

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Friends, family establish Murray Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund**

BIG RAPIDS – Family and friends of the late Merrill Murray, associate dean emeritus of Ferris State University’s Michigan College of Optometry (MCO), have established a scholarship endowment fund in his memory.

Candidates for the award must be enrolled full-time in the MCO’s doctor of optometry program and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Applicants will also demonstrate the personal characteristics necessary to be an outstanding optometrist, including professionalism, leadership, concern for others and dedication to quality care and community.

In awarding the scholarship, first preference will be given to candidates who attained their primary and/or secondary education in Mecosta County or Henry County, Indiana, with second preference to candidates from Michigan or Indiana.

Dr. Murray served Ferris in several administrative positions, overseeing academic programs during a period of rapid expansion from 1959 until his retirement in 1982, and playing a pivotal role in the establishment of the doctor of optometry program. A member of the University’s Presidents Club, he was an active participant and strong proponent of higher education.

"Dr. Murray was instrumental in establishing the College of Optometry at Ferris," said MCO Dean Kevin Alexander. "His zeal, dedication and hard work made a lasting mark on Michigan's only College of Optometry."

Murray was also dedicated to activities supporting the enhancement of society and the local community. His leadership, professionalism and willingness to give back to his communities often facilitated a positive relationship between the University and the Big Rapids area. Murray, a native of New Castle, IN, died on May 4, 2004.

Further information or gift forms for the Merrill Murray Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund are available by contacting Debra Jacks, director of planned giving, at 231-591-3817 or jacksd@ferris.edu. Details about establishing scholarships or endowments may be obtained from the Advancement Office at 231-591-2391.