

# PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

## From the Provost:

While winter weather may have slowed activities outside, it is evident that the colleges have been very busy, especially in the area of outreach. Whether it is hosting high school robotic teams, traveling to Russia, establishing a new DCCL cohort in Texas, or serving as a national center to coordinate and expand STEM workshops for K12 students, this month's newsletter reports on many recent successes and accomplishments.

*Paul*

## DCCL Lone Star College Partnership



A giant step forward for the Doctorate in Community College Leadership (DCCL) is its new partnership with the Lone Star College system in the greater Houston area of Texas. On January 12, Provost Paul Blake, Dean Steve Reifert, Associate Provost Roberta Teahen, Dissertation Director and Professor Sandra Balkema, and Texas Cohort Program Director Brooke Moore participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Woodlands Campus of Lone Star. Twenty-two students started their doctoral journey on Thursday, January 11. Enrollees come from multiple institutions in Texas, with several from Lone Star and the Houston Community College District. With several DCCL faculty already residing in Texas and with the large size of many Texas community college districts, the DCCL presence in Texas makes sense. Ferris looks forward to a long and continuing partnership with this distinguished community college partner. For further information on the ribbon-cutting ceremony, go [here](#).

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## Calender

1/31: **Deadline for Author Celebration Submissions**

2/1 : **Festival of the Arts Opening Day**

2/2 : **Deadline for Academic Affairs Awards Submissions**

2/12 : **Deadline for February ProvostPost Newsletter Submissions**

## Community College Partnerships Bring Opportunity to Students



*Students Katie Lee and Latoya Rivers pose with another student in front of Lansing Community College.*

Many people in the campus community are unaware of the deep relationships Ferris enjoys with community college partners. Over the years, Ferris has extended its degree-offering locations to 24 different sites which span the State from Detroit to Gaylord to Dowagiac to Lansing to Grand Rapids.

In some cases, Ferris has been offering degrees to students at these locations for decades. The first partnerships were developed in the 1980s with Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) in Traverse City and Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) in Dowagiac. Ferris' largest partner, Grand Rapids Community College, began offering Ferris courses and degree completion on its campus in 1992, with the building of their Applied Technology Center (ATC). With its exclusive rights to the building, Ferris is the only baccalaureate-degree-offering university at the ATC.

The Extended and International Operations (EIO) unit of Academic Affairs supports these off-site locations through regional offices. Steve Reifert, Dean of EIO, said that the list of tasks is often exhausting but the work is rewarding. "We continue to hear laudatory comments from our partners and when we visit, we constantly hear, 'What other programs can you bring to our campus?'"

Recently, EIO, in conjunction with the academic deans, Provost, and the Office of the President, embarked on a series of visits to collaborators. Last fall, Ferris President David Eisler, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake, and Reifert traveled to several locations to meet with community college administrators in efforts to strengthen relationships and determine what other programs Ferris may take to these sites. College of Pharmacy Dean Stephen Durst, College of Optometry David Damari, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Kristi Haik, and College of Health Professions Matthew Adeyanju

recently toured the facilities at Delta College. The deans have also completed follow-up visits with Mott Community College, Lake Michigan College, Southwest Michigan College, and plan on visiting Northern Michigan College and Grand Rapids Community College this spring. Eisler, Blake, and Reifert will be visiting partners in Southeast Michigan this spring as well.

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## Ferris Deepens Relationship with Rhine-Waal University

On February 13 and 14, a delegation from Ferris' German partner, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, will visit campus. The Office of International Education and the College of Business will host Rhine-Waal President, Dr. Heide Naderer, who will lead the delegation; Professor of Business Administration, Dr. Philipp Schorn; and Director of the International Center, Dr. Joost Kleuters, to explore collaborations. During the visit, the delegation will discuss a joint degree program in the area of political economy and the creation of a global consortium of business schools.

The strong relationship between Ferris State University and Rhine-Waal University has resulted in a collaborative double degree program for students in the College of Business. The relationship has also developed into the most active student exchange program on campus.

In May 2017, Ferris State University cohosted the first annual College of Business Lighthouse Symposium with Rhine-Waal University and Ferris' Dutch partner, Saxion University of Applied Sciences. Representatives from business programs in eight countries traveled to Big Rapids to participate in workshops focusing on international collaborations. The second annual Lighthouse Symposium for the College of Business will be held in Germany at Rhine-Waal University in April 2018.

For more information about the visit from the Rhine-Waal delegation, please contact the Office of International Education at 231-591-2450 or [international@ferris.edu](mailto:international@ferris.edu).



## Partnering with Russia



The Division of Academic Affairs actively seeks to create global partnerships and build relationships with other universities. In recent years, Russia is one country where Ferris is realizing benefits for both students and staff.

In November 2015, Associate Professor of Mathematics Victor Piercey, Associate Professor of Humanities Tracy Busch, and English, Literature, and World Languages professors Lilia Caserta and David Russell visited Kazan, Russia. They presented information about innovative programs and teaching at Ferris to students at the Institute of Economics, Management, and Law. Piercey and Busch also presented at a conference at the Institute during their visit.

In February 2017, a group from the Doctorate in Community College Leadership (DCCL) program participated in an academic program exchange hosted by Arsk Pedagogical Community College to learn about the Russian community college system. The group visited five community colleges and presented on the American system of community colleges to Russian colleagues. English, Literature, and World Languages professors Sandy Balkema and Lilia Caserta organized the program.

Professors Elena Gavrilova and Olga Zinnurova from Kazan National Research Technological University visited Ferris for a second time last March to explore new ways to collaborate with Ferris. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Kristi Haik hosted a working lunch for the Russian guests. Physical Sciences Department Head David Frank, College of Pharmacy Dean Stephen Durst, and Professor of Pharmacy Kim Hancock planned a future student and

faculty collaboration with the Russian partners.

In August 2017, Balkema and Caserta traveled to Elabuga, Russia to present on American methods of teaching language courses for Russian teachers during three days at the International School Teachers Festival. Discussion with President Elena Merzon of Elabuga Pedagogical University followed with plans to collaborate in student and faculty exchanges, research, and publications.

More recently, Ferris' College of Arts and Sciences has proposed a 14-day program at the Big Rapids campus for Russian students from partner colleges to help them to become proficient in English and learn about the American Midwest culture. Extended and International Operations (EIO) Dean Steven Reifert, EIO Associate Dean Cheryl Cluchey, and EIO Coordinator of Camps and Conferences Kale Tissue, along with Haik, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake, and Caserta played key roles in developing, revising, and finalizing the proposal.

The plan is to host 10 Russian students on the Ferris campus during July, 2018. It will be the first group of Russian students to visit the Big Rapids campus. The goal will be to have the students learn English and experience American culture. In turn, the Russian visitors will share their culture and give Ferris students the opportunity to learn about Russia and diversity.



## Author Celebration Reminder!



Please complete the Author Celebration Submission Form to be considered for recognition at the Author Celebration Event to be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, Woodbridge N. Ferris Building (WNF).

Information to submit can be found at the [Author Celebration webpage](#).

If your scholarly or creative work was published, presented, or released between the dates of January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, we would like to recognize YOU for all your hard work and dedication. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2018. Sponsored by FLITE, Kendall College of Art and Design Library, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Office of Academic Affairs.

## 2nd Annual Equity By Design Forum

### “Inclusive Excellence in the Classroom and Beyond” Workshop and Dinner

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

4 – 6 PM

MCO 212

RSVP is required due to limited seating.

### “Inclusive Excellence in the Age of Exclusion” Keynote and Light Lunch

Thursday, March 1, 2018

11 – 11:50 AM

UCB 202 A&B

The Equity By Design Forum is an annual event at Ferris State University that provides an opportunity for members of the Ferris community to integrate or enhance methods and approaches that create increasingly more inclusive learning environments and experiences for students and others.

Ferris is pleased to announce that the 2017-2018 Keynote Speaker and Workshop Facilitator will be Dr. Tasha Souza.

Souza is the Associate Director for the Center for Teaching and Learning and Professor of Communication at Boise State University. Most recently, Souza was the Faculty Associate for Inclusive Excellence for Humboldt State University (HSU) and a Fulbright scholar at the University of the West Indies in Barbados. Previously, she was the founding Faculty Development Coordinator for HSU’s Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and also served as an Instructional Consultant at the Center for Instructional Development and Research at the University of Washington. Souza is a consultant on communication, inclusive excellence and pedagogy, and has published in such areas as difficult dialogues in the classroom, transforming classroom conflict, confronting

microaggressions with microresistance, instructional communication, and intercultural conflict.

If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate, please contact Laurie Daniels, Secretary III, at (231) 591-2440 or LaurieDaniels@ferris.edu to request accommodations at least 72 hours in advance.



## FIRST Robotics Kickoff

On Saturday, January 6, over 200 students from 15 area high schools attended the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Challenge kickoff held on campus.

The students and their mentors learned the specifics of this year’s challenge, received their kit of materials, and were able to brainstorm with each other on how to best accomplish the tasks laid out in the challenge.

This year, these students, along with over 3,300 other teams, will be involved in an arcade-style challenge where they will need to activate and control switches and scales, accumulate power cubes within their vault, and climb the scale tower to defeat the games’ boss. As in previous years, the challenge promotes problem solving, teamwork, and involvement in a STEM-based activity.

Assistant Professor of Manufacturing Engineering Technology Nate Leatherman has been instrumental in providing leadership for robotics at Ferris. In addition to co-coordinating the event with Jim Barstow, head mentor for Crossroads Charter Academy, Leatherman organized and led a tour of Ferris’ new engineering facility.



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## Academic Affairs Awards 2018

The deadline for the 2018 Academic Affairs Awards nominations is 5 PM on Friday, February 2, 2018. Please follow the nomination process detailed for each award. Note that all nominations, except the Distinguished Teacher Award, need to be received electronically.

Full descriptions of the awards and nomination instructions are available on the Academic Affairs Awards page [here](#).

**Academic Scholar Award**

**Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award**

**Distinguished Service Award**

**Distinguished Teacher Award** – Nominations now closed

**Diversity Enhancement Award**

**Excellence in Course Assessment Award**

**International Educator Award**

**Outstanding Academic Advisor Award**

**Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award**

**The Richard W. Griffin Political Engagement Award**

## Dean Adeyanju Reappointed to Michigan Commission on Service to the Aging

Last month, Gov. Rick Snyder reappointed Olusola (Matthew) Adeyanju, dean of the College of Health Professions since 2012, to the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA). The CSA advises the Governor, Michigan Legislature, and the Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) on state and federal policies and programs that affect older Michiganders.

In addition to his previous service on the CSA, Adeyanju has served as a national advisor for the World Health Organization (WHO)/World Bank Project on Community Action for the Promotion of Water Supply and Sanitation Systems in Nigeria, coordinated the Instructional Division of the WHO Training Center for Health Personnel (Nigeria), and served as a public health educator for the Federal Ministry of Health, Health Education Division of Public Health Services in Lagos, Nigeria.

Prior to Ferris, he served as professor and chair for the Department of Social and Public Health in the College of Health Sciences and Professions and as a campus program coordinator for the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Master of Public Health Program at Ohio University.



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## Promesa Summer Success

The Promesa Summer Success Program, administered through the Center for Latin@ Studies, was recognized for its success by the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM) and featured in its 2017 Annual Report. The Promesa Program allows high school students to complete nine Ferris State University credits in college-level reading, math, and study skills to enhance student outcomes for postsecondary completion, degree completion, and to reduce student debt.

Ferris was also recognized in the Annual Report for its participation in the annual backpack drive due to the Center for Latin@ Studies' contributions and for sending graduates

to HLCOM's first Statewide Latin@ College Graduation. It was one of 11 schools, out of 43 colleges and universities, that had graduates attend the event. Students interested in getting involved with these efforts or attending the 2018 Statewide Latin@ graduation should contact the Center for Latin@ Studies for transportation information.



*Promesa 2017 Summer Success Program graduates from Holland, Michigan.*

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## Exploring Optometric Technicians Collaboration

Ferris State University is in discussion with Grand Rapids Ophthalmology, a large and growing group of eye surgeons and optometrists throughout the Grand Rapids area, about a possible cooperative program of ophthalmic technician training. Individuals who complete the program would earn a certificate or an associate's degree, depending on the number of credits they take. It would be accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) and the Commission on Accreditation of Ophthalmic Medical Programs (CoA-OMP), and therefore those who completed the program would be credentialed as certified ophthalmic assistants (certificate program) or certified ophthalmic technicians (AS program) by the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO) and as certified optometric technicians.

The market for credentialed technicians is large in this area, and continues to grow as the number of eye surgery (ophthalmology) residencies shrink and optometrists continue to do more medical eye care, in addition to refractive and functional vision care. The program, as currently conceived, would be co-instructed by faculty from the Michigan College of Optometry and the College of Health Professions.

## A Welcome Space for All



The Engineering Education Service Center, an engineering education company that specializes in providing products for K-12 schools in Oregon, recently selected Ferris State University to serve as the national center to coordinate and expand Technology Engineering Aptitude (TEA) events and related Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Math (STEM) workshops that engage K12 students in hands-on activities and encourage career exploration through exposure to role models and education. Although there is an emphasis on encouraging middle school-aged girls to consider engineering-related careers, the workshops recently have expanded to encourage boys to explore careers in healthcare considered nontraditional for their gender. The workshops have also grown to include opportunities for elementary and high school students. Current Ferris students frequently serve as volunteers and role models.

As part of the new role as the national center, Ferris will provide train-the-trainer workshops to certify interested educators in this national curriculum that was created by engineer, author, and recently retired director Celeste Baine. Once certified as a trainer, individuals are able to return to their organizations and coordinate TEA events and STEM workshops to reach even more students. Additionally, Ferris will continue to host TEA and STEM workshops on campus and beyond with plans to increase outreach efforts even more.

Support from Provost Paul Blake, Associate Provost Roberta Teahen, and Vice President Jerry Scoby, as well as many others, was instrumental in making this unique opportunity possible. An official announcement and additional information will be coming soon. To preview the curriculum and learn more, an overview of the first TEA event hosted on campus in 2014 is captured in a brief video [here](#).

## Summer Opportunities Fair Held

The first Summer Opportunities Fair was held Thursday, January 18, and Friday, January 19, in the Ferris State University Center. Approximately 500 students participated in the fair and learned more about the opportunities and services available to them during the summer months.

Many areas were represented, including: Statewide and Online Programs; Michigan College of Optometry; College of Education and Human Services; Advising; Transfer Center; Academic Support Center & Tutoring; Admissions; Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services; College of Arts and Sciences; College of Engineering Technology; Dining Services; College of Health Professions; Financial Aid; Student Employment; FLITE; Academic Support Center; College of Business; College of Pharmacy; Summer Student Research & Creative Works; Shimadzu Core Research Lab; Housing & Residence Life; as well as Study Abroad.

Students repeatedly commented about the number of opportunities of which they were unaware and of which they wanted to take advantage. In addition to providing valuable information to students, this event provided faculty the opportunity to connect and interact.

The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs thanks everyone who contributed to the success of the Summer Opportunities Fair.



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For more information on the Office of Academic Affairs, go to <https://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/index.htm> or call (231)591-2300