



## NEWS RELEASE

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Leah Nixon  
(Assistant Director of News Services)

### **Ferris one of five career center open house sponsors**

BIG RAPIDS – In order to emphasize the importance of technical education, the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, along with Ferris State University, will be hosting the Muskegon Area Career Technical Center open house on Saturday, Oct. 8.

Featuring student work, high-tech equipment demonstrations and simulated businesses, the open house will be held at 280 Harvey St. in Muskegon from 2 to 5 p.m., with a dedication ceremony at 3 p.m.

As one of five sponsors of the event, Ferris works with the CTC to provide students an opportunity to explore career pathways in the field of technical education.

Established in September 2002, the goal of the CTC is to provide high-quality, cost-effective career and technical training for high school juniors and seniors from public, private and charter schools within the Muskegon area. To accomplish this, the center offers 20 programs, including six programs which were implemented this fall.

“Students will now have the high-tech experience needed to be successful in a variety of careers. Most importantly, students now have a broader scope of educational opportunities than ever before available in the Muskegon area,” said Gary Martin, director of MAISD CTC.

Recognizing the need for technical education, many alumni, such as Debra Schultz, have gone on to work directly for the CTC.

Schultz received her bachelor’s degree in education from Ferris in 1988 and a doctoral degree from the Western Michigan University/Ferris State University program in 1992. She is a faculty member at the CTC, and in 1998, she received the Pacesetter Award from Ferris’ Alumni Association for “setting the pace” within her profession and community.

As the first woman to become school board president of Orchard View Schools in Muskegon, Schultz is dedicated to understanding and promoting cultural diversity. She also serves on the Ferris State University Alumni Board of Directors.

Other Ferris alumni who work directly with the CTC include Mike Lorey, Mike Reynolds, Brian Peets and Roger Sustaita. Each of them currently serves on CTC advisory committees.

Lorey, who received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial technology, is a licensed contractor, boiler inspector, certified welding instructor and American Welding Society certified

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welding inspector. Before entering the teaching field, Lorey was the owner of Lorey Welding & Mechanical Contractors for 22 years.

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