



PRESS RELEASE: Ferris Addresses Internet Access of Student Information

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

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Included below is a press release regarding student readmission application information that was accessible via the Internet through Google search. Ferris State University took action to address the issue. The information is being removed by Google after a formal University request. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
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Ferris Addresses Internet Access of Student Information

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University has learned that some student readmit application information may have been accessible through Google search. The information came from readmission applications and involved approximately 285 students or former students. Affected individuals have been notified by email.

The university discovered on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 that the search engine Google had accessed this information. With the exception of the student identification number, information accessed by Google is considered to be directory-level and public information under FERPA. The university has made a formal request which has been approved by Google to have this information removed from its search engines. This is currently being processed by the company.

The university has received no indication that anyone has viewed this information on Google or used it in any way. Ferris is committed to maintaining the privacy of student information, immediately removed the system accessed and has revised its processes to ensure this information cannot be accessed in the future.

Affected students have been sent an email message and will receive a follow-up letter. Students who have questions or desire assistance are asked to call the university's Communications Center at (800) 433-7747.

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