

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 6, 2012

Innovational Learning and Research Grand Opening

On Friday we held the grand opening celebration for the College of Pharmacy's new Center for Innovational Learning and Research, located at 25 Michigan Street in Grand Rapids. The facility consolidates and improves learning opportunities for third and fourth-year Pharmacy students.

Ferris graduates more than half of the practicing pharmacists in Michigan, so this facility is an important resource for the entire state. We are very excited by the opportunities for collaboration that now exist between Ferris and the Van Andel Institute, the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, the Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavilion, the entire Spectrum Health System and others. With the Center for Innovational Learning and Research being situated in Grand Rapids' "Medical Mile," we are now a part of one of the most important health-care corridors in the nation.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff and students of the College of Pharmacy. The grand opening was a wonderful evening for them and an amazing opportunity to introduce our facility to friends of the University through the day's events, and to the general public through the media coverage the opening generated. I want to thank everyone in University Advancement and Marketing who worked diligently to make this grand opening the huge success it was. I am positive we will continue to hear great things about this facility and our College of Pharmacy as we enter into collaborations that our expanded presence in Grand Rapids will make possible.

Opportunities for Input, Discussion, and Collaboration

Over the past two years we have made student success a focus of much of our efforts at Ferris. Next Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 3 p.m., our Strategic Planning and Resource Council will meet in the West Campus Community Center to consider this very important topic. As always, SPARC meetings are open to the entire campus community. Tuesday's discussion will be led by SPARC chair Leonard Johnson and Provost Fritz Erickson. During my years in higher education I cannot think of a time during which the future of higher education has been more in the public consciousness. Please attend if your schedule allows and provide your input on this most timely topic.

Next week I will hold two forums to discuss student debt and degree completion. These will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 3 p.m., and Thursday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. in the Rankin Center's Centennial Room. Both of these issues have been much in the news lately. Michigan lawmakers have taken up legislation that is a direct result of concern over student debt and the length of time it takes for degree completion, and President Obama has also brought these issues to the forefront by statements he has made regarding access to education.

These are questions of great concern to our University. I am very proud of the work we have done to help constrain costs at Ferris, and these forums will provide an opportunity to look specifically at these issues within the larger framework of the challenges that exist with funding of public institutions of higher education.

I hope you can find time to attend one of these sessions. I look forward to outlining some of the most important trends regarding student debt and degree completions, as well as to answering some of the insightful questions that campus members always bring forward at these sessions. Most importantly, I want to engage each of you in considering how we can best help our students.

Good News

The most recent listing of Good News stories compiled from across the University's colleges and divisions is now available online at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/GN2012February.pdf>. As always I am struck by the many accomplishments of our faculty and staff. My concern is that too often the very good work of the Ferris community goes unnoticed. We have remarkable people working at Ferris and I am hopeful you will take a moment to congratulate your colleagues on their accomplishments. The more we can support each other and learn from each other, the more we will be able to offer to our students. Thank you for taking a few moments to become familiar with the good things happening at Ferris State University.

Closing Thoughts

I want to remind you of the many events taking place thanks to the 2012 Festival of the Arts. A sampling of this week's events includes -

- This evening Pulitzer Prize winning Free Press reporter M.L. Elrick speaks about investigative journalism and the power of the press.
- Tuesday evening Marlies Manning presents "Art in the Garden" at the City Council Chambers.
- Wednesday and Thursday evening Gordon Mallett directs the melodrama "Money in the Bank, or 'It's All Your Vault" at Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Thursday evening Professor John Cullen presents a Haiku Workshop at the Blue Cow Café.
- Friday evening Lady Sunshine and the X Band will be in concert at Williams Auditorium.
- Saturday evening the Foreign Film Festival presents "Welcome" in the IRC.
- Sunday afternoon the Grand Rapids Symphony performs at the High School Auditorium in a free program entitled, "Art Prize Meets Festival of the Arts."

If you have not yet had the opportunity to attend one of the many performances, classes and workshops, I hope you will do so. A complete listing including times and descriptions for all events is available on the Ferris homepage at www.ferris.edu.

This week our men's and women's basketball teams were victorious at home against Lake Superior State and Saginaw Valley State. Our men's hockey team travelled to Northern Michigan University, skating to a 5-5 tie Friday evening before falling short in the shootout. Saturday evening they came back to win 3-1. For the second week in a row all three teams are first in their conferences and divisions. Congratulations to coaches, athletes, and our many fans on this continued extraordinary success.

Basketball is at home again this week with contests against Lake Erie on Thursday evening and Ashland on Saturday afternoon. Hockey plays at Notre Dame Friday and is home Saturday evening. I encourage you to come out and root our student athletes on to victory.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president