a pioneer in showing other women ways to succeed.

She is an especially effective role model for female students. A tireless worker and mentor to many Hall Directors and Resident Advisors, she continually goes beyond what is expected to help students and colleagues. She serves as an advisor to the Habitat for Humanity student organization and advises the Finance Division of Ferris Student Government, which oversees the distribution of Student Activity Funds.

Hurley is presently completing her doctorate from Western Michigan University, demonstrating to young women that they can serve in a demanding professional position and still engage in professional development. She holds a baccalaureate from Grand Valley State University and a master's from Central Michigan University.

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FPW WOMAN OF THE YEAR – Ferris State University's Jana Hurley (right), dean of student life and director of housing, was recently honored as the Ferris Professional Women's Woman of the Year by 2004 recipient Donna Smith, professor of communication. Hurley was cited for her ability to handle two challenging positions while earning the respect of those who worked for her.



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