

**Title of Grant:** Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Grant

**Project Title:** “Connecting with the Learner: The Implementation of an Equity Toolkit in West-Central Michigan”

On August 6, 1999, the State Board of Education approved the 1999-2000 Eisenhower Education Grant Awards funded under Title II, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Section of the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994.

Ferris State University seeks funding for “Connecting with the Learner: The Implementation of an Equity Toolkit in West Central Michigan.” The *Connecting with the Learner* toolkit has previously been developed by the Michigan Department of Education. This resource is intended to help all teachers in the state of Michigan design mathematics and science curricula that accommodate the learning styles of all students in their classes, especially female and minority students who have typically been underrepresented in the sciences. In this program, teachers throughout the west-central region of Michigan will be trained in the use of this toolkit. Five intermediate school districts will identify twenty teachers within their districts to participate in the program. Coordinators trained in the use of the toolkit will conduct workshops with the teachers in each ISD to determine what the local equity concerns are and to introduce teachers to the resources provided by the toolkit.

During the summer of 2000, a week-long institute will be conducted at Ferris State University to provide all 100 teachers with in-depth, hands-on experience with the toolkit. As a part of the institute, teachers will develop a specific plan of action to take back to their home classrooms so that they can immediately begin to incorporate the toolkit into their classes. Finally, in Fall 2000, coordinators will return to the IDSs for an additional workshop, at which time the teachers will share the changes in classroom instruction that have occurred.