

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
December 8, 2008

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## **Employee Holiday Reception**

It is hard to believe that this is the final week of classes for the fall semester. We have had many developments to celebrate already this academic year.

This Thursday from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room, we will hold our annual Employee Holiday Reception. This is an excellent opportunity to visit with colleagues as the semester rushes to conclusion and to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for during this wonderful time of the year.

Please join me and the entire campus community here in Big Rapids for some dessert, refreshments and, most importantly, the company of those who help advance the mission and values of our University.

## **Vice President and Provost Searches**

We continue to make good progress on our searches for a new Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Ferris Web page for the Administration and Finance search has been updated with new information, including the resume for our most recently identified candidate, Len Kogut, who will be on campus for an open forum on Dec. 15 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Rankin Center Centennial Dining Room. The open session for our second candidate, Warren Hills, is today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Centennial Dining Room. More about the candidates and their campus schedules is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/adminandfinance/search> .

This past Friday and Saturday, the provost search committee interviewed nine candidates in Grand Rapids. I was very pleased and impressed with the quality of candidate attracted to the provost position and our University. I appreciate very much the hard work of the members of our search committee under the leadership of Bob Loesch and Ellen Haneline. After the first of the year, we look forward to having final candidates on campus so you may visit with them and offer your input into the search to fill this important position.

## **Holiday Generosity**

I want to thank everyone who made it possible for the University to meet its United Way goal of \$60,000. These are difficult economic times for many, many people in the Mecosta-Osceola area. Even more than in previous years, the help that the United Way extends to those in need will make the difference in the lives of those who are going through difficult times. Meeting the United Way goal is yet another sign of the generosity of the Ferris community and the good relations our University has with the wider community.

Also, you still have time to support the Student Government's second annual Holiday Food Drive, which ends today. There are drop-off boxes for canned goods in the SG office and in residence hall lobbies. Thirty-six student organizations are taking part in the drive whose goal is to

collect more than 3,500 pounds of canned food. Between 2,500 and 3,000 pounds of food was collected last year in the drive founded by Business Administration and Pre-Law senior Robbie Rankey. This is just one of the ways in which Ferris students logged more than 30,000 hours volunteering during the 2007-08 academic year.

The cans goods will be distributed to West Michigan food banks as close to Big Rapids as possible.

### **Commencement Stories and Congratulations**

Do you know of a graduating senior who overcame obstacles to earn his or her degree or who has demonstrated extraordinary achievement? If so, please let me know. There are a variety of ways in which we try to extend recognition to those who have shown exceptional perseverance in pursuing their dream of a Ferris education. You can e-mail me at [eislerd@ferris.edu](mailto:eislerd@ferris.edu) or call ext. 2500.

Next Monday is our end-of-the-semester pancake breakfast for our students. Please encourage your students to join us in the Westview Dining Center between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. for a study break and some free food. If you have some time yourself Monday evening, please come out and join us. This is an enjoyable way to help reduce some of the stress that can accompany final exams and to spend time with our students.

I hope you will join us for the Holiday Reception on Thursday. Thank you for your efforts for our University and our students throughout the year. Best wishes for a warm, restful and enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler  
President