

College of Allied Health  
Commencement - May 9, 2008  
The Dream of Education

David L. Eisler, President

For every student who crosses our stage today there is a story, a story that includes parents, family and friends who supported them, teachers on all levels who educated, challenged, and prepared them, as well as their own personal commitment, effort, and sacrifice that has transformed them. In the achievements of these graduates we see the hopes and dreams for a better future, filled with opportunities yet to be discovered.

Over the past few weeks I have visited with our graduates, learning about their experiences and hearing their stories. As I listened, I developed an even deeper appreciation of the students we have at Ferris State University and the power of the educational experience they receive here.

These students crossing our stage today are more than outstanding. These are extraordinary people, who all have compelling stories behind the degrees they are receiving today. Perhaps the easiest way to illustrate this is to share one example with you.

Each of our graduates has followed their own path to the degree they will receive today. Few have travelled further than this young man from Iron Mountain. At age six his family moved there from Taiwan because his parents had a dream that their sons would attend college and get a great education. He began his studies in Fall 2002, enrolling in the biotechnology program. By his second year he knew that this was not his future. In a Chemistry class Professor Dan DeRegnier presented materials on medical techniques and this young man was intrigued by the challenge of helping others. As a result he changed his major to medical technology. When I spoke with him he was furthering his journey by interning at Saginaw Covenant Healthcare, gaining experience while helping others.

Today he is achieving both his and his parents' goal. Encouraging him along this path have been faculty Barbara Ross and Sandra Cook. For me this story exemplifies the way our faculty change lives and help students achieve their dreams. I am honored to present to you this wonderful young man, Chi Chen and would ask that he stand. For today's ceremony Chi's grandmother and friend have travelled 24,000 miles from Taiwan to attend. I would ask Chi's family also stand and be recognized.

On behalf of our University I wish you great success and fulfillment. As each of you sets out on the next step on your life and career you will face times of challenge and uncertainty. Chi Chen offers a wonderful example of how each of us can work through those times and make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Congratulations and best wishes