

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
December 19, 2016

Commencement

Saturday's commencement ceremonies brought family and friends together with faculty and staff to celebrate the most recent group of Ferris State graduates. It is always a rewarding experience to watch the faces of our graduates as they cross the stage. The countenance changes from one to the next. Some students are smiling broadly, others are proud and determined, some are overcome with emotion, others gesture to their families and friends in the audience. One thing all of our graduates have in common is a Ferris State degree that opens the doors to many new opportunities.

At each ceremony, I share one or two stories of graduates to illustrate how lives are changed at Ferris State University. College of Business graduate Cynthia Lehnert's story is one of providence, from beginning to end. Cynthia earned her associate degree from Ferris in Radiography in 1986 and then her bachelor's in Health Systems Management in 1992. Now, as an adult learner, she found herself needing a career change and was led back to Ferris to the Accountancy program. She faced multiple hardships, including a broken leg, and relied heavily on her support network and the Ferris Family to make it through every step of her journey to graduation day. Her story is truly one of courage and determination.

Brother and sister, Akogwu and Enefe Adaji, moved thousands of miles from Nigeria for the opportunity of an American education. Having never traveled outside of Nigeria, let alone on an airplane, coming to the United States to pursue Computer Networks and Systems and Biology respectively gave them not only an education to be proud of, but a global perspective that will greatly enhance their future.

And finally, Lindsey Hogan, who never believed college was a possibility for her, graduated with her bachelor's degree in Communications. She had her first taste of international travel through a study abroad trip. From this she wanted to make a difference in the lives of others across the globe and applied to the Peace Corps. This May she will leave for a two-and-a-half-year assignment teaching English to middle and high school students in Mongolia. All four of these graduates are prime examples of how lives are changed at Ferris State University. Their complete stories can be read [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who helped make commencement such a special moment for our graduates. Your efforts as faculty and staff help guide and shape the success of our students and makes a profound impact on their futures. You truly make a difference. Thank you.

Holiday Schedule

Our holiday break will begin at the end of the workday on Thursday, Dec. 22, and continue through January 2, 2107. The University will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017.

Thank you for all of your hard work this semester. We have much to be proud of and look forward to in the New Year. My hope is that you will use this holiday break to catch up on things, to relax and celebrate the holidays with friends and family. If you are traveling over the holiday, may your travels be safe.

Happy holidays, and I look forward to working with you in 2017.

David L. Eisler, president