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Subject: Ferris Degree Opens Doors to Future
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Included below is a press release regarding Ferris State University graduate Tim Mikel, a Chicago native earning his bachelor's degree in Welding Engineering Technology this spring. After graduation, he will reside in Westerville, Ohio, and work for Edison Welding Institute as a project engineer. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris opens doors to better career path for graduate

BIG RAPIDS – For Welding Engineering Technology senior Tim Mikel choosing Ferris State University as his stepping stone to a better career path was a no-brainer – hands-on learning and caring faculty sold him from day one.

What also sold Mikel on Ferris was the prospect of job security in a career field that would not only be a new challenge to the Chicago native, but mesh well with his more than 8 years of experience working in the real world as a test engineer.

While Mikel found success as a test engineer at two companies – Tellabs and Network Associates – a souring economy led to corporate downsizing and job loss despite superior performance, promotions and successful completion of multiple projects.

It was the disappointment in committing vast amounts of knowledge and pride in his work, coupled with decreasing job security and low morale in the electronics industry, that made Mikel sit back and decide a career in electronics wasn't the path for him.

After a little research and meeting Ferris Welding Engineering Technology professor Ken Kuk at an American Welding Society Show in Chicago, Mikel knew he'd found the path that was right for him.

"Ferris has a hands-on approach that prepares you for the real world," Mikel said. "My experience at Ferris has been outstanding. The coursework and faculty are superior."

The choice was simple and now Mikel is ready to hit the ground running as he participates in the University's spring commencement exercises before heading to Columbus, Ohio, to work as a project engineer for the Edison Welding Institute – a job he has had lined up for more than a year.

"EWI offered me a position after I completed an internship with the company during the summer of 2007," Mikel said. "I was really drawn to Edison because of the freedom the company provides its employees to work on a variety of very unique projects. You'll never work on the same project twice."

Despite the fact one chapter is closing for Mikel and another is about to begin, one thing is certain – success is part of his future, especially if his career at Ferris is any indication.

A 4.0 student, Mikel is a recipient of the College of Technology Outstanding Student Award. He also was inducted into Tau Alpha Pi National Honor Society for Engineering Technology – a honor bestowed upon only the top 4 percent of students who have completed three-quarters of their studies toward a degree in engineering technology – and received a National Silver Award from the James F. Lincoln Division II Student Arc Welding Award program.

Mikel plans on pursuing a master’s degree in welding engineering or related discipline. He and his wife, Angie, will reside in Westerville, Ohio.

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FSU Tim Mikel.jpg

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