



**"Education is life. It involves growth, development and training."**  
 — Woodbridge N. Ferris

Ferris State University is in its second century as one of the nation's premier technical and professional universities. Ferris State provides the education necessary to make its graduates immediately employable in a diverse array of programs.

The institution was founded in 1884 by Woodbridge N. Ferris, a former Governor of Michigan and a U.S. Senator. His intent was to provide a practical education for any person with the motivation and potential to benefit.

Today, Ferris State continues to teach technical skills and applications focused on solving real problems, and produces a work force that is prepared to meet the world of high technology. The University's academic programs are designed to respond to the changing needs of manufacturing, business, health care, and other industries and professions which are critical to Michigan's economy.

The scenic Big Rapids campus is located along the banks of the Muskegon River in the gentle rolling hills of west central Michigan.

Initially, Ferris was known as the Ferris Industrial School, but in 1899 the title was changed to Ferris Institute. It was privately owned and operated until 1931 when it became a non-profit, non-stock education corporation. In 1949, Ferris became a state college, and the school was officially re-named Ferris State College in 1963 and Ferris State University on November 4, 1987.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Ferris State University will be a national leader in providing opportunities for innovative teaching and learning in career-oriented, technological and professional education.

Ferris State University continues to build and remodel a number of campus buildings, including numerous athletic facilities. The result is high-quality facilities which benefit athletes, students and the Big Rapids community.

Encompassed among the many projects on campus was the renovation of the Health and Physical Education (HPE) Building, resulting in the creation of the state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center. Construction, which began in March 1998 and was completed in January 1999, resulted in four multi-use courts, a four-lane elevated track, two aerobic studios, a six-lane, 25-yard pool, a 13-person whirlpool, 40-foot climbing wall, fitness center, free weight room, locker rooms, class rooms and administrative offices. Figures provided by University Recreation show that more than 1,000 students use the facility daily.

The closure of Jim Wink Arena with the HPE Building meant a move for the varsity men's and women's basketball programs. The result was the 2,600-seat Sports and Convocation Complex, which shares an expanded lobby with the Ewigleben Ice Arena. In addition to the new lobby, concessions, pro shop and rest rooms, the Ewigleben Ice Arena features a 4,580 square-foot addition which serves as the new home for Bulldog hockey. The locker room, constructed with university funding and money raised by the Bulldog Hockey Pride Committee, includes a player's lounge, film study room, equipment room, training room, coaches' offices and sauna.

Other Ewigleben Ice Arena improvements include an expanded press box, new seating and scoreboards and a hockey locker room for Big Rapids High School.

*Ferris State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution*

### ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

#### DR. DAVID L. EISLER PRESIDENT



Dr. David L. Eisler became Ferris State University's president on July 7, 2003, coming to Ferris from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, where he served as provost and vice president of academic affairs.

President Eisler earned both his bachelor's and doctorate in Clarinet Performance at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he met his wife, Patsy, a native of South Haven, Mich. He also earned his master's in Clarinet Performance from Yale University, graduating summa cum laude.

Dr. Eisler began his academic career as a music instructor at Troy (Ala.) State University in the mid-1970s, rising to the position of assistant dean of the School of Fine Arts. After that, he served as dean of the College of Fine Arts at Eastern New Mexico University from 1990 to 1996. During his tenure at Weber State, which began in 1996, Dr. Eisler helped reverse that school's trend of declining enrollment with a growth in the student body from 13,900 to 18,100.

Dr. Eisler has spoken widely and published papers on the topic of technology in higher education. At Weber State he created WSU Online, selected by the University Continuing Education Association as Outstanding Distance Education Program of the Year in 1998.

As an academic leader, Eisler believes strongly in the value of excellence in undergraduate education. He's committed to ensuring the integrity of the college experience based upon an education that develops mature communication and quantitative skills, including a knowledge core that has both breadth and depths, which creates a pattern of intellectual rigor and provides the foundation for lifelong learning. Throughout his career, Dr. Eisler has been heavily involved in community service. He has participated in the United Way, Rotary Club and various chambers of commerce. He also has been an on-air host for fundraising drives for both public radio and television.

President Eisler believes that service is an important component of the educational experience. With the American Association of State College and Universities and the New York Times, he helped create a National Civic Engagement Project. With his experience at institutions of higher education whose missions are similar to that of Ferris, Dr. Eisler embraces the University's commitment to students, economic development and innovative career-based education. He's married to Patsy, a native of South Haven, Mich.

#### TOM KIRINOVIC ATHLETICS DIRECTOR



Tom Kirinovic, who has gained recognition for his skills in areas of athletics management, public relations, marketing, and fundraising, was named Ferris State University's Athletics Director in November 1999.

Kirinovic is responsible for overseeing the Bulldogs' 15-sport intercollegiate athletics program. Kirinovic, who had served as associate athletics director since August 1994, had been appointed interim athletics director in mid-July 1999.

A member of Ferris' athletics staff for 20 years, Kirinovic was originally appointed interim athletics director on April 8, 1993, following the retirement of athletics director Dean Davenport.

Kirinovic served a two-year (1992-93) stint as assistant athletics director at FSU after holding the dual position of assistant athletics director and ice arena manager from 1987-91. In 1991, he was appointed as fund raising manager in the Bulldog athletics department. Kirinovic initially began his career at Ferris in August 1982, returning to his alma mater as athletic business manager. In the spring of 1989, Kirinovic coached the FSU softball team to a 17-15 overall record and its first winning season in six years. He also logged five years of coaching experience at Ovid-Elsie High School in Elsie, Mich., as a varsity assistant for football and basketball while also serving as head coach of the school's freshmen and junior varsity baseball program. Kirinovic, 49, received a bachelor's degree in business education from Ferris State in 1977 and a master's in education administration from Central Michigan University in 1982.

A member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), Kirinovic also holds membership in the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administration (NACMA). He's a member of the Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador's Club and the Big Rapids Lions Club and is past chair of the Mecosta-Osceola United Way Drive. Kirinovic is a past president of the Big Rapids Public Schools' Board of Education.

Kirinovic presently serves as a member of the NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee and on the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Basketball Ranking Committee. He and his wife, Marge, are the parents of two sons, Blake (23) and Matt (19). Marge is a teacher at Riverview Elementary in Big Rapids.