

For Immediate Release
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Ferris observes National Medical Laboratory Week

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University will join in the April 24-30 observance of National Medical Laboratory Week as the time to honor the more than 290,000 medical laboratory professionals across the nation who perform and interpret laboratory tests that save lives and keep people healthy.

Using state-of-the-art technology and instrumentation, laboratory professionals help to prevent disease by detecting unknown health problems and by aiding in the diagnosis and treatment of existing conditions by giving accurate, timely test results. The lab tests results comprise an estimated 70 percent of a patient's medical records and are vital to the diagnosis and treatment of illness and disease.

Medical lab professionals represent many specialties, including pathologists, medical technologists, clinical lab scientists, medical lab technicians, histotechnologists, histologic technicians, cytotechnologists, cytopathologists, phlebotomy technicians, clinical chemists, microbiologists, lab managers and medical educators.

These professionals can be found in hospitals, doctors' offices, clinics, research facilities, blood banks, public health centers, the Armed Forces, universities and industry. Within the laboratory, these highly educated and experienced medical laboratory professionals may work in chemistry, serology, hematology, cytology, microbiology, immunology, coagulation, histology, urinalysis, molecular biology or the blood bank.

Many factors have increased the need for medical lab tests: an aging population, more emphasis on preventive medicine, countless new medical technologies, expanding medical knowledge and technological developments and new and different pathogens.

Ferris' Clinical Laboratory Sciences programs include a certificate program, an associate degree and a baccalaureate degree program. The phlebotomy certificate includes five courses, one of which is an internship in an affiliated hospital. Students learn to collect, transport, and process laboratory specimens for testing. The Medical Laboratory Technology Program is five semesters in length and leads to an Associate in Applied Science degree. The curriculum includes general education courses and courses in the various laboratory disciplines. The program includes a 14-week clinical experience (internship) at one of several clinical affiliates in Michigan.

The Medical Technology Program combines specified courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, management, statistics and the general education courses required for the baccalaureate degree. These courses may be completed by Medical Technology students within the College of Allied Health Sciences, by students in another program or College at Ferris, or at any other college. The professional phase of the program includes advanced courses in natural sciences and basic and advanced courses in clinical laboratory disciplines. Students can complete this program in two ways. Many complete all required courses on campus and finish the program with clinical experience (internship). Other students complete an associate degree MLT program and then enter the MT program to gain the advanced knowledge and skills for the baccalaureate degree.



More information about the Ferris Clinical Laboratory Science programs is available by calling Barbara Ross at 591-2317.

- 30 -