

**From:** [Leah D Nixon](#)  
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**Subject:** Ferris Hits Record Enrollment  
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Included below is a press release regarding Ferris State University's Spring 2007 Semester enrollment. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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**Ferris State University sees record enrollment, exceeds 12,000 students for spring semester**

BIG RAPIDS – Spring enrollment has hit a record at Ferris State University, with 12,031 students attending classes systemwide. Historically, the university has not seen its spring enrollment above 12,000 students. Last year at this time, 11,736 students were enrolled.

Besides its main campus in Big Rapids, Ferris offers degree programs in Grand Rapids at the Applied Technology Center and Kendall College of Art and Design, and at more than 20 additional locations throughout the state of Michigan.

“This is great news for the university,” President David L. Eisler said. “Enrollment growth in these challenging economic times reflects the hard work of our faculty, staff and administrators in both recruiting and retaining students. What Ferris has proven and continues to prove is that it is an institution that meets the needs of students through the attainment of a real-world education applicable to the growing demands of the state’s economy.”

Eisler noted that there was especially strong growth in the number of new transfer students, with 569 students enrolled – an increase of 194 over last spring. The retention of returning transfers has also improved.

Dan Burcham, vice president for Student Affairs and co-chair of an enrollment task force, said this growth can be attributed to the establishment of a centralized transfer office and transfer scholarships that have helped attract high-performing community college students to Ferris.

The university is also experiencing growth in the number of new freshmen and continuing students enrolled this spring, with more students taking heavier class loads than in the past.

Dr. Michael Harris, vice president for Academic Affairs, said, “Michigan’s need for the

breadth of academic programming offered at Ferris State University is evident by this record enrollment. We have worked hard to provide academic support through advising, tutoring and a host of other programs to help our students reach their fullest potential. This shows me our programs work well by keeping our students engaged in learning.”

In 1884 when Woodbridge Ferris founded the university, the economic challenge of the time was re-training loggers and small farmers – both men and women – who were looking for new opportunities, Eisler said. “Today, we are also in a transitional economy. I believe our enrollment figures show that more than 120 years after our founding, we offer the type of degrees that our students and our state needs.”

Ferris has long been an innovator in offering degrees that respond to the needs of the marketplace. “We are very pleased to see the continued, strong interest from students for the unique, high-quality education Ferris State University provides,” Eisler said.

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