

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 20, 2009

Share Your Success

One of the things I enjoy most is hearing about your success, as professionals in your field, in assisting our students, and in continuing to move our University forward. Over the past year we have been able to build a culture where more of this good news is shared and available to others. As we collect these stories of your success I am always impressed when we gather these together in the latest Good News items. If you have not seen these lately they are accessible from our Web site at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/GoodNews.htm>

As we continue to build an enhanced working relationship I want to extend an opportunity to visit with each of you. Beginning on Monday, March 23rd, we have organized a series of visits to academic colleges and divisions. These will include open sessions, facility tours, and meetings with each area's leadership team. With this series of meetings, I very much hope that you will attend the open session and share the success stories of your college, department or yourself individually. If you cannot attend the open session, I'm hopeful you will take a moment or two to visit with me as we walk through your area.

During the next three weeks we have scheduled open sessions for both colleges and divisions -

Monday, March 23

morning - College of Engineering Technology, 11 a.m., NEC 203

afternoon - College of Pharmacy, 4 p.m., PHR 201

Tuesday, March 24

College of Business, 11 a.m., BUS 211

Wednesday, March 25

University College, 1 p.m., STR 226

Thursday, March 26

morning - College of Professional and Technical Studies, 11 a.m., ATC 130

afternoon - Administration and Finance Division

Friday, March 27

Governmental Relations & General Counsel, 10:30 a.m., McKessy conf. room

Thursday, April 2

morning - College of Education and Human Services, 11 a.m., BIS 215

afternoon - University Advancement and Marketing Division, 1:00 p.m., PRK 104

Friday, April 3

morning - FLITE, 11 a.m., FLT 438

afternoon - College of Arts and Sciences, 2 p.m., STR 322

Monday, April 6

morning – Michigan College of Optometry, 11 a.m., PEN 220

afternoon – College of Allied Health Sciences, 3 p.m., VFS 103

Thursday, April 9

Student Affairs Division, 11 a.m., RAN 238 (Founders' Room)

Monday, April 13

Kendall College of Art and Design, 11:30 a.m., Kendall Commons

I look forward to these opportunities to listen and learn from you. Please come and share with me the good work you and your colleagues are doing. There are so many stories of your success in helping our students and advancing our educational programs. I want to emphasize that I want to hear from you so I know and understand the good work you are doing. This is of vital importance as I represent our University to alumni, donors, legislators, and communities across Michigan. If you know of problems that need to be addressed I want to know about those as well. However, I have held other meetings during which I sought input into how we could do things better – particularly in terms of cost efficiencies.

Perhaps you disagree, but it seems to me that a sort of malaise has descended upon Michigan. For some time now, the economic news, both nationally and for the state of Michigan, has been extraordinarily challenging – and appears that it will continue to be challenging for some time to come. This, accompanied by another severe winter, seems to have focused much of the media as well as the leaders of our state on what is wrong, rather than right with Michigan.

Our story at Ferris State University is one of the most compelling in American higher education. Together we collaborate in building lives and a strong country through the vital education we provide. I believe Ferris will be pivotal in reanimating our economy and the vitality of enterprise through expanding human capital and all of the possibilities for better lives that flow from it. Opportunity, high standards, and the effectiveness of learning have defined Ferris' heritage, and they are at the heart of our University's values and work today as we shape an institution for leadership of a diverse society in very challenging times.

More than ever, I believe this is a time to let as many people as possible know about the many extraordinary achievements that we too often take for granted as being simply the baseline of the work that we do here every day. To do so your help and support is needed. I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President