

December 3, 2007

Ferris State University, as part of a set of diversity initiatives, conducted a Diversity Climate Survey September 28-October 18, 2007. This survey gathered data on students' prior experiences with diversity, their experiences in classrooms, their awareness and use of diversity programs at the University, their knowledge of expressions of insensitivity and prejudice at their campus, their sense of how diversity impacts their learning, and their recommendations for change. The anonymous survey also collected detailed demographic information. Of the 12,606 students contacted, 2,804 completed the survey. This constituted a 22.24 percent response rate. The research collected in the survey will help inform diversity planning at the University and serve as baseline data for determining progress in the University's diversity efforts.

Ms. Thuy Karafa, an adjunct professor in the Department of Social Sciences, has agreed to join the Diversity Office during Spring Semester as a research analyst. Her primary focus will be the Diversity Climate Survey; more specifically, analyzing the quantitative data and generating reports from the raw data. As these reports are created they will be placed on the Diversity Office's website. The qualitative data will take longer to place in a format that is understandable; therefore, it will be placed on the web at a later date.

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