

# PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

## From the Provost:

We know Ferris as a place with dedicated faculty and staff who have a passion for helping students, but it is especially gratifying when others outside of Ferris recognize the great work that is being done in our institution. From receiving a large grant for low-income students, to honoring a seasoned English Educator, to saluting two staff members who drive the Center for Latin@ Studies' success, this issue highlights many of the accolades that Ferris is receiving for the excellent work of its employees.

As fall semester ends, thank you for your dedication to our students, service to our institution, and commitment and enthusiasm in meeting the challenges in higher education. I wish you and your family a most enjoyable holiday break.

*Paul*

## Summer Opportunities Fair Provides Resources



Riana Carnes, a Welding Engineering Technology student of Toledo, Ohio, talked with Caitlyn Doran, a Biotechnology and Pre-Pharmacy student of Bay City, about opportunities in the Shimadzu lab.

The Division of Academic Affairs hosted a Summer Opportunities Fair to help promote courses, e-learning offerings, study abroad, research, academic support services, and much more in an effort to further student engagement, enrollment, and timely program completion. This six-hour event allowed many students the ability to talk with faculty and staff at length about available resources, ask questions, and explore options to advance their educational journey to graduation.

This event was made possible through the collective efforts of many people including representatives from each college, Advising, Admissions, Housing, Scholarships and Financial Aid, Student Employment, Study Abroad, the Academic Literacies Center, the Office of Transfer and Secondary School Partnerships, and the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services.

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### Commencement Reminder

Saturday, December 15  
 10 am  
 College of Business  
 College of Health Professions  
  
 1:30 pm  
 College of Arts and Sciences  
 College of Ed. & Human Serv.  
 College of Eng. Technology

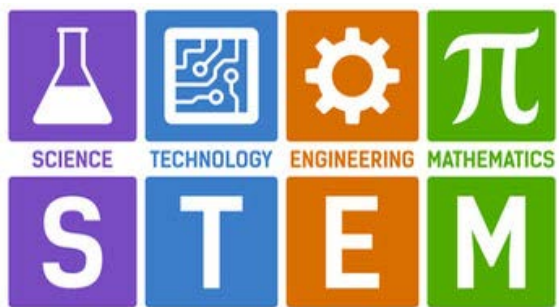
# 1st Annual Bulldog Familia Asada

During Friends and Family Weekend, the Center for Latin@ Studies collaborated with the Parent Outreach Committee and the Alumni Office to offer the 1st Annual Bulldog Familia Asada. Over 150 alumni, students, and their families attended this event as a chance to connect and learn about the growing Latino community at Ferris State University.

Attendees played games such as Loteria, Jenga, and bag toss. They also learned about local community resources and how student organizations provide leadership opportunities and build community. Participants gave feedback about their Ferris experience and the event to earn raffle tickets to win Ferris swag featuring Ferris parent shirts.



# Ferris Awarded Grant for Low-Income Student STEM Scholarships



Ferris will now be able to help a broader spectrum of students as it has received a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to establish Project S<sup>3</sup>OAR. S<sup>3</sup>OAR stands for Sustainable, Scalable Scholarships, Opportunities, Achievements and Results and is a four-year program that recruits low-income students to help them graduate in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Starting fall of 2019, Ferris will be able to award up to \$10,000 in scholarships to these students.

Professor of Mathematics Hengli Jiao, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kristi Haik, and Associate Professor of Welding Engineering Technology Brent Williams are the investigators in this project. Previously, Haik worked closely with Ferris' counterparts at Northern Kentucky University.

The total amount awarded between the two universities is \$2.3 million.

Project S<sup>3</sup>OAR will allow its scholars to engage in campus activities including orientation, freshman seminar, a learning community, and entrepreneurship education, in addition to being assigned a mentor. Both universities are already working with employers to provide students with co-ops, internships, and job shadowing experience.

### Here are the objectives of Project S<sup>3</sup>OAR:

1. Increase the STEM enrollment of low-income, academically-talented undergraduates, particularly those from underrepresented groups in STEM, by 10%.
2. Achieve a 90% retention rate during the transition from first to second year.
3. Increase the retention and graduation rates of S<sup>3</sup>OAR Scholars compared to similar populations in both the STEM disciplines and the University.
4. Document the program's sustainability and scalability.
5. Determine the effectiveness of job shadowing STEM professionals on the first-to-second-year retention rate of S<sup>3</sup>OAR Scholars.

# FerrisNow Program Posts Record Fall Enrollment

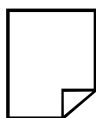
## FERRISNOW

### Record Enrollment



**946 students**

the highest high school student enrollment for the University for any fall term



**3,808 credits**

attempted by FerrisNow students this semester, the highest ever attempted at Ferris in a fall term



**28 Secondary Partners**

- 20 high schools
- 4 early colleges
- 3 career centers
- 1 community agency



**2 Institutional Partners**

- Ferris Center for Latin@ Studies
- Ferris Charter Schools Office

The University's FerrisNow program posted record fall enrollment in 2018 with 946 high school students enrolled in Ferris concurrent enrollment, dual enrollment, and Woodbridge Promise College Prep classes. This is the highest number of high school students enrolled during a fall term through the University.

FerrisNow students are attempting 3,808 credit hours this semester, which will be the most attempted in a fall term.

"Recent studies have shown that students who participate in dual and concurrent enrollment programs are more likely go to college after high school and ultimately earn a college degree," stated Director of the Office of Transfer and Secondary School Partnerships Deedee Stakley. "One of the biggest benefits of dual and concurrent enrollment is that students earn college credits that may help them to spend less time earning a degree and incur less student debt."

Ferris has 28 secondary school partnerships including three career centers, four early colleges, 20 high schools, and one community agency. The Ferris State Center for Latin@ Studies and Ferris State Charter Schools Office also have locations under these partnerships.

In collaboration with 18 academic departments on campus, the FerrisNow program is sponsoring 98 course sections this fall. This number includes 61 sections of concurrent enrollment classes, 16 sections of college readiness classes, 9 sections for dual enrollment cohorts, and 12 sections for Woodbridge Promise College Prep Program.

College Readiness classes include Career and Education Planning and College Study Methods. Concurrent Enrollment courses are Ferris courses that are taught at a high school or career technical center by high school instructors who have been approved as adjunct Ferris instructors. Dual enrollment courses are Ferris courses that are taught by an adjunct or full-time professor at one of the FSU locations, online or in a high school setting. Students must meet leg-

islated dual enrollment guidelines as well as Ferris admissions criteria to enroll for dual enrollment. The Woodbridge Promise College Prep Program is an eight month long program that provides high school students with an opportunity to achieve college ready standing based on ACT/SAT and GPA while still in high school. Students may earn up to 14 college credit hours in developmental and general education courses.

## RSS Hosts 2nd Annual Mugs and Muggles Halloween Party

On Halloween, Retention and Student Success (RSS) hosted the second annual Mugs and Muggles event. This Harry Potter-themed social event organized by TIP Scholar Coordinator Liz Burbatt, and Academic Advisor Jody Maloney, as well as colleagues from throughout RSS, engaged 360 students which reflected an 80% increase from the inaugural 2017 event. The event sought to increase students' sense of belonging and introduce students to TIP success coaches. Every student who attended was able to select a coffee mug, fill it with hot chocolate, tea, or pumpkin juice, and enjoyed Halloween-themed treats and candy. Students were able to socialize with TIP staff, RSS staff, and other students while enjoying the event.

TIP Success Coach Karlee Wright commented on the event's enjoyable atmosphere and benefit to students.

"Mugs and Muggles was a fun opportunity to get to know other TIP students and create a sense of community within TIP," Wright said. "It is great to see TIP students interacting with each other and making friends!"

RSS thanks all campus partners who donated coffee mugs for the event.



Left: Nicole Wagner of Traverse City, MI and Karlee Wright of Morley, MI show off their spirited clothing while enjoying a muggle treat.

Right: Students pick out coffee mugs in the decorated hallway of Arts and Sciences Commons.

## Vonder Haar Recognized as Outstanding English Educator

Professor of English and Coordinator of Ferris' English Education program since 2008, Christine Vonder Haar has been named the recipient of the 2018 Charles Carpenter Fries Award by the Michigan Council of Teachers of English. The Charles Carpenter Fries Award recognizes outstanding English educators who demonstrate long and faithful service to the profession of English teaching, serve as distinguished leaders, and model inspirational qualities to students and colleagues.

Vonder Haar advises and teaches pre-service teachers and supervises student teachers. She sees training teachers as a great responsibility and a gift.

“My reward is this great gift of Ferris English Education students and graduates who hold tenderly the great promise of all that they can be as our future educators, because I—we all—entrust them to carry the torch for the expansion of literacy, the passion for English language arts, and the life-long love of reading instilled in students,” wrote Vonder Haar in her teaching statement.



Vonder Haar was awarded two Fulbright Scholarships:

1990-92 to Poland and 1997 to Hungary where she taught composition, linguistics, and methodology courses to future teachers. She has also been awarded Ferris' 2012 Outstanding Advising Award and 2018 International Educator Award. For the Fries Award, she was recognized at the annual Fall Conference of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English on Friday, October 19, 2018, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

## Promesa Scholars Provided Opportunities with Mentors

Center for Latin@ Studies Promesa Scholars Program hosted the first ever Mentoring and Networking Dinner on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building in Grand Rapids.

Program Coordinator Jessica Ledesma explained that the event is part of Promesa Scholars Program's mission to connect Latin@ students to resources and opportunities.

“With more than 60 million Latinos in the United States and almost ½ million Latin@s in Michigan, we are honored that through The Latin@ Network of West Michigan and the West Michigan Latino Network, our students can tap into the valuable asset of the Latin@ community,” Ledesma said.

The event kicked off with an engaging keynote address from the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director, Guillermo Cisneros. The evening was full of energy as each Promesa Scholar was paired with a seasoned Latin@ professional from their chosen field. Mentors helped Scholars develop their elevator pitch and offered valuable career advice.



## Center for Latin@ Studies Staff Recognized Among Top 50 Latinas in Michigan

Two staff members from the Center for Latin@ Studies, Kaylee Moreno, Executive Director, and Jessica Ledesma, Program Coordinator, were recognized by the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan as part of the inaugural class of Top 50 Latinas.

Moreno and Ledesma were honored on Friday, October 12, 2018 at the Horizons

Conference Center in Saginaw, Michigan as part of the Statewide Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. The 50 women chosen for this award have distinguished themselves in their organization, profession, and/or community. This includes their significant level of involvement and advancement in their chosen career activities and professional growth with outstanding progress. They have also demonstrated commitment in sharing their time and talent to benefit the community and to life-long learning and expansion of their own personal and professional resources.



## Baker to Oversee Changes to Office of Community Engagement

Tony Baker has been named Executive Director of Community Engagement, a full-time administrative position, to coordinate the merging of previous community partnership developments, along with the civic engagement initiatives of Academic Service Learning, the Political Engagement Project, and other academic program outreach initiatives into the Office of Community Engagement.



Baker, a former professor of Sociology, previously coordinated the founding of the Center for Latin@ Studies, Promesa Summer Success, and other partnerships in West Michigan. Recently, he facilitated the creation of an exciting new partnership with Ferris' School of Education and Grand Rapids Public Schools to form a Teacher Cadet program that prepares high school students to begin their training and coursework for teacher certification while still in high school.

The Office of Community Engagement will now be home to Academic Service Learning, the Political Engagement Project, and the Economic Inequality Initiative and is located in FLITE 410G. A key goal of combining these academic support initiatives is to leverage the University's efforts and provide local impact.

Advisory council members include Michelle Albright, Angela Roman, Kristin Conley, David Marquardt, Fathima Wakeel, Sarah Hinkley, Gail Bullard, Jayna Wekenman, Christian Peterson, Peter Bradley, Cathy Bordeau, Cindy Horn, Matt Chaney, and Michael Wade.

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## DCCL Program Graduates First Regional Cohort

The Doctorate in Community College Leadership (DCCL) program is excited to announce the upcoming graduation of our first regional cohort. Twenty-eight students from the Harper Cohort will be graduating on December 15 in Big Rapids, Michigan. The Harper Cohort started the program in January 2016 with face-to-face sessions located at Harper College in Palatine, IL. At the comprehensives earlier this

month, 79% of the cohort stated they moved into a higher role or took on increased responsibilities while a DCCL student. Please join the DCCL program in celebrating the Harper Cohort's graduation next month!



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## Community Forum Focuses on Literacy

The Office of Community Engagement hosted a forum on Literacy in Mecosta County on Monday, November 12 entitled "Literacies and the Community: Connecting Ferris and Community Literacy for our future." Education leaders, including area superintendents and board members, along with industry leaders, spoke to an audience of Ferris administrators and faculty about collaboration opportunities that would connect the concerns of early literacy and adult illiteracy with the resources of Ferris.

Executive Director of Community Engagement Tony Baker is working with a Ferris team led by Assistant Professor of Development Curriculum Kristin Conley, Associate Professor of Health Care Systems Administration Gail Bullard and Professor of Education Amy Kavanaugh, along with Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Blake, to coordinate potential partnerships that will enhance area literacy efforts as well as benefit learning at Ferris.



## Submissions Taken for Seventh Annual Author Celebration

The Author Celebration Event honors faculty, staff, and students for original work that has already been recognized outside of Ferris. The scholarly or creative work must have been published, presented, exhibited, or performed between the dates of January 1 and December 31 of 2018.

Please go to the [Author Celebration Event webpage](#) for information on criteria and to submit your work to be considered for recognition at the Author Celebration Event.

This year, the Author Celebration Event will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the Granger Atrium, Granger Building.



Examples of scholarly or creative work include but are not limited to:

Fiction book, Non-fiction book, Scholarly article, Documentary, Short story, Book chapter, Presentation, Poem, Poster, Sound & video recording, Art exhibit, Creative expression, or Performance.

The Author Celebration event is hosted by Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education (FLITE), Kendall College of Art & Design Library, and the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Please contact Carrie Franklund if you have any questions at ext. 3534 or [carriefranklund@ferris.edu](mailto:carriefranklund@ferris.edu)

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## Shoah Archive Helps Students with Difficult Discussions

Faculty and staff from the Office of Multicultural Student Services, the Economic Inequality Initiative, the Center for Latin@ Studies, the Political Engagement Project, and the Office of International Education (OIE) are partnering together to engage students from various backgrounds on “Difficult Discussions” after receiving a Ferris Foundation Grant.

This semester’s topic is “Refugees.” Students in the Humanities classes of Professors Barry Mehler, George Nagel, and Stephanie Thompson will be using one of the Iwitness modules, an educational website developed by USC Shoah

Foundation, and through multimedia-learning activities, experience first-person stories of survivors and witnesses of genocide.

The three classes will be combined for an “expert panel” discussion where they will be led by a trained student facilitator specially chosen to have some personal knowledge of what it is like to be a refugee. Students interested in knowing their inter-cultural competency will be invited to take an on-line inter-cultural competency survey at the start of the semester and at the end of the semester.

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## Ferris Students Recognized for Political Engagement

Ferris State University recently received notification of an elite designation: A top college for student voting. This designation by the *Washington Monthly* magazine identifies universities that create a culture of encouragement to vote on college campuses. Since 2006, Ferris’ Political Engagement Project (PEP) has been hosting a series of activities to infuse political engagement in the student and academic life of the University.

Under the leadership of Associate Professor of Communication Kristi Scholten and Adjunct Professor of History Christian Peterson, PEP has recently reinvigorated political discourse at Ferris. Scholten wrote the campus voter engagement plan that garnered the attention of *Washington Monthly*. Among the plan’s activities were a series of films, panel discussions, and public speaking opportunities led by Peterson. A day long “Party at the Polls” event along with a shuttle to Big Rapids polling locations, in collaboration with NexGen, culminated the election season.

A key component this year was collaboration with the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services, and its efforts to register students to “get out the vote.” Voting and engagement with political discourse is a learned activity in the same way that academic disciplines are learned. Ferris is fortunate to have faculty and staff who go beyond their normal job responsibilities to cultivate these basics of citizenship with our students.



# Ferris Participates in Annual National First-Generation College Celebration

On November 8, Ferris State University joined colleges and universities across the country in celebrating National First-Generation College Student Day with a student celebration in the University Center.



First generation college students (FGCS) reflect the population of individuals working toward the completion of a Bachelor's degree, with neither of their parents having a Bachelor's degree. This date marks the 53rd anniversary of the signing of the 1965 Higher Education Act (HEA), which helped millions of poor students become the first members of their families to earn college degrees.

Approximately 20% of Ferris students identify as FGCS. Over 150 students, faculty, and staff participated in the event. Students were encouraged to mingle and meet at least three new people as a way to help extend their networking and awareness of campus resources. All student participants were able to enter a drawing for prize giveaways.

The event was sponsored by Retention and Student Success and partners from the College of Education and Human Services and the College of Arts and Sciences through a faculty and staff mini-grant from the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

There is currently a first-generation advocate workgroup meeting monthly and anyone interested can learn more by emailing [TIP@ferris.edu](mailto:TIP@ferris.edu).



*Retention and Student Success Academic Advisor Jody Maloney and TIP Scholar Coordinator Liz Burbatt greet students at the National First Generation College Student Day Celebration.*

# SINE Program: A Win Win for All



Elementary students from Mesick Consolidated Schools, Big Jackson Schools, and a few students from Riverview Elementary school in Big Rapids were recently provided with comprehensive eye exams by Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) students through the Students In Need of Eyecare (SINE) program.

A total of 58 students visited the Ferris State University Eye Center in November and were assisted by 39 third and fourth year MCO students as well as two residents and many faculty members.

The program is beneficial for both groups of students - those providing and those receiving eye care. The grade school students get free eye care which may include eye alignments, eye tracking assessments, and eye health evaluations both inside the eye and outside – services that may not be available to them due to lack of access. Ferris Optometry students get hands-on training with younger patients allowing them to practice techniques and gain experience applicable to this particular age group.

Professor and Chief of Vision Rehabilitation Services Sarah Hinkley explains the importance of children receiving eye evaluations early in their school career.

“The American Academy of Optometry’s research has shown that undetected and untreated vision problems can adversely affect students’ ability to achieve their academic potential,” Hinkley said. “Catching these vision problems while the students are young may prevent future learning difficulties and positions the students for academic success - now when they are first learning and throughout their whole life. Who knows, we might be helping a future bulldog!”

This is not the first time the SINE program has benefited local school children. In 2017, Optometry students attended to gradeschoolers in the Fremont Public and Hesperia Community school districts through funding provided by the Gerber Foundation.

# TDMP Program Students Produce 200th Episode of Ferris Sports Update



An important milestone in Ferris' Television and Digital Media Production (TDMP) program was reached on October 1 when students produced the 200th episode of Ferris Sports Update. The live sports show was relaunched during the 2011 fall semester and students have produced 14 shows each semester (Fall and Spring) since then. The production of the show creates a valuable learning environment for TDMP senior students who are preparing for their careers.

Professor of Television and Digital Media Production Glen Okonoski explains that Ferris Sports Update is a collaborative project between people and departments across campus. He notes that Robert Bentley, assistant Athletics director for communications, has been instrumental in the success of the show.

“Rob does a tremendous job as host, and works during the week, each week, with student producers – 200, to be exact – to ensure that we have good content to feature,” said Okonoski. “Thank you Rob, for your work with the students, and for all you do to make this show a success!”

Within the TDMP program, Engineer Bill Jung has picked up the torch of uploading the shows weekly to Fox 32, Comcast Local, and the College Channel in Grand Rapids.

Additionally, Connie Morcom and her TDMP 328 course upload the show each week to FerrisState.TV.

This milestone would not have been reached without the help of supporting partners. The TDMP program is thankful for the many different departments that underwrite the broadcasting costs of the show on Fox 32 including Admissions, Athletics, the College of Education and Human Services, and University Advancement and Marketing.

In addition to institutional support, the coaches and student athletes who have participated each week are to be commended as they share their valuable insights about wins (many) and losses (not easy). Their contributions have made for interesting programming as well as given the TDMP students important experience useful for them today and in their future endeavors.

*By the numbers:*

- 7 years
- 15 semesters of students
- 200 episodes
- 600 segments, and guests

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