

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
September 29, 2017

Homecoming

Homecoming festivities continue throughout the weekend. Tonight we welcome the Class of 1967, Distinguished Alumni and Pacesetters to the Fall Reunion, and the bonfire will begin at 8 p.m. Tomorrow downtown Big Rapids will welcome alumni, friends and community members for the noon parade on Michigan Avenue. If you are attending the football game, or just want to socialize and reconnect with emeriti, alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends, visit the variety of college, organization and alumni welcome tents. Kick-off against Wayne State is at 3 p.m., followed by the Crimson & Gold Intrasquad Hockey Game at Ewingleben Ice Arena at 6 p.m. Fans are then invited to skate with the team after the game.

It is always wonderful to visit with our alumni, hear their stories and see them reminisce of good times with friends, faculty and staff. I look forward to connecting with many of our alumni and you over the next two days. Thank you to everyone on the Big Rapids campus and community for welcoming our alumni home.

United Way Kick-Off

On Thursday, Oct. 5, the University will kick-off its annual United Way campaign. Our committee hopes to raise \$60,000 this year. Faculty, staff and student volunteers are working very hard to help us reach this goal. Funds raised will be distributed amongst various local agencies and non-profits to provide much needed services throughout Mecosta and Osceola Counties.

United Way contributions can be made via payroll deduction or a one-time gift. You may also support this campaign through a number of fundraising activities happening on campus, including the popular holiday silent auction. Thank you to Linda Telfer and Jeanine Ward-Roof for leading this important initiative. This is a wonderful time when the Mecosta and Osceola communities can come together to help those in need. I strongly encourage you to support these very worthwhile causes.

Learning Communities

Faculty Kristen Conley, Roxanne Cullen, Heather Pavletic, Victor Piercey, Anne Spain and Kirk Weller will present "Spanning Boundaries: How Learning Communities Cultivate Achievement, Growth and Connections" on Friday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m. in FLITE 133. This hour-long panel discussion will focus on learning communities, the processes and strategies used by these faculty to form interdisciplinary course experiences, and the benefits of creating learning communities for students and faculty. I encourage you to attend and learn more about how this classroom experience can increase retention and student success, in addition to creating supportive and rewarding experiences. RSVP with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning at ctl@ferris.edu or ext. 3826.

Budget Forum

Each fall I host a budget forum to share information on federal and state economic trends, results from last year's budget, revenue and enrollment, our current budget and factors

that could affect next year's budget. This year's forum is Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m. in University Center 203. Everyone is invited. Please take time to attend this forum and stay informed about the fiscal environment in which we operate. I look forward to sharing this information with you and answering your questions.

Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge

Through Oct. 15, the University and Big Rapids community is participating in the Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge. Hosted by the Outdoor Foundation and led on our campus by UREC Adventure Coordinator Jayna Wekenman, this challenge aims to get students, faculty, staff and communities from more than 90 universities to reconnect with the outdoors.

This is our first year competing in the Campus Challenge, and we are the only school in Michigan participating. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of all the outdoor recreational resources in Mecosta County. Download the "Outdoor Nation" app for your smartphone, join the Ferris State University team and start logging your activities to score points. More than 1,000 activities have already been logged, and we are currently in 3rd place in the Division II category that includes 40 schools from across the nation. For more information, contact jaynawekenman@ferris.edu.

Coach to Cure MD

During Saturday's homecoming contest against Wayne State, our coaches and players will be joining in on an important national cause to help support "Coach to Cure MD." In addition to bringing awareness to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, they will also honor young fan Wilder DeGood and his family as they join our football team for the 3 p.m. game. "Coach to Cure MD" is a national charity project of the American Football Coaches Association and helps bring coaches from all levels of collegiate football to raise awareness and research funding for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

David L. Eisler, president