

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
November 7, 2011

Ferris Foundation Gala

Ferris Foundation Gala on Friday was a spectacular evening. I want to thank everyone who helped plan and stage this event, and the many people who showed their backing for our University by their attendance. This gala is the Ferris Foundation's annual premier event and provides a remarkable opportunity for members of the University community to come together in support of our students and programs.

The gala is not only an important fundraising event, but is also an event that showcases the kind of partnerships that help Ferris reach out to students all across Michigan, the Midwest and beyond. The evening's program included Grupo Tarasco of the Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities. Miss Michigan, Elizabeth Wertenberger, a Kendall graduate, danced and told the inspiring story of her struggles with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Deans Julie Coon, Steve Durst, and Max Shangle were part of a discussion with Dr. Bill Baer from the Van Andel Institute and optometrist and trustee emeritus Dr. Greg Patera. I also showcased our renovation of the former Federal Building in Big Rapids and how this magnificent building is being transformed for the growing Kendall College of Art and Design.

More information about the Ferris Foundation and its support of the University's mission is available at www.ferris.edu/htmls/foundation .

Strategic Planning and Resource Council

The Strategic Planning and Resource Council meets monthly to help guide our University and its future. The next SPARC meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 3-5 p.m., in the West Campus Community Center and is open to all members of the University community. Under the leadership of Professor Leonard Johnson, the council will discuss the proposed Ferris Information Technology strategic plan. You are encouraged to attend and add your perspective to this important discussion.

Vice President Pilgrim Review

As part of the continued support and development services available for members of the leadership team at Ferris State University, there is an ongoing process for formal Professional Development Review of Vice Presidents and Deans. Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, David Pilgrim, has requested a review and one is scheduled for this week. As review facilitator I will interview a range of stakeholders throughout the University. The purpose of the review is to aid Vice President Pilgrim's ongoing professional development. It will provide feedback about the perceptions of stakeholders, and offer constructive suggestions to enhance his future effectiveness.

Many people have been invited to participate in these sessions with me, and a significant number of these were randomly selected. Additionally, there is an opportunity for any member of the Ferris community to provide written input to me. If you would like to do so, please mark your sealed letter to me "personal and confidential." Under the review protocol, it is necessary that you

sign your letter. No anonymous information will be considered. Please include your office or home telephone number so I may contact you if I have a question or wish to follow up with you. All communications received will be considered part of the review, and all will be treated confidentially. No attribution or identification will be made regarding any interviewee or respondent.

Congratulations Ferris Volleyball

Congratulations to the Ferris Volleyball team and coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm. With their victory over Lake Superior Saturday the squad concluded its season with a record of 24-2 overall and have won the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) regular season championship with a league record of 18-1. This team is undefeated this season at home and is the top seed in the GLIAC tournament. They host a GLIAC quarterfinal match Thursday evening at 7 p.m. versus Wayne State University. With a victory Thursday, they would also host the GLIAC tournament semifinal and finals this Saturday and Sunday. I encourage you to come out to watch and support this incredible team in action.

Closing Thoughts

This is a very busy week highlighted by the first annual Ferris Service Summit Tuesday evening with keynote speaker, Chad Pregracke, Founder of Living Lands and Waters. Wednesday evening features a multitude of events, including Arts and Lectures speaker Suzan Harjo, a native American poet, writer, and curator, the fall Symphony Band concert, and a discussion on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in France with special guest Didier Calcei, professor of business at the ESC Troyes. Thursday evening is an artist reception for the exhibit Aesthetic Engineering, by professors Robert Barnum, Dave Murray and their students in the Rankin Art Gallery. For Veterans Day on Friday morning we will be honoring all veterans at a breakfast in the Dome Room beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The latest edition of our Good News is available on-line at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> . It is wonderful to see your many activities and achievements across our University. Thank you for the outstanding work you do each and every day.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President