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GR Lansing Business Journal

March 2007

UC Breaks Ground

The door to a college education is opening wider with the establishment of Lansing Community College's University Center (UC), slated to open for classes in January of 2008. Through programs offered at the UC, mid-Michigan residents have new opportunities, options and alternatives for bachelor's degrees and master's degrees, all offered in the new University Center adjacent to LCC's Downtown Campus. Students entering the UC will have earned freshman and sophomore credits; junior, senior and graduate level courses will be offered at the UC.

In June 2004, Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced the formation of the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, chaired by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, and charged with identifying strategies to double the number of Michigan residents with degrees and other postsecondary credentials within 10 years. According to a speech by Granholm in March of 2004, "If we want a high-performance economy, we must work now to improve the strength, depth and adaptability of our colleges and universities."

The final report of the Cherry commission, released in December 2004, recognized that while 25 percent of Michigan residents 25 or older have some college experience, only 22 percent of these citizens have a bachelor's degree. It also estimated that, within 10 years, 60 percent of newly created jobs will require a bachelor's degree. One of the commission's recommendations was to "expand access to baccalaureate institutions and degrees," and it further urged that "universities that currently grant applied baccalaureate degrees must forge new partnerships with community colleges."

According to Stephanie Shanblatt, PhD, interim chief operating officer, University Center and Strategic Learning Partnerships, "In response to the Cherry commission report and as part of LCC's already established strategic plan, we invited four-year institutions from throughout the state to join us to establish a University Center in Lansing. As a result, we are now partnering with eight universities to bring baccalaureate and graduate programs to the community. As well as helping meet the goals of the Cherry commission, the UC will allow students with work and family responsibilities to stay in the area to complete their degrees and will meet the needs of adult learners through flexible scheduling. Support services will help keep students on track to graduate and access to library and other learning services will connect students to a campus environment.

"Construction of the facility is being funded from LCC's general fund as well as monies from the State Capital Outlay Projects Fund. Within two to three years, the UC will be self-sustaining with income from partner annual fees and classroom fees."

The facility will feature 11 classrooms, one computer classroom, four seminar rooms and eight team rooms as well as office Space for each university partner. The University Center facility will be dedicated to its own programs; it is possible that some classes may be offered off-site (for instance, at West Campus), but no LCC classes will be held in the UC building.

Parking, while always an issue at LCC, should be readily available for UC students as most classes will be offered in the evening and on weekends.

The eight partner universities are:

- Central Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Lawrence Technological University
- Northwood University
- Spring Arbor University
- Siena Heights University
- University of Michigan - Flint
- Western Michigan University

More than 40 different degrees will be offered at the University Center, and these are listed at <http://www.lcc.edu/uc/programs/>. The offerings correlate to another stated goal of the Cherry commission which recommends "improving the alignment of Michigan's institutions of higher education with emerging employment

Grand Rapids Press

March 7, 2007

So many students, so few nurses

Proposed Solution Pits Community Colleges vs. Four-Year School

Each day, 3,000 health care workers, mostly nurses, cross the Canadian border to work in Michigan.

Yet Michigan's 28 community colleges - the biggest producers of registered nurses - have waiting lists of qualified students to get into the programs, some 1,000 names long, according to a new state study.

A legislative-appointed task force Tuesday released a list of recommendations to ease the shortage, mainly caused by a lack of master's-degree nursing faculty.

"It's so ironic," said Tom Bissonnette, executive director of the Michigan Nurses Association union. "We have a nursing shortage at the same time we have so many people trying to get into nursing school."

One of the most-debated solutions was offered by the Michigan Community College Association: allowing Michigan community colleges to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing. Four-year universities generally oppose the idea.

"It's very controversial," said Jeanette Klemczak, appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm as the state's chief nursing executive, and a member of the task force. "It needs work yet. It's one where we all need to sit down together to figure out."

Michigan has 119,000 registered nurses, says the Michigan Center for Nursing. By 2012, the state will need 31,300 new nurses, according to the task force report.

All 28 community colleges now offer associate's degrees in nursing while 19 four-year universities offer bachelor's degrees. Both the two-year and four-year degrees lead to licensing as a registered nurse.

The upside of the community colleges offering four-year degrees, said Mike Hansen, president of the Michigan Community College Association, is cheaper four-year degrees that will result in more nursing bachelor's degrees. Some of those will go on to earn master's degrees, easing the faculty shortage.

"Why wouldn't you allow community colleges to offer that, especially in the places where access and affordability are a limitation?" he said.

Michigan's two-year colleges do not offer four-year degrees in any field, although a few states have started doing that. It would take a change in Michigan law to allow it. But the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing, representing four-year programs, opposes it.

"I don't think it's a smart use of resources at this time," said Phyllis Gendler, dean of Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley.

Gendler said GVSU and other four-year programs have a bachelor's program for those with associate's degrees, and there is room in the programs. Also, she said it would be better for a community college to partner with a four-year university rather than reinvent the wheel.

The 19-member task force didn't adopt the idea of community colleges offering four-year degrees, but it was passed on to lawmakers.

"Let's not make this a turf battle. That's what this primarily is," said Rep. Michael Sak, D-Grand Rapids, the chair of the subcommittee on community college spending.

Sak said he plans to introduce legislation allowing the bachelor's degrees at community colleges.

"My opinion of community colleges is that they're accessible and affordable," he said.

Micki Benz, vice president at Saint Mary's Health Care, said opening up education for more nurses is a good idea.

"For any school to open up more opportunities for people to get a bachelor's of science in nursing, I think we would all applaud that," she said. "The more the better."

Foreseeing a shortage years ago, Benz said Saint Mary's partnered with Aquinas College and the University of Detroit Mercy within the past five years to address the issue. That partnership has produced about 20 to 30 people each year.

With about 500 nurses, Saint Mary's currently is staffed to capacity, Benz said. Still, she said, there is a shortage industry-wide, and especially as older, more experienced nurses move toward retirement.

"We need to start filling the pipelines," she said.

Valerie Tidd, a Lowell nursing student facing a three-year wait at Grand Rapids Community College, believes expanding four-year degrees to community colleges would be smart, especially since there is no shortage of students.

"I think that would be awesome, because the waiting list is ridiculous," she said. "I'm willing to go to whoever could take me first."

Grand Rapids Press

March 8, 2007

Granholm stresses education at 'town hall meeting'

As far as an example of Michigan's struggling economy and the anticipated turnaround go, Megan Dillingham is about as good as they come for Gov. Jennifer Granholm's push to invest in education.

Dillingham, a 32-year-old Greenville woman, lost her job as a child-care center administrator when parents laid off from their jobs at Electrolux stayed home with their children. The married mother of three young children became a secondary casualty of a manufacturing industry gone sour.

She also is evidence that a potential rebound lies ahead for those willing to change gears. Dillingham hopes to be a nurse in 18 months.

"Everybody knows now that education is the only way to go, that you need a leg to stand on because, these days, there aren't the jobs to go to straight from high school," Dillingham said Wednesday. "What happened to me really wasn't in my control."

Granholm, in a one-hour "town hall meeting" at WOOD-TV8, stressed education as the key to developing a diversified and knowledgeable work force. She also defended her proposed 2 percent tax on services to cover a \$900 million budget shortfall this year and a \$3 billion deficit projected for next year.

"The decisions we make right now are going to position Michigan to go forward or backward," Granholm said. "It's not that we're at a crossroads. It's forward or backward."

The talk was largely the same as two prior stops in Flint and Southfield. Granholm visits Lansing today and Traverse City on March 26.

A state-mandated high school curriculum is the start of revitalizing the state, but Granholm said retraining is equally important.

"We have to make sure that our workers have the skills they need to succeed," Granholm said.

Forest Hills Superintendent Dan Behm, part of the in-studio audience, was encouraged to hear the importance Granholm places on education but believes there are points being missed that threaten schools' ability to instruct.

Devising a stable rate of school funding is at the top of Behm's list.

"We can't afford to have an uncertain revenue stream every year," Behm said, adding the proposed tax hike could be a step in the right direction. "There's a cost to every investment, but there's a greater cost when our children aren't as prepared as they could be for the 21st century economy."

Granholm said the service tax would be the most equitable way to increase state revenue without inflicting harm. She estimates it will raise \$1.5 billion, partially replacing the \$1.9 billion that will be lost when the Single Business Tax expires at the end of this year.

"Two percent is the lowest we could go across the board," she said. "We wanted to make it as doable as we could. That spending is more discretionary than spending on goods."

State Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland, and David Rhoa, a Kalamazoo business owner, disagreed with Granholm's assertion the tax was fair and that it equates to "a cheap cup of coffee" per week for the average family.

"There's no such thing as a benign tax," Rhoa said.

Huizenga contends there are options for cuts before a tax increase. Republicans are working to find reforms and offer them as a compromise, Huizenga said.

Some in the audience left disappointed not to hear more about reducing health care costs and negotiating a gambling compact with the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi Indians.

State police trooper Scott Wilber had hoped to hear a guarantee that public safety would be preserved as the administration seeks to balance the budget.

Wilber, who works from the Rockford post, said attrition has shaved the road patrol staff from 38 in 1998 to 19 now.

"I didn't hear that we're hiring more, and she didn't say no one would be cut," Wilber said. "There's a definite effect when you're running from one call to the next."

AP News

March 8, 2007

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Trying to atone: Politics, history help explain stream of apologies for slavery

America is once again struggling to atone for slavery and its aftermath.

In a nation with an unquenchable need to analyze its racial past, there is now a fresh flow of contrition from public officials for the many wrongs of U.S. history.

Inspired by a resolution apologizing for slavery that Virginia legislators passed last month, black lawmakers in Georgia said Thursday they plan to introduce a similar measure there. Maryland and Missouri also are discussing an apology. And so far, a white Memphis congressman has gathered 36 Go-sponsors for a bill that, if passed, would bring an apology to the federal level.

The FBI announced last week it is actively re-probing about a dozen cases of blacks slain in the 1950s and '60s as possible civil rights violations. As many as 100 more cases are being considered for similar treatment.

"Much time has passed on these crimes," Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez told a news conference in Washington. "The wounds they left are deep, and many of them still have not healed."

It's been decades since these crimes were committed. And nearly 142 years since the Civil War ended and Congress ratified the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.

Why are public officials making amends now?

Because revelations about the past are pushing some people think about race in America in new ways. Plus, echoes of racial bias remain all too obvious, and politicians may be grasping for new ways to show concern.

Generations after the civil rights movement began, blacks generally remain poorer, less educated and more likely to be in prison than whites.

Many historians, political scientists and public policy experts argue that this is rooted in blacks' unhealed wounds from slavery, combined with widespread tactics during the century or so that followed to keep blacks from equal education, jobs and housing.

"This country is built on their (blacks') backs, so when you talk about some of the ills that we face now in society, I'm sure that some of it's got to trace back to that," said Maryland Sen. Nathaniel Exum, sponsor of his state's resolution, which will likely be voted on this month.

Sometimes a here-and-now incident casts a long shadow.

Since white comedian Michael Richards repeatedly used the n-word and referred to lynching in a rant last November, lawmakers in several cities have passed symbolic moratoriums on the racial slur once used by slave owners. New York City joined the group last week.

Sometimes an anniversary revives the past. On Tuesday, a ceremony in St. Louis marked the 150th anniversary of the Dred Scott case, in which the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a slave's attempt to sue for his freedom.

Modern research techniques also mean that history can come alive in a way that once was not possible.

Take the issue of personal ancestry, a particularly painful one for those blacks whose family ties to Africa were erased during slavery. Sophisticated research efforts, including DNA testing that can trace Americans'

African roots, are reviving bonds to the continent and, in some ways, keeping fresh the painful reminders of slavery.

When the Rev. Al Sharpton, a major civil rights activist, learned that his ancestors once were owned by the forebears of the late Sen. Strom Thurmond, a staunch defender of racial segregation, he was clearly moved. He visited the graves of his slave ancestors in South Carolina on Monday, urging all blacks to explore their personal history despite "the ugly things it might reveal."

Now he's seeking DNA tests to see if he and Thurmond were blood relatives.

"When someone is handing you the actual papers of your blood relatives indentured servants' papers and the tax rolls of where they were property then it's no longer some objective, nebulous knowledge," Sharpton said.

Another factor driving the recent public displays of contrition is that, with much of the nation's racial history still being written, fresh revelations come every year.

A new book about widespread post-Civil War attacks on blacks, "Buried in the Bitter Waters: The Hidden History of Racial Cleansing in America," by journalist Elliot Jaspin, is due out this month.

Several newspapers looked into their own coverage of civil rights and then apologized last year for making racism worse. Editors at Florida's Tallahassee Democrat wrote: "It is inconceivable that a newspaper, an institution that exists freely only because of the Bill of Rights, could be so wrong on civil rights. But we were."

The research increasingly shows that slavery, Jim Crow and racism were not, as once thought, confined to the South.

They were part of all of America from day one and were kept in place by some of the nation's most powerful government officials, big businesses, universities. Several U.S. presidents owned slaves. Slave labor helped build the U.S. Capitol and many other structures around the country.

That includes University Hall, the oldest building at Brown University in Rhode Island, according to a yearlong probe into the school's slavery links. The report found that the Brown family itself owned ships that transported stolen Africans, and profits from slavery helped found the university.

The main reason for such official complicity: The profits economic and political of 250-plus years of blacks' free labor and another century of black suppression were enormous. Most found it irresistible.

Today, some question whether public officials' apology resolutions mean much.

"What would it mean to vote against a resolution like this? Would it mean you were racially insensitive?" asked David Pilgrim, a sociologist at Ferris State University in Michigan. "Conversely, I'm not sure what it would mean that you were voting for it."

Some civil rights advocates want an official, federal "I'm sorry" for slavery from the president. It has never come, perhaps because this would raise the logical and thorny next question: How to repair the damage?

Opponents say that attempts to compensate for racial crimes through reparations would deepen racial divisions.

Pilgrim, who is also curator of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, hopes the current wave of atonement does the opposite.

"If you look at American history, it wasn't that long ago that you couldn't get the most powerful people in the country talking about slavery," he said. "What is healthy is not the (apology) resolutions but the process of coming to the resolutions. All the discussions and debates get people talking honestly about race."

Yahoo! News

March 8, 2007

Also ran in PR Newswire, KLFY (LA), TickerTech.com News, PR-Inside.com

KCAD kicks off unique MBA – new program prepares graduate business students for innovation leadership

Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University and Ferris' College of Business have partnered to establish the first Master of Business Administration degree in the nation with a concentration in Design and Innovation Management.

The new MBA responds to the increased awareness of the importance of design and innovation in business. The program uniquely combines the resources of a college of business with a college of art and design.

By embracing design thinking and collaboration the Design and Innovation Management concentration focuses on training future business leaders with the mindset and skills to build and sustain innovative and creative organizations.

"Most people understand that design does not mean making things look pretty, that it is not something added on at the end of the process," said KCAD President Oliver Evans. "People increasingly understand that design involves how people create the world around them, how they interact with that world and how they behave in that world."

Evans cited William Boras, the chair of Ferris' Management department and chair of the MBA program, for realizing the importance of innovation, design and creative management in business, and also for understanding the importance of bringing business and design people together.

An interdisciplinary faculty of working professionals and industry experts will teach the courses in a multidisciplinary, holistic and method-based approach.

"You take the strengths of Kendall, with their understanding of design concepts, and merge it with the cutting-edge, technologically-based education that Ferris provides, and you provide an exciting and unique learning opportunity for students," noted Ferris President David L. Eisler.

The program is committed to flexibility and accessibility for students, with courses offered in a mixed-delivery format that combines distance learning through the Internet with weekend classroom time.

"The material is designed so students can access it online as well as during the weekend experience," said Evans. "The courses are designed so that students, once they enter the sequence, will be able to complete the entire program in an efficient manner."

An advisory board of senior-level executives will help guide the new program. Board members include John G. Baylis, senior executive administrator, Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing of North America; Sean Lindy, senior manager, global innovation and strategy development, Whirlpool Corporation; Dennis W. Nickels, principal, Deloitte Consulting LLP, West

Michigan; Michele Serbenski, executive director, corporate effectiveness and customer satisfaction, Bronson Healthcare Group; and Paul K. Smith, vice president, business groups and global work systems, Haworth, Inc.

The inaugural class of students began their studies in January with the next start date for the first class in the sequence starting in May. The four course Design and Innovation Management concentration may be completed as a post-baccalaureate certificate or concentration as part of the MBA.

For more information on the MBA with a concentration in Design and Innovation Management, contact the College of Business Graduate Programs at (231) 591-2168 or Kendall Admissions at (616) 451-2787, extension 1113.

TickerTech.com News

March 8, 2007

Also ran in PR Newswire, KATC3 (LA), PR-Inside, Earthlinks.com, PR-Inside.com, Fort Pierce Tribune (FL)

Ferris students strap on their work boots, spend spring break volunteering

While many students will spend spring break lounging in the sun, some Ferris State University students will give up their tans for blisters and travel to New York and New Orleans to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Wesley House.

Ten students from Ferris' Habitat for Humanity registered student organization will travel to New Rochelle, N.Y., for a week to work jointly with a Westchester County Habitat for Humanity construction crew building a home. Sophomore honor student Kiersten Swantek, a Nuclear Medicine Technology major and secretary for Habitat for Humanity at Ferris, helped develop this alternative spring break.

"Our chapter has toyed with the idea of an alternative spring break, and last year we made that dream a reality," Swantek said. "We hope to participate in Habitat International's Collegiate Challenge annually because it provides our members the chance to do good in the community, and grow and bond together."

Last year, the group went on its first Collegiate Challenge to Erie, Penn. They shingled roofs, put up drywall, dug driveways and sidewalks, and completed many other building tasks. Although the group is also locally active throughout the year, they wanted to offer more help.

"During the semester our members are able to work on builds on the weekends, but we wanted to do more," Swantek said. "Having the resources and tools necessary to help others, we feel called to give our time and service to help eliminate substandard housing."

On March 4, the group left for the 13-hour trip to New York by minivan. A typical day will begin at 8 a.m. and last until 5 p.m. with a one-hour lunch break. By March 11, once the week is over, approximately 400 volunteer hours will be done.

"Doing this gives our members a better understanding of the culture in which we live," Swantek said. "We will gain a wonderful sense of fulfilling others' dreams. It is amazing to see your physical work and sweat go into a house."

Another group of students volunteering during spring break is the Wesley House United Methodist Campus Ministry. Seven Ferris students and five Grand Valley State University students will travel to New Orleans, La., to work at a Methodist children's home that caters to children who are orphans or in foster care.

The students used an organization called Youth In Mission to organize their trip. YIM is a group that organizes custom trips for ministries such as Wesley House throughout the year. YIM sets up hotel accommodations and a place for the students to work, then steps back and

lets them take control. This will be the first mission trip the Wesley House has taken in three years.

"It's a great opportunity to do something out of the norm for spring break," said John Gaylord, a first-year Wesley House member and Surveying Engineering major from Kalkaska. "I hope to make a positive impact on the kids."

According to Darci Stevens, a senior from Reed City majoring in Small Business Management, the group's work at the children's home will improve not only the home but also the morale.

"In the mornings we will be doing a lot of maintenance," she said. "They don't have many adults there helping, so we will be painting, hammering and doing all of the little jobs that get pushed aside. When the kids get out of school, we will tutor them, play games with them and keep them company in general."

Although Stevens is an experienced volunteer with 11 years of mission work in four different countries, for others this is new. One such member is Ryan Bennett, a first-year member of Wesley House. Bennett decided to go on the mission trip because he thought it was a perfect opportunity to help others.

"I have been on mission trips to West Virginia and Bay City and enjoyed them both, so I am looking forward to going to New Orleans for the first time," he said.

While the group is primarily focusing on improving the children's home, they will also be playing the role of tourist and seeing the city. This will be especially interesting for second-year Wesley House member Jill Duran, who went on a mission trip to New Orleans in high school in 2001, before Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city.

"To see how different the city is will be very interesting," Duran said. "Last time, I worked with an elderly woman in a wheel chair, and now I am working with kids. I just hope to make a positive impact on everyone."

Not only will the group experience history, but they also view their trip as a part of it.

"A lot of people live in a fog and think, 'It's all about me.' The kids we are going to help are between the ages of 9 and 17, and they have already been through a lot more than we ever will," Stevens said. "Many of them only have what is on their back. We will get to see how far New Orleans has come and how much farther the city needs to go. We are experiencing history, and one day we can tell our children and grandchildren that we helped after such a disaster."

Grand Rapids Press

March 9, 2007

Appointment bolsters Padnos-GVSU tie

Grand Valley State University is getting a new Padnos, but this time it's not a new building.

Shelley Padnos, 54, the executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Holland's Louis Padnos Iron and Metal Co., is one of two new appointees to GVSU's Board of Trustees. Her appointment and that of Michael Thomas, a prosecuting attorney for Saginaw County, were announced Thursday by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

The two will replace trustees Jose Infante and Jessie Dalman, whose terms recently expired.

The Padnos family long has been a supporter of GVSU. Currently, three university buildings are named for the family: the Grand Rapids Padnos Engineering Building, the Padnos International Center and the Padnos Hall of Science.

"My family and I have been involved for almost the whole history of the university. This is an opportunity for me to be a little more actively involved," said Padnos, who lives in Douglas.

Infante and Dalman said they weren't surprised by Granholm's decision to replace them.

Both were appointed by Gov. John Engler, a Republican.

Infante said he wished he had been reappointed.

"This was the best board I've ever served, I was privileged and I had a great run. Yes, I am disappointed," Infante said Thursday. "I wish the governor would have reappointed me, but I know there are others equally deserving to serve."

Dalman, a Republican, said she hoped to stay on the board but was happy Granholm picked Padnos, a neighbor of hers while growing up in Holland.

"I worked hard for Grand Valley and I would have liked to continue to do so, but I realize this is the way it is.

"It is a political appointment and that's the reality of it," she said, adding she'll continue to be involved in the university.

Thomas could not be reached for comment.

GVSU President Thomas Haas said he's satisfied with the appointments.

"Shelley comes from generations of Padnoses serving the university and the region, and I couldn't think of anyone better, locally, to be joining the board at this time," he said.

Ferris State University also had two new appointees. Patrick LaPine of Farmington, vice president of governmental affairs for Michigan Credit Union League, and Sueann Walz of Big Rapids, assistant vice president and branch manager of Independent Bank West, will replace Gregory Patera and Olgalina Dazzo.

Pioneer

March 10 & 11, 2007

FSU hosts 'revealing' presentation

The Ferris State University Department of Humanities Colloquium Series will be holding a presentation "But Why is She Naked? The 'Nude' in Art and Culture," by Lee Ann Westman. Westman is a Professor of Humanities at Ferris State University, who will be taking a "revealing" look at the racier side of American Art and Popular Culture at 11 a.m. on Thursday in the Founder's Room in the Rankin Center.

Professor Lee Ann Westman holds a PhD in Humanities with an emphasis in American literature and culture. She teaches a wide variety of courses in humanities ranging from introductory humanities survey courses to American film and culture. She serves as a board member of the National Association for Humanities Education.

The event is free and open to the public.

Detroit News

March 12, 2007

75% of education school grads can't get jobs in Michigan

State's economic woes hit teaching jobs hard, accelerating brain drain

Michigan universities continue to graduate large numbers of new teachers -- an estimated 7,000 will be certified this year -- but three-fourths won't land jobs here because there aren't enough teaching positions to go around.

That hastens the brain drain of young professionals who abandon Michigan to find jobs elsewhere, and it's a burden to taxpayers who help pay for college degrees that benefit other states, some say.

"It's just sad that after you've been in school for so long and work so hard, you have to go someplace else to do what you want to do," said Katrina Newnum, 29, a 2005 Grand Valley State University graduate who hoped to teach in state. "I never thought that I would be moving all the way to North Carolina to be teaching."

Despite the glut of elementary teachers in particular, teaching remains among Michigan's most popular college majors. Yet the numbers of engineering and biomedical/health graduates have dropped since 2000 -- even though some experts believe those fields are critical to turning around Michigan's bleak economy.

On average, Michigan taxpayers spend \$5,800 to support each student for one year's study at a public university. "Education schools ... are farming out education grads at a rate much higher than Michigan can employ. In effect, we are exporting teachers at the taxpayers' expense," said John Bebow, executive director of the Center for Michigan, a public policy think tank founded by newspaper publisher Phil Power.

Lou Glazer, president of Michigan Future Inc., another Ann Arbor think tank, said the ultimate question is: What's the purpose of public funding for higher education?

"To fill Michigan jobs or to help kids who grow up in Michigan realize their dreams, no matter where they find work? They are both worthwhile goals. Historically, the answer has been the latter," he said.

Michigan State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan recognizes the vast disconnect between supply and demand.

"There are thousands and thousands of teachers without job opportunities in Michigan," he said.

While colleges keep producing elementary teachers, Michigan schools need teachers of special education, secondary math and science and language arts, he said.

Flanagan wants colleges to be held accountable to how well they are meeting the state's supply and demand needs for teachers. Scholarships, he said, are one way that colleges can help channel

students to different specializations. "Otherwise, you are subsidizing kids with public dollars who go to another state and we are still stuck holding the bag with not enough math and science teachers," Flanagan said.

Future is in technology

Michigan is trying to jump-start the diversification of its economy with the 21st Century Jobs Fund, a multi-year \$2 billion public-private venture designed to attract advanced technology businesses in the areas of advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, homeland security and life sciences.

"That's clearly where the state sees the future," said Michael Shore, spokesman for the Michigan Economic Development Corp., which administers the program.

About 45 percent of the bachelor's degrees conferred at Michigan's 15 public colleges in 2005 were in science, business, computers and math-related fields.

But over the past six years, the number of graduates has grown considerably in fields such as teaching (up 23 percent), communications and journalism (up 51 percent) and visual and performing arts (up 41 percent).

At Western Michigan University, students who are undecided about their major have access to plenty of information on the job market and hot fields, said spokeswoman Cheryl Roland.

Most students come to us with a career in mind and they are attracted to WMU by the quality of program in the major they plan to pursue," Roland said. "We can't slot students into being engineers or scientists when they aren't interested or academically prepared for that direction."

Even if Newnum had known of Michigan's surplus of elementary teachers, she wouldn't have picked another major.

She looked for a job in Michigan after graduation, but after one year and no luck, she moved to North Carolina, where a Michigan friend had already landed a job.

"I've always known I wanted to be a teacher," said Newnum, who loves her job. "I probably would have still chosen to be a teacher and just prayed that things change soon."

Her situation has become increasing typical. There are about 125,000 certified teachers among the state's school districts. And there aren't 7,000 job openings annually to employ all the newly minted teachers. Meanwhile, the declining school age population in Michigan means schools aren't creating many new jobs.

"You have students who really have a passion to teach elementary education and you can't sway them from that," said Crystal Walrath, a career development associate at Eastern Michigan University. "But a lot of students who are graduating haven't done enough research to realize that the jobs are not plentiful here in Michigan."

More teachers exist than jobs

In 2005, Michigan granted the fifth highest number of education bachelor's degrees in the nation. Yet it ranks No. 8 in the nation for school-age children.

Like the other top teacher-producing states such as New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, Michigan produces thousands of more teachers each year than it needs.

States with teacher shortages -- Arizona, Florida and the Carolinas, for example -- clamor to hire Michigan education graduates. Grand Valley State University, in fact, holds a separate job fair for out-of-state districts.

Competition is fierce for the few teacher openings in Michigan.

In Rochester, for example, 1,000 people applied for 54 teaching positions -- some of them part-time jobs at the start of this school year.

"Districts are definitely getting the best teachers that are out there, because they have so many to pick from," said Danelle Gittus, public relations specialist at Oakland Schools.

Universities could shrink their education programs to limit the excess teachers in the state, said Sharif Shakrani, director of MSU's Education Policy Center. But the programs are market-driven and graduates do find jobs -- just not necessarily in Michigan.

Growth in teaching jobs doesn't seem likely soon.

The state anticipates a loss of 15,000 public school students next year and the census predicts a steady drop in Michigan's school age population until 2015.

Pioneer

March 13, 2007

Granholm names Walz FSU trustee

Local banker will serve eight-year term on university board.

When the Ferris State Board of Trustees meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, a familiar face will join those at the table.

Sueann Walz, assistant vice president and branch manager of Independent Bank West, has been appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to an eight-year term on the Ferris board. Walz's term ends Dec. 31, 2014. She replaces Olgalina Dazzo, whose term expired.

"I feel very honored to be appointed to the board of trustees," Walz said.

She applied for a position last summer, sending her resume and personal information to Lansing. In December, she completed the interview process and was notified of her appointment March 7.

"I felt it was time to have someone from the community on the board again," she said. "We haven't had anybody since Larry Roman."

Roman served as a trustee from 1993 to 2000. He was the last person from Big Rapids to sit on the Ferris board.

"I think if you live in this community, then you have an ear to the university as well as the community and how the two intermingle," Walz said. "I want to work very hard for the benefit of the community and Ferris."

Having a local person on the board of trustees will benefit the community in that it provides a better local perspective about how the university operates, Walz said. Ferris President David Eisler believes having Walz on the board also will benefit the university.

"What she brings to this is an understanding of how important the university is to the community of Big Rapids," he said. "We're delighted to have Sueann on the board. Sueann has been actively involved with the university for an extended period of time."

Since 1980, Walz has been active with the university in many aspects, including being the current chair-elect of the Ferris State University Foundation and a member of the Friends of Ferris Executive Board.

"There should be no problem with her remaining on the Foundation board if she wishes to," Eisler said.

Walz's other involvement with the university includes membership in the Blueline Club, President's Club and Founder's Club; as a fund raiser; and establishing a hockey scholarship.

The other new appointee to the Ferris board is Patrick LaPine of Farmington, a vice president of governmental affairs for Michigan Credit Union League. LaPine takes the place of Gregory L. Patera, whose term expired.

Grand Rapids Press

March 14, 2007

Music industry warns students to stop piracy

Sharing music, games and movies online can be a bit of a hobby for college students.

So when she was asked to stop downloading music last semester, Grand Valley State University junior Danielle Finn was surprised someone was paying attention.

"I didn't know it really mattered," said Finn, who had downloaded sporadically for three years. "Just because it had taken them so long (to find out), I just didn't think it would happen."

GVSU warned her to get rid of a file-sharing program she was using, or the Internet at her Lakers Village apartment would be disconnected. She quickly complied.

In a renewed nationwide crackdown, the music industry has increased the number of notices it's sending to college campuses, warning them students are downloading music illegally.

This year alone, the Recording Industry Association of America, which represents the music industry, has sent 180 notices to GVSU, more than twice the number it sent to the school last year.

Three state universities -- the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Northern Michigan University -- this year landed on the Top 25 list of schools receiving the most notices from the industry.

The list released last month ranked MSU as seventh in the number of notices, with 753 complaints this year.

That's not too bad, considering that in 2002-03 the university topped the list with 2,800 complaints, said Randall Hall, who's in charge of MSU's Network Acceptable Use Policy Compliance.

Hall said when talking to students, they discuss not only the serious legal implications of illegally downloading music but also how file-sharing makes them susceptible to viruses and identity theft.

As on most college campuses, MSU offers Ruckus, a free program that allows students to download music to their computers. The service, seen as a solution to piracy, is paid for by advertisers wanting to reach the college-age population.

However, if MSU students are caught illegally downloading, a first notice asks them to comply with university policies. A second notice triggers an hour long chat to drive home the seriousness of the offense. They also view a video provided by the RIAA.

Punitive action, such as being referred to the university judiciary, comes only with a third notice, Hall said. That has not happened yet this year.

"The first couple years were the hardest. It's something they've done since middle school and high school and they come here and they're held accountable," Hall said. Jenni Engebretsen, a spokeswoman for RIAA, agreed that educational and deterrence programs have been effective with the general public, but said much remains to be done on college campuses.

"We've found that while we've made real progress deterring illegal (downloading) in the public at large, the problem on college campuses remains acute."

Improved technology has allowed RIAA to better track offenders and has increased the number of notices its able to send.

The RIAA also is stepping up its enforcement efforts through lawsuits. It recently sent 400 pre-litigation letters to 18 universities to inform them of forthcoming copyright infringement lawsuits against students. None of those were sent to a Michigan university.

At GVSU, students receiving notices are asked to get rid of the illegal programs in order to keep their Internet connection. Those with second notices get their service shut down and they're referred to the Dean of Students office, which can recommend the case move to campus judiciary.

GVSU Manager of Academic Services John Klein said in all, students seem receptive when they're asked to stop illegally sharing music.

Finn, the GVSU junior, said she's learned her lesson and won't illegally download again, but said the music industry won't be making much money off her.

"People don't want to spend money in music and college students have limited funds," she said, adding she's not a big fan of Ruckus, either.

"They have Ruckus for us to download for free. The problem with that is that it doesn't go on your iPod or MP3 players. I just don't use it," she said.

The colleges and the complaints

The music industry sent formal complaints this year to the following Michigan colleges:

Calvin College: 16 (up from 10 last year)

Hope College: 19 (up from 9 last year)

Ferris State: 63 (up from 3 last year)

GVSU: 180 (up from 68 last year)

Michigan State: 753 (up from 418 last year)

Northern Michigan: 457 (up from 146 last year)

U of M-Ann Arbor: 400 (up from 93 last year)

Detroit Free Press

March 15, 2007

Ferris State to play role at 2 charter schools

Ferris State University will join with the nonprofit Vista Maria Organization to oversee two new charter schools in Dearborn Heights -- the Clara B. Ford Academy and Vista Meadows Academy.

Vista Meadows will serve about 50 fourth- to 12th-graders when it opens this fall. The aim is to admit 350 to 400 students over the next few years.

The Ford Academy is expected to admit 150 fourth- to 12th-graders when it opens in the fall. Its enrollment will be limited to students under court jurisdiction and those who have been expelled or suspended from other schools.

Both are to open on the Vista Maria campus at 20651 W. Warren Ave. For information, call 800-784-7826.

Pioneer

March 17 & 18, 2007

Intensive care

Too few teachers compounds state-wide nursing shortages

FSU, Mecosta County Medical Center face future staffing crisis

Nurses are at a premium across the country and in Michigan, as well. State officials estimate they will have a shortfall of 7,000 Registered Nurses by 2010; and 18,000 by 2015.

Then it gets worse.

By 2020, the nation will have nearly a 1 million shortfall of nurses and Michigan will be 30,000 in the hole, said Netty Cove, chief clinical officer at Mecosta County Medical Center. Cove is in charge of all aspects of the hospital that relate to patient care, including the nursing staff.

"This is a serious shortage because probably 25 percent of working nurses are over 50," Cove said. "In the next five to 10 years, the Baby Boomers are going to retire - we're going to lose so much clinical expertise and knowledge. ... Even in this day and age of such high-tech equipment for patient care, you still need the touch of nursing because they are a patient's caregivers."

Despite the industry-wide shortage, Mecosta County Medical Center is holding its own. Currently, there are only two open RN positions. Two reasons MCMC doesn't have a problem are the hospital's affiliation with Ferris State University and the administration's efforts to retain the nurses already employed.

Last year, the hospital had a less than 10 percent turnover of its nursing staff, "way below the national average," Cove said. MCMC employs 120 RNs in direct patient care, plus some in other departments.

Regionally, efforts to address the overall nursing shortage began seven years ago, The West Michigan Nursing Advisory Council, which brings together nurses from the academic and service sectors, began working to interest more people in the profession.

"What's happening now is we have definitely seen, by our data, many people interested in going to nursing school and now they can't get in," said Cove, immediate past chair of the council.

On the surface, the most obvious solution to a nursing shortage would be to train more nurses by expanding those schools. But it's not that simple.

"It's a really complicated issue," said Julie Coon, director of the School of Nursing at Ferris State University. "Expanding nursing programs is very complicated. The biggest barrier is resources. In order to expand the nursing program, we need more faculty. The State Board of

Nursing mandates one teacher to every 10 students in a clinical setting. The hospitals we deal with want that clinical ratio to be lower because the level of acuity is so high."

Due to a variety of reasons including cost, people now have shorter hospital stays than in the past, Coon explained. People are now only in the hospital for the most severe duration of their illness or procedure. Nurses have to compress everything they used to accomplish over several days into one or two days - sometimes even just a few hours, Coon said. For that reason, hospitals would like to see the clinical ratios lower because one instructor overseeing to student nurses is responsible for 10 patients, about twice what a staff nurse would handle, she said.

Additional clinical faculty means the university has to put more money toward salaries. Eventually, if the program grows, additional full-time faculty would be needed as well, with benefits accompanying the salaries they would earn:

"Nursing isn't the only program in need of faculty. Within the context of the university, they have to be careful what they allocate," Coon said. "It doesn't mean the university is not supportive. ... Nursing gets all the attention but it's not the only discipline suffering critical shortages."

All imaging technicians and medical technologists, the people who perform the diagnostic tests in clinical laboratories, are in high demand, Coon said.

Opening more schools isn't the answer, either, Cove said, because that just "dilutes" the problem of finding enough qualified instructors. A shortage of teachers for nursing students already affects the existing educational institutions.

"It's a huge challenge. We've had two unsuccessful faculty searches in the last couple years. ... We prefer (someone with) a doctorate degree," Coon said. "Michigan is at the bottom of the list for Ph.D.-prepared nurses."

Coon has had to change her model for faculty searches. She cannot find the people she needs with traditional job postings and instead must rely on her own networking within the industry to locate candidates.

"We're not getting applicants because there's so many other choices," she said. "I've had to invite people to apply."

Another area of difficulty for nursing schools is locating clinical placement sites for students. Ferris is better-positioned than some schools for certain phases of training because the school collaborates with Mecosta County Medical Center. Still, not all of a nurse's training can be completed in a small, community hospital. The university has to look further afield for the different conditions and numbers of patients necessary to fully train a nurse. When trying to place students in medical institutions farther away, Ferris runs into competition from other nursing schools in the state which have higher student capacities.

Ferris accepts 40 new students into the nursing program each year, as they become qualified for entry. The university has about 300 pre-nursing students, but they become qualified at different times.

"In a given year, for the 40 seats available, there might be 60 people qualified," Coon said.

The overflow of qualified students usually complete their non-nursing requirements while they wait for entry into the program, said Arlene Morton, a faculty member in the School of Nursing.

Ferris has been at the forefront of efforts to train more clinical instructors for both the university and any nursing school. Through a state accelerated health care training grant, Ferris received about \$300,000 to prepare 12 clinical faculty in two semesters.

"It's kind of like a paid practicum experience," Coon said. "We just received the grant again. This is one thing we're trying to do because clinical faculty can be one of the barriers (to expansion of the program)."

The Ferris program has been a model for similar programs around the state, said Jeanette Klemczak, chief nurse executive for Michigan.

"They have been leaders and (have) a very exciting model for clinical nursing faculty," Klemczak said. "Ferris is very well-positioned through Dr. Coon's leadership."

Ferris State also offers a master's degree program to train nurses to become instructors in a classroom setting. With more than half of faculty in nursing schools in Michigan eligible to retire today, those impending retirements is a black cloud on the horizon.

"The faculty shortage is the main concern now, even more than the nursing shortage," Coon said.

The situation is compounded by the nurses of the Baby Boomer generation. As that group ages and requires more care, the nurses of that generation will retire and move from their teaching and nursing positions into needing care themselves.

One possible solution is the proposal by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to create a Michigan Nursing Corps. The three-year, \$45 million program is designed to train 500 new nursing faculty and more than 3,000 new RNs.

"Nurses provide \$10.5 billion across the state in economic benefits," she said. "Every nursing position that goes unfilled is \$75,000 in economic value lost to the community. It's not that nurses make \$75,000 - it's a combination of their salary and benefits. For example, if they get a prescription benefit, they'll buy it at the local pharmacy and those dollars come to the community."

"For every \$1 of the \$45 million this program will cost, there will be a \$162 return on the investment to the community," she contends.

Funding for the program depends on the state legislature approving the governor's budget proposal, Klemczak said, adding the money could come from the proposed service tax of two cents on every dollar.

Klemczak said it was too early to determine if Ferris State or any other school would be part of the Nursing Corps project. She is in the process of talking to various institutions to see if they would be able and willing to offer an accelerated master's degree program. She has not yet spoken with Coon.

"We desire to have the program offered in various areas of the state," Klemczak said.

Participation in the project is only one way Ferris could benefit from the governor's initiative, she said. Regardless of where the new instructors are trained, they would be available to hire here, as well. Each participant in the Nursing Corps has to sign an agreement to teach in Michigan for five years. If other nursing programs offering only an associate's degree were able to obtain the instructors, there still would be more baccalaureate completion students who could potentially enter Ferris' program, Klemczak said.

Whether or not the governor's plan moves forward, Cove said money for nursing education needs to be priority.

"We as a society have to find money to educate more nurses," she said. "We certainly need them."

Pioneer

March 17 &18, 2007

Objects of hate, message of tolerance

FSU's Jim Crow Museum pursues \$1 million expansion project

Jim Crow was more than a series of rigid anti-black laws in this country - it was a way of life. Everything from racist figurines, T-shirts, comic books, ash trays, souvenirs and movie posters were sold as propaganda to market hatred against blacks as a lifestyle.

The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia on the Ferris State University campus consists of creator David Pilgrim's entire collection of this memorabilia that promoted hate and discrimination.

Pilgrim bought his first racist object, a Mammy saltshaker, when he was around 12 or 13 in his hometown of Mobile, Ala.

"It must have been cheap because I never had much money," Pilgrim said in "The Garbage Man: Why I Collect Racist Objects." "And, it must have been ugly because after I paid the dealer I threw the item on the ground, shattering it. It was not a political act; I simply hated it, if you can hate an object."

Now over 10 years after the museum opened in 1996, Pilgrim has created a national and international resource in the fight against racism.

The museum contains more than 4,000 objects that include segregation-themed artifacts, civil rights memorabilia and everyday items designed to belittle African-Americans, making it the largest publicly accessible collection of racist artifacts in the country.

The name of the museum, Jim Crow, is often used to describe the segregation laws, rules and customs which arose after Reconstruction ended in 1877 and continued until the mid-1960s. The objects on display at the museum show memorabilia: from these time periods all the way up to present-day.

Pilgrim said he collects the items as a way of teaching people about racism, discrimination and intolerance.

"Even as a college student I saw the value of using objects to teach," Pilgrim said. "It is one thing to talk about an object in an abstract way, but to hold it and show it adds authenticity to the teaching."

While both Pilgrim and the museum have received acclaim from the New York Times, Associated Press, British Broadcast Corporation and even in serving as a consultant to Will Smith in his directorial debut on the UPN Show "All of Us," Pilgrim has shown no signs of letting up.

"When I dream, I dream big," Pilgrim said. "I imagined this small room in this little university impacting an entire nation. But, now it is time for us to grow to become a space where FSU students and others can really understand race relations historically and present-day."

Pilgrim's latest plan is a \$1 million plan to expand the existing museum from 500 square feet to a new 2,100 square foot space that will allow larger groups and individual walk-in visits, which currently are not possible.

"For the last year, I along with John Thorp have been working with Exhibit Works, a design firm near Detroit, to design the new museum," Pilgrim said. "We have created a design that is exciting."

Pilgrim said the new design will allow them to tell all the stories about Jim Crow that need to be told.

"Looking at the pictures for the new space, you can see that the educational impact of the museum will be greatly enhanced," Pilgrim said. "In the current facility we are only able to tell several stories. In the new museum, we will be able to tell additional stories."

Pilgrim said that while fund-raising for the new museum has lagged, he believes that the new designs will help the cause.

"We remain \$700,000 short of our goal," Pilgrim said. "I believe that the new designs that we have created will help with the fundraising because donors can see what they are supporting."

Museum Director Dr. John Thorp said the museum has just begun the process of telling the complete story of Jim Crow.

"The major outline of what we want to tell is pretty clear," Thorp said. "Now we're in the process of writing the first draft of what will eventually be the story that guides people through this museum."

Thorp said the current museum doesn't provide a complete explanation to visitors, which forces them to have guides who help them interpret the artifacts. Also, the current museum offers tours by appointment only.

"The new museum will be self-explanatory," Thorp said. "It will tell the story without the need for facilitators. That will also allow us to have open hours and computer access exhibits that will allow people to go in when they please."

While creating a larger, more comprehensive museum is something both Pilgrim and Thorp envisioned, the need to expand has also come out of necessity.

The museum has grown in prestige, with stories about it being published by a number of renowned newspapers and television networks.

After the museum had an in-depth story, published on the front page of the New York Times in 2001, the phones started ringing with donations and requests to see it," Thorp said. "The response was so overwhelming that it gradually became clearer that this was an issue that had been ignored. We feel confident that we can shine a light on this issue."

Thorp said the museum has been visited by people from out of the state and even from other countries.

"We've had three groups from England that have come here specifically to see the museum," Thorp said.

Thorp said they hope to have the comprehensive design for the new museum completed by the end of the year.

Pilgrim said the overall objective is to get people talking honestly about race.

"Many Americans are afraid or uncomfortable talking about race," Pilgrim said. "At the Jim Crow Museum we do not accept the idea that talking about race is bad. We believe that honest and intelligent discussions are necessary for understanding."

Pilgrim added that the museum is necessary in how it uses negative objects to create meaningful discussion.

"I believe, and know to be true, that objects of intolerance can be used to teach tolerance," Pilgrim said. "I know this because I have seen it work hundreds of times."

"In the museum we ask all the hard questions. We try to understand how we got where we are as a nation, and what we need to do to move to a more equitable and just society."

FSU President David Eisler said the impact of the museum cannot be overstated.

"We see regularly the national impact of this museum from its presence on the Internet and believe we can make the physical location on our campus an important teaching and research tool," Eisler said. "Used in a facilitated process, it can be very effective in helping students understand the importance of diversity in our society."

Eisler added that the museum provides visitors with an emotionally-charged experience that applies to society today more than ever.

"Every time I visit the museum I know what I'm going to see, but it still affects me emotionally," Eisler said. "It also drives home the point that these are not just artifacts of the past, but evidence that many of these things continue today."

Thorp agreed, saying the museum is meant to be viewed in a group setting by mature adults, to create meaningful discussion.

"The museum is meant to be viewed by groups," Thorp said. "In a place where racism is on display, the conversation aspect is extremely important. Open, honest discussion between individuals about race is what we're aiming for."

The Jim Crow Museum isn't the only area where Pilgrim is having an effect on diversity at FSU. He was recently appointed as the school's first Chief Diversity Officer, a position with responsibilities that include leading and developing institutional response to the changing educational landscape created by the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative and recruiting, retaining and graduating a diverse student body.

"It is crucial for FSU to have the earned reputation as a place that is safe and welcoming for people from diverse backgrounds," Pilgrim said. "I believe that diversity enhances an institution. I also believe that a diverse campus is a more vibrant campus - a campus with a broader range of worldviews."

Pilgrim said he plan to have the entire campus involved in the process of making FSU a more diverse campus.

"I have created a Diversity Planning Committee with members from across campus," Pilgrim said. "We are creating a diversity plan that will help guide the University's efforts to infuse diversity on campus. My experiences with the Jim Crow Museum have equipped me with the experience to facilitate group discussions about race."

Pilgrim added that there are areas where FSU has done well in terms of creating a diverse campus, and areas where improvement is needed.

"Our strongest areas seem to be those led by Student Affairs," Pilgrim said. "We have tons of activities that promote and celebrate diversity. Our weakest areas are undoubtedly the hiring and retaining of minority faculty and staff; and the recruitment, retention and graduation of minority students."

For information about donating to the Jim Crow Museum, contact Associate Vice President for Advancement Carla Miller at (231) 591-3825 or at millerc@ferris.edu.

More information about the Jim Crow museum can be found at www.ferris.edu/jim-crow.

Pioneer

March 19, 2007

Fun and learning go hand-in-hand at Family Fun Day

Safety and fun went hand-in-hand Saturday at Family Fun Day in the Mecosta-Osceola School District's Miller Wing.

A wide range of area businesses and youth-oriented organizations provided information as well as fun activities primarily for kids ages five and under. Activities included face painting, necklace making, a petting zoo and dental screenings.

Event Co-Coordinator Karen Schneider said the event was in conjunction with March being Parenting Awareness Month.

"We really want to celebrate the role parents have in the lives of children," Schneider said. "The early years are so important in the development of children, so we're here to do anything we can to help them."

Most organizations provided parents with information about daycare, early childhood development and even a car seat clinic to make sure parents car seats install properly.

Schneider said the event is intended to provide kids with entertainment while providing parents with important information about proper childhood care.

"We really want to combine the fun element with the education," Schneider said. "I think both kids and their parents benefit from this event." One of the cornerstones of Family Fun Day was the car seat clinic hosted by Mecosta Safe Families.

Parents had the opportunity to find out if car seats were installed correctly. The seats were inspected and installed by professionally trained volunteers, including State Police Trooper Shelley Izzard.

"Seats are replaced if they're installed improperly or don't work," Schneider said. "Four out of five car seats aren't installed properly. We just want to keep our kids safe."

Grandparent Barb Mayes said safety is a huge concern when it comes to her grandchildren.

"I think an event like this is very important," Mayes said. "These are my grandchildren, so I'm not going to take any unnecessary risks."

Some other organizations involved included the Mecosta County Children's Council, Ferris State University's Dental Program, 4-H and Early Head Start.

"We're trying to promote parent and child activities," Early Head Start Organizer Teresa Allen said. "There are so many different programs and activities in every area of development for children here. It's just a lot of fun."

Many of the parents in attendance agreed, saying the event is both fun and educational. "When you can make things like education and safety fun for kids, I think it's great," parent Oren Gingrich said. "My daughter is having a great time, and I've also learned a lot."

The event also was fun for the kids.

"I loved riding on the bikes, that was my favorite part," Branden Boldt said. "I had a really good time today."

Pioneer

March 19, 2007

Glover aims to be up for a challenge

Bulldog athletic trainer hopes to raise \$50,000 for cancer research

Challenges, fresh and new, often times serve to keep the spirit strong and the perspective fresh.

That is the hope of Tim Glover, an assistant athletic trainer at his alma mater Ferris State University, as he prepares for an adventure that is important to him, as an individual, but also holds even greater meaning as he does something to assist the ongoing fight against cancer.

Glover, a certified athletic trainer at Ferris the last seven years, already is in preparation for a cross-country biking odyssey he hopes will help to net in the neighborhood of \$50,000 for cancer research and give him a personal lifetime achievement he anticipates he will find gratifying well into his twilight years.

"I felt like I had reached a plateau in my life and I was looking for a new challenge that would do something for me, personally, but also do something to positively impact the lives of so many people who are or know someone close to them who is dealing with cancer," said Glover, who plans to participate in this summer's Cross Country Challenge 2007, sponsored by America by Bicycle, in an effort to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. "I got into watching the Tour de France, a couple of years ago, and seeing what Lance Armstrong has done (as a cancer survivor and with his success as a cyclist) and I started to talk to my training partner (Dustin Kaupp) about the biking trip."

Glover, who has been an assistant athletic trainer at Ferris State since 1998, when he returned to Big Rapids after serving as a graduate assistant trainer at Indiana State University, where he worked with the school's football program, in Terre Haute, Ind. Among his duties, as an assistant athletic trainer at Ferris, the National Athletic Training Association and National Strength and Conditioning Association member serves as the primary trainer for ice hockey, soccer and softball.

This cross-country journey, for Glover, begins June 2 in San Francisco, Calif.

The trip is scheduled to last 52 days, with five days budgeted for rest, before it comes to an end in Portsmouth, N.H. on July 24. In all, the ambitious coast-to-coast bike trip covers about 3,836 miles, an average of about 80 miles per day, and 13 states of the continental region of the country.

Major U.S. cities like Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Topeka, Indianapolis and Syracuse highlight the 52-day journey for Glover and the other participants. Currently, he is spending a big chunk of his week training on the weights as well as on the road in preparation for the start of his bicycle trip on June 2. Glover, who has had family members and friends who have battled cancer, said his goal of raising \$50,000, through donations, is admittedly ambitious, but considering how much cancer impacts the lives of so many people, Glover wanted to do something to help the cause of cancer research. Like so many of his peers, around the Great

Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Glover was greatly affected by the death of Grand Valley State University head athletic trainer Todd Jager, who in January lost his battle with a Glioblastoma Multiforme brain tumor that was originally discovered and diagnosed in May (2005).

"We lost a great friend in Todd Jager, who was the head athletic trainer at Grand Valley and a colleague of ours," said Glover, an Eastpointe native and a 1989 graduate of East Detroit High School where he lettered in football. "Basically, cancer does impact the lives of so many people ... it's impossible not to find someone who has not been impacted by cancer. ... It is so important that the research is done and that people are educated about cancer.

"People can learn so much about changing their lifestyles, getting exercise and learning about how what they eat can affect their health," he continued about cancer, which is one of the leading causes of deaths in the United States among men and women with approximately 1.3 million cases diagnosed in 2006. "I'm hoping this trip will help people go to the American Cancer Society Web site and learn as much as they can about it so they become more knowledgeable and change their lifestyles for the better."

Glover's travels can be followed, this summer by logging onto the American by Bicycle Web site where a scrapbook of photos, information and quotes will be uploaded on a daily basis from the Cross County Challenge 2007.

Interested people can support Glover, and the mission of the American Cancer Society, by clicking on the specific link to Glover's secure Team ACS Web site:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?px=1926331&pg=personal&fr_id=2460. On this web site, people can make donations. Donations also can be made, by check, and mailed to Tim Glover at 210 Sports Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307-2741. For more information, contact Glover at (231) 591-2872 or via e-mail at glovert@ferris.edu.

He already, as of Saturday night, had raised more than \$200 toward his goal of \$50,000.

"I know it's an ambitious goal, but I think it's one that I can achieve," said Glover, who is a 1995 graduate of Ferris State (applied biology) and who holds a master's degree from Indiana State. "And even if I don't reach that goal I know I'm still going to have given it everything I had to give and that I did it for a great cause."

Detroit Free Press

March 19, 2007

Also ran in Detroit News

9 public universities form coalition against MSU, U-M and Wayne State

Nine of the state's 15 public universities have formed a coalition to take on Michigan's Big 3 -- Michigan State, Wayne State and the University of Michigan -- as they make a bid for separate state funding.

The coalition, called The Education Alliance for Michigan, will meet with state lawmakers this week to make a pitch to maintain a single, cohesive appropriation for the universities, said Ari Adler, a spokesman for the group.

At the center of the dispute is money.

Though Gov. Jennifer Granholm's budget proposal calls for the same 2.5% bump for all 15 public schools, the coalition fears that separating the money into two pots will lead to a bigger share for the three research schools and a smaller appropriation for the others in the years ahead.

"Although some have expressed there's no need to be concerned, we think there is," said Rochelle Black, director of government relations for Oakland University. Oakland joined the group along with Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley State, Lake Superior State, Michigan Tech, Saginaw Valley State and Western Michigan universities.

"It seems like people are setting the stage that, 'We are better than thou and we deserve more money.' But they already get it," Black said, adding that WSU, MSU and U-M get 57% of total state funding while the remaining 12 schools share the remaining 43%.

The announcement of the united effort comes on the heels of a Detroit Free Press/Local 4 poll that showed 76% of Michigan residents oppose the idea of giving more money to U-M, MSU and WSU because of the research and development opportunities they bring to the state. The poll of 801 Michigan adults was done between March 11 and 14.

Even though the coalition argues that separating the funding will set the stage for uneven appropriations in the future, the U-M, MSU and WSU leaders remain steadfast that is not the goal.

"Our proposal is about recognizing and measuring the distinct contributions of the three research universities. It is not about securing more funding at the expense of the other 12 institutions," said U-M spokeswoman Kelly Cunningham.

Cunningham added that U-M would never support a plan that would jeopardize two of its campuses -- U-M Flint and U-M Dearborn.

MSU President Lou Anna Simon has said that two reasons to separate the funding for the three research universities is so more stringent accountability measures can be put in place and to recognize their separate missions.

But Kathy Wilbur, vice president for government relations and public affairs for Central Michigan University said every public university should be subject to the same standards.

"What one school should be held accountable for, we feel is fair for the others to be held accountable for," Wilbur said. "Each campus enjoys a different mission and works to enhance that mission. Separating the budget bills has nothing to do with missions."

In seeking a split up the share of the state's higher education dollars, Black said the Big 3 have torn down a unified front that's been built up over several years.

"It's about the precedent that is set and the divisiveness of it," she said. "Anything that divides the universities could have the potential to hurt one group or the other."

Terry Denbow, a spokesman for MSU, disagreed.

"It is not about anyone advancing at the expense of anyone else," he said. "That is an incorrect conclusion, and it certainly is not reflective of what we've been saying. All education must be at the heart of Michigan's economic future. And of course all education must be funded equitably toward that end."

Mike Boulus, executive director of the Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan said the fight isn't as fierce as it may seem.

"We've always had our differences, but collectively we've always had much in common," he said. "We've always had conflict; that's not new. ... but when all is said and done, all 15 will work together to move Michigan forward."

Pioneer

March 20, 2007

Ferris basketball squads team up for Special Olympics

The Ferris State University men's and women's basketball teams have teamed up once again to raise funds for the local Special Olympics program.

The Bulldog basketball teams will take part in the second annual charity Head-to-Head and Hand-in-Hand Special Olympics Benefit Game Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. inside Jim Wink Arena. The event is being organized and cosponsored by the Ferris Professional Recreation Association and the Gamma Epsilon Tau printing, advertising and visual design fraternity on campus.

The two competing teams will be made up of both FSU men's and women's players along with local Special Olympics Area 5 athletes.

Ferris students will be admitted to the game for only \$1 with their student identification card while community members are encouraged to attend for only a small \$2 admission fee. All proceeds from the event will go to the local Area 5 Special Olympics and will be used to help fund participation in state-wide events along with uniform and equipment needs.

This year's event will also include a silent auction starting at 6 p.m.

Potential items up for bid include a one-night stay at the Holiday Inn, an 18-hole golf package for two, a DVD player, quilt and gift certificates from numerous local merchants. Special half-time events along with various raffles and prizes will also be part of the evening activities.

"The Area 5 special Olympics athletes look forward to this game all year and enjoy being able to play alongside the Bulldog players," said Angela Knoertzer of the FSU Professional Recreation Association. "The project was such a success last year and it's a great way to raise money for the Special Olympics program." For more information on the event, please contact Angela Knoertzer at (989) 944-1026 or via email at knoerta@fsuimail.ferris.edu.

The Ferris men's basketball team registered its fourth-straight Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Tournament appearance this season under fifth-year head coach Bill Sall and concluded the year with a 10-18 overall record. The Bulldogs placed tied for third in the GLIAC North Division regular-season standings with an 8-10 league slate this campaign after advancing to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Tournament the last two seasons.

The Ferris State women's basketball squad posted a school record 23 wins (23-9) this campaign while advancing to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Championship Game for the first time in school history. The Bulldogs reached the NCAA II Sweet Sixteen for the first time and recorded back-to-back wins in their first two national tournament games. FSU compiled a second place tying 13-5 GLIAC regular season finish in head coach Tracey Bloodworth-Fisk's ninth season at the helm.

Deseret Morning News

March 20, 2007

New era starts for UVSC

It's official: Utah Valley State College will become Utah Valley University on July 1, 2008

To the roll of a timpani drum, Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. on Monday signed into law SB70, which will give the 23,000-student school university status and \$8 million in additional yearly funds.

Balloons of the school's colors - green, white and yellow - dropped from the ceiling of UVSC's ballroom after the signing, and the bill was whisked to the state Capitol in Salt Lake City.

Prior to the signing, the governor reminded students of the responsibility associated with the prestige of a university degree.

"Now more than ever before that sense of (ethical integrity) will be expected out of the students," he said.

More than 1,000 students, faculty, community and church and business leaders celebrated the bill's signing with cake and soft drinks.

About a dozen people spoke at the event. Messages of appreciation went around, jokes were told and the audience gave several standing ovations.

"As you transition to a university, leadership matters," Huntsman said. "I want all of you to know what a great president we have in our midst."

The governor credited UVSC President William A. Sederberg, who arrived in Orem in 2003 from Michigan's Ferris State University, for pushing university status by courting lawmakers and selling the idea to the community.

The school, which will become the state's fifth university, offers 54 bachelor's degrees. The first graduate degrees will likely be in instructional education, nursing health sciences and business, Sederberg said.

President Thomas S. Monson, a member of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said that in his world travels, he meets people with family members who work and study at UVSC.

He said he's happy it will soon be Utah Valley University.

"I see great things, a bright future for this great institution," President Monson said.

President Monson attended the 1975 ground-breaking for the location of the Orem school. He formerly served on the governor-appointed Utah State Board of Regents, which oversees the state's public colleges and universities.

President Monson and LDS Church President Gordon B. Hinckley also were present to commemorate the construction of the LDS Church's Orem Institute of Religion, a building adjacent to UVSC that offers religion classes to college students.

The Orem institute is one of the biggest in the church's education system.

"You see," President Monson said, "we knew this would be a university."

Justin Davies, who will be a student body officer next year, said students' degrees will have more value with the word "university." And they soon won't have to leave UVSC if they want master's degrees.

"There's a swelling pride here at UVSC," he said.

While SB70 provided \$8 million in additional ongoing funding for the school, it was \$2 million less than Sederberg sought.

Jeff Alexander, a former House majority leader, predicted the Legislature will come through in the future with the rest of the money.

"When I was first elected to the Legislature in the early 1990s, you had to educate people - even me - about UVSC," Alexander said.

Now, however, people know UVSC well. Utah Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert said Monday his children have attended school there.

"I think having two universities here (in Utah County) will make this valley shine even more," said Ira Fulton, a philanthropist who recently helped raise \$5 million for the college and matched it with \$5 million of his own money.

Pioneer (Editorial)

March 21, 2007

Walz an excellent choice for FSU Board of Trustees

Congratulations go out to Sueann Walz as she begins an eight-year term on the Ferris State University Board of Trustees.

And congratulations to Big Rapids for the reinstatement of a local voice on the FSU board after an all-to-long absence.

Walz was named to the board by Gov. Jennifer Granholm on March 7, giving Big Rapids a voice on the state university's governing board for the first time since the end of Larry Roman's term in 2000.

Her appointment was not coincidental or accidental. She had to apply and interview for one of two available positions.

Walz's longtime involvement with the community and the university made her an excellent choice that will benefit both the university and the community.

Ferris and Big Rapids are, and always have been highly dependent upon each other for services to students and area residents and for the continuing expansion of the university and community.

As a longtime banking official in the community and supporter of Ferris, we expect Walz will provide insight from perspectives of the community and the college similar to the actions of previous natives and/or local residents who have served on the board in the past - people like Roman, Bruce Parsons, Delbert Long and Charles Fairman.

We're sure that Walz will carry on the tradition of local representatives who have been able to present and balance the views and concern of the college and the community.

Collegiate Presswire

March 21, 2007

Music Theft at 23 Campuses Targeted in Second Wave of New Deterrence Program

Recording Industry Sends New Round of 405 Pre-Litigation Settlement Letters to Universities

Schools in California, Wisconsin, Maine - Along With Purdue, Boston University, DePaul - Among Those with Students Caught For Illegal File-Trafficking

Continuing its efforts to address the extensive music theft that persists on college campuses, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), on behalf of the major record companies, today sent a second wave of 405 pre-litigation settlement letters to 23 universities.

Last month, the RIAA launched new deterrence and education initiatives focused on illegal file trafficking on college campuses - a significant escalation and expansion of the industry's ongoing efforts, coupled with the implementation of a new process that gives students the opportunity to resolve copyright infringement claims against them at a discounted rate before a formal lawsuit is filed. Each pre litigation settlement letter informs the school of a forthcoming copyright infringement suit against one of its students or personnel and requests that university administrators forward that letter to the appropriate network user.

In the second wave of this new initiative, the RIAA today sent letters in the following quantities to 23 schools, including: Boston University (50 pre-litigation settlement letters), Columbia University (20), Dartmouth College (11), DePaul University (18), Drexel University (20), Ferris State University (17), Ithaca College (20), Purdue University (38), University of California - Berkeley (19), University of California - Los Angeles (21), University of California - Santa Cruz (17), University of Maine system (27), University of Nebraska - Lincoln (25), University of Wisconsin system (66, including the following individual campuses: Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee, Parkside, Platteville, Stevens Point, Stout, and Whitewater), Vanderbilt University (20), and Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (16).

"This is not our preferred course, but we hope that students will understand the consequences of stealing music and that our partners in the college community will appreciate the proactive role they can play," said Cary Sherman, President, RIAA. "This is a program about defending our rights and providing the appropriate foundation for the legal marketplace to flourish. The pervasive theft of music on campus networks is nonetheless a shared problem for the industry and universities alike. The more that universities impart the right message to their students and protect the integrity of their computer networks, the less likely their students will be caught and sued for copyright theft."

Added Steven Marks, Executive Vice President and General Counsel for the RIAA, "We're encouraged by the response of universities that are forwarding the pre-litigation settlement letters to students. Not every student will take advantage of this opportunity, but those that do get the benefit of a discounted settlement and no public mark on their record."

A survey by Student Monitor from spring 2006 found that more than half of college students download music and movies illegally, and according to market research firm NPD, college students alone accounted for more than 1.3 billion illegal music downloads in 2006. While college students represented only 10 percent of the sample in the new online NPD study, they accounted for 26 percent of all music downloading on P2P networks and 21 percent of all P2P users. Furthermore, college students surveyed by NPD reported that more than two-thirds of all the music they acquired was obtained illegally.

These enforcement actions come in addition to the lawsuits that the RIAA continues to file on a rolling basis against those engaging in music theft via commercial Internet accounts.

Pioneer

March 22, 2007

FSU in funding fight

Some educators want university spending broken up by school size.

The debate about how Michigan's 15 public universities are funded is heating up.

Representatives from several of the state's smaller universities are lobbying lawmakers to reject a format that would separate their state aid budget bill from one for the state's three largest universities - Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State.

Ferris State University President David Eisler said he believes it is important to keep funding for higher education on one bill.

"We basically believe that dividing up funding for higher education isn't a good thing," Eisler said. "When you begin to divide funding up, it's going to work against someone eventually." The smaller schools want to keep university state aid budgets in one big bill, the way it traditionally has been done in Michigan.

The smaller schools worry that separating the budget bills could lead to a format that eventually gives the larger universities more money at their expense.

There are very important differences between many of our institutions," Central Michigan University President Michael Rao said Wednesday. "But there are also significant similarities."

Many of the schools are looking at the same pool of students for next fall's entering class, Rao said, and several of the schools now have statewide missions. Each has a role in helping boost the number of college graduates in Michigan, seen as a tool to help the state's economy.

The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan State and Wayne State has presented a united front the past two years during state budget hearings. The three big universities say they are different because they have medical schools that carry higher costs than a typical undergraduate department. They also have technology transfer programs and research and development operations that are far larger than those at the smaller schools.

Those different structures are a big reason why Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State already get about 57 percent of state aid going to universities for their operations.

"If you look at how much money those schools get per student, the funding already works to their advantage," Eisler said.

Officials at the Big Three contend they aren't trying to divert money from the other universities.

"This is not about anyone being advantaged at the expense of anyone else," Michigan State spokesman Terry Denbow said. "This is not about robbing Peter in Mount Pleasant to pay Paul in Ann Arbor."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's budget proposal for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 calls for each of the 15 universities to get a 2.5 percent increase in state aid. But Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State would be dealt with in a separate bill, which the smaller schools say would set a dangerous precedent for future years.

The nine universities that have joined forces to oppose split bills are Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley State, Lake Superior State, Michigan Tech, Oakland, Saginaw Valley State and Western Michigan.

Pioneer

March 23, 2007

Budget plan cuts \$344 million

Local school districts, Ferris take funding hits.

Senate Republicans on Thursday passed a \$34-per-student cut for schools and planned to introduce other cuts in state services after deciding Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposed spending rollbacks didn't go far enough.

Granholm issued an executive order Thursday afternoon that included \$344 million in cuts and other changes. She said lawmakers no longer can delay in resolving a \$900 million shortfall in the current budget.

The Democratic governor criticized Republicans who said they would fill the gap only by reducing spending and making changes to improve government efficiency, a criticism Senate Democrats repeated on the Senate floor over debate on the per-pupil cuts, which will send about \$57.4 million less to schools in per-pupil funding.

The \$34-per-student will be cut out of the foundation allowance which was expected to include a per-pupil increase of \$210.

"We started the budget last year without bringing in a 2 percent tax," Rep. Darwin Booher said. "Should we have to raise taxes now because a few people made some miscalculations?"

Booher said the changes in the budget need to be made elsewhere. "We need to make the corrections with the revenues that we have, and then look at the new budget in October," Booher said. "Raising taxes is not the way to solve this problem."

One local entity that was affected by Granholm's executive order was Ferris State University. Higher education faces an overall reduction of \$73.39 million, including delayed payments ranging from \$587,700 at Lake Superior State University to \$14.8 million at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Ferris State University's delayed payment is \$2.27 million.

"We have continuing concern about the state's budget situation," Ferris State University President David Eisler said.

"The actions in this executive order delay funding that Ferris State University should receive for our current budget."

Eisler said his concern is whether the funds will be received.

"We have two concerns," Eisler said. "Our first concern is that whether we will receive these funds in the future. Our second concern is the nearly \$550 million that has not yet been addressed."

Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District Superintendent Curt Finch said that simply making cuts won't balance the state's budget.

"They're thinking they can cut their way out of this deficit, but they can't," Finch said.

"Neither side wants to give in right now. But in general, there is going to have to be a revenue increase at some point."

Republicans countered that it was a small amount for schools to have to make up in the two months remaining in the school year and that a tax increase was unacceptable.

The school spending bill passed 20-18, mostly along party lines.

Republicans have said they want to make up the \$800 million short-fall without raising taxes. Senate Republicans rejected Granholm's first executive order last month because her proposal relied on a new 2 percent tax on services to make ends meet.

Granholm wants to bring in more tax revenue through a 2 percent tax on services that would start June 1 and bring in about \$1.5 billion a year in revenue. The Senate, against Granholm's wishes, voted 22-16 against a bill Thursday afternoon that would put the tax on services in place.

The bill's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Liz Brater of Ann Arbor, said she was disappointed the Republican Senate leaders were taking up the bill now.

"Everyone knows this bill was introduced as part of 22 bills the governor introduced to ... move our state forward to make sure we can invest in the resources and the people of Michigan," she said during debate on the Senate floor. "We do need to stop these shenanigans. ... We should be working together to forge a consensus."

But Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond, criticized the tax.

"We need less taxes, we need less spending, we need less burden-some regulation on our business community," he said.

The Senate did pass the governor's executive order, but the House Appropriations Committee held off.

Dan Farough, a spokesman for House Democrats, said the caucus and Granholm are united in their desire for a broad solution that will prevent them from having to bail out the budget year after year.

But exactly where Thursday's - executive order fits into that equation is not as clear, at least within the 10-day timeframe that the House Appropriations Committee has to vote on it.

"Whether the executive order is passed in the current timeline or is incorporated as part of an overall, complete solution is still being decided," Farough said.

Pioneer (Editorial)

March 23, 2007

Split funding a poor idea

The latest flap in higher education concerns the method used to fund Michigan's 15 public universities. Seems that officials with Michigan's Big Three educational institutions - Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State - think their state aid should be separated from the budget bill for the other 12 higher education institutions because they have higher costs to support medical schools and larger research and development operations.

The Big Three rationalize that since 57 percent of the state's higher education funding goes to those schools splitting the bills would open the door for legislators to appropriate even more to them at the expense of the other 12.

If you look at how much money those schools get per student, the funding already works to their advantage," said FSU President David Eisler.

Apparently Gov. Jennifer Granholm is playing to her election base in Detroit and Lansing by caving in to the requests of the three schools. Her budget proposal for the fiscal year calls for a 2.5 percent increase for each of the 15 public universities, but through a second budget bill for Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State.

The smaller schools see the proposed separation as a dangerous precedent that will eventually prove detrimental to their endeavors. Nine of the other 12 schools, including Ferris State University, have joined a coalition to oppose splitting higher education appropriations bills.

"We basically believe that dividing up funding for higher education isn't a good thing," Eisler said. "When you begin to divide funding up, it's going to work against someone eventually."

We agree and urge area residents to write and e-mail the governor, senators and representatives to let them know how important it is to protect funding for the smaller institutions like Ferris, CMU and Grand Valley that provide opportunities closer to the rural population of the state.

Granholm keeps purporting her vision to improve higher education to bring Michigan out of its economic crisis. We certainly agree with on that point, but feel she must help to protect and build on the offerings of the state's entire arsenal of public universities, not just a select few.

Pioneer

March 23, 2007

Ferris to host fifth annual 5K race

Ferris State University will host its fifth annual 5K Run/Walk for Kids at 9 a.m. on April 14.

The event is to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The Children's Miracle Network is an organization that helps over 17 million children suffering from diseases and injuries. The Helen DeVos Children's Hospital alone serves over 148,000 children from 77 Michigan counties and 48 additional states.

This year's goal is to raise at least \$1,000.

The 5K Run/Walk for Kids is a family friendly event that includes - a one-mile fun run as well as the 5K Run/Walk for Kids. Prizes will be given to top finishers in each event, and all registered participants will be entered into a post-race raffle for prizes from local Big Rapids businesses.

The registration fee for the event is \$15 and is refundable if the participant is able to raise \$50 or more in donations. Runners and walkers of any fitness level are welcome to participate in the event. Late-registration check-in for the 5K Run/Walk is 8 a.m., with the race beginning at 9 a.m. The one-mile fun run begins at 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions about the event, or if you would like to become more involved, contact Director Lyndsey Morse at mors16@fsuimail.ferris.edu or at (231) 591-8503.