

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 28, 2010

Share Your Success

Last week concluded the series of “Share Your Success” sessions, which have been a remarkable and enjoyable opportunity to learn about you and the extraordinary work you do. There are many achievements that occur at Ferris every day, and this has provided the opportunity for me to learn more about some of this. With so much happening at the University, these sessions have been a way not only to bring some measure of recognition, but also advance collaboration through the sharing of information about what members of the Ferris community are doing.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who took the time to share information about your good efforts. Here are some highlights of my visits to Academic Affairs staff, Michigan College of Optometry, and the Executive division/Provost’s office. There were many more successes than I am able to share in this message.

Academic Affairs Staff

- Ron Rizzo is pleased that Ferris-chartered Allen Academy has a 98 percent graduation rate and Consortium High School has a 96 percent graduation rate, at both schools 100% of the graduates are intending college – much higher than other schools in the area.
- Christy Bregg is proud that University Printing has finished the last two years in the black and has great student workers.
- Nina Davis is collaborating on writing two grants to help TIP students and first-generation students.
- Connie Bookshaw reported that the Disabilities Service Office was remodeled to make it more accessible for all students.
- Steve Eichenberg and Craig Derby reported that not only are their testing and certification programs self-funded, but their office has transferred more than \$300,000 to the HVACR department over the past seven years.
- Shanee Ramsey is assisting with preparations for professional training/certifications for Yoplait and Chrysler employees.
- Laurie Daniels is working on collaboration between the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and FLITE for a copyright conference on May 11.
- Okai Strickland reported on the Scholar to Mentor program that helps find mentors for freshmen, and the Students with Children program.
- Michelle Richardson noted the College of Education and Human Services is striving to help off-campus advisors, particularly for Criminal Justice, which has grown state-wide.
- Shannon Yost said Ferris’ MBA program is collaborating across colleges, working with Plastics and Rubber Technology, for example, to provide graduate-level certificates.
- Lisa Besemer reported that the processing of students into Level II classes has become smoother and students appear to be more informed and prepared since the inception of EDUC 101.

Michigan College of Optometry

- Dr. Nancy Peterson-Klein reported on outcome measures for the MCO Doctor of Optometry degree program; the admissions process using a centralized application service; the revisions to

curriculum to assist with the national board pass rate; and the amazing graduation rate for the class of 2010.

- Dr. Dean Luplow shared information about the Hope Clinic and the number of patients that are seen there.
- Dr. Avesh Raghunandan presented research on “Factors affecting the localization of targets in space” and “Using the Pattern VEP to predict visual potential of the eye.”
- Dr. Bruce Morgan explained residency training and the highly competitive process used to match the resident and location.
- Dr. Sarah Hinkley is pleased to receive an Exceptional Merit Grant from Ferris Foundation for the Low Vision workshop and purchase of low vision equipment.
- Dr. Michael Keating presented how he uses student journals in Optics to determine that students conceptually understand optics and to incorporate writing across the curriculum.
- Dr. Dan Wrubel shared the good efforts of Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, a charitable and educational organization that provides eye care and eyewear in underserved parts of the world. During the recent Rotary- VOSH Dominica trip, there were more than 1,600 patient encounters, 2,500 pairs of eyeglasses dispensed, 1,200 pairs of sunshades given out, 75 referrals for medical/eye care and more than \$20,000 donated in equipment and supplies by 27 team members.
- Dean Cron is pleased that pediatric residencies have been started and that our first resident has made the Baldwin Eye Clinic project a reality. He is excited at the new building and is very proud of the many awards garnered by MCO faculty and staff.

Executive Division and Provost’s Office

- Sally DePew reported on budget forums during the year to educate the University community about the budget and unrestricted net assets. She also shared that the Dashboard report has been redesigned and will be rolled out very soon.
- Beth Logan is working with the Finance Office and programmers on a new financial management report.
- Robin Hoisington is working to have a more open door policy in the Provost’s Office.
- David Pilgrim shared that the First Lady’s Attic has served more than 400 students and more professional clothing is needed. Additionally, a new scholarship program will soon be implemented, the Ferris Orphan & Foster Youth Initiative.
- Enid Carlson-Nagel said that grant activity has increased 44 percent.
- Carol Quigley reported that transfer and articulation is developing common language and common source of information for student advisors and counselors off campus. Ferris programs are listed in the community college guides, which are distributed to 15,000 students.
- Mo Milzarski is updating the online academic catalog and receiving feedback.
- Don Flickinger reported on international activities and is excited at the commitment of faculty to the Global Initiative. An example is the recent visit of a representative from Saudi Arabia with an interest in bringing faculty to complete their degrees.
- Don Green spoke about five strategic facets for international efforts: make international students more comfortable, expand recruiting, globalize the curriculum, expand Study Away, and take programs to other locations.
- Elaine Kamptner is pleased at the large numbers of students, faculty and staff who have been encouraged by the Pride Committee to wear Ferris articles of clothing.
- Kim Wilber shared that more than \$2 million dollars has been moved to colleges for next year; deans will have the money up front and be responsible for managing and staying within their budgets.

Leadership Team Review

As a part of the continued support and development for members of the leadership team at Ferris State University, a process for professional development of vice presidents and deans has been created as an aide to ongoing professional development. Vice President of Student Affairs Dan Burcham and Dean of Allied Health Sciences Ellen Haneline have requested reviews and these are scheduled for April 28-30. As facilitator for Vice President Burcham, I will be interviewing a number of diverse stakeholders both within and outside of Student Affairs. Provost Erickson will be facilitating Dean Haneline's review. These reviews will provide feedback and offer constructive suggestions.

Many people will be invited to participate, and many of these will be randomly selected. Additionally, there is an opportunity for any member of the University community to provide input in writing. If you elect to do so, please address your sealed letter to Provost Erickson for Dean Haneline or me for Vice President Burcham marked "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 either Provost Erickson or I may contact you to follow up. 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. I hope you will take part in this and future leadership team reviews. Thank you!

Service Awards

In closing a quick reminder that today is the Service Awards ceremony. I'm hopeful you can join your colleagues in the Dome Room at 3 p.m. We will be serving strawberry pie and celebrating your accomplishments. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President