



INTRO – Included below is a press release regarding Hispanic Heritage Month activities at Ferris State University. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.



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For Immediate Release

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### **Hispanic Heritage Month Activities Broaden Cultural Perspectives**

BIG RAPIDS – Continuing to honor the colorful and intricate history of the Hispanic culture, Ferris State University students and community members will celebrate diversity as they participate in observing Hispanic Heritage Month through a series of on-campus activities.

“All of the events expose Ferris students to Hispanic culture, history and language in a Latino environment,” Ferris Recruiting Officer Natalia Carvalho-Pinto said. “These events also bring to the campus community discussions on current and significant issues the Hispanic community faces.”

For the last 20 years, the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) and the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO) have sought to sponsor events on campus that educate and make known the invaluable contributions of Hispanic peoples.

This year’s festivities include a “Latin Night Club” at 7 p.m. in the Rankin Student Center Dome Room on Sept. 23 (participants will be given free Salsa and Merengue dance lessons); a Hispanic

Lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Rock Café on Sept. 28, which will be followed by the live, dramatic performance “Portraits of Courage: Latinos Shaping a Nation” at 7 p.m. in G. Mennen William’s Auditorium; and guest speaker West Cosgrove will discuss immigration issues at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 in Business Building, Room 111.

“It’s a great idea for students of all backgrounds to attend this month’s events so that they can learn more about themselves and others,” OMSS Assistant Director Michael Wade said.

“All students can benefit from attending these events, and other diversity events, at Ferris,” Carvalho-Pinto, who also is the HSO advisor, added. “Students must learn about other cultures; they should realize that once they embark on their careers, they will encounter many people who are different and come from different backgrounds. I think Ferris does a great job of exposing students to diverse cultures through these types of cultural events and activities.”

The United States Census Bureau notes that people of Hispanic descent are the fastest-growing population in the U.S. Wade and other faculty and staff believe that acknowledging this culture, embracing its many positive attributes and becoming aware of the unique struggles Latinos face, is both essential to the growth of Ferris students, and very much in spirit with Ferris’ educational goals.

“Hispanic culture is a vital part of American culture and the Ferris community should have opportunities to engage in and participate in programs to learn more about it. It is our goal that participants at this month’s featured events will have an enhanced knowledge of Hispanic culture,” Wade said.

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Hispanic Heritage Month.jpg

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