

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 28, 2011

Kendall College of Art and Design Presidential Search

In January, Kendall College of Art and Design President Oliver Evans announced that he would be retiring at the end of the 2011-12 academic year. By the time of his retirement he will have served KCAD for 18 years, most of them as the college's president. In anticipation of that transition a presidential search committee is being formed to fill this important position. Headed by Cindy Todd, art education program faculty and chair, and Max Shangle, dean of the College, the committee will work with a national search firm to identify a strong, talented pool of applicants.

Kendall faculty and staff interested in serving on the search committee should contact Cindy or Max within the next few days through Kim Sapkowski at ext. 1205 or KimberlySapkowski@ferris.edu. Composition of the committee will be finalized within the next two weeks. The search committee, together with assistance from the search consultants, will host sessions at Kendall to seek ideas and input on this key leadership position.

For some this leadership search may raise questions about Kendall's status within Ferris State University. The simple reality is that this relationship is based upon the institutions, their strengths, needs and futures, and will remain unchanged during this transition. The new Kendall president will also report directly to me. The uniqueness of Kendall's unparalleled approach to art and design, which is important to both the University and to the City of Grand Rapids, will continue to benefit from the synergies created in the 2001 merger.

President Evans has played a critical role in the growth and success of Kendall College of Art and Design. Beginning the search process in this timely manner will help assure the college will continue to enjoy the same high quality of leadership Oliver has provided for many years.

Share Your Success

Last week our annual series of Share Your Success sessions began in University colleges and divisions. Provost Fritz Erickson and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the College of Professional and Technological Studies and University College.

Here are just a few examples of the successes shared during these sessions:

College of Professional and Technological Studies

- Tracy Powers shared that in May the University will celebrate its first graduates in Digital Media Software Engineering program.
- Dawny Shavey talked about the launch of a student orientation that will be available on-line for students who cannot attend a traditional orientation program.
- Piram Prakasam is excited about the dramatic growth in International Education: 186 international students are enrolled for Spring 2011, an increase of 38 percent over last year, and between 200 and 220 students studying abroad this year, an increase of about 50 students.

- Adam Weatherall talked about summer camps. More than 2,000 middle and high school students are expected for a variety of efforts including the Michigan Teen Conference, a camp put on by the College of Education and the Charter Schools office, and two new academic camps from the College of Engineering Technology.
- David Baker shared the professional success of graduates from the Digital Animation and Game Design Program.

University College

- Judy Watson is pleased with the Fall-Spring retention rate of 91 percent for students in the Tuition Incentive Program.
- Arlene Krellwitz shared the success of SLA sections for BIOL 108, CHEM 114 and MATH 110 with 21 to 18 percent higher pass rates than non-SLA sections.
- Shelly VandePanne implemented an FSUS section for older transfer students that was well received.
- Jane Pole shared data on the Academic Support Center, which has served 2,200 students with over 16,000 student contacts.
- Helen Woodman has created a “Student Success Booklet” with Christine Conley-Sowles and Bill Potter.
- Maude Bigford is excited the Honors program has received 338 applications, the largest-ever applicant pool. She believes some of this success results from the work of student Matt Bottke who called each honors applicant.
- Karen GreenBay talked about the Students with Children program that is serving 500 students with families.
- Pamela Daniels shared that the college has raised \$1,200 for the Joan Totten Scholarship through the “Jeans for Joan” campaign.

We have established a webpage to post and share the material we receive in these sessions. I encourage you to take a moment to learn more about successes throughout the University on the Good News page at -

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/president/sharesuccess2011.htm> .

This week’s schedule of Share Your Success sessions includes -

Monday, March 28

12:15 p.m. – Michigan College of Optometry, MCO 210

3:45 p.m. – Education and Human Services, BIS 603

Tuesday, March 29

2:15 p.m. – Allied Health Sciences, VFS 325

Wednesday, March 30, 8:30 a.m. – Executive Division, CSS 302

9:45 a.m. – Provost Office, Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, Charter Schools,
CSS 302

12:15 p.m. – Pharmacy, PHR 101

Thursday, March 31

11 a.m. – Arts and Sciences, Science 102

2:15 p.m. – FLITE, FLT 438

Friday, April 1

9:45 a.m. – Engineering Technology, NEC 203

11 a.m. – Business, BUS 211

I look forward to hearing about the success of you and your colleagues. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to let others know about the great things happening at Ferris.

Speaker Series 2011

In our CPTS Success session I learned about the visit of Don Hahn to Grand Rapids. Don Hahn's visit, as part of the Speaker Series 2011, illustrates the synergy between Kendall College of Art and Design and Ferris State University. Hahn, a Disney animator and producer on such films as "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King," will be visiting Kendall as well as Ferris' Digital Animation and Game Design program on Wednesday, March 30, for seminars on creativity. There will also be a screening of his independent documentary "Hand Held," at 6 p.m. that evening at Grand Rapids Community College's Spectrum Theater.

Hospitality Management Gala

Congratulations to faculty Karyn Bledsoe, Lianne Briggs, Julie Doyle, Amy Dorey, Kathryn Wolfer, and staff and students for the success of Saturday evening's Hospitality Management Gala in Grand Rapids. This was the 20th anniversary gala and more than 350 people were in attendance at the J.W. Marriott. Doug DeVos, president of Amway, gave a stirring keynote address talking about his family's commitment to the hospitality business. The Gala is a project of the hospitality management students and raised funds for a new scholarship endowment.

Custodial and Grounds Staff

Perhaps like me you thought snowy weather was over earlier this month. Some early morning hours in the office provided me the opportunity to observe firsthand the work of our team that clears roads and sidewalks. Spring in Michigan has included a whole range conditions – from wintery precipitation to thawing ground – that present huge challenges to our custodians and grounds staff. From keeping our roads and sidewalks clear to maintaining our classrooms and offices, our crew does a remarkable job of making sure the physical environment remains conducive to teaching, learning and working. Please join me in thanking the people from our physical plant for their good work.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President