

Dean William Potter

Biographical Summary

Dean Potter was appointed to lead University College in July, 1999 after a 25-year tenure at nearby Alma College in a variety of academic administrative positions. Throughout his career, Dr. Potter has been keenly interested in helping students of all kinds be successful in college as an academic advisor, an instructor in student success courses, and an administrator responsible for providing support services. He is also a mentor and advocate for staff members as a direct result of his dissertation about the role of middle managers in postsecondary education. In addition to long standing interests in 20th Century American diplomatic and civil rights history, Dean Potter's research interests include grade inflation, student retention, and assessment of student success strategies. Dr. Potter continues to teach and advise students in the University College Directed Studies Program and is actively involved in the Ferris Political Engagement Project and Academic Service Learning.

Education

Ph.D. in College and University Administration, Michigan State University
M.A. in History, Central Michigan University
B.A. in History, Alma College

Administrative Experience

Dean of University College, Ferris State University, 1999 to present
Dean of Academic Affairs, Alma College, 1993-1999
Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs and Registrar, Alma College, 1988-1993
Registrar and Director of Records and Research, Alma College, 1980-1988
Associate/Assistant Registrar, Alma College, 1976-1979
Special Grants Coordinator, Alma College, 1975-1976

Professional Memberships and Service

National Association of International Educators (NAFSA), 2005-2009
National Association of Developmental Education (NADE), 2003-Present
National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), 1999-Present
Association of Deans and Directors of University Colleges (AD&D), 1999-Present
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), 1980-1999
Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO), 1976-1998
Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters (MASAL), 1976-Present
Michigan Association for Institutional Research (MI/AIR), 1987-1990

Courses Taught

DIST 100 – a 1-credit transition seminar for probationary students, at FSU
UNCP 100 – a 3-credit transition seminar for provisionally admitted students, at FSU
FSUS 100 -- a 1-credit transition seminar for new students, at FSU
AMS 101 -- a seminar about the Civil Rights movement in America, at Alma College
PTS 021 -- Malcolm and Martin, a seminar for first-year students, at Alma College
MGT 380 -- Business Ethics, at Davenport College
MGT 300 -- Management, at Davenport College
MGT 306 -- Human Resources Management, at Davenport College
ST 012 -- Study Tour of USSR, at Alma College
HIST 400 -- Presidential Library Research, at Alma College

Refereed Publications

- Cox, D., C. Jones and W. Potter. 2007. *The Ferris State University Strategies Program*. Exemplary practice chapter in Huff, L. and P. Jordan, **Advising Special Student Populations: Adult Learners, LGBTQ, Multicultural, Students on Probation, Two-Year College, and Undecided**. NACADA.
- Pole, J., A. Krellwitz, and W. Potter. 2005. *Collaborating for Student Success: Teaming Support Center Staff with Study Skills Courses*. **The Learning Assistance Review**, 10(1): 15-23.
- Potter, W., M. Nyman and K. Klumpp. 2001. *Be Careful What You Wish For: Analysis of Grading Trends at a Small Liberal Arts College, Grade Inflation or Progress?* **College and University**, 76(4): 9-14.
- Potter, W. 1992. *Twentieth Century Views of Middle Management in Higher Education*, **Michigan Academician**, 25(1): 9-20.
- Potter, W. 1991. *Freshman Registration by Telephone: A Low-Tech Model for Small Colleges*, **College and University**, 67(1): 31-35.
- Potter W. 1986. *500 Stars for China: The United States and the Air War in Asia*, **Michigan Academician**, 18(2): 185-195.
- Potter W. 1985. *Matsuoka in Berlin: Japan, Germany, and the Singapore Question*, **Michigan Academician**, 17(2): 109-117.
- Potter W. 1979. *Grade Inflation: Unmasking the Scourge of the Seventies*, **College and University**, 55(1): 19-26.
- Potter W. 1976. *The Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters: A Bicentennial Review of Michigan's Scholastic Forum* published as *The State of Things*, **Michigan Academician**, 9(2): 127-133.

Funded Grants

Ferris State University – Listed below are the *funded* proposals I organized for submission since 1999.

- 2010 -- \$15,500 Pay-It-Forward grant from Learn and Serve America
- 2004 -- \$15,000 grant from Daimler Chrysler for Career Institute
- 2003 -- \$15,000 grant from Daimler Chrysler for Career Institute
- 2001 -- \$440,000 grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education to disseminate and replicate the SLA Program.
- 2001 -- \$250,141 grant from CCAMPIS, a Department of Education program, to provide child-care subsidies and alternatives for needy students.
- 2001 -- \$96,000 4-S Grant from the State of Michigan for Basic Skills Competency Program.
- 2000 -- \$80,000 4-S Grant from the State of Michigan for Basic Skills Competency Program.
- 1999 -- \$110,000 4-S Grant from the State of Michigan for Basic Skills Competency Program.

While at Alma, academic grantwriting supported by my office resulted in funding for 70 proposals and support for scholarly work and instruction totaling more than \$1,000,000 between 1992 and 1998.