

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
May 8, 2017

Commencement

This past weekend was especially memorable as we celebrated with more than 1900 graduates who crossed the commencement stage, entering into the next chapter of their lives as Ferris State University alumni. While each ceremony was unique and special, the one thing each had in common was the smiles on the students' faces as they crossed the stage. Their pride in this achievement serves as a strong reminder of the importance of the difference you make for them. Your efforts not only help our students achieve this important milestone, but you also help them discover, learn, grow and develop as soon-to-be professionals, as individuals and as citizens.

It has become a tradition to share stories of our graduates at commencement. This year's stories include shining examples of resilience and determination that demonstrate the results of our core values at work. These stories range from a nurse fighting cancer for a second time to a veteran who battles PTSD and helps other veterans cope, to students who struggled with college before they found the pathway to success. This small sample of graduates, through their own experience, exemplifies the power of the Ferris educational experience. I encourage you to take a few moments to read these stories; they are heartwarming and moving. They also represent how you change lives. Their complete stories can be found [here](#). Thank you for making a difference for our students.

We also had the pleasure of bestowing honorary doctorate distinction to three leaders actively engaged with our University and supporting our students, Mary Garvelink, Jeff Rowe and Mickey Shapiro. You can read more about their lives and successes [here](#).

Many people contribute to making our commencement ceremonies a success. Whether you were involved directly in the preparations for commencement, participated in the ceremony, or helped one of our graduates succeed, thank you for making this an unforgettable day for our graduates, their friends and family, and for Ferris State University.

Board of Trustees

At their meeting Friday afternoon, the University's Board of Trustees acknowledged and recognized Khagendra Thapa and Olukemi Fadayomi for their years of service and leadership as president of the Academic Senate and chair of the University Curriculum Committee, respectively. The Board also presented a Citation of Merit to men's basketball Head Coach Andy Bronkema for the team's success this year and the Coach of the Year recognition he has received.

The Board took action on a number of items, approving three new academic programs, renovations to the Student Recreation Center, a facilities master plan for Kendall College of Art and Design, and a new five-year capital renewal and deferred maintenance plan.

Three new members were appointed to the Ferris Foundation's Board of Directors: Susan Jones, professor of Marketing; alumnus Ken Kuk, professor of Welding Engineering Technology; and alumnus Luke Wyckoff, founder of Social Media Energy and the executive search firm Wyckoff Consulting.

In addition, trustees approved the preliminary 2017-18 operating budget, housing and dining budgets, and set tuition with an average resident, undergraduate increase of 3.77 percent. You may view more information and other actions approved by the board [here](#).

Kendall College of Art and Design Recognitions

Last Tuesday's online edition of the USA Today featured a story and video about the Grand Rapids Public Museum School, one of the winners of the XQ Super School Project, which included a \$10 million grant. The video accompanying this story includes KCAD faculty Cindy Todd and Gayle DeBruyn. You can view the article and video [here](#). Congratulations on this national recognition.

Thursday, May 4, Kendall College of Art and Design held a recognition breakfast to honor faculty and staff for their years of service. Congratulations to the following employees for their dedication to KCAD and commitment to students:

5 Years - Tanja Bakija, David Du, David Gianfredi, Mary Lowing, Tara McCrackin and Kathryn Verrill

10 Years - Kristopher Jones, Robert Marsh, Eddie McDaniel, Melanie Morris, Anne Norcross, Adam Schuitema and Donna St. John

15 Years - Phillip Renato and Brenda Sipe

20 Years - Christian Stone

25 Years - Thomas Edwards

Police Memorial

The 14th annual Police Memorial will be this Tuesday at 9 a.m. in front of the FLITE Library. This event expresses appreciation to the men and women who help keep each of us safe through their daily efforts. The Police Memorial honors members of law enforcement who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year's ceremony will pay special tribute to Ferris alumnus Colin Rose, a Wayne State University Police Department K-9 officer, who was killed in the line of duty on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016. Please take time to join us at the Police Memorial ceremonies.

Closing Thoughts

We have much to be proud of and celebrate at the conclusion of this academic year. As we welcome our next entering class of students we will also open North Hall, our first new residence hall built in over 50 years. I want to extend my thank s and appreciation to each and every faculty and staff member for your hard work, dedication and commitment to our students and our University. Yours is a pivotal and integral role in ensuring the success of our students and helping our University remain a top choice for students. It is truly an honor and privilege to have the opportunity of working with you.

If you will be away from the University for the summer, I hope this will include time to relax, travel and pursue activities that are personally and professionally gratifying. Have a safe and wonderful summer.

David L. Eisler, president