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Citizen (Boyne City)

October 18, 2006

Colleges say proposal won't affect hiring policies

LANSING, Mich. - University officials say the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, Proposal 2 on the Nov. 7 ballot, shouldn't have a major impact on the way state colleges and universities hire faculty.

The proposal would amend the state's constitution to prohibit state and local governments from granting preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

Officials of Central Michigan, Oakland and Grand Valley State universities, along with Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, use affirmative action when hiring faculty and staff.

Ted Montgomery, media relations director at Oakland, said the proposal shouldn't affect the university's hiring of faculty because it has a clause that allows for the continuation of diverse hiring if federal funding to the program is at stake.

"As a federal contractor, the university is required to take affirmative action toward prospective minority and women employees," he said.

Scott Richardson, assistant vice president of human resources at Grand Valley, said even if the ballot proposal passes, the university will still analyze its faculty based on federal requirements and see where it is lacking in certain areas.

This helps the university become more aware of where it is lacking in terms of hiring minority faculty, he said.

CMU's Director of Media Relations, Steve Smith, said the university would still seek diversity in faculty hiring.

Although CMU uses affirmative action as a factor in hiring faculty, it isn't the lone factor, Smith said.

Grand Valley's Richardson said it's important to have a diverse faculty for a diverse student body.

"We do our best to announce positions and make it a diverse place for the student body," Richardson said.

Mike Boulus, executive director of the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, said his group opposes the ballot initiative.

Affirmative action is part of American history, he said, and he isn't sure if it is the right time to eliminate it.

Boulus called affirmative action an extraordinary tool to fix the effects of discrimination in society.

"We don't want to roll back the progress we've made with women and people of color," he said.

Ferris State and Saginaw Valley State universities are two other state institutions that use affirmative action when hiring faculty.

The U-M Law School also uses affirmative action as part of its admissions process. The practice was upheld by a Supreme Court ruling in 2003.

Affirmative action can't be used for undergraduate admissions, however. The top, court also ruled the university's process was unconstitutional.

Kalamazoo Gazette

October 30, 2006

Navigating career pathways: Education for Employment programs guide students as they begin job choices

Earn the skills you need on the state's dime and then use those skills to help pay for your college or postsecondary education. That's the strategy of many Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Education for Employment programs for high school students in Kalamazoo County.

Gull Lake High School seniors Kimberly Margules, Trevor Stuck, Lynneicia Ash and Bianca Whitney carpool to Kalamazoo Valley Community College every school day to attend the emergency-medical technician class taught by Life EMS paramedic Moriya Hurst.

Margules wants to be a paramedic, Stuck wants to be a nurse anesthetist, Ash wants to be a pediatrician and Whitney wants to be "a medical doctor -- or a politician," she said. They are part of a class of 18 seniors from Loy Norrix, Hackett Catholic Central, Parchment, Portage Northern, Portage Central and Comstock high schools, as well as Gull Lake, who will use the 270 hours of EMT training to manage those health careers.

Stuck said he will use his EMT skills to work his way through college. He plans to attend Oakland University in Detroit, he said. Ash plans to use her skills to work her way through college and eventually become a pediatrician. A job as an EMT, which can bring in about \$20,000 a year, "can be a springboard for pursuing advanced medical degrees," Hurst said. "No one really stays at the EMT level."

A paramedic starts at about \$24,000 a year, Hurst said.

The EMT class isn't completely about career management. Alyssa Rhoda, of Portage Central, said she's taking the class because it's easy -- a reinforcement of skills she learned in Allied Health, another Kalamazoo EFE class she took last year. Eric Wynne, also of Portage Central, said he probably will enroll in KVCC's two-year fire-science program after graduating.

The KRESA EFE pharmacy-technician program, taught at Schoolcraft High School, offers a similar opportunity.

All 11 students in Meijer Pharmacy technician Carol Wood's class want to become pharmacists, Wood said.

Alyssa Eminhizer, of Portage Northern, plans to attend Purdue University. Patrick Muehleise, of Schoolcraft, plans to enter Michigan State University's College of Pharmacy, while other students will attend University of Michigan or Ferris State University.

Wood's students will spend this semester in class memorizing the generic names of the top 100 drugs, learning the effects of doses and making mathematical conversions. They also will collect data and learn data-entry skills for recordkeeping.

The students will serve internships in Meijer stores during the second semester. They will learn "everything that needs to be done to fill a prescription-- enter the patient information, type the prescription, pull and count the medication and label the bottles -- except for the final check by the pharmacist," Wood said.

The course prepares students for certification as pharmacy technicians, at a starting hourly wage of \$8 to \$8.50, Wood said.

The five students in Morris Applebey's electrical-construction class are not planning on attending college. They are preparing themselves for an apprenticeship program sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 131. The one-year EFE course taught at the IBEW facility on 30th Street in Galesburg teaches basic theory of electricity and how to wire a home for electricity, phone, fire and security protection, lighting and receptacles, Applebey said.

The students who really want to become electricians are guided into the IBEW-NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association) five-year apprenticeship program, which costs apprentices \$800 per year for training but pays \$10.69 per hour for 35 hours a week of field work, Applebey said.

When they become journeymen, the local union asks them to continue working five more years, but they are free to go anywhere they want, said Applebey, who has taught apprentices for 11 years.

KRESA's EFE program has enrollment of 3,500 high school students, who take classes at a variety of locations throughout Kalamazoo County. Course offerings are divided among six career "pathways": arts and communications; business, management, marketing and technology; health services; human services; engineering/manufacturing and industrial technology; and natural resources and agriscience.

Pioneer

November 4 & 5, 2006

Dodgeball tournament Friday

FSU students seek community participation in tournament that will benefit a local charity.

BIG RAPIDS - A group of Ferris State University students want community members to come throw things at their schoolmates - in a structured situation, of course.

A group from the school's Social Work 320 class is organizing a dodgeball tournament for 7 p.m. Friday. Co-ed teams will try to evade their way to the championship in the name of charity.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit needy families in the area, said Melissa Buchanan, group spokesperson. They have not yet designated the agency to receive the funds, but it will be "one of the smaller agencies in the community," she said.

"We wanted it to be for something unique to our community," Buchanan said.

Teams of six to u players will pay a \$25 registration fee and each team is guaranteed at least two matches to comprise a best of three series. Teams must have matching colored jerseys or t-shirts, but numbers are optional. The event isn't limited to students. It also is open to community members.

Group members initially considered basketball and arm wrestling formats before selecting dodgeball said fellow organizer Mandii Richardson.

"We realized for dodgeball, you really don't need much skill to play," Richardson said. "And after the movie ('Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story') everybody is in love with dodgeball."

"It's easy to set up and doesn't cost much." said Buchanan.

Registrations are due by Thursday, and more than five teams have already signed up. Buchanan said. The tournament will be at the university recreation center basketball courts.

For more information or to access tournament rules and registration forms, visit <http://swdodgeball.tripod.com>.

Pioneer

November 6, 2006

Safety is a priority on Ferris campus

BIG RAPIDS - When it comes to keeping a safe balance between pedestrians and vehicles, it comes down to the three Es.

Engineering, education and enforcement are the groundwork of an on-going project at Ferris State University and the surrounding area to prevent crashes and near misses, according to Marty Bledsoe, head of the school's Department of Public Safety.

The plan to revamp how the campus deals with its foot traffic started just after Bledsoe came to campus in 2003. He was approached by the student body president for a class project on pedestrian safety.

"I said that we could work together, but I wanted it to be bigger than just a class project," Bledsoe said.

So, his department started working with Big Rapids Township, the city of Big Rapids and the Michigan Department of Transportation to find out how to change things.

"We're not reinventing the wheel here," Bledsoe said. "It's really just about ... getting back to basics."

The engineering aspect comes from designing roads and signs to make it easier for both drivers and walkers. The reconstruction of State Street near the campus - changing it into a boulevard - made a difference in safety, Bledsoe said.

"That really helps a lot," Bledsoe said of the road improvements. Changes are made on a regular basis as part of the ongoing project. "Yesterday we had some guys here from MDOT and they were looking at a couple of trouble areas with us," Bledsoe said.

The campus also is working with department of transportation to reconfigure the timing of the stop lights on State Street. Bledsoe said the request came from Libby Schmidt, student president.

Schmidt said other students were unhappy with the timing of the signals near Henderson and Puterbaugh residence halls.

"... I had heard several complaints from students that they are barely able to cross either from the side of the road to the median or from the median to the other side of the road without the pedestrian light beginning to flash," Schmidt said.

Bledsoe said he is glad for student input on how things can be improved for pedestrians on campus.

"I think it's important that people realize that things aren't just falling on deaf ears when they recommend something," Bledsoe said.

As a student, Schmidt said it can be a problem to try to drive or walk on campus.

"I think that for the most part, both pedestrians and drivers do a relatively good job respecting one another and understanding that everyone is just trying to get where they need to be," Schmidt said.

"Of course there are always exceptions to that rule which can cause frustrations."

The changes that have been made to the area have made an impact on safety for those not in vehicles.

"Are we seeing an increase in safety? Yes we are," Bledsoe said. In February, Bledsoe and other members of his department spoke to the state's Office of Highway Safety Planning at the annual safety summit. Bledsoe said they were asked to present their pedestrian safety plan for possible uses around the state. "They were very interested in what we're doing here," Bledsoe said.

Jim Santilli Jr. was a Ferris student when the pedestrian safety initiative was started and was on the initial committee.

"I'd say we've come a long way since then," Santilli said.

Now working full time as a traffic safety specialist in the Metro Detroit area, Santilli said what has been done at Ferris is being looked at around the state.

"There's been a lot of good work done by a lot of good people," Santilli said. "The Ferris State University community should be extremely proud of what their officials have accomplished in the area of traffic safety. ... The efforts ... have greatly enhanced safety in the community."

In continuing efforts to improve pedestrian safety on campus, officers speak to all incoming freshman and also take suggestions.

"We love to have people come in here and tell us about things," Bledsoe said.

In 2005, there were 138 pedestrians' kills in Michigan. Of those 35.5 percent were killed while crossing streets other than at intersections. On average, one pedestrian is injured nearly every four hours and a bicyclist is injured nearly every five hours, according to information from the Michigan State Police.

The Grand Rapids Press

November 7, 2006

Hospitality students suit up to hunt for jobs

GRAND RAPIDS -- College students heading for the hospitality industry were gung-ho Monday, in a subdued sort of way.

A sea of students dressed in black suits and white shirts formed the backdrop for the 26th annual Michigan Hospitality Educators Alliance Career Fair, bringing 180 hospitality majors in touch with 31 companies who need their expertise.

After informal meetings in the morning, top candidates returned for one-on-one afternoon interviews at Grand Valley State University's Eberhard Center.

Many of the students hailed from Ferris State University, organizer of the career fair, and GVSU.

Others came from Western, Eastern, Central and Northern Michigan universities, Grand Rapids Community College and Northwood and Madonna universities.

We wouldn't not come to this," said Kelly Prak, a manager with Greenleaf Hospitality Group of Kalamazoo.

Greenleaf wanted to fill eight to 10 management jobs, especially in restaurant, front desk, sales and chef positions.

"We found a couple of good candidates," said Mindi Hayward, also with Greenleaf. Of 44 brief morning interviews, eight students returned for more structured appointments in the afternoon.

Among the future interns waiting nervously for an interview was Kevin Bergren, who is in his first year at GRCC and studying culinary arts.

He was interviewing with Vail Cascade Resort & Spa of Vail, Colo. It was one of the hottest stops of the day.

"I want to learn the whole aspect of the kitchen," said Bergen, who works at Smokey Bones on the fry pantry line when he is not at school.

Trans Inn Management, the company that runs the Holiday Inn Express in Walker and Staybridge Suites in Kentwood, interviewed students for jobs in Michigan and out-of-state, regional manager Bo Schmitz said.

Trans Inn historically has been based in Michigan, but its seven latest additions are all out of state.

Our strategy is to diversify, so when the economy (in the state) is bad, the whole company doesn't suffer," Schmitz said.

About half of students he interviewed said they would be willing to relocate with the company.

"I want a winter internship in Grand Rapids, and after that (to) go overseas," she said. "I'm looking at Scotland."

Some of her classmates said they are in the right field at the right time.

"For one thing, Michigan's becoming a service state," GVSU senior Kendra Berkey said.

"And Grand Rapids is a great location."

Like savvy concierges, students quickly listed the top attributes of West Michigan -- three hours from Chicago, three hours from the Northern resorts, 40 minutes from the beach, with Van Andel Arena, a bustling night life, distinct neighborhoods and good diversity.

The black-and-white color theme for the students' dress is best, Berkey said, because it makes the future managers look both powerful and professional.

Senior Nicole Wise hoped to get a food manager internship in Vail, but junior Matt French set his sites on Boyne Mountain resort in Boyne Falls.

"I'd like to do anything -- guest services, social events, the spa. Anything that involves taking care of people," French said.

Pioneer

November 10, 2006

Big Rapids native wins television production awards

BIG RAPIDS - Rednecks, UFOs and ghosts were three key ingredients in Jeffery A. Smith's recipe for a Philo T. Farnsworth award.

Smith, a Big Rapids native and recent graduate from Ferris State University, won two awards for his work in television production. The Philo T. Farnsworth Video Competition is an annual contest that chooses the best television programming to appear on public access channels. The competition was open to video producers in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. The award is named after the inventor of modern television.

The contest is organized by the Central States Region, a part of the nationwide Alliance for Community Media, a non-profit group based in Washington, D.C. In 44 categories, video producers compete against their peers, whether they're amateurs, students or professionals.

Judges grade entries on technical merit - about 20 percent of the score - and on whether the intended message was conveyed, said Rod Swartz, Central States chair.

"The producers who do this - for many, this is the only chance they have to get any recognition for their work other than the response in the local community," Swartz said. "It is essentially their Emmy awards."

Smith, who earned his degree earlier this year from the Ferris television and digital media productions program, garnered awards for an individual project and a group effort. He will accept both awards at a ceremony Nov. 18 in Lansing.

The individual award-winning 'segment, "The RedneX-Files" was a parody of the sci-fi series "The X-Files" and dealt with UFOs, ghosts and other paranormal events, as I seen through the eyes of everyday rural people sometimes referred to as "rednecks" after the popular Jeff Foxworthy comedy routine.

"It was really cool," Smith said of his reaction when he learned he'd won. "I was happy because I had a really good cast. ... We hung out and had a good time shooting it. It was cool it got recognition because they did such a great job for me."

"The RedneX-Files" won "Best Video" in the student-post secondary category, among a reported 296 entries.

The group effort, on which Smith worked with fellow Ferris students, Kevin Strieter and Kevin Dornbush, was an instructional video for the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Operator's Club.

This video earned a "finalist" designation, or second-place award in the student category. It also was produced as a class project.

A non-traditional student, Smith returned to Ferris after nine years of working for Wolverine World Wide. He had previously started studying at the university right after high school and had left. During his time at Ferris, Smith recorded and edited segments for the program "Random Access," a half-hour long sketch comedy show that appeared locally on Charter cable's channel 21.

"I was an A/V geek back in high school," Smith said of his interest in audio/visual technology.

"Playing with video cameras is a lot easier than some of the other careers I've had. ... I've always been interested in it."

Now employed by AccessVision in Battle Creek, a public-access cable channel, Smith is responsible for directing multi-camera remote sporting events, such as football and basketball.

He also teaches an after school video production class for Battle Creek Central High School students at the station. The class is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and is meant to give at-risk students a worthwhile after-school alternative to gangs and other teenage pitfalls.

"This is my chance to pass on the expert information I gathered at FSU," Smith said. "Teaching these kids is the most rewarding part of my day at AccessVision. I only hope that I can inspire them as my instructors at Ferris inspired me."

In fact, Smith credits his success to his Ferris professors.

"They taught an old dog new tricks," he said. "I was 33 when I went back and 35 when I graduated. The dedication of the Ferris instructors got me through it. ... I loved every minute I was in school."

Fred Wyman, head of Ferris' television and digital media production department, remembers Smith well. "We're certainly proud of he's done," Wyman said. "He's been (at AccessVision) less than six months and I think they're pretty pleased with his work as well. He has excellent people skills as well as production skills and I think that really helped him to fit into their facility."

During Wyman's 18-year tenure at Ferris, Smith is only the second student he can remember winning the Philo T. Farnsworth award.

"For us, it's an outstanding achievement," Wyman said.

Smith plans to obtain a master's degree in communication and hopes to return to Ferris as an instructor.

The Grand Rapids Press

November 12, 2006

'Practice,' cartoonist tells kids who like to draw

That's how cartoonist Tony Benedict likes to work. Benedict is an animator, writer, producer and director known around the world for his amazing cartoon creations.

Benedict has worked for Disney Studios and as a storyboard artist and writer on such cartoons as "Yogi Bear," "The Flintstones," "The Jetsons," "Sesame Street" and "The Pink Panther."

He recently talked with students of digital animation and game design on the Grand Rapids campus of Ferris State University.

As we sat and chatted, he doodled a few of his classic cartoon friends. In only seconds, he turned a blank piece of paper into a work of art with images of some of my favorite characters, such as Barney from "The Flintstones" and Astro from "The Jetsons."

Even though he's been drawing for more than 65 years, Benedict still has a passion for creating cartoon characters.

"I started when I was around 5 years old, and even though many discouraged me from drawing, I just kept doing it because it was fun," he said with a smile.

His long hours of practice paid off big.

"When I was in the military, I worked as a cartoonist and illustrator for the base newspaper," he said. "One day I decided to send some of my work to Disney Studios."

The Disney people liked what they saw. "They offered me my first job once I was out of the military," Benedict said. "There were no animation studios back then, so I learned from a master animator.

"I'd stand and watch over someone's shoulder for hours, learning all that I could."

He worked as an apprentice animator on "Sleeping Beauty" and "101 Dalmatians."

Often his boss -- the famous Walt Disney -- would stop by to see how things were coming along.

Each of Benedict's cartoon creations is like an old friend.

One of my favorites is Astro, the dog from 'The Jetsons.' He's the one character I invented and designed," Benedict said.

Another one of his favorites is Barney from "The Flintstones."

Benedict enjoys working with students and sharing his love of cartooning with people of all ages.

"I really like seeing kids react to these old cartoons," he said.

Digital animation has changed the tools he uses, but the basics remain the same. It all starts with a good idea, a clean piece of paper and a good mechanical pencil.

His advice for kids who like to draw and cartoon:

Practice, practice, practice. Just keep drawing; you'll only get better."

Pioneer

November 14, 2006

Recipe for success

Organizers hope for big numbers from United Way cake auction.

BIG RAPIDS - Roxanne Cullen is ready.

She's got her ingredients, she's got her cake pan and she's got her bidders.

Cullen has had the highest-selling cake in the annual United Way Cake and Pie Auction for the past couple of years and she's looking to continue the winning streak. Because for her the event is a kind of game.

"It's a good time," Cullen said of the auction and the 15 minutes each baker spends trying to get bids over the radio. "It's the spirit of everybody getting together to give to a good cause.

It's done in fun, but it's really very serious because of what you're dealing with."

This year's auction will be on 100.9 FM Thursday and Friday from 8:15 a.m. to noon.

Last year, Cullen and one other baker tied for top honors at \$1,500 each leading to a record-setting total of \$9,202. The 2005 proceeds inspired this year's auction goal of \$9,000.

Cullen has some advice for the other 23 bakers offering their confections.

"I'm assuming everybody does a little groundwork," Cullen said. "You have to develop a following of people who want your cake. ... You have to set up your bidders, know they're listening to the radio."

For Cullen, Ferris State University Vice President Dan Burcham and a mysterious "Dennis" often bid down the home stretch.

Having a great recipe helps, too. Cullen's cheesecake recipe came from a vegetarian cookbook.

"They have to make up for the fact they don't eat meat and they do it with dessert," Cullen said. "This cake is really heavy - it isn't a dessert for wimps. It makes up for the fact there's no other protein in your diet."

Cullen hopes many people tune in to gain a sweet reward and help others.

"The cake auction is an opportunity for extroverts," Cullen said.

"It's a game where you can have fun, but in the end you have the feeling like you've done something good."

Pioneer

November 14, 2006

Nationally-known elections expert to speak at Ferris Thursday

BIG RAPIDS - Richard Scher, a political science professor at the University of Florida, will be in Big Rapids Thursday to present his speech "Ready or Not, Here Come the Democrats: The Outcome of Election '06."

Scher's talk will be at 7 p.m. in Business Building Room 111 on the campus of Ferris State University. He is the annual speaker for the Public Administration Program.

"He's been here before and he's very good," said Rick Griffin, coordinator of the program and a political science professor at Ferris. "He's a well known expert on the outcome of elections."

Following the 2000 presidential election, Scher worked with major broadcast and cable networks, including CNN, NBC, CBS and C-SPAN.

Pioneer

November 14, 2006

FSU board approves exchange agreements, grant program

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Board of Trustees approved renewal of four international articulation agreements during the board's regular meeting Friday afternoon.

The university will continue its agreements for educational cooperation with Fachhochschule Stralsund Germany - University of Applied Science; Saxion Hogescholen in Enschede, Netherlands; Eastern Institute of Technology in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand; and HAMK University of Applied Science in Valeakoski, Finland.

Educational agreements such as the programs between Ferris and these institutions offer students and faculty opportunities to participate in exchange programs. To date, 32 students have come to Michigan to study at Ferris while 12 Ferris students traveled abroad to earn college credit in those universities. Various study abroad programs also have taken place.

"Renewing these articulation agreements is part of a comprehensive effort taking place at Ferris State University to prepare our students for a global economy," said Michael Harris, vice president for Academic Affairs.

In other business, the board also approved participation by the university in the Improving Teacher Quality Grant program. The grant provides Ferris \$184,102 between Aug. 1, 2006, and June 30, 2008, to partner with Mesick Consolidated Schools by providing professional development for alternative education teachers within the district and surrounding intermediate school districts.

Ferris' College of Education and Human Services, and College of Arts and Sciences will be involved in providing professional development options such as site-based instruction, online and mixed-deliver v coursework and summer institutes.

State of Michigan study of alternative education reveals students in these programs exhibit poor reading and math skills and a need for special education assistance. The grant program will provide extended professional development opportunities for teachers on how to best assist special needs students.

"We at Ferris State University are committed to the economic and social well-being of the state," Harris said. "Enhancing the quality of alternative education teachers is a key element in that endeavor."

Pioneer

November 14, 2006

Oldest known living Ferris State Football player, and family, gives back

David D. Whalen, co-captain of the 1935 Ferris State football team, as a tackle proudly wearing jersey No. 55, 'has never forgotten his roots.

Whalen, at the age of 92, is thought to be the oldest known living former Ferris State football player having competed as a lineman offensively and defensively - on the 1933, 1934 and 1935 teams under Bulldog Athletics Hall-of-Fame head coach Bill McElwain.

Whalen and his teammates helped bring football back during the difficult days of the United States' Great Depression era. Whalen, who was raised on Pere Marquette Street, in Big Rapids, as one of 12 children, and still has relatives to this day in the community, has always maintained an affinity for his home town. Whalen was a member of the 1933 team that got things going again after the football program was temporarily discontinued, in 1932, as the country attempted to rebuild from the devastation of the Great Depression. Even as time has passed, and so much around the world has changed, Whalen and his family have never lost their love for Big Rapids and Ferris State University - a place that has, for decades, meant so much to them.

"This is where I'm from and this is where I grew up," Whalen said, after he was honored on the field during a halftime ceremony at Ferris State's Sept. 16 home game against Saginaw Valley State, at Top Taggart Field in Big Rapids, where he was joined by six of his eight children. "I still have a lot of family here and Ferris and Big Rapids have always meant a lot to me and to our family.... It took a lot of hard work for me to make it to play football and go to school."

The affinity the Whalen family holds for Ferris, in particular still as fans of Bulldog football, was a major motivation for a family sponsored scholarship. The children of Whalen, who originally came to Ferris on a scholarship, have established the David D. Whalen Scholar-Athlete Endowed Scholarship.

The inaugural award was presented to another Big Rapids native, Cole Meredith, a red-shirt sophomore for this season's Ferris squad. The 6-foot, 199-pound Meredith, who prepped at Big Rapids High School where he helped lead the Cardinals to the state semifinals in 2003, finished an injury-shortened 2006 campaign with 21 receptions for 286 yards and three touchdowns in eight games prior to a season-ending injury suffered by the red-shirt sophomore.

Meredith, who won a punt, pass and kick competition on his first visit to Top Taggart Field as just a 10-year-old, grew up in the community and worked hard to earn the right to play for his hometown university after his prep days.

Whalen, more than half a century earlier, had a similar experience - an experience that motivated him and his family to give' something back.

"This school and town both mean so much to my dad our family and this is a place that has always been special to him and to all of us," said David's son, Bill, -' who was in attendance as his father' was honored under the lights on the stadium turf and who has been working with Brian Kegler, the associate athletics director for Advancement; Tom Kirinovic, the athletics director, and others at the university to make the dream of the Whalen scholarship a reality.

"One of the things about this new scholarship we're sponsoring is it will leave a legacy for my dad and it's going to do something positive for others who come to Ferris and are involved in the football program here.

"It's an opportunity for our family to make a contribution ... to give something back."

The combined efforts, of the Whalen family, are designed to help grow the scholarship by tens of thousands of dollars in the coming years to help future scholar-athletes at Ferris achieve their dreams - athletically and academically. The Whalens view this scholar-athlete scholarship endowment as returning a favor, to Ferris, which once upon a time awarded David a scholarship and an opportunity to continue his education as well as pursue his athletic endeavors as a Bulldog.

"This whole process has been so special for my dad and for our family because the university has been so great to us and we've enjoyed working with them to help make this scholarship a reality," said Bill, whose dad has been a part of the Bulldog football family for more than seven decades.

"Working with President (David) Eisler, and many other people at Ferris State, has definitely been a great honor for our family. We look forward to this scholarship helping others who come along and can use the assistance."