

A Seat at the Table

February 2018

- ✓ The Diversity and Inclusion Office (DIO) partnered with Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids to collect professional clothing for the First Lady's Attic. The initiative, *Santa Brings a Law Suit*, solicited business attire from attorneys in West Michigan. Thanks to Paul Boyer, Chair of the Ferris State University Board of Trustees, for facilitating this collaboration.
- ✓ Thanks to all the people who support the Facebook group, "Ferris: There's Food Here!" When the DIO started this project we hoped for 500 members. We now have more than 700 members. This is a way to live our value of being an ethical (and caring) community.
- ✓ A big shout out to the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Planning Committee, the Office of Multicultural Students Services (OMSS) and everyone who helped with this year's events: the Faculty/Staff In-Service Readings, a Freedom March, a Student Tribute, a talk by Ron Snead—former Chair of the Ferris Board of Trustees and Ferris alumnus—and a performance by Monti Washington, a poet and activist.
- ✓ The readings at the MLK Faculty/Staff In-Service are always enjoyable, but this year's readings were...in a word, moving. Here is a link to videos of the readings, <https://goo.gl/5Cj4CQ>
- ✓ When you see Rita Walters, Assistant Professor of Social Work, congratulate her on receiving this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award. She was acknowledged for her efforts in establishing a study abroad experience to Haiti for Social Work students, but more importantly, for her mentoring of students.
- ✓ Khalid el-Hakim delivered a lecture on campus on February 1. He is a Ferris alumnus and the founder and creator of the Black History 101 Mobile Museum, a nationally known initiative. el-Hakim brought one of his newest collections—the "68" exhibit, which features over 150 original artifacts focusing on the major events and people surrounding the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.
- ✓ A new LGBTQ+ Center, located in the University Center next to the Veterans Center, is scheduled to open later this month. Kendree Berg, a Ferris alumna, will serve as Coordinator.
- ✓ The Ferris Youth Initiative (FYI) celebrated National Mentoring Month on January 23. This provided an opportunity to recognize faculty and staff mentors for their dedication to the students they serve and the FYI program. FYI mentors and

mentees are participated in the Cranhill Ranch Winterfest on February 3. As always, Janette Ward, FYI Coach and Coordinator, is doing an outstanding job.

- ✓ The Jim Crow Museum received a collection of artwork created by David Levinthal, a famed photographer. The gift, from an anonymous donor, includes 135 large-format Polaroids, primarily from Levinthal's legendary *Blackface* series, as well as pieces from his *Barbie* series and his *Mein Kampf* series. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University, said, "David Levinthal's provocative Blackface photographic prints belong in the Jim Crow Museum, a public space that daily critiques demeaning and debilitating stereotypes of African Americans."

An Opportunity

The 19th Annual White Privilege Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, April 4-7. This conference brings thousands of people together to discuss privilege, primarily though not exclusively, racial privilege. Many of this year's events will occur at Grand Valley State University. We want to make sure that Ferris State University students and employees are represented; therefore, the Diversity and Inclusion Office will pay the registration fees for 10 people to attend. If you want to attend, please send an email to Patty Terryn.

Did You Know?

If you research early physicians in Michigan who were women, you are likely to come across the name of Carrie Staines (1867-1948). Her first profession was that of a schoolteacher, then in the early 1890s she entered the nursing profession. Deciding that she could do more good as a physician, she entered the American Medical Missionary College in 1895, and graduated in 1899, at a time when relatively few women in the United States were physicians. She worked as a member of the Battle Creek Sanitarium medical staff from 1900 to 1918, when she married W. K. Kellogg, founder of the Kellogg Company and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Oh, we should mention that she began her higher education at Ferris Institute.