

For Immediate Release
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Ferris to present five honorary degrees at Commencement

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University will confer honorary degrees upon five recipients during its annual Commencement exercises on May 6-7.

Selected for the distinction by the University's Board of Trustees are: Paul Boyer of Grand Rapids, vice chair and co-chief executive officer of Meijer, Inc.; Roger Card and his wife, Debra, of Mt. Pleasant, owner of The Card Companies and Card's Draw; Rick Johnson of Leroy, immediate past speaker of Michigan's House of Representatives; and Richard Sauve of Fenton, technical sales representative for Leica Geosystems, Inc.

Commencement ceremonies for the College of Education and Human Services and the College of Pharmacy will be held May 6 at 6 p.m. Ceremonies for the College of Technology are scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 7 with the College of Business at 12:30 p.m. and the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Allied Health Sciences and Michigan College of Optometry at 4 p.m.

The Ferris Board will confer an honorary doctor of business and industry degree upon Boyer, Roger and Debra Card and Sauve, and an honorary doctor of public service degree upon Johnson. The recipients will deliver brief acceptance remarks during the Commencement ceremonies in Wink Arena. Johnson will receive his degree Friday evening and Sauve will be honored Saturday at 9, Boyer at 12:30 and the Cards at 4.

Boyer, who graduated from Ferris with a bachelor's degree in Marketing, also holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Western Michigan University. During his 35 years with Meijer, he has held many key management positions including senior vice president of distribution, senior vice president of distribution and properties, SourceClub president and executive vice president. He became president and COO in 2002 and a member of the board of directors in 2003.

Boyer was keynote speaker for Ferris' Winter Commencement in 1988. He has been active in Ferris alumni events, serving on the Ferris alumni board and receiving the 1992 Distinguished Alumni Award. He also is on the board of directors for Goodwill Industries of Grand Rapids, Habitat for Humanity and is on several committees for non-profit organizations.

Thanks in part to highly successful alumni such as Boyer, Meijer and Ferris have developed a strong working relationship over several decades. Meijer also hires many Ferris graduates, including five of its current vice presidents.

Through the generosity of Roger and Debra Card, Ferris is home to the Card Wildlife Education Center – a 5,000-square-foot facility with more than 160 specimens of animals from around the world. Roger Card is a 1963 graduate of Ferris' College of Technology, and both he and his wife have hunted big game around the globe. Together, the Cards have donated or loaned animal mounts and pledged significant support for development and maintenance of the Center.

The Card Center serves as an educational resource for K-12 students, the Ferris community and the whole of mid-Michigan. The Wildlife Center focuses largely on North

American mammals, especially those from Michigan. However, its displays also feature exotic species from South America to the South Pacific, Africa and Asia.

In addition, Roger and Debra established the Card Scholarship which awards \$10,000 per year. In return, the students help staff the Center and care for the collection during their years at Ferris. The scholarships highlight their commitment to Ferris and their involvement in educating students throughout the community and state.

In 2004, the couple became inaugural members of the Woodbridge N. Ferris Society, the most prestigious of the University's Donor Societies. After selling his Mount Pleasant-based construction company, Roger now operates the Card Companies, a real estate development venture, and owns Card's Draw, a whitetail ranch near Mecosta.

Born and raised on a farm in Osceola County, Johnson has an extensive history of service in education. He first achieved public office on the Pine River Board of Education in the early 1980s. His six years on the Pine River board taught him valuable lessons about maximizing dollars in the classroom, experience that he carried over into the Michigan House of Representatives, where he became speaker in 2001.

Johnson began his representation of the 102nd District in the Michigan House of Representatives in 1998. Prior to his House tenure, he served on the Michigan Farm Bureau State Board and as an Osceola County Commissioner from 1986-1994. He was re-elected speaker for the 2003-2004 legislative session. As chair of the House Republican Campaign Committee during 2000, he successfully led his caucus to a second consecutive majority in the House - a feat unseen in more than 30 years. During his first term, half of the bills he introduced were signed into law.

Johnson's hands-on style, attention to detail and focus on the future of Michigan have been key in the implementation of digital and information technology systems throughout the state. In November 2001, he introduced the concept of Freedom to Learn, an innovative program designed to increase student performance, empower teachers and provide opportunities for all Michigan students through wireless technology. After a pilot program in 80 schools showed increases in test scores and student involvement, he announced the Learning Without Limits project in 2003.

Sauve, who received a bachelor's degree in surveying from Ferris in 1983, is an international Global Positioning Systems surveyor. He has earned Leica Geosystems' Heinrich Wild Sales Excellence Award each year from 1998-2004 in recognition of his sales, which were the highest above target in the western hemisphere.

Sauve's expertise in surveying has allowed him to work on projects around the world, from Algeria to Norway, Chile to Iran and Abu Dhabi to Beijing – not to mention many projects in the United States. He is also a leader in national efforts to establish Continuous Observation Reference Stations, a project that will help establish new world standards for navigation and precise positioning. A member of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, he has earned its Presidents Award in both 1999 and 2002.

Sauve is a frequent guest instructor for Ferris' Surveying Engineering Technology program, teaching the use of the latest surveying technologies. For the last five years through his advocacy and activities with students, Ferris' program has enjoyed significant support, including equipment, accessories and contributions from Leica Geosystems – now a member of the University's Phoenix Society. As a result of Leica Geosystems gifts to the Surveying



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Engineering program, Ferris has the best equipped surveying lab in the world, according to Sauve. He also helps the student chapter of Burt & Mullet Surveying Association and the Sigma Lambda Surveying Honor Society.

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