

# PROVOST POST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

## From the Provost:

The Office of Latin@ Studies was honored this month in Washington, D.C. The Promesa Scholars Program was recognized as a finalist in Examples of *Excelencia* in Education. This issue provides details of this award, announcements of student achievements, as well as other news of the division.

There are still HLC Town Halls scheduled, so I encourage your attendance and comments if you have not yet participated in this important effort.

As we finish the fall semester, thank you for the incredible work that you have done in support of our students, the innovation that you have shared with campus this semester, the service you have provided to our university, and the many contributions you have made to your discipline. The holidays will soon be upon us. May you enjoy a safe, relaxing, and rejuvenating time with family and friends.

*Paul*

## Promesa Scholars Receive National Recognition



Finalists of the *Excelencia in Education, Examples of Excelencia* at the 2019 celebration.

¡Ferris Adelante!

The Promesa Scholars Program (PSP), a Latinx focused leadership program facilitated through the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS), was named among the top most distinguished programs across the United States for its evidenced-based best practices in serving Latinx students on the Ferris campus. To celebrate this recognition, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake attended the 15th Annual Accelerating Latino Student Success (ALASS) Institutes celebration in Washington, D.C. with CLS Executive Director and Co-Founder Kaylee Burke; Teresa Rivera, MSW Candidate and co-author of the award application; and Katy Moreno, 2nd Year Promesa Scholar.

Ferris State University will continue to be in the spotlight as a national leader in

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## Graduation Fall 2019

**Saturday, December 14th:**

**10:00 am –**  
*(Convocation Center opens at 9 am)*

College of Arts and Sciences  
College of Education and  
Human Services  
College of Engineering Technology

**1:30 pm –**  
*(Convocation Center opens at  
12:30 pm)*

College of Business  
College of Health Professions

Latinx student success through various communication directed by *Excelencia* in Education, including the 2019 Compendium which highlights all National Award winners and finalists for the Community, Associate Level, Bachelor Level, and Graduate Level awards.

In addition to attending the award reception and ALASS Conference, the Ferris delegation met with staff from Representative John Moolenaar’s office to share the impact the Promesa Scholars Program is having on our district and in cultivating the Latinx talent pipeline in West Michigan.

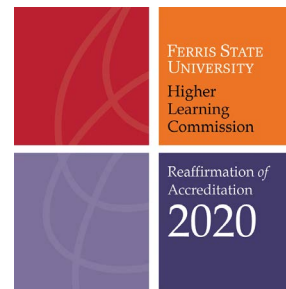
The PSP was founded on the CLS’s four pillars of success: community, leadership, cultural identity, and academic success. Developed in 2013 as a Latino-focused leadership and retention program, PSP was initially designed to assist incoming freshmen and transfer students to be successful with their education at Ferris. The program was revised in 2017 to include all undergraduate students after the Ferris Latino community increased from 300 students to over 800.



Kaylee Burke, Katy Moreno, and Teresa Rivera are in front of the Capitol.

## Sharing the HLC Story

Over the next several months, the HLC Leadership Team will be continuing to provide multiple ways for the university community to learn more about the reaffirmation of accreditation process. Some sessions have been set up to inform about the process, and some to gather feedback on the draft report that was released for comment on November 1st. A few of the ways that information has been shared and gathered includes the following:



- Visiting college, division, and department meetings to provide an overview of the entire reaffirmation process
- Presenting to SPARC to discuss the connections between the assurance argument and the strategic plan
- Hosting Town Hall sessions to gather direct comment on the draft assurance argument
- Continuing to post information in the UWN site
- Providing paper and online options for people to submit their comments

The feedback that has been gathered to date has been incredibly valuable to the process. Many thanks go to those who have participated in this effort. Your continued help is needed!

The Town Halls serve to 1) provide summaries of Criteria for Accreditation and 2) solicit feedback and recommendations. The Town Halls will inform the continuation of the Assurance Argument work and all are encouraged to participate.

The remaining Town Halls are planned for the Big Rapids and KCAD campuses as listed below; virtual participation options will also be provided for those interested in attending remotely (visit [ferris.edu/hlc/townhalls.htm](http://ferris.edu/hlc/townhalls.htm) for details):

Criterion	KCAD	Big Rapids
<b>2: Integrity</b>	Tue, 11/19: 11:30a-12:20p	Thu, 11/21: 11:00a-11:50p
<b>3 &amp; 4: Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	Mon, 12/02: 11:30a-12:30p	Tue, 12/10: 11:00a-12:30p
<b>5: Institutional Effectiveness</b>	Wed, 01/15: 11:30a-12:20p	Thu, 01/16: 11:00a-11:50p

### SPOTLIGHT: Dean Lincoln Gibbs



Lincoln A. Gibbs has been appointed dean of the College of Health Professions (CHP). He has served as the college’s interim dean since July 2018.

Gibbs began his career at Ferris State University as the associate dean of CHP in summer of 2016. In his interim role, Gibbs has provided leadership across the college’s internal and external activities, including restructuring the college.

## Cyber Competition Yields Big Dividends

Three Ferris State University students were each awarded \$22,000 scholarships to the Applied CyberSecurity certificate program in March 2019. This program is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and operated by the SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security) Technology Institute. Of over 13,000 students attending Cyber FastTrack from 1,290 colleges across the nation, 100 students were awarded the scholarship. Five winning students came from Michigan, three of which are Ferris students. Congratulations to Austin Moody, Kyle Bolander, and Timothy Molnar for their outstanding scholarship and effort.

In March 2019, Greg Gogolin, head of the Ferris Cybersecurity program, publicized a competition called Cyber FastTrack, which is a partner of the SANS Institute.

The competition had three stages: Assess, Game, and Essentials. The Assess phase consisted of 15 challenges, and was meant to be a qualifier for the rest of the program. Game phase consisted of a series of cybersecurity challenges where the user was given a particular goal and was divided into three bases: Moon Base (python coding), Forensic Base (digital forensic challenges), and HQ Base (general cybersecurity challenges). Each base was divided into levels that got progressively harder as players moved through them. The Essentials phase was open to those who performed well in the previous two phases, and was similar to an online course rather than a competition. It was like a mini class, with modules, readings, short lectures to watch, tests, and a final exam. Anyone who passed the final exam from the Essentials phase was eligible to apply for the scholarship.



*Austin Moody*



*Kyle Bolander*



*Timothy Molnar*

“When they selected the scholarship winners, though, it wasn’t just about how we did in the phases,” Timothy Molnar said. “We also had to take an aptitude test, submit transcripts, and complete a short answer/essay scholarship application. So in the end, while standing in the phases was a determining factor, consideration was given to our past (work experience, certifications, other skills) and our future (ambition of our career and what our contribution will be in the future).”

Molnar shares his reaction to receiving the scholarship. “I entered this competition because I enjoy CTFs (Capture the Flag competitions), not because I thought I could win, but ever since I got the congratulations email and my shock dissipated, I’ve felt a sense of responsibility to both SANS and Ferris: to get the most I can out of this amazing opportunity, and to someday, somehow pay this forward.”

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## Surveying Student Receives Trig-Star Scholarship

Ferris Surveying Engineering student Jedidiah Lewis received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Trig-Star program in July. Trig-Star is a competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors that recognizes high school students who excel in the field of trigonometry. The program’s goal is to demonstrate practical uses for mathematics and promote awareness of the surveying profession.

The Trig-Star Scholarship program is open to participants of any level to apply. Students must be high school seniors, college freshmen, or college sophomores who have participated in the Trig-Star Contest during their high school career, and who have been accepted to, or are enrolled in, a college program in surveying and mapping. For more information about the Trig-Star Scholarship program, visit <https://trig-star.com/scholarships>.



*Jedidiah Lewis receives Trig-Star Scholarship.*

Lewis wants to further his studies in the Surveying Engineering program and is considering obtaining a Master’s degree. His ultimate goal is to become a licensed surveyor and eventually start his own company. Lewis has demonstrated his strong work ethic by taking on several surveying-related jobs, in addition to his classes, in order to better prepare himself for his future career as a Professional Surveyor.

## DCCL Hosts Finland Study Abroad 2019



In September of 2019, students in the Texas Cohort, along with students and faculty from California State University – Fullerton, visited Finland as part of a DCCL study abroad trip. This trip to Finland included an extensive look into the Finnish educational system in Helsinki and Rovaniemi.

While on the trip, students visited:

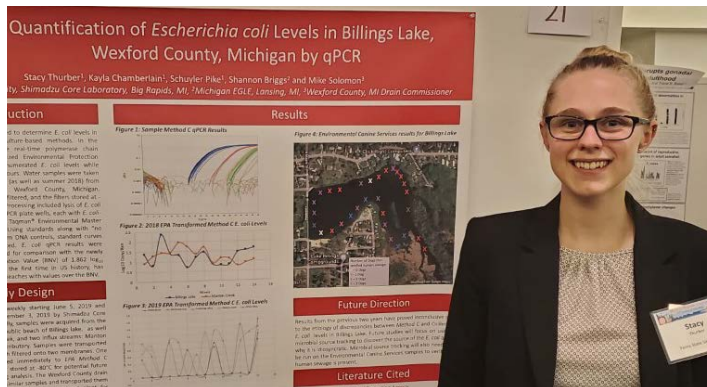
- Perho
- Toukokuori Daycare Center
- Careeria vocational school
- OMNIA University of Applied Science
- Aalto University campus
- Ounasvaara High School
- University of Lapland

Additional excursions included a visit to Kiala Manor, one of Finland's biggest farms, and the Konttaniemi Reindeer Farm. As with all of the DCCL study abroad trips, the students were grateful for the opportunity to visit Finland.

“My greatest hopes for the international practicum/ Finland trip came to fruition. My goals were to experience the culture of the Finnish society as well as spend time with the other DCCL travelers. I welcomed and enjoyed the opportunity to bond and travel with some of my Texas cohort members and Ferris staff, as well as meeting and starting friendly relationships with those who traveled and bonded with us from California,” commented Daphne Jones.



## Student Researcher Takes 1st Place Prize



Stacy Thurber presented at the Michigan Society of Toxicology Conference.

Fifth-year biotechnology/forensic biology student, Stacy Thurber, won the first-place undergraduate poster prize at the Michigan Society of Toxicology conference (NSF International, Ann Arbor, Michigan) on October 18. Her poster, entitled, *Quantification of Escherichia coli Levels in Billings Lake, Wexford County, Michigan by qPCR*, detailed her research in 2018 and 2019 with the U.S. EPA, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and Wexford County Drain Commissioner, Mike Solomon. The previous week, she represented Ferris State University at the international Great Lakes Beach Conference at Saginaw Valley State University, where she presented her 2018 data.

Third-year biotechnology student, Matt Swanson, was invited to be the Michigan Society of Toxicology Regional Chapter Travel Award applicant while fourth-year biotechnology/forensic biology student, Sierra Shaw, was invited to submit a Society of Toxicology Undergraduate Diversity Award travel grant application for the Society of Toxicology Annual Conference to be held next spring in Anaheim, California. Both award invitations originated from attendance by six Ferris State University biotechnology/forensic biology students to the 2019 Michigan Society of Toxicology Conference.



Matt Swanson, Kayla Chamberlain, Sabina Liskey, and Sierra Shaw attended the Michigan Society of Toxicology Conference.

## New Amigos de Promesa Scholars Program Launched

The Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) and the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services (CLACS) launched a new program this fall in partnership with the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (WMHCC). The Amigos de Promesa Scholars Program has been constructed primarily for junior and senior Latinx students. The initiative was designed to connect students with paid internships in their field of study within the West Michigan area.

Program requirements are that students attend two college and/or career development events per month, and one community gathering focused on Latinx career development per month.

The CLS provides students with numerous opportunities to fulfill these requirements. On October 18, program participants attended the “Get Focused” summit organized by the WMHCC Building Bridges through Education initiative. The summit was designed to bring awareness to Latinx college students on cultural identity and career development. The event included motivational speakers to discuss self-confidence, social disparity, and networking methods.



*Students are chosen for the new Amigos de Promesa Scholars program.*

Numerous employees were present to connect with students about potential future internships, and resource tables were available to attendees. A fashion show was part of the event and was designed to present students with professional and affordable attire available at Meijer. In addition, photographers took professional headshots while a hair and makeup artist helped students finalize their appearance.

Resume coaching workshops were also available throughout the summit expo. A networking hour allowed students to connect with employers and other students from various institutions, giving them the opportunity to exchange contact information. Overall, students gave positive feedback on the event. An Amigos de Promesa Scholars Program participant stated, “It was empowering

and gave me a little more motivation to continue my education.” Another attendee said, “The summit helped me understand that, although there are many obstacles we face, we always pull through at the end.” The Building Bridges through Education Summit was a great experience for students and professionals to engage with one another and to develop professional relations.

Connect with the CLS to become an Amigos member and access these opportunities. Information on joining the team can be found at the [CLS Programs webpage](#).



## FerrisNow Program Sets Fall Enrollment Record

# FERRISNOW

The FerrisNow Program set a new record for fall high school student enrollment with 958 students taking university courses this semester. This is the seventh straight year the program has seen fall enrollment growth.

Ferris is offering 88 course sections designated for high school students this fall, and FerrisNow students are attempting 3,091 credit hours. These students are saving \$1,332,221 on future college expenses (based on the university’s current undergraduate tuition rate of \$431/credit hour).

The FerrisNow Program collaborates with over 30 secondary institutions and the university’s Center for Latin@ Studies, Charter Schools Office, and 14 academic departments to provide college credit opportunities to high school students.

### REMINDER!

Thanksgiving break starts Wednesday, November 27th at noon and ends Sunday, December 1st.

Exam week begins a week later on Monday, December 9th through Friday, December 13th.

Faculty final grades are due Monday, December 16th.



## FWN Members Attend Women of Color Collaborative Luncheon

Ferris Women's Network members attended the Women of Color Collaborative (WOCC) luncheon hosted at Henry Ford College on November 1. This year's theme was "Still Blazing Trails, Still Answering the Call."



A group of Ferris Women's Network members at the WOCC luncheon.

The event focused on the achievements of women of color and provided advice on how to remain strong and continue to grow as a leader in the face of adversity.

The keynote speaker was U.S. Representative Brenda Lawrence, who represents Michigan's 14th District. She spoke about overcoming obstacles in her life and helping other women succeed by removing barriers.

"Events like the WOCC Luncheon provide hope for women. It helps them to see they are not alone, and support is there for those who want to learn and grow both personally and professionally," said Ferris Women's Network President Jody Gardei. "My hope is that the Ferris Women's Network can continue this work for years to come and provide a support network that continues to spark the passion in women across campus and in our local community."

## FWN Upcoming Events

The Ferris Women's Network has several upcoming events, including a Podcast Discussion Club, Networking Lunches and Coffee Hours, and its Spectrum of Opportunities Luncheon Series.

Event dates and details can be found at: <https://www.ferris.edu/womens-network/>.

Faculty and staff can sign up for FWN's 2019-20 membership list at <https://fwn1920membership.questionpro.com/>. They will be provided with the latest information about FWN upcoming events, professional development workshops, and volunteer opportunities.

## Latin@ Families Enjoy Ferris Hospitality

The Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) hosted its 2nd annual Bulldog Familia Asada on October 26, and welcomed over 200 FSU faculty and staff, high school students, college students, parents, grandparents, and community partners. Attendees enjoyed the various games, a delectable Latin inspired meal prepared by Ferris Catering, and numerous raffle prizes to spark the Ferris pride in students and families. Princess Elena de Avalor and Brutus also made an appearance at the Asada to welcome family and friends for the weekend. Informational tables were there to provide various resources to students and their families about internships and community resources to support their educational journey.



Families attend the Familia Asada event, hosted by CLS.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake also attended the event to recognize the dedication of the CLS and Promesa Scholars for being a finalist for the National *Excelexencia* in Education award for our campus wide celebration. Following the Bulldog Familia Asada was a Ferris State home football game that students and staff were encouraged to attend. During halftime, the CLS was recognized for its collaborative work to represent the #FerrisForward brand with campus and community partners to accelerate Latinx student success at Ferris State University. We would like to thank CLS staff who helped organize and manage the Bulldog Familia Asada.



## FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information on the Office of Academic Affairs, go to <https://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/index.htm>

or call (231)591-2300