



NEWS RELEASE

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Ferris male nursing student wins award

BIG RAPIDS – Randy Linstrom, a first year Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) student at Ferris State University, has been selected to receive one of the Michigan 2005 Breaking Traditions Awards from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Office of Career and Technical Preparation.

The award recognizes outstanding students who have been successful in a Career and Technical Education/Occupation program area that is nontraditional for their gender. Linstrom is breaking a tradition in nursing as a male and an older adult with a prior career. He earned a degree in Horticulture from the University of Illinois in 1977, but eventually learned that humans were more important than plants.

“Of all lines of employment, no other career cares more for people than the nursing profession,” said Linstrom. Thus, in the winter of 2004 he started as a pre-nursing student at Ferris.

Linstrom has maintained a high grade point average, an enthusiasm for learning, and a kind, caring relationship with patients and peers while maintaining his role as husband and father. To increase his knowledge of nursing even more, he has taken an extern position at a Grand Rapids hospital.

According to Arlene Morton, nursing program coordinator, being the only male in a class of 34 could present a challenge. However, Linstrom appears comfortable and well accepted by his female peers. She said that he is often seen offering support and encouragement to the other nursing students. “He is an excellent role model to the other students and well deserving of this award,” added Morton.

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