

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

*Office of the President  
August 18, 2017*

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## **Welcome**

Welcome to the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year. Whether you work in Big Rapids, at Kendall College of Art and Design, or at one of our many statewide locations, it is always exciting to witness the increased energy and pace of our University as faculty and staff prepare for students returning to campus. My hope is that the summer provided you opportunity to relax and refresh. Provost Paul Blake and I look forward to visiting with each of the colleges in Big Rapids on Wednesday, and learning about the success of faculty, staff and students as the year unfolds.

There is much to be excited about this fall. The final touches are being added to North Hall and the expansion of the Swan Annex is coming along nicely, creating additional space for Centers of Welding Excellence and Advanced Manufacturing. With your help, our University will be a leader in academic excellence, educational innovation and student support as we welcome the class of 2021 to Ferris.

## **New Faces on Campus**

This past week new faculty have been engaged in a weeklong introduction to the University. It is my pleasure to welcome the following people to our faculty.

Mohamed Abusharkh, Extended and Internal Operations  
Mohammed Alzoubi, College of Business  
Derek Ameal, College of Business  
Amy Beuker, College of Health Professions  
Jeremy Brook, College of Health Professions  
Sean Burns, College of Education and Human Services  
Robert Cardana, College of Arts and Sciences  
Alex Cartwright, College of Business  
Clay Chargot, College of Business  
Sela Constan-Wahl, FLITE Library  
Debbie Dawson, College of Engineering Technology  
Mark Dyke, College of Engineering Technology  
Deeb Eid, College of Pharmacy  
Christine Haskill, Kendall College of Art and Design  
Julie Herrema, College of Health Professions  
Christina Hollenbeck, College of Engineering Technology  
Jordan Horan, College of Arts and Sciences  
Michael Huh, College of Engineering Technology  
Becky Johnson-Himes, College of Health Professions  
Shelby Kelsh, College of Pharmacy  
Paul Kwant, College of Business  
Mariah Lab, College of Health Professions

Terri Lukshaitis, College of Business  
Jennifer Mitchell, College of Engineering Technology  
Marcela Morales-Morris, Extended and International Operations  
Susan Pifer, College of Business  
Luis Rivera-Rivera, College of Arts and Sciences  
Michelle Sahr, College of Pharmacy  
Gerry Scherlinck, Extended and International Operations  
Steven Schuiling, College of Business  
Kasey Short, College of Business  
Varun Singireddy, College of Education and Human Services  
Andy Slater, Birkam Health Center  
Garrett Stack, College of Arts and Sciences  
Austin Stanforth, College of Arts and Sciences  
Leslie Sukup, College of Business  
Heather Symon Bassett, FLITE Library  
David Takitaki, College of Arts and Sciences  
Terri Tillman, Retention and Student Success  
Chad Turner, College of Arts and Sciences  
Yong Xu, College of Business  
Mark Young, College of Pharmacy

I would also like to welcome to campus Jason Bentley, our new dean of Retention and Student Success. The challenge with sharing a list of this nature is there can be omissions or late additions. If we missed someone, please let us know.

The selection of these faculty requires countless hours of effort. I want to express my thanks to the many members of our University community who invested their time into helping to bring the best to our University. During the next few days, please take a moment to greet your new colleagues and help them feel at home in their new academic environment.

### **First Impressions**

For our students, moving away from home and into the University community can be unsettling and stressful. Upon arrival, our new students may need your help. Many times, they are just looking for a friendly face, someone to help them navigate through the move-in process or to find their classroom for the first time. Each of us can help. Please take a moment and offer your assistance to our students as they acclimate to their new surroundings. Each of us never knows when a moment of kindness might be a pivotal point for the success of a student. Perhaps you can recall when someone did this for you and the difference it made. This truly can change a student's life. Thank you for doing this.

To help our students during move-in and the first day of classes, the First Impressions Committee has arranged for strategically placed information booths across the Big Rapids campus. These booths, staffed by University employees, serve as a place to welcome new and returning students, and answer questions. First Impressions booths will be located at the following locations:

**Friday, August 25, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Campus Drive (Front of Science Building in green space)

Old DPS site (Off of Perry Street)  
South Quad (Outside the Rock Café)  
Flite (West side)

**Monday, August 28, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Campus Drive (Front of Science Building in green space)  
Ferris Drive – Bond Hall  
South Quad (Outside the Rock Café)  
North Quad Area

Faculty and staff have answered the call and filled up all of the volunteer time slots for both days! What a wonderful testament it is to you that you would share several hours during one of the busiest times of the year. Thank you to Laura Monahan and the entire First Impressions Committee for organizing these two days, and thank you to all the faculty and staff volunteers for assisting our students.

In Big Rapids, all faculty and staff should have received a “Welcome Home” button. Throughout the next two weeks, I encourage you to wear your button to welcome our students. Thank you to members of the Bulldog Beginnings Committee for your work to ensure everyone feels welcome.

**North Hall**

Next week our first cohort of freshmen will move into the newly constructed North Hall. This is our first new residence hall since the 1960s, and students are eagerly anticipating this new addition on campus. Please stop by North Hall on Thursday, Aug. 24, between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. for the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce Rise and Shine, a community networking event, hosted by Administration and Finance. In addition, the staff at North Hall would like to extend an invitation to tour the facility that afternoon. We would love to show you the beautiful view of campus from the west wing of the fourth floor and all the wonderful amenities available for our students. To RSVP for a tour, please send an e-mail to Janice Duddles at [duddlesj@ferris.edu](mailto:duddlesj@ferris.edu) and indicate your preferred time: 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.

The beginning of the academic year is an exciting time on each of our campuses. Thank you for the many things you do to help students get off to a good start. I am very glad you are here with us at Ferris and look forward to working with you throughout the year on behalf of our students and their future success.

David L. Eisler, president