

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 9, 2015

Today at 4 p.m., Fritz Erickson will have his formal investiture ceremony as the 15th president of Northern Michigan University. President Erickson did a remarkable job at Ferris as provost and vice president for academic affairs. Fritz is already off to a strong start as a president, and I am pleased to have him as a colleague advancing higher education in Michigan.

Please join me in congratulating President Erickson and his wife, Jan, on this very special day. It is my sincere best wish that this will be a memorable day for both of them and for Northern Michigan University.

2015-18 University Plan for Information Technology

Ferris' Information Technology services are completing the third and final year of the 2012-15 University Plan for IT, and in the process of developing a new 2015-18 plan. This will include gathering feedback through focus groups, open forums and surveys. Over the next few months the IT department plans to listen to the university community on how Ferris can improve services, upgrade existing technologies and best use its resources to meet the university's needs.

Faculty and staff can access the IT planning site at <http://www.ferris.edu/ITPlanning> . This provides information on current trends in education, the existing plan, and the strategy for completing the 2015-18 IT plan, together with additional information. You are encouraged to participate in this by completing the survey accessible through the link above.

Every year our technology resources become more important to the work each of us does on a daily basis. As users of IT resources, please take a few moments to complete this survey and to help the university plan a course of action that will enhance the experience of students, faculty and staff alike.

SPARC

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 3-5 p.m. in UCB 202A, the university's Strategic Planning and Resource Council will hold its monthly meeting. The two main topics to be discussed are an update on the Master Plan led by Vice President of Administration and Finance Jerry Scoby, and the IT planning process with Chief Technology Officer John Urbanick.

SPARC meetings are open to everyone and structured so all in attendance may participate. Both our Master Plan and IT planning will impact the future course of our university in very important ways. If your schedule allows, please attend and join in these important discussions.

Money Smart Week

From April 20-24, our university will again host Money Smart Week. These financial literacy events are important for our students, who are making decisions now that will have an impact on their lives long after they complete their degrees. It is an important way to continue to reduce student indebtedness at Ferris State University.

By disseminating this information in advance, I am hopeful you can help increase student awareness of this year's events, which include:

- Monday, April 20, "Managing Your Money – Good Advice!" with Mark Munzenberger of Greenpath Debt Solutions. Whether a freshman or a senior, the time for students to start developing good money habits is now.
- Tuesday, April 21, "Buying a House – the American Dream," with Mark Munzenberger. This workshop covers the 10 most important aspects of the home buying process.
- Wednesday, April 22, "Loan Repayment: Steps for Success," with Rebecca Vokes, Ferris Financial Aid Advisor. This session presents the basics of successful loan repayment.
- Thursday, April 23, "Auto Finance 101," with Monica Dellar and Bob Horan of Babb Ford. This workshop provides facts on buying a car.
- Friday, April 24, "Foundations of Investing," with Kyle Hondorp of Edward Jones Investments. This session helps attendees develop a strategy in investing for the long term.

This year's program will include GeoCache for College Cash. With underwriting support from the Financial Planning Association of Michigan, students will have the chance to win a \$1,000 in tuition-assistance while also learning about financial planning.

All Money Smart Week events are currently scheduled for 11 a.m. with repeat sessions planned at 7 p.m. GeoCache for College Cash is limited to student participation, the other events are free and open to the public. Last year's MoneySmart events were well received and helped students understand better the challenges of financial decisions they make today. Please help raise awareness for these events and encourage students to attend.

To view a youtube video about a "Get Real!" event planned for students at this year's Money Smart Week, go to - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6MhPLI7p8U> . Also, if you want additional information, go to <http://www.moneysmartweek.org> and click on the "resources" tab. Look for registration details for these events by early March.

Provost Candidate Feedback

If you attended one or more of the provost interview sessions, we want and need your feedback. If you have not already submitted your thoughts about the candidates, we want to hear from you. Please send these comments to the search committee co-chairs Julie Coon at coonj@ferris.edu, Rick Griffin at griffinr@ferris.edu, or to our office. The committee requests that comments regarding the candidates be received by this Friday, Feb. 13.

Festival of the Arts

Now in its second full week, the annual Festival of the Arts has a full schedule of events. Some of the highlights include:

- United States Post Office, Big Rapids – A Centennial Celebration, with Roger Schneidt, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids City Hall
- The musical duo The Icarus Account, presented by the Music Industry Management Association, Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. in the University Center
- Andy Kirby and The Turnips, Friday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m., at Ewingleben Ice Arena during the hockey game between Ferris and Bowling Green, and afterwards at Crankers in downtown Big Rapids

- The Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra presents a Valentine's Evening Concert at Williams Auditorium, Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

It is a special treat to have the Grand Rapids Symphony on campus Saturday evening for a special Valentine's Day Concert and without admission charge. I especially encourage you to attend. The Festival of the Arts passes so quickly, I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to get out and enjoy the many different options that the Festival of the Arts offers.

The full schedule of events is available at www.brfota.org/ .

David L. Eisler, president