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Included below is a press release regarding fall enrollment figures at Ferris State University. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris Officials Report Record Fall Enrollment

BIG RAPIDS – Students are back in class and the campus is bustling at Ferris State University, where officials are reporting another record fall enrollment.

The fastest-growing public university in Michigan, Ferris officials report there are 13,532 students enrolled systemwide. With 445 more students attending classes in fall 2008 over 2007, this translates into a 3.4 percent enrollment increase systemwide.

“Students are responding positively to our small class sizes and the supportive educational environment our faculty and staff help create,” Ferris President David Eisler said. “The kind of career-oriented education we offer is important to students today. Our graduates leave with degrees that prepare them to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy.”

Ferris also offers students a wide array of scholarship opportunities that help defray the cost of obtaining a degree at Ferris State University, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Daniel Burcham said. Nearly 7,000 scholarships worth a total value of \$18.9 million were awarded to students for the 2008-09 academic year.

According to Dean of Enrollment Services Kristen Salomonson, university officials took a close look at institutional scholarships, tweaking standards and increasing dollar amounts awarded so that more students would benefit from scholarship assistance.

“With more than 80 percent of our students receiving some sort of financial aid, we’re working with students as much as possible to help offset any financial difficulties they may have,” Salomonson said.

Burcham noted the school also is recruiting aggressively with such programs as the Chicago Initiative and the Hometown Recruiting program. The Hometown Recruiting Program has been especially successful with current Ferris students returning to their hometown communities to talk to prospective students about the university and college life at Ferris.

“The Hometown Recruiting Program creates a positive impression of Ferris on a peer-to-peer basis,” Salomonson added, saying, “We’re going full tilt to spread the good word about Ferris and that it’s a wonderful place to be.”

Additional projects to enhance the academic environment at Ferris include classroom

renovations, completion of the Interdisciplinary Resource Center, and installation of security and emergency communication equipment.

“Our goal is to make our classrooms places where students can most effectively learn and develop the kind of collaborative skills that are vital today,” Eisler said. “The flexibility of design and state-of-the-art technology we’re implementing is part of our commitment to providing the best possible setting for learning both in and out of the classroom.”

Besides its main campus in Big Rapids, Ferris offers degree programs in Grand Rapids through the College of Professional and Technological Studies, and at Kendall College of Art and Design, and at more than 20 off-campus locations throughout Michigan.

Enrollment has remained steady at the university’s Big Rapids campus, with 9,667 students enrolled. There are 2,513 students enrolled in the College of Professional and Technological Studies, and other sites throughout the state, an increase of 286 students.

Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University set its own record enrollment with 1,352 students, marking the 13th consecutive year of enrollment increases.

“It is gratifying to see how much the programs we offer are resonating with students,” KCAD President Oliver Evans said. “With faculty who are professional artists and an atmosphere that promotes creativity, Kendall attracts some of the most talented young artists and designers around.”

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