

**From:** [Leah D Nixon](#)  
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Included below is a press release regarding Ferris State University's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Community Dinner on April 22. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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### **Community Invited to Help Celebrate Ferris' 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday with Dinner**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University's yearlong celebration of its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary will conclude with a bang on April 22 during the 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Community Dinner.

Festivities begin at 6 p.m. with a cash bar and continue with a buffet dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and available through April 12 at [www.ferrisalumni.org](http://www.ferrisalumni.org).

“This is the grand finale of our celebration of Ferris State University's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we encourage the community to attend,” planning committee member Jennifer Thede said. “There will be a feast for the senses, including your palate, with live entertainment and a wide selection of menu options.”

From pasta to mouth-watering, select cuts of meat, dinner will be a social hour for guests to enjoy their meal while mingling with the more than 300 expected celebrants. And, don't forget the birthday cake, which is being specially prepared by Ferris Dining Services, Thede said.

Another element of the evening is the entertainment, which will create a fun atmosphere for guests while they enjoy dinner and the social camaraderie of the evening, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Brandi Behrenwald said.

Most notable about the entertainment is that the talent is primarily provided by students, and also includes faculty and staff performances.

From the Black Greek Council to Ferris Theatre to the Student Alumni Gold Club, such performances as a step show and gospel choir are sure to raise the roof, Behrenwald said. Other appearances include Brutus the Bulldog, the Ferris cheer team and Pep Band, among others. A live band led by Ferris assistant Music professor Matt Moresi should keep the night rockin' while guests enjoy the tricks of magician Warren Hills, Ferris associate vice president of Human Resources, or get their caricature portrait drawn.

Ferris Media Production, Photo Services and Media Distribution also have collaborated to create a Ferris movie – “125 Years in Review” – that also will be debuted.

“It’s wonderful to have our students so involved,” Behrenwald said. “They are the one constant of this university during the past 125 years, and it’s only fitting they help us celebrate Ferris’ success.

“We’re the clutch, that tool to help them succeed,” she added. “By having faith in their talents and giving them the opportunity to gain first-hand experience by participating in such university events as the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday dinner, our main goal is fostering student success.”

Ferris President David Eisler added the cross collaboration between faculty, staff, students and the community is what has helped shape Ferris into the institution it is today. The fastest-growing university in Michigan, Ferris is preparing tomorrow’s leaders, he said.

“Ferris has a long and storied history, and what better way to commemorate this history than to come together and celebrate 125 years of educational accomplishments and success,” Eisler said. “Our founder Woodbridge Ferris had a dream of creating opportunity and access that became a reality. We’re pleased to celebrate this visionary leader and those who today and in the future will carry out his dream.”

- 30 -

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