

# President's Message to Campus

Office of the President  
December 1, 2017

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## End of the Semester Activities

As we near the end of fall semester, much activity is underway in preparation for exam week, commencement and the upcoming holiday season. While this time of year can be exciting, it can also be overwhelming, particularly for our students. Thank you in advance for any extra support you provide to our students as they finish their last two weeks of the semester.

To help our students take a break from their exams, Pancakes with the President will be Monday, Dec. 11, from 10 p.m. to midnight, inside The Rock Café. This is an enjoyable opportunity to connect with students, and it gives them a break and some nourishment while studying. We are always looking for volunteers to help serve pancakes. If you would like to assist at this event, please contact our office at ext. 2500.

We also look forward to celebrating the holidays with you. Please join us for one of the holiday receptions on Tuesday, Dec. 5, and Thursday, Dec. 7. The holiday reception on Dec. 5 will be held at the Woodbridge N. Ferris building located at 17 Pearl St. NW in Grand Rapids, while Thursday's reception will be held at the University Center on the Big Rapids campus. No RSVP is required. I look forward to visiting with you between 4 and 7 p.m. at either location to celebrate the holiday season.

## Strategic Planning

Thank you to all the faculty, staff and students who visited with Dr. Patricia Cormier at the listening sessions held in November. She very much appreciated learning more about Ferris, and hearing your thoughts and ideas on our University's future. Dr. Cormier will return to campus in mid-January and hold additional listening sessions for those unable to attend in November.

As we move forward with our strategic planning efforts, I am delighted Professor Spence Tower and Dean Kristi Haik have accepted our invitation to chair the strategic planning steering committee. If you have an interest in strategic planning and would like to serve on this committee, please e-mail your interest to one of our co-chairs or me. Thank you for considering this service to our University, students and future.

These are challenging times for higher education, and a thoughtfully developed and well-crafted strategic plan can chart a successful course for our future. Thank you for helping to formulate the next strategic plan for Ferris. Your input is very valuable, and we look forward to continuing this work in 2018.

## Employee Learning Week

Next week our Staff Center for Training and Development is sponsoring Employee Learning Week. Each day will feature an hour-long presentation in Alumni 121 designed to assist you. The schedule is:

- Monday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m.: *Managing Stress Begins With You!*
- Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 1 p.m.: *Saving to Reach Your Retirement Goals*
- Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.: *Recipe for an Effective Meeting*
- Thursday, Dec. 7 at 12 p.m.: *Healthy Lunch & Learn*
- Friday, Dec. 8 at 1 p.m.: *5-S Office Improvement*

These sessions complement our mission, vision and values, and mirror the sentiment of our founder, Woodbridge N. Ferris, that "Education is life. It involves growth, development and training." If these are of interest to you, I encourage you to attend. Thank you to Jody Gardei and her staff for providing these learning and training opportunities. To register for next week's presentations, visit the [SCTD website](#).

## **Athletics**

Last weekend a strong and supportive contingent of Ferris fans traveled to Hays, Kansas, to cheer our football team on to a 31-21 victory in the second round of the NCAA Division II football playoffs. The men soundly defeated the top-ranked team in the region and 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team in the nation, undefeated Fort Hays State University. With the win, we host the quarterfinal game at home tomorrow at noon against Harding University from Arkansas. During the post-season, Harding has defeated the University of Indianapolis and Ashland University, both of whom were undefeated. Only eight teams remain in post-season competition, and we are proud to see our team reach this elite company for the second year in a row.

Also on the road last weekend, our ice hockey team split its series with the University of Alabama Huntsville. In winning Friday evening's contest, forward Mitch Maloney scored a hat trick in the third quarter. He scored again in Saturday's loss, raising his season total to 12 goals, tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> best in the nation. Ice hockey is home tonight and Saturday night with games against Alaska Anchorage beginning at 7:07 and 7:37 p.m. respectively.

Our men's and women's basketball teams opened their GLIAC conference schedule last night with both teams earning victories against Tiffin with scores of 99-83 (men) and 82-62 (women). The women rallied from a five-point halftime deficit to win by 20 points. Our men's team remains unbeaten with a record of 9-0 and the women's team is 6-1. Both teams play Saturday at home against Ashland, with the men at 5 p.m. and the women at 7 p.m.

Women's volleyball celebrated a victory last night over McKendree at the NCAA Division II Midwest Region Quarterfinals in Romeoville, Ill. The team will take on host Lewis University at 8:30 p.m. in the semifinal game. With a victory, they advance to the region championship game on Saturday. This week sophomore outside hitter [Allyson Cappel](#) and senior middle hitter [Ayanna Buckley](#) received all-region honors. Both were named to the 2017 American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Midwest Region First Team while Cappel also received first-team recognition from the Division II Conference Commissioner's Association. The women were among only five total players from the GLIAC named to the AVCA All-Region teams.

Two women's soccer standouts received all-region honors this week. Freshman forward [Bri Rogers](#) and sophomore goalkeeper [Grace Kraft](#) were named to the 2017 United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division II All-Midwest Region Team. Previously, Rogers was also named to the 2017 Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-Midwest Region Team and earned All-GLIAC First Team honors.

We are very proud of the success of our athletic programs, student-athletes and coaches. I encourage you to support our teams this weekend. It is a good time to be a Bulldog.

David L. Eisler, president