

# President's Message to Campus

Office of the President  
Nov. 10, 2017

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## Now & Always Campaign Celebration

Yesterday the University Center was filled with anticipation, excitement and pride as we publicly launched the University's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, Now & Always. This can be a defining moment for Ferris as we look to raise \$80 million for our students, for program expansion and innovation, and for building partnerships.

Listening to our Campaign Co-Chairs, Gary Granger and Jeff Rowe, and to our speakers, Jon and Emily Coles, and Terry Nerbonne, you could feel the power of philanthropy in action. Their comments reminded me of our founders, Woodbridge and Helen Ferris, who saw a need, seized on that opportunity, and in doing so created an institution where we today can make a life-changing difference for our students. We also heard from Criminal Justice student Kayleigh Schropp who shared her story of how she chose Ferris and the difference scholarships have made in her life.

It was wonderful to be joined at this campaign kickoff by present and emeriti members of our Board of Trustees, the Ferris Foundation Board, the Alumni Association Board and our campaign cabinet. All are volunteers committed to creating a new tradition of donor support, a legacy of giving back to our University. With their leadership, this campaign will further the Ferris' dream of an institution that provides a relevant education to all who hunger for one. If you were unable to attend Thursday's program, you can read each speakers [remarks](#) on our website. I encourage you also to look at our [campaign website](#) where there is much information.

Tonight we look forward to continuing the celebration at The Ferris Foundation Gala in Grand Rapids. Thank you to everyone who will be attending tonight's event, and to all who helped us celebrate yesterday. Special thank you's to our colleagues in University Advancement and Marketing who have worked so very hard to make this day a reality. I am humbled by the ways in which people will support us, excited about the future of Ferris State University and the ways this campaign can help us moving forward.

If you would like to be an active part of this campaign, or would like more information on how you can help shape the future of Ferris State University, now and always, please contact the Advancement Office or me. We would love to talk with you.

## Strategic Planning

As we begin the development of the University's next strategic plan, we welcome Dr. Patricia Cormier to campus to help facilitate the planning process. Dr. Cormier is president emerita of Longwood University in Virginia and brings considerable experience with strategic planning. Some at Ferris may remember when Dr. Cormier helped us a few years back as we were seeking advice on our fundraising efforts.

Dr. Cormier's visit is dedicated to listening to faculty, staff, students and the external community. She will be on the Big Rapids campus this coming week with open forums scheduled on -

- Monday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m. in UC 209
- Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 3 p.m. in UC 202 (Strategic Planning and Resource Council)

These meetings are open to all. Please come, be an active participant and share your thoughts about the formulation of the University's next strategic plan.

## **Athletics**

Last weekend the men's hockey team had an exciting 3-2 overtime victory on Saturday against the University of Michigan, our first win in Ann Arbor since 2006. The team plays at home tonight and Saturday against the University of Alaska Fairbanks with both games beginning at 7:07 p.m. In honor of Veteran's Day, all veterans can receive two free tickets to Saturday night's game. The evening will include recognition of all military branches along with a "Salute to Veterans" exhibit in the concourse.

Our football team is currently ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the latest NCAA Division II Super Region Three Rankings after a 26-0 win last Saturday in miserable weather against Davenport. The men are 8-1 overall, 7-1 in the GLIAC, and are contending for a spot in the playoffs. The team travels to Michigan Tech for its final regular-season game on Saturday. Kickoff is at 12 p.m.

Last week our nationally ranked men's basketball team defeated both St. Thomas Aquinas (NY) and Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame Classic. These teams had been ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Men's basketball will host the GLIAC/GLVC Challenge at Wink Arena today and Saturday. The men will host Quincy (IL) tonight and Missouri-St. Louis on Saturday. Both games begin at 5:30 p.m. This weekend begins an eight-game stretch at home for the basketball team.

Our nationally ranked volleyball team celebrated two wins last weekend improving to 19-6 overall and 12-2 in the GLIAC. The team is in the U.P. this weekend to take on Northern Michigan tonight and Michigan Tech on Saturday. The women hold a one-match lead over second-place Michigan Tech and are two matches in front of third-place Northern Michigan in the GLIAC North Division.

We are very proud of our student-athletes. Their work inside the classroom and performance in their sport truly shows commitment to learning, their teams and Ferris State University. Thank you for supporting our students and athletic teams.

David L. Eisler, president