

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 11, 2010

Welcome Back

I want to welcome everyone back to Ferris as we officially start our Spring Semester. I hope that your holidays were joyous, and that you are as excited as I am to see the campus again bustling with students.

It is extraordinary to think that we have already completed one of our two major semesters in this, our 125th anniversary year. Looking forward we face many challenges as the state continues to struggle with balancing its budget. However, there are many exciting prospects on the horizon, as well.

Thanks to tax credits that have been put in place by the state legislature, we are hopeful that we can begin renovation of the historic Federal Building in downtown Grand Rapids, perhaps starting as early as this summer. This building, adjacent to Kendall College of Art and Design, will significantly expand the capacity of KCAD and provide much needed space for their rapidly growing student body.

We have recently received very good media coverage of our new Doctor of Education degree, which builds on the attention we received when we announced our bachelor's degree in Architecture and Sustainability last November. As the semester advances, I look forward to our continued work together which has resulted in many such important accomplishments during this historic year.

MLK Celebration

Please plan now for next week's Martin Luther King Celebration, which will take place January 18-21. I hope you will attend as many of the events as possible. I want to highlight the Faculty and Staff In-Service at the Rankin Student Center Atrium/Art Gallery from 10 a.m. - noon on Monday the 18th and the annual MLK Freedom March, which begins at 3 p.m. that day at the Merrill/Travis Residence Hall. A full listing of events is available by clicking on the link on the Ferris home page, where there is also a video about the celebration. The schedule is directly accessible at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/studentlife/minority/MLK2010.pdf>. If you have questions about any of the events contact the Office of Multicultural Student Services at ext. 2617.

Budget Forums

Also looking forward, I will host a new round of forums to keep the campus community updated on our budget situation. These will take place on Wednesday, January 20 and Thursday, January 21, both at 1 p.m. in the Rankin Center's Centennial Dining Room. The sessions will last approximately an hour and present our next steps in the budget process and the current status of unrestricted net assets. I look forward to seeing you there.

Energy Task Force Report

Environmental concerns and escalating costs have combined to make energy use on campus a prime area in which we can improve the way we heat, light and cool our buildings. In response, Ferris' Energy Task Force has produced a report that sets out trends in campus energy usage, issues, conservation recommendations, provides research resources, and more.

I want to thank the members of the committee for their work: Jerry Scoby, Administration and Finance and chair; Charlie Carpenter, Physical Plant; Diane Dustin, Kendall College of Art and Design; Don Flickinger, Academic Affairs; Linda Golden, Financial Services; Mark Hill, Engineering Technology; Julie Modene, Dining Services; Tom Oldfield, Engineering Technology; John Pasquantonio, Physical Plant; Mark Schuelke, Rankin Center; Jon Shaffer, Residential Life; Dan Sovinski, Physical Plant; Christi Swank, Arts and Sciences.

The Task Force Report is posted on the Ferris Web site at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/planning2005.htm> , then scroll down and click on "Energy Task Force Report." Your comments, ideas and suggestions are both encouraged and solicited. Please feel free to send these to Jerry Scoby, the group's chair, or to me. We have plans for this group to continue and to expand as we search for ways to implement these recommendations and build on them to use resources responsibly and sustainably.

Commencement

Finally, I want to thank everyone who was involved in making December Commencement such a great success. You can find a link to the text of the commencement address given by Ferris' 2009 Distinguished Teacher of the Year, Daniel Adsmund, as well as my comments during the ceremonies at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/presentations.htm> . The advice and exhortations Dan presented to students seem equally fitting as we begin this Spring 2010 semester. So let me end by wishing you a great semester, and quoting Prof. Adsmund:

Be bold, be creative and work hard.

Never stop learning.

Always look for ways to help others and

Accept with gratitude the many ways that others will.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President