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**Subject:** Ferris State University Trustees Approve Veterans Scholarship  
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Dear Editors, News Directors:

Included below are two press releases highlighting today's Ferris State University Board of Trustees meeting, which took place in Grand Rapids. Trustees approved a veterans scholarship, effective Winter Semester 2006, and the final fiscal year 2006 general fund operating budget.

## **Ferris Board of Trustees approve Military Veterans Scholarship Program**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Ferris State University Board of Trustees celebrated Veterans Day and those men and women who have served in the Armed Forces by approving a Military Veterans Scholarship Program during the board's regular meeting on Friday at Kendall College of Art and Design.

The program will provide a \$1,000 annual scholarship and waive out-of-state tuition fees for qualified veterans enrolling at Ferris. Veterans entering school in either freshman or transfer status are eligible for the scholarship, while veterans currently enrolled who meet the requirements will be offered the scholarship effective Winter Semester 2006.

“This scholarship is one way in which Ferris can show its appreciation to our men and women in the military,” said University President David L. Eisler. “A significant number of students have had to postpone their education due to service to their country. This is a way of helping them when they return to civilian life.”

The scholarship is renewable for three additional years and the out-of-state tuition waiver continues as long as the veteran-student meets the program requirements. To receive the scholarship, veterans must have served a minimum of six consecutive months, or 180 days, on active duty status in the United States Military within the last four years previous to their enrollment at Ferris.

Student-veterans also must maintain full-time academic status and be in good academic standing to receive the scholarship.

“I am proud to say Ferris State University is offering this scholarship,” Board of Trustee Vice Chair James K. Haveman Jr. said.

Haveman understands the importance of honoring the men and women who serve their country, having served in Iraq as interim head of the Ministry of Health from June 2003 to May 2004.

“This scholarship provides University officials the opportunity to do more to thank the men

and women who serve their country,” he added.

Ferris State University is a four-year public university with campuses in Big Rapids, Grand Rapids and satellite locations across the state. Ferris offers more than 170 educational programs, including doctorates, master’s, bachelor’s and associate degrees, through nine academic colleges: Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, the Michigan College of Optometry, Pharmacy, Technology, Kendall College of Art and Design and the College of Professional and Technological Studies. Ferris also has a University College that provides students with instruction in study skills, reading, career exploration and features an Honors Program. Founded in 1884 by educator, Michigan Governor and United States Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris, the university’s mission is to be a national leader in career-oriented, technological and professional education.

## **Ferris Board of Trustees approve final ’06 general fund budget**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Ferris State University Board of Trustees approved the university’s final fiscal year 2005-06 general fund operating budget of \$142 million during its Friday morning meeting at Kendall College of Art and Design.

The preliminary budget approved in July reflected anticipated enrollment and state funding. The final recommendation includes updated tuition revenue based upon fall student enrollment and the approved state funding level.

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm and Michigan legislators approved in September a higher education FY 2005-06 operating budget that recommended a state funding reduction of \$774,000 during phase one, that was effective Oct. 1. An additional \$440,000 in funding is to be provided July 1, 2006, according to the agreement, bringing the university’s overall appropriation reduction to \$334,000.

“We are being very conservative with this budget,” Ferris President David L. Eisler said. “I think there is a realistic possibility with the increase in cost for natural gas, hurricane relief efforts and the Delphi bankruptcy, mid-year funding cuts may be a possibility by the state. We’re trying to be very cautious.”

Trustees also approved the fiscal year 2006-07 state operating budget and 2007 capital outlay project requests.

The FY 2006-07 state operating budget request outlines four components that support the university’s career-focused mission, including an inflationary increase reflecting enrollment growth and the importance of high-intensity (cost) academic programs, Michigan workforce development/retraining, relief requests for the ongoing cost increase of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System and a tuition incentive program.

The 2007 capital outlay project request highlights the proposal for the Michigan College of Optometry and Center for Collaborative Health Education. The proposed 91,000 square-foot facility to be situated within the proximity of Ferris’ buildings currently housing the College of Pharmacy and College of Allied Health Sciences is anticipated to establish an educational

synergy for the health sciences curricula at Ferris.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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