

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
January 26, 2018

Festival of the Arts

Throughout the month of February, the Festival of the Arts will present more than 80 events as part of the Big Rapids community's unique winter celebration of the arts. It is difficult to imagine a broader range of performances, experiences and workshops designed to appeal to audiences of all ages and with varied interests. Guest artists include the Grand Rapids Symphony, Havusback, the MountainTown Singers, The Price Sisters and many others. The Festival includes several art exhibits, theatrical presentations and films. It also includes multiple ways to get engaged, for example, painting a banner for display downtown, gourmet cooking, line dancing, quilting, arranging flowers or playing the harmonica. Events are hosted at seven locations on campus and 19 locations around town, and most are free.

The Festival begins Thursday, Feb. 1, with two events, An Evening with Spencer Tracy and a concert by Michigander presented by the Music Industry Management Program. Performances continue throughout the weekend with An Evening of Improv Comedy on Friday, the musical group Heartland Klezmer on Saturday and the Grand Rapids Symphony on Sunday. You can view the complete schedule of events at the [Festival of the Arts website](#), or pick up a program booklet placed at various businesses throughout Big Rapids.

Please join me in thanking the Festival of the Arts Committee for bringing us these great events in February: Miriam Andrus, Roxanne Cullen, Mark Gifford, Courtney Gilson-Piercey, Melanie Henry, Jerena Keys and Ed Mallett. The City of Big Rapids, the Downtown Business Association, Ferris State University and the Mecosta County Community Foundation, in addition to many individuals and businesses, have provided support to provide this for the community. I encourage you to look at the schedule and attend. There is truly something for everyone to enjoy.

Black History Month

The Office of Multicultural Student Services has organized a series of events in February to remember the important contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our nation's history.

The series begins on Thursday, Feb. 1, with featured speaker Khalid el-Hakim, FSU alumnus, founder and creator of the Black History 101 Mobile Museum. He will be speaking at 11 a.m. inside the University Center, Room 217, and the "68" exhibit, his newest collection in the Mobile Museum, will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This exhibit features over 150 original artifacts focusing on the major events and players surrounding the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. Continuing throughout the month, there will be a series of films and opportunities for discussions.

Thank you to the OMSS, Phi Alpha Theta, Alpha Phi Alpha, the History Department and the FLITE Diversity Committee for hosting and sponsoring these events, all of which are free and open to the public. You can view more information on the [campus calendar](#) or by visiting the [OMSS website](#).

United Way Campaign

Thank you to the many students, faculty and staff who supported our annual United Way campaign. Through payroll deduction, various fundraisers, bake sales and more, we raised \$57,789 – just shy of our \$60,000 goal. I especially want to thank campaign co-chairs Linda Telfer and Jeanine Ward-Roof, and each of the committee members for their dedication and commitment to helping those less fortunate in our community. While the campaign is officially over, you can still make a donation to the United Way through payroll deduction or check, and help push us closer to our goal. Please contact Linda Telfer at lindatelfer@ferris.edu if you would like more information on making a donation and a lasting impact for those in need in Mecosta and Osceola Counties.

Athletics

Our men's basketball team is now ranked among the top four teams in the country and has a 20-1 overall record, the most wins in the nation in Division II basketball. They are also currently in first place in the GLIAC with a 10-1 league record. The men play at home tomorrow inside Jim Wink Arena against Lake Superior State in the "Fight for First" beginning at 1 p.m. We currently hold a one-game lead over LSSU, and our only loss of the season was to them on the road. The women's team will follow with a game time of 3 p.m.

Hockey will face off against Michigan Tech at home this weekend with games starting at 7:07 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Both teams are battling for playoff position in the WCHA with only a month remaining in the regular season. As part of the weekend series, Friday is "90s Night," presented by Student Affairs. Students are encouraged to dress in 90s fashion for prizes and giveaways. On Saturday, a special "Tweet For Tuition" promotion is taking place with all currently enrolled students eligible for a chance to win two credit hours from Ferris State Athletics during each game by retweeting the @FerrisAthletics tweet and being present at the games.

This is an exciting weekend in Big Rapids for Ferris Athletics. Our coaches and student-athletes greatly appreciate your support.

David L. Eisler, president