

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
June 10, 2004
Ext. 2500

Last June the first event I attended at Ferris State University was Summer University. I remember flying in from Utah to be a part of this experience. For someone joining the campus for the first time, this was a wonderful, positive experience. I was very impressed that our campus would dedicate three days to helping each person learn more about and better understand our University. This year's Summer University will be June 14th through 16th and I believe the planning committee has developed a truly outstanding program.

Monday of Summer University will focus on a Vision for Our Future at Ferris and will consider these ideas from a staff perspective. Presenting with me will be Dr. Kim Cameron from the University of Michigan. Through his Center for Positive Organization Scholarship, Kim studies what makes good institutions great. I am very impressed by his thoughts on how an organization that focuses on strengths and accomplishments can achieve extraordinary success. I find myself both challenged and inspired by the ideas he shares.

As part of the first day's focus on our future, twenty of our staff will help facilitate small group discussions on Ferris and Our Future. This is an important continuation of the discussions we have had throughout the past year. These sessions are designed to provide you the opportunity to react, offer suggestions, and to share your ideas for how we can contribute to this future. Your involvement is extremely important and valuable as together we seek to create this new future.

Tuesday will be dedicated to tours of support areas throughout the campus. This has been a very popular feature in past years and provides the opportunity for you to learn about departments and projects that may be unfamiliar to you. Whether it is tours of athletics, auxiliary enterprises, the Birkham Health Center, dining services, physical plant, public safety, rec center, or student leadership; or an introduction to Banner and Luminis, Dawg Days, or efforts for Students with Disabilities, I believe there is something here that you will find both interesting and informative.

Wednesday will be a very special interactive experience for our University with Play Fair. I do not want to spoil the surprise of this, but believe you will find it to be a unique and enjoyable activity that will involve each of us. In addition to the guest directors, this will include facilitation by people from across our campus. At noon on Wednesday Summer University will conclude with a picnic for the entire University on the Quad.

One of the challenges each of us faces at the University is the tendency to stay within that familiar circle of people whom we work with every day. Summer University provides the opportunity for us to bring our campus together. In that process we interact with friends and colleagues that we may not have seen for some time. We can also meet some of the new faces on campus and to have the opportunity to get to know them.

Many of our people have worked very hard to develop this year's Summer University. Thanks begin with the group of individuals who worked on planning and developing the program - Mindy Britton, Mike Cairns, and Warren Hills. Two different groups of facilitators from our University community are sharing their talents to assist with Monday and Wednesday's activities. People from departments across campus have created introductions and information on their areas.

Summer University cannot succeed without YOU. It is very important you attend and participate. This year's program has been designed to focus on activity, interaction, and involvement. I believe you can benefit significantly from this experience and want you to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at Summer University.

Best wishes,

Dave