

A Seat at the Table

- The University-wide Diversity and Inclusion Work Group held its first meeting on March 22, 2016. This group will be instrumental in monitoring the progress of the University in implementing the recently completed Diversity and Inclusion Plan.
- Homelessness and food insecurity are issues confronting colleges and universities across the nation. On March 30, 2016, more than 30 Ferris employees attended a webinar, “Homeless & Food-Insecure Students: Help Them Overcome Barriers So They Can Succeed.” The Diversity and Inclusion Office has compiled a list of area food resources, see <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/arearesources/areafood.htm>.
- We have received the good news that Ferris will host the 2017 Equity Within the Classroom Conference. This gathering provides a setting for faculty, administration, and staff, along with community supporters, to explore current research findings including annual retention data, best practices, and retention strategies which impact equality of opportunity and degree completion for Michigan’s disadvantaged students. The Ferris planning group is led by Todd Stanislav, Director of the Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning (FCTL), and Olukemi Fadayomi, a Professor of Biology and an FCTL Faculty-in-Residence Scholar.
- The International Festival of Cultures, one of the University’s signature events, will be held April 10, from 1 to 5 p.m., in the University Center Building, room 202. Hosted by the Office of International Education and sponsored by the President’s Office, the Festival features more than 500 international students from 40 different countries. The event includes food, dancing, games, and singing. This year marks the 28th anniversary of the festival as an occasion to strengthen campus global awareness and to celebrate international cultural diversity.
- A big shout out to Charles Williams, a goaltender on the Ferris Hockey team, who was selected as an Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award recipient. This is a national honor given by Diverse Issues in Higher Education. To see the complete list of winners visit <http://diverseeducation.com/news/Press-Release-Ashe-2016-SPORTS-WINNERS.pdf>.
- The **Latino Talent Initiative**, a leadership and professional development program of the Latino Business and Economic Development Center, will graduate its third cohort on April 7, 2016, in Grand Rapids. To date, almost 60 participants have graduated from this Latino-centric initiative. Participants come from corporate settings, non-profits as well as government and vary in ages from 20 to 50 years old. Among this year’s participants is Karla Perez-Garza, Coordinator of the FSU Promise Partners Mentoring Program.

- On April 28, 2016, the BEYOND initiative will be hosting an Exhibit called *BEYOND: Globalization* in the University Center from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. It is a university wide event for faculty and staff. During the interactive exhibit, 35 different faculty/staff will share their work in helping Ferris to become more global. The exhibit aims to spark a dialogue on how globalization is transforming higher education. This event will also highlight the significant efforts and collaborations across the University to globalize our campus over the last eight years. Representatives from our partner universities in Botswana, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Turkey and others will be available to network and make connections.

- The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) sends a huge thank you to the **70+ departments and student organizations** that co-sponsored, sponsored, or coordinated events and initiatives with OMSS this academic year! If you are interested in partnering with OMSS please participate in their OMSS Advisory Group which meets the last Wednesday of each month from 2-3pm in the FLITE Library, or email them at omss@ferris.edu. A complete list of their partnerships can be viewed on the website www.ferris.edu/omss.

- On March 28, 2016, Tracy Busch, History Professor, lectured about the origins of the Ferris Museum of Sexist Objects (MoSO). The mission of MoSO is to be a leader in raising awareness and inspiring activism in response to everyday objects that promote sexism, gendered violence, and female stereotypes. The MoSO provides a learning environment that encourages scholarly dialogue and fosters research. For more details on the collection, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/Moso/>.

- Tony Baker, Sociology Professor, is organizing and facilitating a community forum that addresses issues of economic inequality. Inspired by Robert Putnam's *Our Kids*, the panel will include special guests Teresa Weatherall Neal, Superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools, and Tim Haist, Superintendent of Big Rapids Public Schools. The event is Wednesday April 13, 4:00-5:30 pm, in University Center Building, room 202a.

Making the University Better

If you are hosting an event that involves food, please make sure that all the food is properly labeled. Also, always include non-meat options. We want to make sure that all groups feel welcome at events.