

A Seat at the Table

September 2019

-  We are proud of the work being done with the Ferris Youth Initiative. The program has expanded to 28 students—and 13 new faculty and staff members have been added as mentors. And, speaking of the program, President Eisler and his wife, Patsy, recently established a \$350,000 endowment to help these youth receive a Ferris education. To learn more about this wonderful gift go to <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2019/august/eisler.htm>.
-  Kingsley Anacheluniwa, a Welding Engineering Technology student—and a member of the FYI program, hosted a basketball camp in Nigeria last summer. This is ethical community in action and our students heeding Woodbridge Ferris’ challenge to us to “make the world better.” See, https://vimeo.com/341617839?fbclid=IwAR2DyVuWcLEHzGvz3ACJHM-8jy8iKVZC3usfDnrjV9FwJDwR4iXDxUTz2_M
-  Thank you to the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) and the Circle of Tribal Nations for hosting a welcoming event for new and returning Native American students on September 10, 2019. And, another thank you to OMSS for hosting their annual Get Acquainted Day on September 11, 2019.
-  There are many diversity and inclusion related events occurring this fall. The College of Business Committee on Inclusion is hosting the fourth annual *Conversation on Inclusion*. This event brings in speakers who share their professional and personal experiences. The speakers this year are Dr. Michael G. Walraven (Jackson College), Tim Baumgardner (MLive Media Group), and Paige Cornetet (Millennial Guru). The event is on September 19, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., in the University Center.
-  A big shout out to the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS), the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services, the Department of English,

Literature and World Languages, the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO), OMSS, and Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc. for sponsoring this year's Latinx Heritage Month activities. The excellent lineup includes:

- *LatinXpo featuring Cabildo*, Tuesday, September 17, 4-6 p.m., IRC Connector;
- *Latin Film Night – Dolores*, Tuesday, September 24, 6-8 p.m., STARR 235;
- *Five Star Event – Philanthropist, Photojournalist & Speaker Saul Flores*, Thursday, October 3, 7-9 p.m., UC 202;
- *Fridays at Ferris – Afro-Latin Dance*, Friday, October 4, 8-11 p.m., UC 202; and,
- *Discussion - Culture & Identity*, Monday, October 7, 7-8:30 p.m., UC 203

✚ They are doing big things in CLS, and that work is not going unnoticed. The CLS's Promesa Scholars Program was the recipient of a 2019 Examples of Excelencia finalist award by Excelencia in Education, a national organization dedicated to accelerating Latino student success in higher education. Fifty students across West Michigan successfully completed the Promesa Summer Success program in Grand Rapids, Holland, and Oceana County. Students completed seven college credits in eight weeks—five of the students are now enrolled at Ferris.

✚ The Ferris Women's Network is hosting its Spectrum of Opportunities Luncheon Series this year. All luncheons are scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. Fall dates include:

- September 18 – Kick-off Luncheon at the University Center, Room 203
- October 15 – Spectrum Health Luncheon for Breast Cancer Awareness at the Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital
- November 14 – Remax Luncheon at Buffalo Wild Wings
- December 11 – Luncheon (location TBD)

✚ One of the challenges of workplace life is saying goodbye to colleagues who pursue professional opportunities in other places. We recently learned that Michael Wade, the Assistant Director for OMSS, is leaving Ferris to take a position at the University of South Carolina. Wade, an alumnus of Ferris, has been a strong, persistent, and effective advocate for diversity and inclusion. We will miss him a lot, but we are comforted by the knowledge that we can build on the work that he did here.

A QUOTE TO REMEMBER (This one is from our founder Woodbridge N. Ferris)

“Thank God! in my own veins there is not a drop (allowing me to be the judge) of race hatred. I know of no man of different color or of a different race whom, retaining his manhood, I am not willing to sit beside at the table or to work with wherever and whenever the work demands the co-operation of two men. Thank God! I have been born destitute of anything that savors of race hatred!”¹

¹ “Michigan Historical Collections,” (Lansing, Michigan: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford) 1914, 276.