

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 9, 2012

Welcome Back

We are fortunate to work at a University that closes during the period between Christmas and New Year, providing this as a time to enjoy the holidays. I hope that you had opportunity to spend time with family and friends over the break and have returned to campus refreshed as we begin our Spring 2012 semester. The first half of this academic year has gone by so very quickly. This semester will be no different as we work with our students to help them prepare for successful futures.

As we begin 2012, there are some encouraging signs for our state and for higher education in Michigan. Currently, we are experiencing an easing of the unemployment rate, some higher-than-expected state revenues, and a slowing of outward migration from the state. Throughout this semester I look forward to visiting with you, helping prepare for our future, working to shape decisions in Lansing and transforming the challenges we face into opportunities to excel.

Martin Luther King Jr. Week

Next week, Jan. 16-18, we will hold our annual Martin Luther King celebration in memory of Dr. King's achievements and legacy. One of the special events is the Faculty and Staff In-service that Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion David Pilgrim organizes and hosts. This is a unique opportunity to consider together the thoughts and work of Dr. King in the context of freedom, liberty and understanding throughout the world. The schedule for next week includes -

Monday, Jan. 16

- Faculty and Staff In-service, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Rankin Center Founders' Room
- MLK Tribute, 7-9 p.m., Rankin Center Dome Room

Tuesday, Jan. 17

- "Defining the Dream" symposium, 7-8 p.m., IRC 120
- Oxfam Hunger Banquet, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Rankin 125 and 127, (Whitney Young Room)

Wednesday, Jan. 18

- The Meeting: Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, 7-9 p.m., Williams Auditorium
- Soul Food Unity Dinner, 4-6 p.m., Westview Dining

More detailed information is available on the Campus Calendar, or at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/studentlife/minority/mlkinfo/>. This Multicultural Student Services site also has additional resources for getting involved and commemorating the life of Dr. King. Please take time from your schedule to attend as many of these events as possible.

HLC Forums

In December I shared information regarding the Higher Learning Commission's Team Draft Report, which resulted from their site visit last April. Following up on this message we have scheduled open forums in Big Rapids and in Grand Rapids to hear your thoughts, analysis and reactions as we consider this report together. This week President Oliver Evans and I will host a forum at the Kendall College of Art and Design. This is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 10, 3:30-5 p.m. in the KCAD Multi-Purpose Room. Next week the Strategic Planning and Resource Council will use its meeting time as an open forum on the HLC visit and report. This will be on Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 3-5 p.m., in the West Campus Community Center. I am hopeful you can join us and provide your perspective at one of these times for this important discussion

Good News

Today third-year Pharmacy students begin classes together in one location, a new facility in the heart of Grand Rapids' "Medical Mile." This facility comprises the 7th floor of the medical building located at 25 Michigan Avenue in Grand Rapids. This space contains classrooms, a computer laboratory, office space for faculty and staff, a student lounge and conference rooms. Most importantly, its proximity to the VanAndel Institute, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Lemmon-Holton Cancer Pavilion, Meijer Heart Center, and all of the Spectrum Hospital facilities creates new and exciting opportunities for collaboration. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of the faculty and staff who have worked so very hard to make these new facilities a beautiful reality.

The 25 Michigan Ave. space, plus an article about the College of Pharmacy's work with Cherry Street Health Services in Grand Rapids, is featured in the fall issue of *Ferris Magazine* available online at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/alumni/ferrismagazine/index.htm> . If you can, please join us Friday, February 3rd for an open house and celebration of this space.

In addition to the new Pharmacy facilities, this spring we will celebrate grand openings of the expanded Jim Crow Museum in Big Rapids in April and the renovated Federal Building in Grand Rapids in May. I look forward to these and other events as the semester progresses.

The latest compilation of Good News items is now online. This list from December takes us through the end of last semester and includes many positive stories from across the University. This is accessible at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/GN2011Dec.pdf> . Please take a few moments to learn about the many successes and accomplishments across our University.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president