

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 12, 2009

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations

Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 18, we will host a series of events and activities to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We'll begin that day with the annual Freedom March at 2 p.m., followed by the 5th Annual MLK Dinner at 6 p.m., and Monday at 10 a.m. is the annual Faculty/Staff In-Service. Activities continue through Thursday; a complete listing is - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/studentlife/minority/mlkweek.pdf>

Officially, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day falls on Jan. 19 this year. Dr. King's actual birthday is Jan. 15, and had his life not been cut so tragically short, he would be 80 years old this year. President-Elect Barack Obama has called for a national day of service on Jan. 19 as a way to make the memory of Dr. King truly living and relevant. Ferris' Volunteer Center has a Web site to help you find volunteer opportunities right in this area; simply go to www.ferris.edu/htmls/studentlife/activity/SVC.htm to get started. There could not be a more fitting time to become involved in making a difference on campus or in the community.

Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs Search

Our search for a Provost/VP of Academic Affairs is bringing five excellent candidates to campus during January. Beginning tomorrow and continuing through Jan. 26, we will have two open campus sessions for each of the five finalists for this very important position. The schedule for the candidates' open sessions is -

Dr. Dale Nesbary, Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs, Adrian College;
Tuesday, Jan. 13 - 10:30 a.m., VFS 420; 2 p.m., CSS 201

Dr. Fritz Erickson, Dean, College of Professional and Graduate Studies, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay; Thursday, Jan. 15, 10:30 a.m., SWN 101; 2 p.m., CSS 201

Dr. Linda Samson, Dean, College of Health and Human Services, Governors State University; Tuesday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m., STR 22; 2 p.m., CSS 201

Dr. Robert Kraushaar, Associate Provost for Engineering and Technical Education, State University of New York; Thursday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m., PEN 116; 2 p.m., CSS 201

Dr. Bahman Ghorashi, Dean, Fenn College of Engineering, Cleveland State University;
Monday, Jan. 26, 10:30 a.m., VFS 326; 2 p.m., CSS 201

To learn about the candidates' qualifications, a brief vita for each is available at www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/vpaa/candidates. I hope you will take the time to learn more about the candidates, and most importantly attend these open sessions.

University Advancement and Marketing Vice President

This week we welcome John Willey to campus as Ferris' new Vice President for University Advancement and Marketing. In addition to welcoming John to campus, I want to thank everyone on campus - especially UA&M staff members - who took the time to be an important part of the process of filling this position.

As interim Vice President, Shelly Armstrong provided wonderful, strong leadership while the search to fill this position took place. I look forward to working with John and Shelly and all of the UA&M team to promote our University, our people, and their achievements, and to develop a strong base of donor support that will keep a Ferris education affordable and support excellence for our programs.

Winter Weather

This is shaping up as another winter of significant weather challenges. Our physical plant has been doing a remarkable job of keeping the campus safe by clearing snow and ice, and of course assuring that our indoor environment remains comfortable. With these very cold temperatures, there will be slippery places, please be careful and safe.

When we have inclement weather, please check the Ferris home page for any announcements there may be regarding campus operations. Also, you can do your part to help the physical plant by clearing snow and salt from your feet before entering buildings. Finally help us control energy costs by closing door and windows and not using power-assisted doors, unless necessary.

I want to thank the entire campus community for the extra effort it sometimes takes to get the job done during this time of year.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President