



PRESS RELEASE: Ferris Gets \$64,775 Grant Funding for Keys to Degrees for Single-Parent Students

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

01/23/2012 12:29 PM

Included below is a press release regarding a grant received by Ferris State University that will benefit single-parent students as they pursue their dreams of a college education. This grant will assist single parents by helping to provide opportunities for parents and their families to maximize the college experience during their time at Ferris. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

This article can be read online, here:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2012/january/keysdegrees.htm>

For Immediate Release
Jan. 23, 2012

Sandy Gholston
Ferris State University
Interim Assistant Director of News Services
sandygholston@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2021

Ferris Gets \$64,775 Grant Funding for Keys to Degrees for Single-Parent Students

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University received a \$64,775 grant from Endicott College (Mass.) and the Kellogg Foundation for its Single Parent Initiative to implement its new Keys to Degrees program for single students with children.

The grant will be used to initiate specific educational events and activities for the families of students while they pursue a college degree. Eligible Ferris students will be able to participate in local activities such as museum tours, attendance at Great Star Collaborative workshops and conferences, Prevention Network parenting seminars, and fun activities student parents may not otherwise be able to afford, such as bowling and swimming lessons.

“I think it’s definitely important. It’s definitely a need. It’s also known that our number of students with children has grown over the years,” said Karen GreenBay, coordinator of Ferris’ SCHOLAR Peer Mentoring Program. “Their needs are much different from those of the traditional and international students. We definitely will be working to support this group of students to help them progress through college.”

GreenBay noted that single-parent students typically have additional expenses beyond those of most traditional college students. She also explained that while the challenges are greater for many single-parent students, the completion of a college degree is still possible. With this grant and other opportunities within SPI, GreenBay hopes that the network can channel students to various resources for help.

“There are events that they probably wouldn’t be able to afford on their own, even going to

things they've never done before – like horseback riding. It is fun, it is learning and it is a family event,” GreenBay said.

The grant will be used during three semesters beginning with the Fall 2012 term. GreenBay said that those involved with SPI hope that the grant will enhance students' families experience with the programs and activities offered as they pursue a college degree.

“We just want to monitor the students through the semester, monitor their grades and how their families are adjusting,” she said. “The main thing is education. Our next goal is to provide some enjoyment and entertainment for the families.”

Applications for Keys to Degrees will be available online later during the Spring 2012 Semester.

The program, which begins during the 2012-13 academic year, will be patterned after similar efforts at Endicott and Eastern Michigan University.

To learn more about the Ferris SCHOLAR Peer Mentor Program, visit:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/university/peer/>

- 30 -

Sandy Gholston
Interim Assistant Director of News Services/Social Media PR
Ferris State University
420 Oak Street
Prakken Building 108
Phone: (231) 591-2021
News Services Web site: www.ferris.edu/news
Ferris State University News Blog: ferrisstatebulldogs.blogspot.com/

This message may contain confidential and/or proprietary information and is intended for the person/entity to which it was originally addressed. Any use by others is strictly prohibited.