



PRESS RELEASE: Ferris State Online HVACR Students Visit Campus as part of a Blended Learning Experience

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

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Included below is a press release regarding the recent campus visit by online students from the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program. The online students come to the Big Rapids campus for the hands-on educational component that complements the online learning experience. Any questions related to this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris State Online HVACR Students Visit Campus

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University students from around the country gathered together at the Granger Center for Construction and HVACR during the week of Aug. 1 for laboratories to fulfill requirements for online courses taught by John Eric Quilitzsch and Douglas Zentz, associate professors in the College of Engineering Technology.

These 300-level Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration courses, taught by Quilitzsch and Zentz, blend online learning with a practical hands-on educational experience on Ferris' main campus during the visit.

“Online learning of technical material is difficult and our students often comment on how much work is involved with online courses and how challenging it is for them to adapt to an online environment,” Zentz said. “Students need to adapt because online courses offered in a blended environment, like this one, prepares them for life beyond college. In the real world of HVACR, in the 21st century, students are expected to work in this climate as they advance their professional careers.”

Distance learning students in Ferris' HVACR Engineering Technology program travel to the Big Rapids campus for five days during the summer to work with the HVACR systems and controls in the energy lab. During the campus visit, lab time provides a hands-on educational experience in fluid measurement, heat transfer, control programming, loop tuning and system commissioning for online students.

“For the working professional, the blended environment of online and hands-on application is absolute for success in the online HVACR Engineering Technology program,” Zentz said. “The biggest advantage is the required five-day Granger Center laboratory experience. This is where the most meaningful learning takes place.”

Zentz noted that Ferris' Granger Center for Construction and HVACR provides Ferris State students with a unique learning opportunity as it connects the brain to a learning style that is most familiar to students: learning visually by doing and seeing.

To learn more about Ferris' College of Engineering Technology, visit here:

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/colleges/technolo/homepage.htm>

For more information about the HVACR program, visit here: <http://www.ferris.edu/cot/hvacr/>

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